



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 10th December 2024** in the Village Hall, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

Members Present: Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Branagan, Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Wallis and Cllr Wise (Vice-Chair). Also present District Cllr Richards and Mark Baulch (Clerk & RFO).

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Wiggins

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Branagan declared an interest in item 9a and therefore joined the Public for Items 4 and 9a of this Agenda.

3. Correspondence Received

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

12th November from a commenter on the Planning matter concerning Land Adjacent to Provost Farm which was covered in Item 5.

21st November from UKCE concerning the cycle event which will pass through the village in March. **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate to all Councillors and place on Notice Board in New Year.

28th November from New Forest District Council with regards to Car Parking. **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate to all Councillors.

9th December from a commenter on item 9a which was covered in that item.

4. Public participation time

There were no comments from the Public.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 12th November 2024

The correspondence received above on the Minutes was reiterated: Apologies for not understanding the way the Parish Council works. I assumed that the minutes would be read and then agreed by all concerned.

In the October minutes it was stated that the chicken farm enterprise ceased in 1993. I think that [the objector] was confusing the year his family sold the farm with the question of when the chicken rearing ended which was actually 2010.

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

6. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th November 2024

All covered in this Agenda with exception of the defibrillator which remains an outstanding **ACTION**.

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

D.Cllr Richards stated that she is a Member of the Task and Finish Group for Car Parking in New Forest District Council. She urged Councillors to respond to the consultation. This covers pricing and how much we actually need, as well as Electric Vehicle charging and car parking clocks. Cllr Wallis mentioned that she does not go to Fordingbridge because she does not want to pay to park. Cllr Wise asked whether the cost of administering the clocks is covered? D Cllr Richards replied that the cost of running the car parks is less than half of the revenue. Cllr Wallis reiterated that it should be free so that more people use the shops. D Cllr Richards suggested that 20 minutes free or something may help.

8. Payment of outstanding creditors

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

The Budget was then discussed. A draft Budget had been circulated ahead of the meeting and included a proposal for a 5% increase in the Precept. Discussing the figures in the Budget, it was decided to reduce the £2,500 for Play Equipment to £500. The proposal is to remove the current equipment and then apply for Community Infrastructure Levy money for something new such as swings. The Budget for the War Memorial Maintenance was reduced from £1,800 to £200 with the proposal being to simply clean it this year. A new Budget item of Legal Fees (for the Recreation Ground land title) was introduced with a figure of £2,000. £1,800 was also set aside for the Cricket Nets groundwork which the Parish Council agreed to pay for. £10,250 remains in the Deposit Account for the traffic calming project of several years ago. This was discussed at length and it was agreed that the gates at the South end of the village are not working and need to be narrower. Discussion around the two sums of £4,000 for CCTV Equipment and Speed Awareness led to agreement of a total budget of £8,000 for road safety, with this covering both items, although not necessarily split half and half. For the Speed Indicator Device, need planning for poles and licence for using equipment before applying for Community Infrastructure Levy money. With these figures included and an agreed increase in the Precept of 6.5% to £15,202, Councillor Wise proposed a balanced and legal Budget and this was seconded by Cllr Branagan and agreed by all Councillors present.

9. Planning Matters

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

9a. Planning Applications

Reference	24/11008
Alternative Reference	PP-13557258
Application Received	Fri 15 Nov 2024
Application Validated	Thu 28 Nov 2024
Address	THREEWAYS COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NL
Proposal	Use of existing stables as an independent dwelling, with associated car parking, highway works, fenestration alterations and ancillary infrastructure

As per Agenda Item 3, The Clerk had received an e-mail from Lee Bradley on 9th December, which was read to the Meeting: Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the Parish Council tomorrow, the 10th of December due to an important commitment. I have emailed in advance of the Parish Council meeting tomorrow to inform you that I have objected to the planning application regarding Threeways dwelling application (Application number 24/1108). I would have attended the meeting tomorrow to inform the Rockbourne Parish Councillors in person, I apologise I am unable to attend. I live very close to where the proposed dwelling has been proposed. My letter of objection has recently been submitted to New Forest District Council for their consideration. Please can you inform the council members that I have objected and please send my apologies for not being able to attend in person due to an important previously arranged commitment. I am happy to discuss my reasons at a later date if the Parish Council wish.

Cllr Carmichael said that we have to be consistent in responding to these types of proposals. Cllr Wallis asked about the ownership of the track to the property and the proposer stated that the Cottage by the road owns that part and that they own the next bit. Cllr Wise asked about Right of Way for the other property owners and the proposer stated that all of the properties on the track have this. Cllr Wallis asked about the proposed use of the dwelling, will it be a house? The proposers confirmed that it will be and that they are probably going to live there. Cllr Wise asked how much of the old timber frame of the stables may be used and how they make it habitable. The proposers said that they did not know, the architect is for that. Cllr Wallis asked whether the building would remain the same height and this was confirmed by the proposers. They added that when they had their annexe built, they took the roof of the building and the rest of it fell down. They expect that this building may be the same. Cllr Wise said that the proposal was very different to Springbourne, as that is right alongside a Public Right of Way. Personally, he had no objection. Cllr Carmichael said that it looked pretty modest. Cllr Wallis noted that there was no problem with flooding or anything which the proposers confirmed, saying that it had never flooded up there. Cllr Wallis added that the building cannot be seen from the road and is not on the Public Footpath that runs behind the proposers property so she could not see a problem. Cllr Carmichael listed flooding, footpath access, road traffic and conversion to holiday lets as the past reasons for suggesting the refusal of a proposal. The proposer confirmed that the original plan had been for holiday lets, but they have decided against this. Cllr Carmichael went on to list proposals not looking right for the village, such as solar panels being visible from the road etc. Cllr Wallis added that the agricultural barn pretence is not an issue here. The proposer confirmed that they had already had planning permission for ancillary accommodation. The Clerk asked about any potential access issues as this had been raised for other proposals. Cllr Wise said that there was not a material increase in access. The proposer highlighted that the track is already used and that there is some traffic data in the report together with a recommendation to change access. Cllr Leeson agreed that it was not the easiest to get into. The proposer went on to say that, in terms of the building process, they can access this from the rear of the property too. There is already an oil tanker that goes up there, through the gate on the

right. Cllr Leeson pointed out that there is a hedge in the centre of the track, so where does the track go? The proposer confirmed that it goes beyond the hedge and that part of it is theirs anyway. At this point, the Clerk reminded the Councillors of their five response options. Cllr Wise said that he did not think that they should object. Cllr Wallis asked whether the commenter was worried about traffic? Previously, horseboxes etc. have used the track. Cllr Leeson asked whether proposals for building above garages etc. had been refused before? Cllr Wise pointed out that two proposals at Marsh Farm had been supported by the Council and refused by District Council. Cllr Leeson said that he had no issues with the proposal and Cllr Wallis said that they could not find a reason to object. Cllr Carmichael proposed responding PAR 3: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed and all Councillors agreed.

9b. Planning Decisions

Reference 24/10964
Alternative Reference PP-13509434
Application Received Thu 31 Oct 2024
Application Validated Thu 31 Oct 2024
Application Decided Mon 25 Nov 2024
Address MISTS FARM, ROCKBOURNE ROAD, SANDLEHEATH, SP6 1QG
Proposal New agricultural building (barn) for a machinery store (Prior Approval Application)
Decision Prior approval refused

Reference 24/10997
Alternative Reference PP-13479188
Application Received Mon 11 Nov 2024
Application Validated Thu 14 Nov 2024
Application Decided Tue 19 Nov 2024
Address CHALKE COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NA
Proposal New Porch (Lawful Development Certificate that permission is not required for proposal)
Decision Was Lawful

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.

10. Children's Play Area

This had been discussed under Agenda Item 8 and the Clerk proposed removing this Item from future Agendas, which was agreed by all Councillors. Any future issues can be discussed under Agenda Item 11.

11. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Cllr Carmichael asked what had happened with Alderholt Football Club? Cllr Wallis responded that they had asked for a meeting, which we held quickly and then made an offer at £25 per game. They finally decided that they had no funds. Cllr Wise asked whether they may come back to us in the future and Cllr Wallis said that they may and she has written to them to that effect. Cllr Carmichael asked if we were going to remove the play equipment, can the Council buy a goalpost? Cllr Branagan thought that this was a brilliant idea. **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain some quotes and Cllr Leeson to look at possible locations for a goalpost that will not interfere with other activities.

12. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Cllr Wise reported that a member of the Traffic Working Group continues to work on the CCTV options. All the Speedwatch volunteers have completed their training. Police have been and looked at the points proposed for monitoring and verbally agreed them but not written and confirmed.

Cllr Wallis had nothing further to report for the Recreation Ground Group than the items covered above, except that the Wessex Internet banner had disappeared from the gate.

Cllr Carmichael said that the Bourne Working Group had done a fantastic job and asked for it to be Minuted that the Parish Council was grateful to all involved. Cllr Wise added that the stream is flowing well. Cllr Leeson said that they need to carry on further South. North is pretty much done. Next biggest bit is by the top of the field. He has e-mailed Burrows about the septic tank replacements and they have been busy in Somerset. They are looking to get into this area as soon as possible. Cllr Wise added that they have not gone away? Cllr Leeson said no, but that he cannot see it within the next couple of years. Cllr Branagan asked whether they had done a good job? Cllr Leeson believed so and Cllr Wise added that this is a big national issue. Builders have been stopped because of nitrates.

13. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 14th January 2025 and Tuesday 11th February 2025 @ 7pm in the Village Hall, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.