



## **ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

**Meeting held in the Pavilion, Rockbourne on  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 @ 7.00pm.**

### **MINUTES**

In attendance: Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Wise (Vice-Chair), Cllr Branagan, Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Wiggins, Mark Baulch (Clerk)

Guests present: District Cllr Richards

Also present: Nine members of the public, list of names taken and on record

1. Welcome from Cllr Andy Leeson, Chair of the Parish Council.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllr Wallis.
3. Chair's Report – Cllr Leeson read this out and a copy is attached below.
4. Questions and Comments

District Cllr Richards asked about the SpeedWatch data. Cllr Wise said that they had conducted a dozen sessions now. We can only record vehicles travelling over 35mph. Maybe 20% are above 30mph, but much less over 35mph. The Hi-Viz tends to slow people down. Most people supportive. District Cllr Richards asked whether there was anyone over? Cllr Wise confirmed, with pretty much every session seeing reports. Cllr Carmichael observed that 30mph is still terrifying if you are walking on the road. Cllr Wise added that only one spot is approved for use. They do not slow down as quickly as they should. The chicane inhibits people to some degree. Cllr Carmichael agreed that this was the point of the gateways. Cllr Wise said at the North end, maybe, but the South end does not achieve anything. District Cllr Richards asked whether they were still looking for a 20mph limit? Cllr Wise confirmed as this would make it safer. District Cllr Richards said that you will need all of the data for that and Cllr Wise confirmed that they have quite a body of data now, including under 35mph. Cllr Carmichael felt that it would be good to try and get them to do the official survey again and Cllr Wise agreed, but would be surprised if the volume has not increased. Cllr Leeson said that there were more people walking down the road now too.

Cllr Wise moved on to the point about Hampshire and their attitude on planters etc. saying that it was disappointing. They seem sensible. Cllr Leeson said that the whole idea was to make the village pretty and safer, but this has not been well accepted. A member of the public asked whose responsibility the planters were if hit? Cllr Wise replied that they were on the owner's land and so the owner's responsibility. Cllr Leeson said that it was worth asking. Cllr Wise said that they are saying that they are encroaching on to the highway. Cllr Leeson added that it was safer now with the changes, the road is less dangerous and slightly wider.

Meeting closed at 19:20.

*Next Annual Parish Meeting – May 2026 – date and venue to be confirmed.*

## Parish Assembly Report 2025

Good evening and welcome to The Rockbourne Annual Parish Assembly.

Firstly, thanks to a very generous local whom, although not living in Rockbourne, has a long history within the parish, the Rose and Thistle has stayed as a public house and will thankfully remain so for the foreseeable future. A lot of work has gone into making sure the RAT remains alongside the Church, Village Hall and Cricket Club as a focal point for our Village community. Thank you to all involved and those who are continually supporting.

As many of you will know we have working groups that cover the Recreation Ground, Bourne and flooding and the Traffic and Safety Group.

The Recreation Ground has had new practice nets installed to the lower corner, these look great and are already in use with mid-week sessions. These were installed by volunteers and local trades. We now have a local football team using the grounds for their younger squads training sessions (which you may have noticed on the way in), they plan to use the area for games at a later date. This is fantastic news and great to see the Rec being used for its intended purpose.

There have been one or two set-backs, however, with the planning office being a little difficult on signing off the pavilion works. This is in hand and will hopefully be off the to do list.

We also missed out on two grants from Hampshire, one to construct a parking area inside the gate which we hoped would be useful to both the users of the ground, the pub and village hall for overflow on events, school use and for the village as a whole. The other was for the replacement/refurbishment of the play area. We will keep applying and hopefully we will get a win in the future.

The Speed and Safety group have had the long and slightly painful challenge of getting the speed watch up and running. This has involved various meetings with the police, highways and other local groups to iron out the safety, locations and training. They have now been up and running for a couple of months using the local shared equipment along with the purchase of an upgraded hand-held unit. There has been some great success already. We will still look to get the speed down and in turn the safety of villagers and visitors to the area.

The Rockbourne Road as a whole does require a lot of work and unfortunately we seem to be a little out of the way and out of mind for the highways, although work has been completed at the Villa curve area which has made the section a little safer but we are still pushing for the North ends to be completed and the continuous pot hole issue to be rectified. Some great work has been carried out by villagers to make the roadside pretty as advised previously, so that drivers will slow down and want to drive carefully through, this however has been objected to by highways and letters sent out. A little hypocritical in my opinion but a meeting will be requested to discuss the above points.

The Bourne group have been active as you may have seen with the clearance and up-keep towards the North end and centre. Working alongside those villagers that maintain their own sections to try and keep the water moving efficiently through the village and the chalk stream habitat healthy, there has been a few sitings of trout etc. as far up as the Whitsbury turning, which is great news. This is however a huge job that we continue throughout the year, at the same time this is equally rewarding and a lot of fun, who doesn't like playing around in the water, well maybe not the one or two that may have gone for a bit of a swim. We do deposit the weeds and clearance on the side of the road, I know this can be unsightly although we do try to get this cleared as soon as we can.

Thanks to all involved in the different groups and volunteers are always welcome.

I would like to thank the Councillors and the clerk for their work over the last year and of course the parish for contributing towards the wonderful village that is Rockbourne.

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