



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 22nd July 2025** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

Members Present: Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Wallis and Cllr Wiggins Also present District Cllr Richards and 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

Cllr Branagan and Cllr Wise (Vice-Chair).

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Wallis declared an interest in item 9a, reference Newbourne Farm, as her property has a boundary with it.

3. Correspondence Received

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

2nd July from a group looking to hire the football pitch once per week for players with reduced mobility. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond with the fact that no goalposts are available and only a junior pitch. Also with further questions on potential use with a view to progressing with this request.

15th July from Cllr Wallis with regards to the charges being levied for Alderholt Youth Football Club. It had been agreed that training sessions would be charged at £15 each. Matches involve more people and traffic and were originally proposed to be charged at £25 per match, but this was not in the initial contract. It was therefore agreed to continue to charge £15 per session until the end of August then **ACTION:** Clerk to draw up a new contract to commence on 1st September for £15 per training session and £25 per match.

21st July from Cllr Wise, in his capacity as CIC for the Rose and Thistle with regards to a tree works application to fell two sycamore trees on the site. The trees significantly shade the rear garden and prevent them and the wider community that the Rose and Thistle serves making use of it in the evening. It was **AGREED** that the Council should support this. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Carmichael, **SECONDED** by Cllr Wiggins, Cllr Wallis agreed. Cllr Leeson abstained due to being a neighbour of the property.

4. Public participation time

A member of the public wished to speak on the potential for a CCTV trial. Want to trial a system for three months, one camera, to see what data and images we get. Can also monitor traffic volumes. Professional high-spec camera with data recorded to hard disk. After trial, presentation to Village. Data only captured for one month and then destroyed. Aware of issues of privacy. Restricted access to data. The cheapest system is good and the cost will be £2,750 + VAT. At the end of it, we will have equipment to install one camera. Cllr Carmichael said that we definitely need a public meeting in the Village Hall before the trial. It can be provocative. The reply was that the Council are entitled to do it. The trial will be within the 30mph speed limit zone. Cllr Leeson asked whether this was to decide the best times for SpeedWatch? Replied yes. Cllr Carmichael said that Hampshire County Council had done surveys on the road and we have asked them to do it again. **ACTION:** Cllr Carmichael to send data to Clerk for publishing on website. Cllr Leeson asked how people felt about it being used if a spate of burglaries occurred? Cllr Wallis asked whether this can prove anything? You cannot make a conviction? If you call the Police with vehicle details, what will they do? The reply was that you would have the data. Cllr Carmichael felt that we should ask the Police. Can we use the information? The reply was that if we tell them that a car was in the vicinity for an hour, they can check the vehicle. Cllr Carmichael asked if anyone else was doing this? DCllr Richards said no. Cllr Leeson thought that we would need one each end. Cllr Wallis said that people outside of the zone may object to funds being used only in the centre of the village. The member of the public said that they would not want to present to the Village

now. Would want to program it to churn out data, vehicle numbers etc. Cllr Wallis said that at night, 11pm – 6am, this could be useful, rest of time, not so sure. Concerned about people's privacy. Cllr Carmichael said that Council had to put it out to everyone before spending the money. The trial would be the biggest expenditure for some time. The Clerk stated that it would be necessary to check the legalities from a GDPR aspect. Cllr Leeson said that one at each end would cover the village but nothing else, probably a good idea to get information first. Another member of the public suggested that they could also measure speed? Certain equipment would allow us to do that. Cllr Leeson felt that some good points had been made, but that there was a lot to cover. Needs to go to whole Village. Cllr Carmichael said that it needs to be a separate meeting. The CCTV trial proposer said that they had not found anyone else doing it. Cllr Wallis asked if they had to put up a sign? The answer was an A4 sized sheet which needs to go on a pole. Cllr Leeson felt that some signs would be useful. Need to look for dates for a meeting. Cllr Wallis asked when the last burglary was and the answer was about 18 months ago. Cllr Leeson added that it might prevent fly-tipping too although Cllr Wallis thought this was unlikely to be in the central area. It was asked whether there had been any feedback on Speedwatch? Cllr Leeson confirmed only the reports from Cllr Wise.

On another matter, a Public Footpath sign was reported as being decrepit and needing replacing, as some walkers were taking a wrong route on to private land. **ACTION:** Clerk to report to Hampshire County Council. Commenting on the Ladybird Farm planning matter, it was said that the building is not an agricultural barn, it is a shed. It is 5m from the property boundary and would be very prominent once the leaves fall. This is not a farm, but a field, used for grazing for the last 30 years. Others may follow if this is allowed. It is a Private Road to the property, only have right of way. Presently looking into whether current use is abuse of the right of way. Another member of public supported these comments. Many barns in the fields that could be converted. The plan proposer said that the campsite had been mentioned quite a lot in applications, but that is separate. With regards to being seen, the barn is already there. Cllr Wallis asked, if you get permission, will you be doing more agricultural bits and camping or reducing camping? The reply was that the camping was literally a trial at the moment, half way through that. Currently 20 pitches and not looking to increase that. Fences and hedges need sorting. Tree planting to do. Footpaths to gate and improve access for people to walk. People don't know us. We are custodians of the land as a whole, 7.2 acres. Looking to improve biodiversity. Put planning application in for campsite straight away because we needed a quick decision. In hindsight, we should have spoken to the village more. We were asked what our intentions were for the site. Plans are to grow food. Had farming consultant in. Could put roof on building and be snail farmers, but that is not what we want to do. Want to provide a farming enterprise. Would rather do this slowly and focused on community. Will continue with our plans with or without the property.

On another matter, it was raised about a retrospective planning application from Springbourne Farm being refused. The question was about enforcement of this. **ACTION:** To be added to next Meeting Agenda.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 10th June 2025

These were confirmed as a true record. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Leeson, **SECONDED** by Cllr Wiggins, all agreed.

6. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th June 2025

The **ACTION:** Clerk to draft a response and circulate to Councillors before submitting with regards to New Forest District Council letter on building regulations had been carried forward and will be dealt with this week. The **ACTION:** Add the camera trial to the next Agenda. Send all three quotes to all Councillors was not completed due to Cllr Wise missing this meeting. However, this had been discussed under Agenda Point 4.

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. She handed out some leaflets and again urged everyone to have their say by Sunday 27th July. A rural area would be more suitable than Greater Southampton. Cllr Carmichael asked whether we would get more money with Southampton? DCllr Richards replied no, Southampton already have big financial issues. We would be less well off. Cllr Leeson asked where do you think it will fall? DCllr Richards replied on Hampshire County Council one, they have a good business case for it. Hope not though, from a democratic point of view. Ultimately, the Government decides. Council needs feedback and support.

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 - District

Reference	25/10545
Alternative Reference	PP-14060565
Application Received	Fri 06 Jun 2025
Application Validated	Wed 11 Jun 2025
Address	LADYBIRD FARM (previously CAE MALWEN), ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NA
Proposal	Change of use of agricultural barn to x1no. dwelling with parking and landscaping

Cllr Leeson said that taking into account comments, will you be there permanently? Answer was yes, it will be the family home. Cllr Leeson added plus market garden and Cllr Wallis added originally a campsite? The answer was a pop-up campsite. Cllr Wallis said that at a previous meeting, you added into the conversation about a polytunnel and did not mention a house. The answer was that the building was not on the cards at that point, had not spoken to farm consultant then. There will be no holiday lets, granny annexes or second storeys etc. Cllr Carmichael was concerned that this could set a precedent. Lots of other buildings behind houses. I like the stuff you have done there. But just very wary about rest of Rockbourne. The answer was that they have spoken to the case officer and have no objection to special conditions being applied. Cllr Carmichael said that would only apply to this. The reply was that they want to live in Rockbourne, on their land. Cllr Leeson said that this is a different scenario but also close to the same as other plans that we have gone against. It may be hypercritical to not refuse. Cllr Carmichael said that it is a shame that the plot is where it is. Cllr Carmichael **PROPOSED** a response of PAR4, we recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed. Cllr Wiggins **SECONDED** and all agreed. Cllr Wiggins added that some of our other decisions would look foolish otherwise.

Planning Applications – County

Reference	25/10604
Alternative Reference	
Application Received	Mon 09 Jun 2025
Application Validated	Mon 23 Jun 2025
Address	NEWBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NT
Proposal	Variation of conditions 3 (Waste Types), 5 (Vehicle Movements), 7 (Tonnage) of Planning Permission 18/10241
Note	County Council required reply by 18 th July so Councillors gave views by electronic means. By a majority of 3 to 2, the response was PAR4, we recommend REFUSAL for the reasons listed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is located within a National Landscape (formerly called AONB) and the current level of activity already negatively impacts the surrounding landscape and village character. The existing compost pile is an eyesore, especially due to its location next to the recreation ground, which is a valued community space. The smell of rotting food on hot days regularly carries into the village. The proposed 60% increase in permitted tonnage will lead to a significant rise in vehicle movements, adding further strain to local roads and increasing noise and disruption for residents. The vehicles used are also of a considerable size, not suited to the small C-designated road which services the site.

9b. Planning Decisions

Reference	24/10783
Alternative Reference	PP-13307995
Application Received	Wed 28 Aug 2024
Application Validated	Wed 04 Sep 2024
Address	LAND ADJ PROVOST FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NR
Proposal	2no agricultural buildings and associated hardstanding
Status	Decided
Decision	Refused
Decision Issued Date	Fri 27 Jun 2025

10. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Covered under Agenda Point 3.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Recreation Ground was discussed under Agenda Point 3. A member of the public asked if Council will be re-applying for funds for a car park. Although the advice has been that this is unlikely to be successful, a further attempt will be made.

Cllr Wise was not in attendance and SpeedWatch had been discussed under Agenda Point 4.

Cllr Leeson said that he had a meeting on Thursday to discuss where we go forward, then will bring the wider group in to prepare for the wet season. One of the members of public asked whether the information on the group will be shared widely and **ACTION:** Cllr Leeson said that they could be added to the group. They used to work for the Environment Agency on flood risk.

12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 2nd September in the Pavilion and Tuesday 14th October @7pm in the Village Hall (subject to availability). Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.