



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 10th February 2026** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Correspondence Received

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

23rd January from the Office of Tim Lawton, Hampshire County Council, as a reply to the follow up e-mail the Council sent to him regarding the condition of the road and river banks through Rockbourne. This was a message to acknowledge receipt and promise further correspondence, which has yet to be received.

28th January from the tree planning department of New Forest District Council asking for comment on plans for Pennys Cottage, involving 11 trees. It was **AGREED** that Councillors would visit the property in order to make an informed comment on the proposed works.

9th February from New Forest District Council with regards to the Local Plan. A public information session will be held in Fordingbridge on Friday 13th February from 1-7pm and it was **AGREED** that Cllrs Branagan and Wallis would attend in order that the Council can comment on the plans. District Cllr Richards said that it was very important that the Council comments on the Plan.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 13th January 2026.

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

5. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 13th January 2026

ACTION: Clerk to apply for grant for renovation of bus shelter. **CARRIED FORWARD**, as Clerk is awaiting information on suppliers that can quote for this work.

ACTION: Cllr Wise to research local conveyancers that may be able to undertake the work of formalising the ownership of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Wise advised by email that he now has the name of a local conveyancer to approach.

ACTION: Cllr Leeson will call the office again about the building regulations sign off and them 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. Clerk continues to work on this and initial enquiries would seem to suggest that permission would not be required.

ACTION: Clerk to also look at Planning requirements for extending the slabs around the side of the building to the store. In this case, permission may well be required and so the Clerk will work on this further.

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

District Cllr Richards had urged the Council to respond to the Local Plan consultation. The Clerk read out the relevant points in an e-mail from Hampshire County Council Leader, Nick Adams-King.

7. Public participation time

Three members of the public, names recorded, had contacted the Council to send their apologies for the Meeting and to list objections to Planning Proposal 26/10094. Comments included the size of the polytunnel, the light pollution from it, noise created by heating, additional traffic from staff and customers and the unnecessary addition of a packing shed when there are other buildings available. Also, not suitable in a rural area.

The Applicants were in attendance and explained that no electricity is planned for the polytunnel or shed. The windows on the packing shed are small. The tunnel will be 8m wide and 22m long so that we do not outgrow our space. It will remain one polytunnel, not lots of polytunnels. We do not want to be doing this again next year. AS far as staff are concerned, it will be the two of us. There will be no customer collections and no retail on site. We will be delivering. Cllr Wallis asked where they were selling and the answer was the local area, including pubs, restaurants etc. Cllr Wallis went on to ask about the winter when pitch dark, how are they going to work in there? The answer was that they will only work 8am to 4:30pm, so in daylight. There will be no need for lights. Crops will be harvested before winter and stored in sand, so we will not be digging in the dark. Cllr Carmichael asked why they cannot use existing buildings? The answer was because the market garden is marked off and we want to pack in the closest vicinity to it. Cllr Wallis asked why the polytunnel is so tall? The answer was that it is standard height, there are no smaller ones. It is 3.6m tall. We understand that people are worried, but the idea is not to grow out of the space and building. Cllr Wallis asked what their plans were for the building that they had asked to change to a residence? The answer was that they may put back in for a dwelling again. That part is not really the market garden. Cllr Leeson asked about the marked red area on the plan and it was confirmed that this is the site of the market garden. The polytunnel will run along the lower marked boundary. We have reassessed the position, but cannot go any further across because of the shade from trees. There is a new hedge on one boundary, willow screening going in on another. The shed will be under the canopy of the tree. There is an existing hedge line alongside the polytunnel site. Cllr Carmichael said that he could see no problem with it. He did not understand the comment on rural area, we grow things. Cllr Leeson agreed that it is a farm. The applicants were asked where they are living and replied that they travel to Bournemouth every night. We know that some people are not happy with the campsite, but it has paid for the work so far. We have planted 25 trees, 250m of hedge and replaced 750m of fence so far. Cllr Wallis said that in the winter it is going to be quite visible. Right on the top would have been impractical? The applicant said we were going to put in for a trackway, but we are not going to do that any more. It cannot be on the skyline as far as the National Landscape is concerned. The barn is in the way of some of the views. You will be able to see it from the road and some of the footpaths. Anyone is welcome to come and have a look. Cllr Wallis asked whether any vegetables have gone in yet and the answer was that some will be arriving tomorrow. The polytunnel will help with starting seedlings and extending growing times. Cllr Wallis reiterated about definitely no heating and the answer was that the idea is not to heat it. Cllr Wiggins said that this matter goes back to the cows thing, people growing food in the countryside. The applicant pointed out that technically it was a temporary structure and so could be removed in the future. Cllr Wallis asked whether it would have raised beds and the answer was no, planting would be straight into the ground. Compost has come from Newbourne and we are not entirely happy with it, there are some bugs and plastic in there that we would rather not have had. Cllr Wallis agreed that plastic in compost is a real problem. Cllr Carmichael reiterated that it is a farm growing things. He also pointed out that there is a massive electricity sub-station behind some of the buildings which is more of an eyesore. Cllr Wallis said that her only concern was if it gets extended. Otherwise, no problem with it. Cllr Carmichael felt that the Council should support it.

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	26/10094
Alternative Reference	PP-14665368
Application Received	Fri 30 Jan 2026
Application Validated	Mon 02 Feb 2026
Address	LADYBIRD FARM, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NA.
Proposal	Agricultural packing shed and polytunnel to support continued operation and diversifications of the Farm.

Following the discussion above, Cllr Leeson **PROPOSED**: a response of PAR3, We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Wallis and all agreed.

8b. Planning Decisions

None

8c. Appeal Decisions

Reference	24/11008
Alternative Reference	PP-13557258
Application Received	Fri 15 Nov 2024
Application Validated	Thu 28 Nov 2024
Address	THREEWAYS COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE. SP6 3NL.
Proposal	Use of existing ancillary accommodation as an independent dwelling with associated car parking, highways work and ancillary infrastructure
Status	Decided
Decision	Refused
Decision Issued Date	Tue 03 Feb 2026

8d. Enforcement Decisions

Address	MUSHROOM FARM, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NS.
Re	Concrete walls
Decision	No further action
Decision Issued Date	Mon 02 Feb 2026

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

The Clerk reported that the zipwire had been taped off and signs put on it to not use. Cllr Carmichael

PROPOSED: that the Clerk should obtain some quoted for the repair of this item, which was **SECONDED** by Cllr Leeson and all agreed.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Speedwatch – Cllr Wise had not reported any update for this group since last month. Cllr Carmichael is continuing testing.

The Bourne and flooding group have found some gates under a bridge that were blocking the flow, so the debris has all been dragged out. Also cleared from Hendy House to Marsh Farm, about three and a half hours work. Cllr Branagan asked whether the bridge over to Minty's was a bottleneck? Cllr Leeson said that it has quite a high arch and so seems to flow OK. Cllr Leeson **PROPOSED:** purchasing a flood package, to include traffic cones and signs and to be kept at the Recreation Ground. Also some pumps that specifically pump down to a few millimetres of water. Cllr Wallis **SECONDED** and all agreed.

12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 10th March 2026 and Tuesday 14th April 2026 @7pm in the Sports Pavilion. Tuesday 12th May 2026 will be the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, more details to follow. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.