

MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

The Old Clock House ~ 22 High Street ~ Milford-on-Sea ~ Hampshire ~ SO41 0QD



Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL

On Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS

Mr. Bob Bishop	p	Mrs. Christine Hopkins	p	Mrs. Susan Whitlock	p
Mr. Bernard Bennett	p	Mr. Peter Jennions		Ms. Anne Cullen	p
Mrs. Patricia Banks		Mr. Donald Darbshire	p	Mrs. Susan Pepper	
Mr. Kenneth Cameron	p	Mr. David Royle	p		

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), Niamh Morrison (Assistant Clerk), Josh Mantock (Groundsman) District Cllr Hawkins & 41 members of the public.

1. APLOLGIES: Cllr Jennions, Cllr Banks. District Cllr Ward & District Cllr Reid. County Cllr Carpenter

2. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Anne Cullen, the Chair of the Parish Council introduced herself. She welcomed the public to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked them for attending in good numbers. This was followed by each Cllr introducing themselves along with the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Head Groundsman.

The Chair welcomed the new members to the Parish Council (Cllr's Hopkins and Pepper). She thanked several volunteer groups for their assistance over the last year, including the MVC, Gardening Club and the committee of the Christmas Lights.

She also thanked the two groundsmen for keeping the parish owned land and facilities in good order as well as Dave Golledge for maintaining the 147 benches on the Coastal Path, Keyhaven and around the village.

The Chair proceeded to explain to the public the role in which the Parish Council plays and highlighted several capital projects that the Parish Council had succeeded in achieving. She also highlighted a potential future project to plant several trees in an open space at Scholars Retreat in conjunction with Hampshire County Councils aim to plant 1 million trees by 2050.

Cllr Cullen then invited Cllr Whitlock, the Chair of the Planning Committee, to come forward with a report.

3. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Whitlock thanked Planning/Assistant Clerk, Niamh Morrison, for supporting her in what is proving to be a very busy time with planning applications.

Cllr Whitlock gave an overview of the role of the Planning Committee and their ability to pass comments to the District Council and National Park Authority, with recommendations for approval or refusal. In 2022/23 alone, the Planning Committee had considered more than 90 building applications and over 50 tree works applications.

Cllr Whitlock highlighted the importance of potential building projects in the pipeline for Milford-on-Sea Parish in the form of SS7/Swallowfields, on the land north of Manor Road. She thanked residents for responding in such large numbers to the initial planning application.

Cllr Whitlock also reported that the Parish Council were investigating the possibility of additional protection for the land behind the church, which is owned by Christchurch Priory, by similar legislation given to Village Greens.

Cllr Cullen invited Cllr Royle, the Chair of the Finance Committee, to give his report.

4. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Royle gave an outline of the Finance Committee, this included responsibility for both expenditure and capital budgets. Cllr Royle explained that the increase in the precept levels for both 2022/23 and 2023/24 were due mainly to increases in staffing hours, an additional member of staff, national pay awards that are out of the Parish Council's control and the current high rate of inflation. However, he suggested that for an ever-growing village with a large amount of land and superb facilities, £5 per month, per household (band D) offered excellent value for money.

The Chair of the Parish Council then invited reports from County & District Councillors.

5. REPORT FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Unfortunately, Cllr Carpenter was unable to attend the meeting and had sent her apologies.

6. REPORTS FROM NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Hawkins reported that he was pleased to be re-elected and would be representing the new ward of Milford and Hordle to the best of his ability. As there were several new District Councillors elected there were many training courses to attend.

He reported that there was considerable pressure on the District Council to improve its environmental status and that NFDC was fully aware of the impact of climate change and the effects, especially for coastal towns and villages.

7. ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual report had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting.

8. QUESTIONS OR MATTERS RAISED BY THE ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

Q1. *Could there be bigger bins on the Village Green, and could the existing bins be emptied more regularly?*

The Clerk reported that NFDC were undertaking a review of bins in all Towns and Villages and that a further visit from NFDC representatives was due to take place shortly. The Clerk reported that NFDC were looking at a new type of bin that crushes its contents as well as bins that were easier to empty. He suggested liaising District Cllr Hawkins on this subject.

Q2. *What can be done about anti-social behaviour in the village and near to the beach huts?*

The Clerk reported that the police were aware and that they have visited the site on several occasions. Also, that NFDC's security contractor, Kestrel, had also visited the area and talked with youngsters. The Chair reported there had been an increase in police drive-bys in recent weeks.

Q3. *Should Pennyfarthing homes be reported to the appropriate agency due to depositing dangerous waste on the open space behind the school?*

The Clerk reported the Parish Council had commissioned an extensive report on the condition of the land. In the report it states that there is no evidence of deliberate contamination by the developer.

The Clerk reported that NFDC and Pennyfarthing Homes were currently in discussions on how to resolve the problem

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council would at some point like to take ownership of the land, but would not do so until the land was in a safe condition, fit for purpose and complied to the Unilateral Undertaking agreed in the planning application.

Q4. *What is going to happen at the Everton Junction if and when the additional houses are built north of Manor Road and would and traffic measures be put in place prior to the construction at Manor Road??*

The Chair of Planning reported as part of the outline planning application, detailed proposals for the junction were available to view on NFDC’s website. Also, that suggestions for a roundabout had been debated over many years, but the cost often proved to be the obstacle. She felt that it was unlikely any work at Everton Junction would take place prior to the completion of the development.

Q5. *Would it be possible to contact the Highways Authority prior to a full application being received to discuss the possibility of a roundabout again?*

The Chair of planning suggested this was a good idea and that a representative of the Parish Council would pursue this along with County Councillor Carpenter.

Q6. *Why does it take so long to get potholes repaired?*

The Clerk suggested that if there were more members of the public reporting a pothole the more likely it would be Higher on HCC Highways list of priorities. The Clerk reported that it was easy to report a pothole via Hampshire County Council’s website, under “report a road problem”.

Q7. *Why is there a notice pole at the bottom of the Village Green that might interfere with the Music festival?*

The Clerk reported that the notice pole had been in place for many years. However, Hampshire Highways had agreed to temporarily remove the pole for the music festival.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 8.30pm.

..... Chair

..... Date