



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 14th April 2026** in the Pavilion, Sports Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Carmichael

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Correspondence Received

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

12th March from Highways Department at Hampshire County Council. They are now saying that the maintenance responsibilities for the stream banks fall to the riparian landowner. **ACTION:** Clerk to check facts with HALC.

23rd March from New Forest District Council with regards to housing needs and another set of drop-in events. **ACTION:** Clerk to resend message after last event.

30th March from Cranborne Chase National Landscape about potential new orchards. **ACTION:** Clerk to invite them to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

3rd April from a member of the public wishing to park some cars at the recreation ground later this month.

ACTION: Raise invoice for £15 **PROPOSED** by Cllr Branagan, **SECONDED** by Cllr Wise and **AGREED** by all.

7th April from County Cllr Nick Adams-King at Hampshire. Relevant part of his report was regarding help with heating oil bills. See [connect4communities | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council](#) for details.

7th April from Damerham Parish Council suggesting a Western Downlands Parish Councils Meeting on a Monday. **ACTION:** Cllr Wise will attend if available.

7th April from Cranborne Chase National Landscape asking for hosts for Dark Skies StarFest 2027. Awaiting further communication from Village Hall as they have said that they may be interested in co-hosting.

8th April from Police & Crime Commissioner inviting to an online meeting. **ACTION:** Malcolm Smith who attended the recent in person PCC conference to be invited to attend.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 10th March 2026

All agreed as correct and they were signed by the Cllr Wiggins.

5. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th March 2026

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

ACTION: Clerk should obtain some quotes for the repair of the zipwire. **CARRIED FORWARD.**

ACTION: Purchase 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. **CARRIED FORWARD.**

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

District Cllr Richards confirmed that the decision on Local Government Re-organisation had been made and that we will be a part of Mid-Hampshire. Four parishes in New Forest will now be part of the Southampton

Unitary Authority. The current Councils continue to run for two more years. New authority will run alongside for one year. In 2027, elections will be held for the new Authorities. New Forest Together have created a petition, with 15,000 signatures, asking for the Council to go to Judicial Review. If there are grounds for this, the Council would have to decide whether or not to conduct it. 40% of the population of the New Forest and 60% of the revenue (due to business rates) would move to the Southampton Authority. The petition was presented to Council last night [Monday 13th April]. Cllr Wallis said that this was the best outcome for us and Cllr Wise agreed that it was the least worst option. It does seem bizarre to have the National Park in different authorities. Cllr Branagan asked where the border will be and the answer was that Totton, Hythe, Fawley and Marchwood would be the four affected Councils.

7. Public participation time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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	26/10229
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)
Note	Previous application, 25/11111 for use of barn and associated land as one residential dwelling, withdrawn by applicant

Cllr Wise said that this is a lawful use application and a matter of fact. The application accords with everything that I know about it. Cllr Wiggins agreed that it was in line with the plan that had previously been agreed. Cllr Wise suggested supporting it. Cllr Wallis **PROPOSED** PAR3, we recommend **PERMISSION**, for the reasons listed. Cllr Wise **SECONDED** and all **AGREED**.

9. Payment of outstanding creditors

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

The Council had been approached about a potential hire of the Recreation Ground and Pavilion. Although the Clerk had checked Minutes and found a proposed price for the hiring of the marquee, a price for this request could not be found. Cllr Wise **PROPOSED** a price of £150 per day, Cllr Wallis **SECONDED** and all **AGREED**.

10. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

It has been organised for bricklayers to tidy up the paving slabs.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

The Bourne and flooding working group have had a working party. An anonymous letter had been received from someone in the Village regarding the works carried out and a copy is attached to these Minutes. This was read out. Cllr Wise said that his recollection was that you should not remove any native plants. They have only been removing invasive species. Cllr Branagan noted that ducks are in the stream and stand on the weeds. Cllr Wise confirmed that they have been removing hemlock. We should refer the letter to the Working Group and revisit the report. Cllr Wiggins added that the report was advice, not law. Cllr Wise said that we have had a lot of stuff from Hampshire County Council telling us to keep it clear. **ACTION:** Letter to be passed to Working Group. [Further to this, any planned works have been cancelled for now and a meeting will be held to discuss this matter].

Cllr Wise moved on to say that they have had another Traffic Group meeting at which Cllr Carmichael showed his work, which is amazingly good. Really impressive so far. Trialling with one camera, with idea of second camera, set distance apart, which could tell us average speed as well. That may help with the plan for a 20mph limit.

12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meeting will be Tuesday 12th May 2026 @7pm in the Sports Pavilion and this 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.