



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 11th February 2025** in the Village Hall, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Carmichael, and Cllr Wallis.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Correspondence Received

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

22nd January from the Policy and Plans team at New Forest District Council with regards to the Local Plan.

ACTION: Clerk to send to all Councillors and to invite team to next Meeting.

4th February from New Forest District Council Building Control following the visit of their Officer to the sports pavilion. **ACTION:** Chair and Clerk to deal with this.

5th February from Rockbourne Cricket Club concerning insurance for the cricket nets and also whether the Council may consider paying something towards the installation. The response was that the Council are happy to help the way that we are, but nothing more at this stage. **ACTION:** Clerk to check on insurance for the nets.

10th February from New Forest District Council inviting Councillors to a meeting with the Chief Executive.

ACTION: Clerk to resend to all Councillors.

4. Public participation time

An objector to planning application 24/10783 said that the application needs to be fairly judged. It is not fair or reasonable to make a decision without all of the facts. Our comments will be uploaded to the portal shortly. The proposer responded that there has been some misconception on what they are doing. There has been some rumour and speculation. The proposer stated that there will be no slurry produced as animals will be kept on deep litter (straw) which soaks up the effluent. Manure management is in the plan and available for viewing. We are allowed to spread fresh manure throughout the year. Manure will not be stored on site, but in Fordingbridge. With regards to vehicle movements, may be less, definitely not more through the village, as all will come from the Salisbury direction. Another member of the public said no slurry produced, what is that? Answer was liquid manure. It was then asked how that was formed? The concern is pollution in the river. When clearing my section of it, I found a level [of pollution] that I had not seen before. How can this be monitored? The answer was that there would be no outflow pipes into the stream. The reply was that there is a ditch on the property, what happens then? The answer was that it will flow with water. There will be no slurry, just an effluent tank. Water off of the roof is piped and will not go into the 2000 litre tank. The first objector stated that is a domestic heating size of tank. There will be some run-off. The answer was only to effluent tanks. Any waste being moved will be in sealed tanks. The second objector added please ensure that the statement by the proposer that there will be no slurry is minuted.

Cllr Wise suggested that we should consider the application at this point. This was agreed. [See minutes next to relevant item below].

Another member of the public then asked about the pavilion, as it had been mentioned that part of the wall will need to be taken down. The Clerk confirmed this. It was asked how can NFDC now change their mind. They were happy at the time and the Parish Council has already paid twice for this, using our money. The Clerk reiterated that he and the Chair were dealing with this.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 14th January 2025

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 Vice-Chair.

6. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th January 2025

All completed or covered in this Agenda.

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

D.Cllr Richards urged the Council and audience to comment on the Local Plan. One of the questions within the consultation is do you think there should be more building in the National Landscape? If the answer is yes, there may be more building allowed. Cllr Wise added that there will be an open meeting in Fordingbridge on 26th February and **ACTION:** he will forward details to the Clerk for distribution. If we do not comment, discussions may be academic. D Cllr Richards added that in Martin, they are asking the District Council to speak to them at a Meeting and Cllr Wise said that **ACTION:** Clerk should invite them to our next Meeting. D Cllr Richards then spoke about the fact that Hampshire County Council has been put on a fast track programme for devolution. The County Council elections in May will now not go ahead. County Council and the District Councils will disappear and be replaced by Unitary Authorities. New Forest District Council is pushing to combine with Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council. Cllr Wise asked if that will get them to the required 500,000 residents? The answer was just about. Cllr Wise added that there has been some suggestion of greater devolution to Parsih Councils. D Cllr Richards continued with the fact that the plan from Councils is due by the end of March. Detailed plans are then required by the end of September. There will be an elected Mayor, with elections in May 2026. Cllr Wise stated that this will give us one council instead of having New Forest District Council for some things and Hampshire County Council for others. D Cllr Richards agreed that it will be simpler. But there are plusses and minuses. Cllr Wise agreed, with them being as remote as ever, probably run out of Winchester.

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.

9a. Planning Applications

Reference	25/10086
Alternative Reference	
Application Received	Wed 29 Jan 2025
Application Validated	Wed 29 Jan 2025
Address	CAE MALWEN FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NA
Proposal	Application for approval under paras 75-78 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (General Development Order) for use of site as temporary campsite for 50 pitches, 60 nights a year

Cllr Branagan asked whether this is as it has always been?

Cllr Wise said that he believed it had been used up to 28 days per year, so this is a slight intensification of use. D Cllr Richards clarified that the laws have changed and that they can use it for 60 nights without planning permission, this application is about the development types with permitted development rights. The ones which are most likely to require approval are those which result in an increase in local population, both on a temporary and permanent basis, such as proposals for additional residential dwellings and temporary pop-up campsites. Parish Council have no say in that. They have to pay phosphate mitigation.

Cllr Branagan asked which parts of the site had been sold? Cllr Wise understood that the site had been carved up into smaller plots and Cllr Branagan added that some had been sold, some had not. Cllr Wiggins asked whether the site had any problems as he had not heard of any? Cllr Branagan said no. Cllr Wiggins mentioned noise and crime and Cllr Wise said that he did not know of any issues. They are close to 50 pitches already, so the change is the longer period. I do not know how they dispose of waste, think it is chemical toilets. Cllr Wise proposed responding PAR5 We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers. Cllr Wiggins Seconded and Cllr Branagan agreed.

Reference	24/10783
Alternative Reference	PP-13307995
Application Received	Wed 28 Aug 2024, revised version Thu 30 Jan 2025
Application Validated	Tue 17 Dec 2024
Address	LAND ADJ PROVOST FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NR
Proposal	2 no agricultural buildings and associated hardstanding

Cllr Wise said that this was the third time that Council had considered this application. It has continued to endure. I still do not think we should be making a decision. A lot of new documents have gone on to the portal. Previously, Environment Agency and Environmental Health objected, but we should wait for those statutory consultees to respond. Once we have a complete consultation package, we can then make a decision. Cllr Wiggins added that we should not jump in without the facts. Cllr Wise said that there have been lots of representations. There will be some that are factual. We should wait for them before making a decision. I propose that we vote to defer the decision. This was agreed by both the other Councillors present. **ACTION:** Clerk to report this to New Forest District Council.

9b. Planning Decisions

None.

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. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

The Clerk had obtained some quotes for a goalpost and these had been passed to Cllr Wallis for discussion within the Recreation Ground Working Group and a decision based on size required and storage needs.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Cllr Wallis was not present and there was no further update from the Recreation Ground working group.

Cllr Wise reported that Cllr Leeson was looking to restart the working parties on the Bourne.

Cllr Wise said that the Traffic WG had met on 28th January. They have heard from Hampshire Police who have approved the SpeedWatch scheme. Contacted Damerham Parish Council and we will be operating our first SpeedWatch on 1st March. Dial House driveway is the only agreed location for this. The plus side is that Hampshire County Council will then consider us for 20mph scheme.

Cllr Branagan asked how many sessions had to be held for this?

Cllr Wise responded that there was no threshold, there just had to be an active campaign. Needs to buy high Visibility vests for the operators and asked for £20 budget for this. This was PROPOSED by Cllr Branagan and SECONDED by Cllr Wiggins.

It was asked how many people were needed to operate the scheme and the response was 3-5.

12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 11th March 2025 @ 7pm in the Village Hall, Rockbourne and Tuesday 8th April @7pm in the Pavilion, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.