



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Rockbourne Parish Council held on Monday 13th February 2017 at 7.15pm in Rockbourne Village Hall Committee Room

Present

Cllr I Watt – Vice-Chairman
Cllr J Hall
Cllr T Ash
Cllr J Carmichael

In attendance

HCC and NFDC Cllr E Heron
Ms A Hull – HCC Rural Co-Ordinator
Ms D Watkins - HCC Countryside Sites Group Manager
Mr E Hale – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Kirkcaldy
Cllr N Broadbridge

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Cllr T Ash said the previous minutes should have included a record that the Council would ring-fence £12,000 of reserves for use on a Community Funded Traffic Calming Initiative. After this amendment, the Minutes from 9th January 2017 were accepted as a true record and signed as such by the Vice Chairman.

4. Management of Rockbourne Knoll

Ms A Hull and Ms D Watkins were attending to discuss management of Rockbourne Knoll as one of the 56 sites which HCC look after in the County. The site is one of the smallest and HCC only manage a triangle of around half the ancient monument. HCC want information on how the land is used and how important it is to the community. At present they go there four times a year to check H&S arrangements and ensure there is no damage to the monument.

Cllr Hall said the adjacent landowners are Down Farm and Knoll Farm, which is part of the Longford Estate. She was concerned that no decisions could be taken without consulting the adjacent landowners. HCC are checking if parish councils would want to take on management of some sites, which could benefit everyone. In other areas, local conservation groups have taken over management roles. Cllr Heron said there may be a requirement to bring the site up to an agreed standard before handover. Councillors had concerns that any changes could encourage unwelcome access to the site, such as off-road vehicles, which the neighbours would not want. It was agreed to consider a site information board and investigate setting up a village history trail.

Cllr Hall asked where she could obtain replacement finger posts for footpaths on her land. Cllr Heron said to contact the local HCC Ranger, Natalie Hands.

Ms A Hull and Ms D Watkins thanked Councillors for their time and left the meeting.

5. Report by HCC and NFDC Cllr E Heron

The Parish Councillors thanked Cllr Heron for his £2,000 grant to the Recreation Ground Pavilion.

Cllr Heron said HCC was likely to increase its share of Council Tax by 5.99% and NFDC would increase its share by around £5 per year per Band D property. HCC was still having to cut budgets in most departments to allocate all available funding to adult social care. Funding for the Lengthsman had been provided for another year through to summer 2018. The contract for term road maintenance contractor was currently being re-tendered.

6. Approval of Payments for the Current Month

The balances in the Parish Council accounts are £12,039.49 (deposit) and £5,625.19 (current). The Clerk asked for approval of a payment of £62 to Rockbourne Village Hall for use of the Hall for meetings from February to May inclusive. The dates booked are Mondays 13th March and 10th April, and Thursday 11th May for the Annual Meeting in the main hall.

The Clerk said he was due to invoice the Cricket Club for pitch fees for 2016 but was unsure if this should be by the Parish Council or by the Recreation Ground. All finance had been handled through the Parish Council in the past, but the Recreation Ground is now operating its own account. Cllr Ash proposed the fee income is held by the Recreation Ground in a separate account from the new pavilion funding.

7. Planning and Tree Applications

There were no new planning or tree applications this month. Application 16/11648 for internal alterations at The Cottage has been approved by NFDC.

Cllr Hall asked about responsibility for trees on a section of footpath near the Church. As nobody owned this land, Cllr Heron will arrange for HCC footpath staff to remove these trees.

8. Lengthsman Scheme

No update this month.

9. Speedwatch and Speed Reduction Measures

Cllr Heron was disappointed that none of the local Speedwatch groups had been operating recently. There was discussion about changes in the local Police structure which meant there was nobody available to train new volunteers. The Clerk was asked to follow up on this with the Police.

Cllr Heron was arranging a village walk-through with a Highway Engineer to assess options for traffic calming. The Clerk will write to Cllr Heron to confirm that the Parish Council has allocated funding to the Community Funded Scheme so proposals can be based on this funding.

10. Village Website

The website which was set up by Cllr Carmichael is working well and the Clerk has uploaded more minutes and accounts.

11. Maintenance of The Bourne

No update this month

12. Other Meetings Attended

No other meetings attended

13. Correspondence and Any Other Business

HALC is holding its Annual Conference on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at St Mary's Stadium, Southampton from 9am to 3.15pm

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 7.15pm on Monday 13th March 2017.
The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Edward Hale. 15.02.17