



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 13th January 2026** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

There were two members of the public in attendance and a record of their names is held.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Branagan

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Correspondence Received

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

15th December from New Forest District Council regarding applications for Community Infrastructure Levy funds, with the result being that both bids failed again. Next opportunity to bid will be in the Spring.

23rd December from the Office of Tim Lawton, Hampshire County Council, as a reply to the Council letter to him regarding the condition of the road and river banks through Rockbourne. This letter disputes the responsibility for repair. **ACTION:** Clerk to reply as Council believes that property ownership only extends as far as the middle of the river, which is a recognised waterway, not a ditch as stated in the reply.

13th January from a member of the public (name recorded) regarding stiles that need replacing. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond to ascertain exact location of these stiles.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 9th December 2025.

All agreed as correct and they were signed by the Chair.

5. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th December 2025

ACTION: Clerk to apply for grant for renovation of bus shelter. **CARRIED FORWARD**, due by 28th February 2026.

ACTION: Cllr Wiggins to ask a resident to check the water meter and see whether there is a possible leak somewhere. Cllr Wiggins reported in advance of the meeting that the meter is showing very little movement [see Agenda Point 11].

ACTION: Cllr Wise to research local conveyancers that may be able to undertake the work of formalising the ownership of the Recreation Ground. **CARRIED FORWARD.**

ACTION: Cllr Leeson will call the office again about the building regulations sign off and then checking the wall insulation. **CARRIED FORWARD.**

ACTION: Clerk to check on Planning requirements and obtain some quotes for matting or similar for the car parking area. **CARRIED FORWARD.**

ACTION: Clerk to also look at Planning requirements for extending the slabs around the side of the building to the store. **CARRIED FORWARD.**

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

District Cllr Richards explained that there were a lot of bids for the Community Infrastructure Levy money. These are scored by the panel and that gives a magic number, with our playground bid scoring highly, but not quite enough. Suggests getting information on where we were marked down. Also, maybe apply for a little less.

7. Public participation time

A member of the public, representing the Parochial Church Council, spoke about a looming problem. Firstly, wanted to commend Council on their work on saving the Rose and Thistle Public House. There is now a threat to the oldest institution, Saint Andrews. For a rural village to thrive, it must have a church. It inspires many. The Village shop and bus service have gone. The church remains. There has been diminished attendance and support, but in harder times, people may well return for support. It must be there for them. It is important that it remains as it is an emblem in a caring society. A recent appeal for funds for repairs was well supported. A high percentage of Villagers chose the churchyard as their final resting place. To me, it is the most important building in the Village. A recent survey suggests that property prices are 4-5% greater in areas with a church. Steps are required to secure its future. There will be a deficit this year of £30,000 if all repairs are carried out, £17,000 if they are not. The Church of England does not provide funds and we have to pay for the vicar. In 2026, Saint Andrews share will be £19,000. Other income comes from the collection and planned giving, which has decreased, as well as fund raising. The church only has funds until 2029. By the end of 2033, the deficit will be in the region of £112,000, which is not sustainable. The Parochial Church Council will launch a campaign to make parishioners aware of decisions that need to be made. It will need greater financial support.

Cllr Carmichael said that he did not realise that there was no money from the Church of England. The member of the public explained that the system is still the same as when it was set up by William the Conqueror. Cllr Carmichael asked where does the money go then? The reply was that they are running huge organisations. Cllr Wise asked if there was a risk that when the current vicar decided to stop, he would not be replaced? The reply was that the area he covers currently has a population of just over 2,000 people. They have one vicar. Tisbury now has 30,000 people, with one vicar. We would probably be amalgamated with the Chalke Valley area. But I am talking about the church building. It has been there since the year 980. Cllr Carmichael asked whether he was asking for something tonight? The reply was no, just informing the Council. People are not aware of the amount of work the vicar does visiting Hospital and homes. There is also other help to people in the Village. Cllr Wallis asked how many people were on the Parochial Church Council, with the reply being 8. Cllr Wallis hoped that some fund raising could occur. The reply was that they raised £1,500 last summer, so that alone is not enough. Need a regular stream of income. Cllr Carmichael asked whether funds raised would remain here or be diluted across the area? The reply was yes and Cllr Wise noted that this was an important point.

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	25/11111
Alternative Reference	PP-14548455
Application Received	Thu 11 Dec 2025
Application Validated	Mon 15 Dec 2025
Address	LAND ADJACENT MARSH FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NF
Proposal	Use of barn and associated land as one residential dwelling

The Applicant explained that this should be listed as Marsh Barn and that the application would be updated accordingly. Cllr Wise asked if it was the two former holiday cottages that they were seeking to use and the reply was that they had no idea of the restriction, just used them as an extension of their house. DCllr Richards asked how they found out? The answer was that they had applied to separate the buildings for Council Tax purposes. They had kept the yard as their house. It is one big building, with storage in the middle. They are not changing Anything. Cllr Wise asked if it had been occupied for some time? The answer was that there had been no change Except for a conservatory. Cllr Leeson noted that there would be no change to Highway requirements. Cllr Wise reiterated that this has not been used as a holiday let for a long time. The Applicant confirmed for at least 20 years. Cllr Carmichael noted that there is no build, no Highway implications, no landscaping and is not listed. The Applicant confirmed that nothing is being changed except that they want to live in it permanently. Cllr Wise noted that a similar thing had happened with properties on Manor Farm, but this was handled by a Certificate of Lawful Use as they had been residential for over 10 years. The Applicant reconfirmed that nothing has changed since they moved in to the property in 2007. Cllr Wiggins added that as it is not listed, not even 10 years is required. The Applicant said that they are paying the highest rate of Council Tax and with the property listed on its own they still expect to do so. Cllr Wise felt that this was an easy decision and **PROPOSED**: a response of PAR3, We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Leeson and all agreed.

Reference	25/11093
Alternative Reference	PP-14399119
Application Received	Mon 08 Dec 2025
Application Validated	Wed 17 Dec 2025
Address	3 THE TERRACE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NE
Proposal	Two storey rear extension and timber cladded shed in front garden

Cllr Leeson confirmed that the shed is 10' x 8'. Cllr Wise added that it is just a garden shed. The rest of the Plan looks like it was originally applied for 20 years ago. Quite a small extension. Cllr Leeson thought that the one on the end has had similar. Cllr Carmichael expressed the concern that slate tiles seem a bit unusual for Rockbourne. Cllr Wise noted that the neighbour has no objection and Cllr Leeson added that there are no objections on the Planning Portal. Cllr Wise said that they are just enlarging the bedroom and Cllr Leeson added by 19m², so not much. Suggested PAR5. Cllr Wise **PROPOSED**: PAR1, We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their designated powers. Cllr Wallis **SECONDED** this and all agreed, with Cllr Carmichael noting that the proposed works were not entirely clear from the quality of the drawings.

Reference	25/11092
Alternative Reference	PP-14267795
Application Received	Mon 08 Dec 2025
Application Validated	Mon 22 Dec 2025
Address	MUSHROOM FARM, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NS.
Proposal	Change of use of existing building (Class E) to a holiday let (Class C1) with fenestration alterations and hard and soft landscaping

Cllr Carmichael noted that a very similar application had been refused on 21st October 2025 and the same application had now gone in again, with slightly changed wording. Cllr Wise said that they had originally stated that the buildings were in agricultural use, now saying in commercial use. Cllr Carmichael added that this is a four-bedroom massive house. Cllr Leeson agreed that everything on the site seemed to be larger than the original buildings. Cllr Wise added that there are now about five 4/5-bedroomed properties. Cllr Wallis **PROPOSED**: PAR4, We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed. Cllr Carmichael noted residential creep here. Cllr Wise said that there was a detailed summary of the objections. There are also now some big brick walls separating up the site, like a housing estate. The drawings do not show the new barn. Cllr Carmichael asked whether they required Planning Permission for the walls and Cllr Wise thought that they did. He **SECONDED** the motion and all agreed, with Cllr Carmichael also asking that **ACTION**: we request someone from enforcement to visit.

8b. Planning Decisions

Reference	25/10935
Alternative Reference	PP-14408449
Application Received	Tue 14 Oct 2025
Application Validated	Tue 04 Nov 2025
Address	STADDLE STONES, ROCKBOURNE. SP6 3NA.
Proposal	Flood resistant barriers to front and rear door openings and lime mortar patch repairs (Application for Listed Building Consent)
Status	Decided
Decision	Granted Subject to Conditions
Decision Issued Date	Wed 10 Dec 2025

Reference	25/10806
Alternative Reference	PP-14290447
Application Received	Wed 3 Sep 2025
Application Validated	Wed 3 Sep 2025
Address	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Agricultural Pole Barn (Retrospective)
Status	Decided
Decision	Refused
Decision Issued Date	Thu 11 Dec 2025

ACTION: Once again, it was **RESOLVED** to request that an enforcement officer visits this site and that New Forest District Council ensure that this further decision on this property is implemented.

Reference	25/10955
Alternative Reference	PP-14409296
Application Received	Mon 20 Oct 2025
Application Validated	Tue 21 Oct 2025
Address	BARN AT BRICKHILL COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE ROAD, ROCKBOURNE. SP6 1QG.
Proposal	Change of use and fenestration alterations to agricultural building to create x1no. dwelling (Class C3) (Prior Approval Application)
Status	Decided
Decision	Prior Approval is Refused
Decision Issued Date	Mon 15 Dec 2025

9. Payment of outstanding creditors

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

10. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Alderholt Youth Football Club are still using the Ground and Sean Cooper has taken over from Helen as she has resigned. Cllr Wallis felt that he is quite good and does inspect the pitch every week. They have some new goalposts on wheels and would be happy to invest in a container to store these. Cllr Leeson asked what size container? Where will it be sited? Mark Baulch had some concerns over Planning requirements and the proximity to the National Landscape. With this in mind, Cllr Wallis suggested that Council just say no, as the Club had said that they would just store them behind the Pavilion. Cllr Carmichael said that with this in mind, Council should say no to the container. Cllr Leeson suggested that we allow them to install one or two concrete posts to chain them to. Cllr Carmichael asked whether other people can use the posts and Cllr Wallis thought that they could.

Cllr Leeson asked about the possibility of hiring the pavilion and ground for a recorded date in August, as well as the marquee. All **AGREED** to the standard pricing for this, which the Clerk will confirm in writing.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

The Bourne group felt that the river was flowing nicely. Cllr Wise agreed that people are saying how good it looks.

Speedwatch – Cllr Wise reported that the group had a session last week, despite the weather. The Police sent back details of reports, with around 10% of those caught here also being caught elsewhere. Cllr Carmichael asked whether these drivers receive letters? Cllr Wise confirmed that the repeat offenders receive a nastier letter, plus their details are flagged by Police. Cllr Carmichael confirmed that he has spent £150 on camera equipment to enhance the trial. **ACTION:** Send Clerk invoices for payment.

[As per Agenda Point 5] Cllr Wiggins reported to the Recreation Ground group that it was unlikely that there was a water leak, as the meter had only moved from 2777 to 2778 since the last invoice was raised.

Therefore, it was **AGREED:** that Rockbourne Cricket Club will be invoiced the additional £220 that the last quarter invoice showed in respect of their watering of the pitch.

12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 10th February 2026 and Tuesday 10th March 2026 @7pm in the Pavilion.

Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.