



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 2nd September 2025** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Wiggins.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Branagan declared an interest in item 8c, reference Threeways Cottage as this is her property.

3. Correspondence Received

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

30th July from Rockbourne Cricket Club with regards to potentially paying towards the water bill at the recreation ground. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Wallis and **SECONDED** by Cllr Branagan that the Club be asked to pay anything over and above £100 per year. [The bill last year was £93, so no charge would have applied]. All agreed.

6th August a Temporary Event Notice for Ladybird Farm for an event being held on 13th September which will continue until 11pm that evening.

13th August from New Forest District Council with regards to a survey on safety. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward to all Councillors for respond as well as sending to the mailing list and displaying on the Notice Board.

13th August from New Forest District Council with regards to Planning permission for a 97-house development at Fiddlesticks Farm, between Fordingbridge and Whitsbury. As this does not fall within the Parish boundary, the Clerk asked for **ACTION:** all Councillors to email any comments to the Clerk for adding to the planning portal.

28th August from the Chair of the local Royal British Legion, Mike Richardson. He was offering to attend a Council Meeting and provide an update on local plans and the use of funds raised. It was **AGREED:** to invite him to either of the next two meetings.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 22nd July 2025

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

5. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd July 2025

ACTION: Cllr Carmichael to send data to Clerk for publishing on website.

ACTION: Cllr Wise will send the latest data that he has from Speedwatch. They have monitored 3,300 vehicles over 26 hours. 12% were over the speed limit and one was travelling at 44mph.

6. Reports by the Downlands & New Forest Ward Councillor and representatives on outside bodies Public participation time

District Cllr Richards updated Council on the latest with regards to Local Government re-organisation. Hampshire County Council still in favour of New Forest District Council merging with Southampton City Council. Tomorrow [Wednesday 3rd September] will see the results from all the other Councils. These will all go to Government at the end of this month and there will then be a consultation period from November to the end of the year. Then, the Government will decide. Cllr Wise asked whether Hampshire County Council had given any

explanation as to how this area has much in common with Southampton and District Cllr Richards replied no, they have focused on sizes of population. New Unitary Authorities need to be big enough to be financially stable. Cllr Carmichael asked about Wiltshire and Dorset? District Cllr Richards stated that Wiltshire County Council is already a Unitary Authority, as is Dorset, with BCP [Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole] along with it. Will know more tomorrow. Cllr Wise felt that we would be better off with either Wiltshire or Dorset. Moving on to wheelie bins, District Cllr Richards asked whether they had been delivered yet and Cllr Wise confirmed that his had. He added that the system is probably better than the old one. District Cllr Richards confirmed that the rest of the Village starts on 20th October. There have been a few problems, which are being looked at. Please note that if no bins have been delivered, you should get on to the District Council. No businesses can use the new bins. Village Halls and Holiday Lets cannot have them and must sign up for business waste collections. The alternative is to make other arrangements. **ACTION:** Clerk to rewrite Recreation Ground terms to include that all rubbish must be taken away at the end of any event.

7. Public participation time

A member of the public asked what we can do about potholes? They have reported them, also to the Police. Cllr Carmichael added to this by asking about the river bank collapsing. Will the road eventually collapse too? Cllr Wise added that there had been no response from Highways to queries following the letter received by another member of the public about refraining from putting items too close to the roadside. District Cllr Richards stated that the Council need to contact Hampshire County Council and County Cllr Heron there. Cllr Wallis said that there had been a huge increase in traffic going through the Village to Newbourne Farm. A member of the public added that they were going fast too. Cllr Wallis continued that the compost business was increasing and that they would soon be soil blending too. This is probably why the river bank is collapsing. It was noted by the public that there were more tractors and trailers, not sure where they come from? Cllr Wallis said all over. Cllr Wise asked whether there was an agreement or a planning condition on lorries not using the Village and it was agreed that this was not clear. **ACTION:** Clerk to send further reports and emails on this subject.

8. Planning Matters

New Forest District Council is the local Planning Authority and consults Rockbourne Parish Council on planning applications received for Rockbourne Parish.

8a. Planning Applications

Reference	25/10780
Alternative Reference	PP-14267795
Application Received	Mon 25 Aug 2025
Application Validated	Tue 26 Aug 2025
Address	MUSHROOM FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Change of use of existing agricultural building into a holiday let with hard and soft landscaping. Roof alterations, rooflights and fenestration alterations.

Cllr Branagan asked what the building is being used for now, vehicles? A member of the public asked whether it has been used for agriculture? Cllr Wise felt that it is like an estate. The plans are misleading as they do not show the two new buildings. They talk about it being an agricultural building and it does not have any agricultural activity. It says vehicle maintenance and storage. Cllr Carmichael agreed that they have not included the other buildings on the plan. Cllr Branagan added that most agricultural buildings do not have Velux windows and a member of the public added that the proposed building had a huge amount of glass in the plans and this is a dark skies area. Cllr Wallis **PROPOSED** a response of PAR4, we recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Wise and all agreed. This property is not in agricultural use.

8b. Planning Decisions

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
Status	Decided
Decision	Granted Subject to Conditions
Decision Issued Date	Thu 21 Aug 2025

8c. Planning Appeals

Reference	24/11008
Alternative Reference	PP-13557258
Appeal Received	Tue 29 July 2025
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.

8d. Planning Appeals Decided

Reference	24/10761
Alternative Reference	PP-13327376
Appeal Received	Fri 16 May 2025
Address	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Agricultural Pole Barn (Retrospective).
Decision	Appeal dismissed
Date	Fri 01 Aug 2025

At the previous Meeting, a member of the public had asked about what enforcement action was being taken. Cllr Wallis asked how long they had to remove the barn and Cllr Wise asked whether New Forest District Council were hot on enforcement? District Cllr Richards said that she would think that it would be enforced. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to Planning Department and ask about dateline and proposed enforcement.

9. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented the latest invoices and statement of accounts to the Councillors.

10. Potential CCTV Camera Trial

Cllr Wallis felt that there was a need for a big Village discussion on this and Cllr Wise agreed. Cllr Wallis did not think that there were enough people in attendance at this Meeting. Cllr Wise explained that the proposal was for one camera to go up at the end of the Village. Cllr Leeson confirmed and added that it would give an overall picture of movements via ANPR [Automatic Number Plate Recognition]. It can be set up to run, say, 10pm until 6am, rather than all day. Basically, it will record movements. From discussion with local Police, they have recently used the camera in Whitsbury to good effect. In theory, it would have helped with a recent burglary here. Cllr Branagan asked about the GDPR [General Data Protection Regulations] issues? Cllr Wise said that all you get is the number plate. It does give Police the details once they have the plate. They appear to now be taking some action. So, we could have one at each end and know whether a vehicle has been in the Village for a period of time. Cllr Leeson felt that this was not a bad idea if it works. There could be grants available towards this. Cllr Carmichael asked whether there was anything special about these cameras? You could do that for £150 with a raspberry pi and a video. Cllr Leeson said that would only give you a number plate at a certain range. Cllr Carmichael added that he was not sure why this is £5,000 to do? I am willing to try and make one for a lot less money. Cllr Leeson said that it would not be as clear. Cllr Wise agreed that another person had tried by buying a camera and it gave some images, but no quality. A member of the public added that the real thing is the software attached. Cllr Wallis said that recent burglaries have all been outside of the Village. Police have been good, but know exactly who it is, but have to catch them red-handed. Cllr Branagan added that a recent burglary of a shed had seen a number plate captured but no action had been taken. Cllr Wise countered with the recent Whitsbury example being more positive. Cllr Wallis asked, if two cameras, what about the people outside of the village. Most recent activity had been barns, sheds etc. The provision should be for everybody/ Lots of us should get our own cameras and then it is up to us to opt in or out. Cllr Carmichael stated that he already has his own camera on his drive. Cllr Leeson said that will pick up an area, whether you can read the number plate off of that is hit and miss. As you say, the only way to cover the whole area is for people to have their own. Cllr Wise said that a camera at either end would capture the in and out movements. Cllr Leeson felt that does not help others outside. Cllr Branagan asked whether we would then have a CCTV sign and Cllr Carmichael said yes, you have to. Cllr Leeson suggested that perhaps we just put up signs to start with? A member of the public said that Harbridge have one. Cllr Wallis felt that a WhatsApp message was needed to encourage people to come and discuss it. Cllr Leeson added that it would be good to get the Police at the meeting as well. Cllr Wise agreed, if we can. **ACTION:** Cllr Wise to set up a meeting.

11. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Further to the revision of pricing terms for one user, Council had been asked for a price for any additional grass cutting. Cllr Wallis said that there had been no grass cutting this year. She will speak to the contractor and he may do more cuts if required. **ACTION:** Cllr Wallis to ask about a price for any additional cuts.

12. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Cllr Wise said that the next SpeedWatch meeting was tomorrow [Wednesday 3rd September]. The new speed gun works well. The volunteers have seen people on mobile phones and around 10% of drivers do not even see them. There is more positive reaction than negative.

Cllr Leeson said that the Bourne/flooding group had seen a good turnout last weekend and they managed to clear from Whitsbury Bridge to Minty's Hill. Very positive and we will meet up again towards the start of the wet season. A member of the public pointed out that it will need a refresh in the meadows area later in the year. Cllr Wallis raised a concern that it had been noticed that beyond the Village, a lot of trees have been felled across the Bourne. This may cause an issue and needs to be looked at. Cllr Wise said that the landowner had happily said that he would show us around. Cllr Carmichael thought that he was creating a flood plain? Cllr Leeson said that we can go and have a look. No licence has been granted for Beavers. Cllr Wise added that this was not likely either. Cllr Wallis reiterated that this could have a huge impact on the Village. Cllr Leeson said that the owners are on the group and so we can sort out a meeting. Cllr Wise agreed that the plan had been to create a water meadow.

Recreation Ground was discussed under Agenda Point 11.

13. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 14th October, Tuesday 11th November and Tuesday 9th December @7pm in the Pavilion. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk:

rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.