



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 8th October 2024** in the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

Members Present: Cllr Leeson (Chair) [from Agenda Point 5 onwards], Cllr Branagan, Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Wallis, Cllr Wiggins and Cllr Wise (Vice-Chair). Also present Mark Baulch (Clerk & RFO).

There were also eight members of the public from the parish and a record of their names is held.

1. **Apologies for absence**

District Cllr Richards

2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Correspondence Received**

The Council had received a number of e-mails as follows.

16th September from Ian Cooper, Secretary at Alderholt Youth Football Club, enquiring on the possible use of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed, in principal, that this would be of interest and it was **DECIDED:** that the Clerk would respond and invite him to a meeting with Cllr Wallis and the Cricket Club to discuss further.

17th September from Keith KirkCaldy, offering to cut the hedge by the War Memorial, which the Council agreed to and thanked him for.

18th September from Jackie North regarding a briefing session on infrastructure bids at 9am on 17th October. It was agreed that this would be useful although nobody was immediately available to attend. **ACTION:** Clerk to ask whether this will be recorded and distributed.

23rd September from New Forest District Council confirming that Planning Application 24/10567 (Mushroom Farm) had been withdrawn by the applicant.

25th September from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service regarding their recent visit to the Pavilion. **ACTION:** Clerk to inform Cricket Club of maximum number of occupants and to amend the Terms and Conditions for future hires.

Bus shelter. The Council has had a kind offer for a member of the public to treat the timbers on this structure, as they are showing some signs of rot. **ACTION:** Cllr Wise to forward details of the preservative to be used.

4. **Public participation time**

There was some discussion about Agenda item 9a and this is recorded in that section.

5. **Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 10th September 2024**

All confirmed that they were a true record and they were **PROPOSED** by Cllr Branagan and **SECONDED** by Cllr Wiggins and were signed by the Chair.

6. **Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th September 2024**

All had been actioned or are covered in this Agenda, except for the checking of the gels on the defibrillator, which has now been passed on to the Village Hall. Also, the Clerk to **ACTION:** further follow-up with the Highways Agency as the damaged river bank still remains and the Bourne is now beginning to flow again.

7. Reports by the Downlands & New Forest Ward Councillor and representatives on outside bodies

D.Cllr Richards had reported that there were no updates this month. C.Cllr Heron had sent a report from Hampshire County Council which has been distributed to all Councillors.

8. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented the latest invoices and statement of accounts to the Councillors.

9. Planning Matters

New Forest District Council is the local Planning Authority and consults Rockbourne Parish Council on planning applications received for Rockbourne Parish.

a. Planning Applications

Reference	24/10761
Alternative Reference	PP-13327376
Application Received	Thu 22 Aug 2024
Application Validated	Thu 29 Aug 2024
Address	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Agricultural pole barn (Retrospective)

Discussion: A member of the public spoke about continuous creep up there. Asked the Council to object. Hardstanding has been put on the footpath. Cllr Wiise said that the building was put up in March, without consent. The concern is that this was done without permission. Is it used for farming? The response was that there is a container in there and 30 bags of hay. Another member of the public raised the concern that there have been so many inaccuracies stated in applications for this site. Cllr Wise said the owners appeared to be property developers, not farmers. It was agreed that 5 acres or hectares of hay is not farming. Cllr Wise said that the challenge is to object on planning grounds. Cllr Branagan asked whether this was permission for a building that was already up? And it was confirmed that planning had been notified of the changes to the footpath and an inspector had then found the barn. Cllr Wise said that this was add to the traffic on the public footpath which forms the access. The Council **DECIDED:** to respond PAR2: we recommend REFUSAL for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers. This development continues to grow and put further pressure on the access to the property as well as adding to the traffic in this delicate area. The junction on to the main road is becoming very dangerous, with potholes, collapsing riverbank and the positioning of the intentional pinchpoint.

PROPOSED by Cllr Wise, seconded by Cllr Wallis, decision Unanimous.

Reference	24/10783
Alternative Reference	PP-13307995
Application Received	Wed 28 Aug 2024
Application Validated	Wed 04 Sep 2024
Address	LAND ADJ PROVOST FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NR
Proposal	2no agricultural buildings and associated hardstanding

Discussion: One of the members of the public that has submitted a comment on the proposal made a statement. We are a farming family but do not believe that this development is appropriate. It will affect the environment, operations in the village and farming. The barns will be used for calves, up to 200 animals. There will be run-off and there is no plan to mitigate this. The barns are on the flood plain, where there has previously been flooding of 8-10 inches. Intensive operation increase levels of ammonia and methane. There will also be a huge amount of traffic, with 25 calves moved each week. This equates to 200 lorry loads per year. The barns are much larger than the previous poultry units. The application also does not represent the intended use of the barns. Cllr Wise asked whether it was correct that they did not object to the farming, but to the position of the barns and it was confirmed that the location is the problem. Cllr Wallis asked whether it had previously flooded there and this was confirmed. There was a ditch. The barns were previously abandoned due to flooding. Cllr Wallis also asked whether the barn was there now and it was confirmed by another member of the public that it had to be taken down as dilapidated. The ground is also unstable there. Cllr Wise asked whether flooding was addressed in the application? It was confirmed that it was covered and that comment has been made on this. It is not logical to put a livestock unit on a flood plain. There is a spring on the site too. One of the applicants stated that the buildings are being sited on the same area as the poultry building and that 200 calves is no different to 15,000 chickens. A member of the public queried whether this was intensive farming though and another said that a big difference is the noise. The applicant said that there would not be 200 calves there at once, 25 per fortnight will arrive. The public commenter said that they will be really noisy though. One of the boundaries is only 20m away and a maximum of 60m. Prevailing wind is also a factor that will create a persistence of noise and smell. Cllr Carmichael asked when the chickens were removed and it was believed to be about 1993. Cllr Wise said that this was a long period of disuse. The member of the public also commented that the floors had been chalk, with only one concrete area for food storage. Another pointed out that the Council cannot object on the grounds of developing internal space. Cllr Branagan said that concern is the Bourne. This does not sound like a good thing. It was confirmed that this had been mentioned in the objection

and that it had been cross-referenced with policies. The applicant stated that the run-off goes into a tank, to be pumped out into fields. Cllr Wise asked if this is the only feasible plan? Are there other locations on the site? The applicant stated probably, but this is to replace the buildings on site. A member of the public confirmed that they had been there but another felt that the new buildings were not where the originals were. Cllr Wise asked whether the location was driven by planning, or the cost of using a different location? The applicants said that the agent had advised the location. Cllr Carmichael asked whether the run-off was discussed anywhere? It was confirmed that there was reference to a soakaway. Cllr Wise asked whether Environment Agency permission was required? It was confirmed that there will be a survey. Cllr Carmichael re-iterated that the question of run-off is concerning. The applicant stated that there will be hardstanding between the buildings. Cllr Wise felt that there was not enough information to support or reject the application. He proposed that we advise planning that we need more information at this time. The Council **DECIDED**: to request more time from the Planning Department and not to submit a decision at this time.

Please note that Rockbourne Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee for Planning Applications and as such does not make the final decision on any Application. The decisions and comments this Committee make will be fed into the planning process and added to reports by Planning Officers. New Forest District Council is the Planning Authority and will issue the final decision notice (Planning Determination) once their investigations into the application, consultation period and decision-making process have been completed.

b. Planning Decisions

Reference	24/10567
Alternative Reference	PP-13156564
Application Received	Mon 17 Jun 2024
Application Validated	Thu 15 Aug 2024
Application Decided	
Address	MUSHROOM FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Conversion of existing barns to 2 dwellings; fenestration and external alterations; porch (Prior Approval Application)
Decision	Withdrawn by applicant

10. Children's Play Area

The Clerk reported that Infinity Playgrounds had now provided a quote with the total amounting to over £5,500. The other two suppliers have yet to reply.

11. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Cllr Wise confirmed that the copies of the Deeds passed to him showed title to the land around the War Memorial as well as the six acres of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Wallis confirmed that the new ladder and loft hatch for the Pavilion will be installed soon.

12. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Traffic Working Group had a meeting last week. Still no response from Hampshire Constabulary or the PCSO. Potentially, some of the dragons teeth on the verges may be renewed.

Cllr Wallis had nothing further to report than the items covered above.

Cllr Leeson has now put together a new WhatsApp group for the Bourne and flood prevention group. He has also chased Steve Malpass about the survey of houses for flood defences and grants available for various preventative items or measures. **ACTION**: Please add Nigel Daly to the WhatsApp group.

13. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 12th November 2024 @ 7pm, Tuesday 10th December 2024 @ 7pm and Tuesday 14th January 2025 in the Village Hall, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.