



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

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

Members Present: Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Branagan, Cllr Carmichael and Cllr Wallis. Also present Mark Baulch (Clerk & RFO) and two members of the public (names recorded).

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Wise (Vice-Chair) and Cllr Wiggins.

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Correspondence received

Email received from a member of the public regarding local springs and whether the water quality was checked and it was drinkable. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond that there are many springs in the area which are not monitored and therefore not advised to drink from.

Wiltshire County Council have informed us that they will be starting work on a new Local Plan. **ACTION:** Clerk to monitor this work and report on any potential issues that Council may wish to comment on.

New Forest Together had postponed their meeting in June and it will now be held on Thursday 16th July at 7pm in Fordingbridge Town Hall.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 9th June 2026

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

5. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th June 2026

All had been completed.

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

There were no reports from County or District Councillors this month.

Cllr Leeson reported on the Western Downland Parishes Meeting that he had attended. This was to discuss Local Government Re-organisation. The group wants to get together all Parish Councils in this area as there looks to be a bigger divide between us and the next level of Government. Five local Parish Councils were at this meeting and there will be another once the direction of the changes has been decided. It was a positive meeting.

7. Public participation time

The Clerk read out the following email from the applicant for Planning Reference 26/10561 as detailed below.

Dear Parish Councillors,

Thank you very much for taking the time to look through the plans for our proposed extension to Court Orchard House. We are very sorry that we couldn't be at the Parish Council meeting to answer questions. We have taken the boys to a campsite in France this week. We would be very happy to answer any queries by email if that helps. There is a statement in the planning document already so we won't cover that again, but thought it would be useful to briefly explain our rationale for doing the work.

The single storey part of the building that the extension would replace is a poorly built, single skinned area that is cut off from the main house particularly in hot or cold weather. It also fails building regulations on multiple counts. We are looking to replace and redesign this area so the house will accommodate our growing family

whilst maintaining room to have family and guests to stay.

We love it in the village and though we are relatively new members we look forward to being an active part of it for many years to come.

8. Planning Matters

8a. Planning Applications

Reference 26/10536
Alternative Reference PP-14975354
Application Received Mon 8 Jun 2026
Application Validated Mon 8 Jun 2026
Address PROVOST FARM, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NR.
Proposal Agricultural building to store hay, straw and agricultural machinery (Prior Approval Application)

The applicant explained that permission had been granted and then refused as the planning authority changed their minds. There are four criteria for Permitted Development and this includes buildings up to a certain size. This building is to take the cattle housing out. No slurry involved. The flood area has now been moved to the other side of the farmhouse. The issue appears to be something to do with the National Landscape [previously known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)]. One objection was the concrete panels. Cllr Leeson asked if they can just clad over that and the answer was yes. Cllr Wallis asked about the height of the building, which is 9m? The applicant said that they can bring it down. Trying to get a meeting with National Landscape. Cllr Leeson added that there had been mention of it being in the middle of the field, with no treeline and the response was that they could plant trees. Cllr Wallis was aware of two objections. That it is too close to the neighbouring house and that it would contain livestock. The responses were that it is not near and that just machinery and hay will be stored now. It will be a seven bay barn, with five bays for hay and two for machinery and a workshop. Cllr Wallis said that we had just seen the wettest winter and asked about any flooding to which the answer was no, when the village was flooded, the farm was not. Cllr Branagan asked whether we could still comment on the application and Cllr Wallis said that we should. The last barn used to be on earth, but that caused other problems. The applicant added that when they tidied up the site, they had all the asbestos taken away. Cllr Wallis asked whether the concrete base is still a height above the earth and it will be. The main objections were regarding slurry and effluent, but that will not be there now. Cllr Leeson said that, in his opinion, the previous issues were all about livestock farming. He asked what the difference in height will be and the answer was that the cattle barn would have been lower. Cllr Leeson noted that the plans had gone from one cattle barn and one storage barn to this. So there are no environmental issues. Cllr Wallis commented that it was interesting that it had been said that it would be better to site it in another place. The applicant explained that it has to be 25m from the road, not overshadowing anything, 400m from a listed building. The National Landscape objection is the only issue. Cllr Leeson said that last time the Council were split on the decision and went PAR1 with certain caveats. Cllr Carmichael added that this is uncontroversial and no issue, it is a barn in a farm. Cllr Leeson stated that the applicant has changed the way that he runs the farm to continue with this. The applicant added that they are willing to enhance the entrance so that there is better vision for access and egress. Cllr Branagan suggested PAR1 again but Cllr Wallis **PROPOSED** PAR3, We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed. Cllr Carmichael **SECONDED** and all Councillors agreed. Cllr Wallis made a final comment that you can put barns up in a National Landscape area.

Reference 26/10561
Alternative Reference PP-15015679
Application Received Tue 16 Jun 2026
Application Validated Wed 17 Jun 2026
Address COURT ORCHARD HOUSE, NEW ROAD, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NN.
Proposal Two storey side extension replacing existing extension; single-storey attached store to side

[See public comment above]. Cllr Leeson would have thought that this was Permitted Development? Cllr Carmichael agreed. Cllr Leeson added that it looks like enhancing the existing building. It is noted that there were no objections from the public in attendance. Cllr Carmichael commented that it is a bit of a mess currently, so should look nicer. Cllr Leeson added that they have covered off any bat issues and **PROPOSED** PAR3, We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed. Cllr Carmichael **SECONDED** and all Councillors agreed.

8b. Planning Decisions

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

Decision	<i>diversifications of the Farm. Granted Subject to Conditions</i>
Reference	26/10381
Alternative Reference	
Application Received	Mon 20 Apr 2026
Application Validated	Tue 21 Apr 2026
Address	THE OLD DAIRY BUILDINGS, TENANTRY FARM, ROCKBOURNE. SP6 3PB
Proposal	External alterations to existing building (Building B) and continued use for Class E; partial change of use of barn (Building A) to provide additional stabling.
Decision	Granted Subject to Conditions
Reference	26/10422
Alternative Reference	PP-14851307
Application Received	Tue 5 May 2026
Application Validated	Wed 6 May 2026
Address	1 MANOR FARM COTTAGES, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NP.
Proposal	Outbuilding for use as garden office and storage following removal of the existing shed
Decision	Granted Subject to Conditions
Reference	26/10536
Alternative Reference	PP-14975354
Application Received	Mon 8 Jun 2026
Application Validated	Mon 8 Jun 2026
Address	PROVOST FARM, ROCKBOURNE, SP6 3NR.
Proposal	Agricultural building to store hay, straw and agricultural machinery (Prior Approval Application)
Decision	Prior Approval is refused

8c. Planning Appeal Decisions

Reference	25/10955
Alternative Reference	PP-14409296
Appeal Received	Mon 23 Feb 2026
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)
Decision	Appeal dismissed

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 had attended a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Workshop at New Forest District Council. Some useful guidance had been gained with regards to our next bid for funds and this will be used within the next couple of weeks. Letters of support will also be sought from the Cricket and Football Clubs as well as our District and County Councillors.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Traffic group. Cllr Carmichael had left the camera up for a month, recording over 40,000 car movements, so an average of 1,200 per day. One day last week this went up to 2,250 as a local road was closed. Cllr Branagan thought that this was good information. Cllr Wallis added that numbers would probably be a lot more if measured from the Salisbury end. Cllr Carmichael also tracked speeds and the fastest hours are 4, 5 and 6am. Cllr Leeson said that the Bourne group will probably start some work in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Branagan asked about spraying the stream bed whilst it is dry? A member of the public said that there is some proper spray that is approved by the Environment Agency (EA). Cllr Leeson said that he had met with EA and they were pleased with it. Spraying can make it barren, which is not a good idea.

12. To arrange the date for the next meeting –

The next meeting will be Tuesday 8th September @7pm in the Pavilion, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meeting are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.