



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 9th June 2026** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Branagan and Cllr Wallis.

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Correspondence received

Email received from New Forest District Council (NFDC) inviting bids for Community Infrastructure Levy money from 1st June. **ACTION:** Clerk will prepare a bid for playground equipment once again. Assistance will be sought from the team at NFDC in the preparation of this.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings held on 12th May 2026

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

5. Action points from the minutes of the last meetings held on 12th May 2026

All had been completed. **ACTION:** Further correspondence to be sent to Highways Department with regards to the collapsing banks and information to be sent to County Cllr Millar too.

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

County Cllr Millar presented the following report:

County Council Elections and Annual General Meeting

No political group secured overall control of Hampshire County Council at the elections on 7 May. The Annual General Meeting of the Council was held on 21 May, and Councillor Nick Adams-King was re-elected as Leader with the support of Reform members and an independent.

Cllr King appointed his cabinet, consisting of Conservative members representing divisions in Test Valley, Rushmoor, Gosport, Fareham, Hart, and Basingstoke and Deane, and an independent from East Hampshire. No Cabinet member currently represents a division within New Forest District.

All six major committees will now be chaired by Reform members.

Highways Investment

Following the formation of the new administration, Hampshire County Council announced an additional £15 million investment in highways maintenance and road repairs.

The Council stated that reducing repeat repairs and improving road condition would be a priority during the coming year, these issues being a feature of campaigns throughout the elections.

Local Government Reorganisation

In his Council Leader speech on 21 May, Nick Adams King said "I confirm today that this administration will move immediately to pursue a Judicial Review of the Local Government Reorganisation outcome."

This might have been more bold than intended. Subsequently, comments made suggest that legal advice is being sought before 'immediately' pursuing Judicial Review, which is a similar position to NFDC.

HCC's cabinet meets on June 9th to discuss and agree a way forward. We don't know if HCC has yet had legal advice on the likelihood of success, but their claim rests on the illegality of creating unitary

authorities which will not all be economically viable. HCC estimates the full cost of Judicial Review at £500k, but some estimates are significantly higher.

Ultimately, if a challenge is successful, the Secretary of State would be asked to look at their decision again. Hampshire County Council originally supported creating a unitary with the whole NFDC area joining Southampton and Eastleigh.

Despite the potential challenges, work continues on the implementation, including determining the ward structures for the new Unitary Authorities and how many councillors would sit on each Authority.

Hampshire and Solent Devolution

Although Mayoral elections are not expected until May 2028, work also continued on proposals for the Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Combined County Authority. The proposed arrangements would transfer a number of strategic responsibilities from central government to Hampshire and Solent local authorities, including transport, skills and economic development functions. The HSMCCA is due to be signed off into law imminently. HCC Cabinet will make appointments to the HSMCCA Board on 9 June.

Upcoming Hampshire County Council Meetings

County Council

The next full meeting of the County Council is scheduled for 16 July 2026. Do let me know if you have a question you'd like me to put to cabinet.

Select Committees

12 June 2026 – Universal Services Select Committee

19 June 2026 – Children and Young People Select Committee

26 June 2026 – Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Agendas and reports are published in advance through Hampshire County Council's democracy website.

Cllr David Millar, 1 June 2026

Cllr Millar also made the Parish Council aware of a discretionary grant funding opportunity of between £100 and £1,000.

District Cllr Richards reported that New Forest District Council had made the decision not to go to Judicial Review and are now gearing up for re-organisation. The Local Plan consultation closed in March and the actual draft plan may now be produced in the Autumn. There is a possibility that they will not move ahead with the Plan. East Hampshire Council have just decided not to go ahead. The current plan expires in 2034.

7. Public participation time

There were no members of the public present.

8. Planning Matters

8a. Planning Applications

None.

8b. Planning Decisions

Reference	26/10229
Alternative Reference	PP-14731451
Applications Received	Fri 6 Mar 2026
Applications Validated	Tue 10 Mar 2026
Address	Land adjacent to MARSH FARM, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NF.
Proposal	Use of building as two independent dwellinghouses (class C3) (previously restricted by condition) with shared storage area, parking and garden (Lawful Use Certificate for retaining an existing use or operation)
Decision	Was Lawful

9. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented the latest invoices and statement of accounts to the Councillors. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return has now been presented to the Auditor and the necessary paperwork will be forwarded to BDO. The Exercise of Public Rights Notice has been published.

10. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Two quotes have been received to date for repairing of the zip wire. **ACTION:** Clerk will now instruct the cheaper supplier to carry out the work.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Traffic group. Cllr Wise said that there have been a few more SpeedWatch sessions. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary have requested no further sessions for now. This does not mean that we may not plan some. Cllr Carmichael reported that the night images on the camera are still the hardest to achieve. Cllr Wise said that average speed is important to help move towards a 20mph limit.

Bourne and flooding group. The following message had been received back from the Environment Agency: Apologies for taking a while, enforcement is very busy at the moment. I've had a chat with the bio team and

they would like to know the full picture from yours/PC perspective. If it's ok, could you send an email explaining the whole situation and that you have spoken to me? They will then get back to you with confirmation if all is well and you can carry on with the works.

ACTION: Cllr Leeson will follow up on this. Cllr Wise said that the invasive plants were now particularly bad in places.

12. To arrange the date for the next meeting –

The next meeting will be Tuesday 14th July @7pm in the Pavilion, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meeting are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.