

MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

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



THESE MINUTES WILL BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THE 22nd JANUARY 2024.

Minutes of the 421st meeting of the Parish Council held **Monday 11th December 2023.**
In the Village Hall, Park Road

MEMBERS

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), Roz Waters (Lymington Times)

Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, Bernard Bennett, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None received.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr's Whitlock, Cameron, Jennions, Cullen, Darbshire. District Cllrs Reid, Hawkins & Ward. County Cllr Carpenter.
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2023:**
Cllr Hopkins proposed the minutes be adopted; Cllr Royle seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **20th November 2023** was a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

5. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

a) **EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023:**

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated copies of the Expenditure Report for the above period and highlighted some stand-alone expenditure items.

Cllr Royle proposed the expenditure report be approved; Cllr Bishop seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour that the Expenditure Report is accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Expenditure Report for **November 2023** was a true record of expenditure and was signed by the Chair.

b) **INCOME REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023:**

The Clerk had, prior to the meeting, circulated copies of the Income Report for the above period.

Cllr Royle proposed the income report be approved; Cllr Bishop seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour that the Income Report is accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Income Report for **November 2023** was a true record of income and was signed by the Chair.

c) **RECONCILED BANK STATEMENTS:**

Reconciled bank statements for November were circulated to members for information.

d) **2024/2025 PRECEPT LEVEL:**

Cllr Royle reported that the recent finance meeting had been well attended and members discussed at length the financial requirements of the Parish Council for 2024/25. It was noted that there were various increases and additions to costs out of the Parish Council's control that would largely determine the monetary requirement for the next financial year.

The finance committee were recommending a precept level of £214,700.

Cllr Royle proposed to set the precept level at £214,700, Cllr Pepper seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was RESOLVED that the 2024/2025 precept level be set at £214,700 .

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

The Chair was unable to attend the meeting and no report was submitted.

However, Cllr Pepper reported that she and the Chair had attended a meeting at Boldre Parish Council recently where a number of discussions took place. Nick Adams-King, Lead Cabinet Holder at HCC for Universal Services, gave a report on the challenges for road repairs and speeding. Steve Avery from The National Park Authority gave a report on issues connected to the New Forest National Park. It was unsure if a further meeting on a similar basis would take place.

Cllr Hopkins reported that she and the Chair had undertaken the recent annual staff appraisals.

7. **ONGOING SEWERAGE LEAKS ALONG KEYHAVEN ROAD AND KEYHAVEN VILLAGE:**

The Clerk reported that raw sewerage had been leaking into Keyhaven frequently over many years and that he had written to Southern Water seeking answers to questions posed. Notification had also been sent to the Environment Agency (EA).

Cllr Banks reported that Keyhaven residents were given notice that power was going to be switched off but checks to see if a generator at the pumping station would work were not undertaken. She reported that the EA had been on site today testing the water which showed a higher level of pollution than usual.

Cllr Bennett suggested further tangible action needs to happen and that a meeting with Southern Water and the EA should take place.

Cllr Hopkins suggested writing to the local MP and the Environment Secretary. This was agreed by members.

8. **THE POSSIBILITY OF FUNDING A LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SS7/SWALLOWFIELDS:**

Cllr Bennett reported that this question had been raised by Cllr Cameron at the recent planning meeting and suggested that any legal challenge would likely be very expensive.

Cllr Royle suggested that the lobbying group Milford Residents for Sustained Development (MRSD) were considering a legal challenge of removing the site from the green belt and NFCD's Local Plan and that the Parish Council had not budgeted for any large-scale legal challenges.

It was agreed to discuss this again when further information is received.

9. **POSSIBLE SOLAR PANELS AT SCHOLARS RETREAT FIELD:**

The Clerk reported that it had been agreed to clear the field and run a water supply so that sheep grazing could take place. Also, the project to plant several thousand trees has been dismissed due to the location.

Cllr Pepper suggested the site might be suitable for solar panels, which could be a positive step in improving the council's carbon footprint and allow for sheep grazing. She suggested that grants might be available for such a project and this might provide an income to the council.

Cllr Pepper reported that another local council had solar panels on their land and was going to investigate which council this was and report back to the Parish Council in the new year.

10. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

No County or District Councillors were in attendance and no reports submitted.

The Clerk reported that he and other Town and Parish Clerks were due to meet Kate Ryan, NFDC Chief Executive, the following day and would report back on items of interest in the new year.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive for adoption the planning minutes from 6th November 2023.
Members voted unanimously in favour of adopting these minutes.

B. FINANCE & FORWARD PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The next finance meeting is scheduled for 27th February.

C. AMENITIES, WOODLAND, COASTAL & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

The next meeting is scheduled for the 12th of March 2024.
No councillors had attended the recent meeting on coastal strategy at Appletree Court.

D. TOURISM, TRADERS & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:

The next meeting to be scheduled for spring 2024.

E. MOS1 COMMITTEE:

A meeting will be held in the new year when further information is known on the progress of the open space land.

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

None received.

14. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT:

None.

The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 7.20pm.

..... Chair

.....Date