



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

www.rockbournepc.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Rockbourne Parish Council held on Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.45pm in Rockbourne Recreation Ground Pavilion

Present

Cllr K Kirkcaldy (Chairman)
Cllr I Watt
Cllr J Hall
Cllr T Ash
Cllr J Carmichael

In attendance

HCC and NFDC Cllr E Heron
Mr E Hale – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr N Broadbridge

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Kirkcaldy and Cllr Hall declared an interest in Item 6 and would leave the meeting for this

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

4. Report by HCC and NFDC Cllr E Heron

Cllr Heron said HCC currently need to find £120m savings in their budget to make a total saving of £480m since 2010. One option is to reduce opening times or close household recycling centres as HCC has more sites than many other counties. Cllr Watt said this would lead to more fly-tipping but Cllr Heron said this had not happened elsewhere. Another option is to cut back on community transport as school transport is based on rules from the 1940s. Cllr Kirkcaldy said this will lead to more cars at schools. Cllr Ash said that many parents of sixth form students would pay for their child to use the school buses if given the option. Whilst children can pay where capacity exists, on some routes, no capacity had been considered forcing parents to make alternative private arrangements. Cllr Heron responded that the Council had previously considered this, but it was economically unviable and mentioned that parents might consider hiring their own buses

5. Approval of Payments for the Current Month

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the current account had transferred £1,000 to the Recreation Ground account to pay for replacement of the water pipe and skips to remove the old pavilion base. The account had increased by £6,166.50 as the other 50% of the precept had been paid. The balances were £12,290.94 in the current account, and £12,043.55 in the savings account. This makes a total of £24,334.49, but £12,000 is allocated for traffic calming measures

6. Planning Application 17/11328 for Court Orchard House

Cllr Kirkcaldy and Cllr Hall declared an interest in this application as they are both neighbours and Cllr Watt took over as Chairman

The application is to replace the current timber house with a much larger brick house. The Councillors had concerns about the increase in size as this is against NFDC policy and could set a precedent, and the effects the new building would have on the surrounding area particularly as it would be close to Grade 1 Listed Buildings and an ancient monument

Cllr Ash proposed that the Parish Council recommend refusal of the application under Option 4 which was seconded by Cllr Watt, and approved unanimously. The reasons for this were:

1. The proposed property is much larger than the current house, which breaches the District Council's 30% limit on increasing the size of existing buildings
2. The village Parish Plan proposes increasing the amount of affordable housing in the village but this application is to replace a relatively low value property with a much higher value property. This would set a precedent for replacement of other village properties
3. The proposed property is out of character with the surrounding buildings and is of a different architectural style to any existing houses
4. The site is very close to the Grade 1 Listed buildings of Manor Farm and an ancient monument

7. Traffic Calming

Cllr Kirkcaldy and Cllr Hall returned to the meeting

The Clerk read out the latest email from Ms Ware of HCC which says she has been unable to progress the Rockbourne traffic calming applications due to pressure of other work. Councillors were unhappy with this as HCC had been promoting Community Funded Measures as a new initiative. Cllr Heron suggested the Clerk responded to Ms Ware to express the concern of the Parish Council about her response. It was also recorded that the funds allocated needed to be spent as the Parish Council had much larger reserves than recommended by auditors

8. Lengthsman Scheme

A Martin resident had emailed the Clerk to request some clearance of the footpath running along the ridge between Rockbourne and Martin. Councillors looked at plans of this area and it was not clear which parish is responsible. It was agreed the Clerk should respond to the resident to say the issue should be logged on www.hants.gov.uk/row. Cllr Ash said he had walked this path recently and had not found any issues. Cllr Heron was asked to find out the current HCC position on Rockbourne Knoll as there had been no response since the PC meeting on 13th February

It was agreed the Lengthsman should be asked to tidy up around the War Memorial before 11th November, and trim the footpaths one last time this year. Cllr Hall asked for clarification on the minimum width of fenced footpaths as there were concerns about the path at Malthouse Farm

9. Village Website

There was discussion about putting details of planning applications on the website. It was agreed to include a list of all recent planning decisions, along with those currently being consulted

10. Maintenance of The Bourne

Cllr Hall said there had been some issues with hedge cuttings in the stream, which should be avoided as it affected flow. Councillors were concerned about vehicle damage to banks at the southern end of the village. Cllr Hall said any landowners carrying out repairs to ditches had to be careful not to damage the road surface

11. Other Meetings Attended

No other meetings attended

12. Correspondence and Any Other Business

Cllr Ash circulated details of the Shared Forest Business Group. This is currently encouraging local businesses with vehicles to promote careful driving to reflect well on their companies

The Clerk had been contacted by the local Citizens Advice asking for funding. It was decided this service is not used by Rockbourne residents

Cllr Watt asked if anyone knew about a large yellow box which had appeared outside a property on the Sandleheath road. It was agreed to monitor it to see if it would be permanent

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Monday 13th November at the Recreation Ground pavilion. The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Edward Hale. 12.10.17