



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 15th April 2025** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

There were also six 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.

2nd April from New Forest District Council regarding awards of CIL money to various projects. Sadly, these did not include our own proposals.

9th April from Hilary Ward, Planning Implementation Officer (CIL) for New Forest District Council, confirming the allocation of CIL money to the Parish to the value of £196.62.

10th April from New Forest District Council regarding the roll out of the wheelie bins for refuse collection.

4. Public participation time

The Applicant for a Planning matter not on the Agenda (Land Adjacent to Provost Farm) was in attendance and stated that the Council had previously deferred a decision on this matter and so wondered why it was not on the Agenda? Most complaints have been answered. Concerned matter was going on and on. Cllr Carmichael said that he did not think that it was and Cllr Wise added that there was no veto on it. Cllr Wallis stated that the deadline for a decision had been 31st March. Each time it has come to Council a decision has been postponed. This time, the date has passed. Now Environmental Health have put in their report [10th April]. The applicant is living in the farmhouse. Cllr Wise thought that it was not a farmyard as such but Cllr Wallis says that it is. The applicant confirmed that the property has an agricultural clause. Cllr Carmichael asked whether we were waiting for any other reports? The applicant said no and that Highways and the Environment Agency were happy. Cllr Wallis could not understand why we were not voting. Cllr Leeson explained that it was not on the Agenda and so any objectors may not be here to voice their own opinions. It would be unreasonable to make a decision. Another member of the public said that they could not see what the Parish Council could do. Cllr Wallis said that this was the same one month ago, we could not decide on it. A different member of the public asked why it was not on the Agenda. Cllr Leeson said that it was because there was nothing to discuss when the Agenda was published [10th April 2025]. The Agenda will only have planning matters that were open for consultation that month. The public felt that a decision would be nice. Cllr Wallis asked what are we here for? Cllr Carmichael agreed that we should put something in and Cllr Leeson that we should close it off. Cllr Wise asked for **ACTION:** add this matter to Agenda for next month. Check on when decision is due to be made. The applicant pointed out that the Environmental Health report came back after 31st March deadline. They are trying to keep young people in farming, with two grandchildren keen to be involved. We need to support British farming. Cllrs Leeson and Wallis agreed. The applicant added that it is said that people are against it, but most of them are concerned about water pollutions or highways [traffic], both of whom are happy. Cllr Wallis said that any overspill liquid will be going into a sealed tank, hardly any houses have that. Cllr Carmichael said that as Councillors are not experts, so had been waiting for reports. We need to look at the latest reports and then have this on the Agenda. Cllr Leeson stated that our decision will be made next month. A member of the public stated that the decision that the Council makes does make a difference, as it depends on whether it can be

appealed or not.

A member of the SpeedWatch group said that they have been out in the agreed area. They have been using a Speed Indicator Device (SID) on a tripod and monitoring speed. Drivers are reportable if travelling at the speed limit plus ten percent plus 2mph (35mph). Reported five so far. It is very clear that people approaching slow down when they see us, so it is a good deterrent. The kit is shared with Damerham, Martin and Sandheath. Cllr Wise added that it is a big piece of kit and only faces in one direction. The group member added that they try and record the highest speed seen. This is then sent to Police for them to issue a letter. Cllr Wise stated that persistent offenders, when stopped by the Police, may have this background information taken into account. Ten percent of people were over the 30mph speed limit, but only two percent over 35mph. The group member said that this equipment is big and heavy and in a bag, plus there is the tripod. So to undertake a SpeedWatch is not trivial and only works in one direction. Cllr Wise proposed purchasing a smaller unit with built in display for the user that could be used in both directions and would cost around £170 including a case etc. Cllr Carmichael asked whether it shows their speed? A member of the public asked whether they had better results with a radar gun and whether it recorded number plates? Cllr Wise confirmed that it was easier to use and the group member said that it records the greatest speed being travelled at, not the vehicle details. Cllr Wise said that nobody had been seen travelling at over 40mph. Speeding was most common at rush hour times, not during the school run as it is too congested.

A different member of the public then asked about Springbourne Farm. When the pole barn went up, that was refused planning permission. Do they need to take it down? Cllr Wise responded yes, but they may put in another planning application for this building. Cllr Carmichael felt that it might be worth a neighbour contacting the enforcement officer.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 18th March 2025

As PROPOSED by Cllr Wise and SECONDED by Cllr Wiiggins, all confirmed that they were a true record and they were signed by the Vice-Chair.

6. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 18th March 2025

All completed.

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

District.Cllr Richards had sent her apologies and stated there was nothing to report this month. Although invited, nothing had been heard from County Cllr Heron.

8. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented the latest invoices and statement of accounts to the Councillors. The financial year end of 31st March has been completed and the Clerk presented Councillors with the end of year accounts, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and the Notice of Public Rights, which will be dated 16th April 2025 with the open to inspection dates of 3rd June 2025 until 14th July 2025. The Auditor will now be contacted in order to complete this process and forward the necessary paperwork to BDO.

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	25/10323
Alternative Reference	PP-13898352
Application Received	Fri 28 Mar 2025
Application Validated	Fri 28 Mar 2025
Address	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Variation of Condition 2 of application 23/10307 to allow design changes including fenestration alterations and changes to the north east elevation

Reference	25/10341
Alternative Reference	PP-13889720
Application Received	Mon 31 Mar 2025
Application Validated	Fri 04 Apr 2025
Address	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Replacement of the existing piggeries and mobile home with x3no. detached two bedroom dwellings

[These two applications were discussed together]. Cllr Wise said that it was not easy to see the changes. The first application appears to be a re-orientation and different windows and doors. The second now wants three two-bedroomed houses. This is the usual creep of plans for this site and I am sure that we have not seen the end of it. A member of the public said that they could not easily see what had changed. It was one building, now three individual buildings. Cllr Wallis asked whether it already had planning permission? Cllr Wise replied yes, but now

they are changing it. Cllr Branagan asked whether we were making a decision on this today? Cllr Carmichael felt that it should be the same decision as last time. Cllr Wise added that the first one was not controversial, but that the second one may be. It was originally the conversion of an old building. Cllr Wallis asked whether the plans were now bigger? Cllr Carmichael replied that the footprint has not changed, but roof has changed. Cllr Leeson added that the roof was now to be meadow grass. Cllr Branagan said that this may improve it? Cllr Wallis added but windows are full length? Cllr Wise said that National Landscapes [new name for AONB] are saying that it has less fenestration now. Cllr Carmichael agreed, by 9m². Cllr Wiggins asked whether it was OK to drive up and down that footpath? Cllr Wise said that on the website, there is a long list of requirements from Hampshire County Council with regards to protecting the footpath. They are not supposed to alter the surface, but there is already hardcore down. The second application is a further intensification of use. Cllr Wiggins asked if we should object? Cllr Wise felt that we should and Cllr Carmichael agreed. Cllr Wise thought that we should accept the District Council decision for the first? Cllr Leeson said that they had probably addressed concerns from before. Cllr Wise was never concerned about the appearance, more about the track. Cllr Wallis wanted to stick with refusal for the same reasons as before. Cllr Wise PROPOSED responding PAR5 We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers for the first application and PAR4 We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed for the second application, the reasons being as before. Cllr Wallis said that she thought that it should be PAR4 for both but Cllr Carmichael did not think so. Cllrs Branagan and Carmichael SECONDED the proposal for PAR4/PAR5 as above.

9b. Planning Decisions

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 ancillary accommodation as an independent dwelling with associated car parking, highways works and ancillary infrastructure
Status	Decided
Decision	Refused
Decision Issued Date	Wed 12 Mar 2025

Cllr Branagan explained that this was refused on the grounds of light pollution and other things, there did not seem to be any consistency in it. Cllr Carmichael asked whether they would appeal and they may.

10. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Cllr Leeson explained that he had not moved on much with the Pavilion. He is re-writing the Risk Assessments and will send these to the Clerk. We do not need the fire alarm system requested, as nobody lives on site. Cllr Carmichael asked if the football team using the ground was working OK? Cllr Wallis confirmed, also that they are paying £15 per night for now. They seem happy and it is nice to see the recreation ground being used. At the moment, only on Tuesday night. Cllr Leeson asked if the Manager was unable to open the gate, what would happen? Cllr Wallis said that the Manager would contact her. The Cricket Club have asked whether we could discuss the grass cutting fee, with a proposal of charging £1,500 this year. It was £1,200 last year. The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, confirmed that the budget had been increased for 2025 and that the Council could offer £1,475.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Recreation Ground was discussed under Item 10.

The Traffic group have held four sessions. As heard earlier the group would like to purchase some new equipment, to the value of £170. Cllr Wise PROPOSED this and it was SECONDED by Cllr Carmichael. Cllr Wise said that they can then do some more. The SID has gone back to Martin.

Bourne / Flooding group have had a couple of working parties. The vegetation has grown quite quickly. This is a continuing task, led by a member of the group. There has been a great effort from the people in the Village. Looking very clear now. Cllr Carmichael asked whether we need to buy some waders? Cllr Wallis said that it will be dry soon. Cllr Wise said to ask group. Cllr Leeson will be arranging a meeting and will discuss this. A member of the public asked if more dates could be proposed so that people can turn up. Cllr Leeson said that they keep an eye on the weather and then try and arrange. The member of the public suggesting using the WhatsApp group so that people can suggest when they are free. Cllr Leeson said yes, some dates will be added.

12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meeting will be Tuesday 13th May @7pm, which will also be the Annual General Meeting and will be held in the Pavilion, Rockbourne. The following meetings will be Tuesday 10th June @7pm and Tuesday 15th July @7pm in the Pavilion, Rockbourne. This last meeting is one week later than normal due to a number of Councillors being unable to attend otherwise. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.