



## ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

**Members Present:** Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Wise (Vice-Chair) and Cllr Carmichael. 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 Branagan, Cllr Wallis and Cllr Wiggins

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. Correspondence Received**

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

21<sup>st</sup> May from New Forest District Council regarding building regulations. **ACTION:** Clerk to draft a response and circulate to Councillors before submitting.

23<sup>rd</sup> May from Hampshire Association of Local Councils with the details of the County Forum.

26<sup>th</sup> May from New Forest District Council, confirming the opening of a new bid process for the allocation of CIL money. The Clerk will work with the District Councils officers on new bids for the playground equipment and recreation ground car park.

2<sup>nd</sup> June from the Clerk at Martin Parish Council with regards to County Cllr Heron stating that he will remain 'reluctantly'.

2<sup>nd</sup> June from Ionos, our website provider, with a price increase from £15 per month to £17 per month.

4<sup>th</sup> June from a resident, via Cllr Wise, with regards to a letter received from the Highways Department at Hampshire County Council. This will be covered in the next Agenda item.

5<sup>th</sup> June from New Forest District Council Planning Department advising us of the refusal of planning permission for three new properties at Springbourne Farm.

#### **4. Public participation time**

A member of the public had received a letter from the Highways Department at Hampshire County Council, telling them that they have to remove the sleepers, bollards, hedge etc. that they had recently replaced with new. It was a like-for-like replacement. They took out the old hedge and replaced it. It is odd that they are now being told to remove everything. They have actually brought the boundary in and removed all the old earth from under the old hedge. Do not know why they are being picked on. Cllr Wise asked whether there was any reason why from Hampshire County Council? The reply was no, only keep quoting that they can claim a certain amount of space. There is also a drain there. We did continue the line of sleepers to keep earth in place. Cllr Wise asked if they had managed to meet them and the reply was no. You can pay for them to come along and do that. Why are they being targeted? Cllr Wise said that there are numerous obstructions much closer to the road edge. The member of the public did say that they are a little precious about their wall since it collapsed. Cllr Carmichael added that they had definitely improved the sightline along the road and Cllr Leeson said that they have gained road space. On my side, they could be claiming my desk! The member of public added that they are being very officious. Cllr Carmichael asked if they had taken any legal advice? The answer was no. Cllr Wise asked about the title plan? The reply was that it showed a wobbly red line and was not very specific. Cllr Carmichael asked what they had threatened? The response was that after seven days, they will remove everything and bill them. They have removed most of it and the soil is already falling back into the road. They will add some turf to try and strengthen it. Cllr Leeson said that when we had talked about the potential for a

20mph speed limit, County Cllr Heron said that we should put planters out to make it pretty. The member of the public said that Hampshire County Council said that he should not have said that. But the bollards even went through planning. It is all very odd, but typical of Highways. Cllr Wise stated that they were neglectful of potholes and that the Bourne walls have collapsed and been left, but now they are focused on this. The member of public added that it is concerning that they are telling me to check that my insurance is up to date as I could be liable for any accidents. Cllr Leeson asked if we could get them out? Cllr Wise added that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction, but surely we can ask them to meet? The member of public had spoken to another resident that had managed to get hold of senior Highways person. The Clerk suggested that we invite them to meet with the Council? Cllr Carmichael agreed that we should get them over. **ACTION:** Clerk to draft a letter and send to Councillors for sign off and then forward to Highways.

#### 5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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 meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

All completed. No response from Hampshire County Council Highways Department.

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

District Cllr Richards updated Council on the latest with regards to District Council re-organisation. They are going to replace District Councils, County Councils and Unitary Authorities with new bodies. They are trying to decide how to move forward and currently have four options:

1. New Forest District Council join Southampton City Council
2. There will be four District Councils (New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire) and four Unitary Authorities.
3. Divide up the Districts and share them out. New Forest would be split.
4. Hampshire County Council stays the same, plus Southampton and Portsmouth as Unitary Authorities.

There will be a public consultation on this around the end of this month. Cllr Wise said that his experience of these is that it is pre-ordained with Hampshire County Council being their preference? District Cllr Richards said that it will not be Hampshire County Council making the decision. The Government will make the decision. Part of the case will be what local residents think of it. Cllr Wise added that Labour Party controlled authorities may receive an advantageous hearing? District Councillor Richards said that it was really important that we give our views. The District Council preference is option 2. The Parish Council and local residents should respond to the consultation. The proposal is due to go to Government in September. Cllr Leeson thought that it was supposed to go live by October? District Councillor Richards said no and Cllr Wise added that was when they would be making decisions and District Councillor Richards added that final decisions will be made around early 2026. 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. This included the Rockbourne Recreation Ground Trust account as this has now started to receive funds from hires.

#### 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

None

##### 9b. Planning Decisions

None

##### 9c. Planning Appeals

<b>Reference</b>	24/10761
<b>Alternative Reference</b>	PP-13327376
<b>Application Received</b>	Thu 22 Aug 2024
<b>Application Validated</b>	Thu 29 AUG 2024
<b>Address</b>	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
<b>Proposal</b>	Agricultural Pole Barn (Retrospective)
<b>Status</b>	Appeal Received 16 May 2025
<b>Original Decision</b>	Refused
<b>Decision Issued Date</b>	Wed 12 Mar 2025

Cllr Wise suggested that we reiterate our comments from before and all agreed. **ACTION:** Clerk to update planning portal.

## **10. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion**

Cllr Leeson has updated the risk assessment for the Pavilion. Cllr Carmichael asked if the School could use it on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July from 1:30pm until 5:00pm. Cllr Leeson asked whether this included the marquee and Cllr Carmichael said no, just the ground. He has mentioned it to Cllr Wallis and it would not appear to be a problem.

**ACTION:** Clerk to check with Football Club.

## **11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)**

Recreation Ground was discussed under Item 10.

Cllr Wise advised that there had been lots of SpeedWatch, two per week. One at 7am this morning with 92 vehicles, 9 of them over 35mph, 13 over 30mph. When it is quieter, we see more speeding. From 7am-8am quite a lot. School time, there are too many vehicles around. Most speeders are coming into the village from the South. One day we had one at 44mph. We fill out a form and the Police will send a letter. We do not know whether they are doing it. Friendly letter first, sterner letter and then they go on a list of dangerous drivers. Cllr Leeson hoped that a sterner letter had gone to the driver doing 44mph. Cllr Wise said that on previous occasions they had not more than 4 in an hour. It feels dangerous. The majority are within the limit but significant number are over. It will help to build a case for a lower limit. Cllr Carmichael believed that you can only have a 20mph limit if they will stick to it? Cllr Wise explained that there have been changes in the way they consider this, no longer require three deaths. There are now a number of factors and having an active SpeedWatch is one of those. We are trying to get training for more volunteers. So, SpeedWatch is active and people are generally supportive. A member of the public asked whether signs reminding people that they are sharing the road with other users can help? Cllr Wise said that they will discuss that at the next Working Group Meeting. District Cllr Richards added that you can request a proper speed check using your data and Cllr Wise said that once they have a decent body of evidence, they will do so. Cllr Leeson felt that it was a pity that they cannot inhouse train volunteers. Cllr Wise confirmed that they cannot. They have been using the new speed gun, which works so much better. Cllr Leeson asked if this works on vehicles going away as well and Cllr Wise confirmed that it does. Cllr Leeson asked about the proposed camera trial? Cllr Wise has not had all the quotes yet. **ACTION:** Add the camera trial to the next Agenda. Send all three quotes to all Councillors.

Cllr Leeson said that there was not much to mention about the Bourne/flooding group. They will have another meeting soon. The stream is now dry, so they can have a good rip out of stuff that should not be in there. Cllr Carmichael added that presumably, they wanted the bed damp? Cllr Wise agreed that this is the perfect time and Cllr Leeson said that he will contact the group to see if something can be arranged.

## **12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –**

The next meetings will be Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October @7pm and will be held in the Pavilion, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: [rockbourneclerk@outlook.com](mailto:rockbourneclerk@outlook.com) for details.