MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

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

THESE MINUTES WILL BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THE 16th SEPTEMBER 2024.

Minutes of the **429th** meeting of the Parish Council held **Monday 19th August 2024.**
In the Village Hall, Park Road

MEMBERS

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), District Cllr David Hawkins, County Cllr Fran Carpenter and two members of the public

Cllr Bernie Bennett, Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Cllr Bennett introduced the new Parish Grounds Maintenance Operative, Mr. Jonathan Rake and wished him well with his new employment for Milford-on-Sea Parish Council.
Mr. Rake had decided he wished to join the Local Government Pension Scheme at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr Pepper proposed that Mr. Rake be allowed to join the scheme; Cllr Bishop seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr. Jonathan Rake be given the opportunity of entering the Local Government Pension Scheme from the start of his employment with the Parish Council.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr's Cameron and Bliss. District Cllr's Ward and Reid.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**
Mr. David Horne for an urgent item and Mrs. Tracy Haupt for item 5c.

With the agreement of members, the Chair asked Mr. David Horne, Chair of Milford Conservation Volunteers (MCV) and previous employee of the Environment Agency to update Councillors on the recent discharge of sewerage into the Danestream.
David reported that there had been a power outage at a remote pumping station off lower Ashley Lane and that back-up generators shouldn't have failed and it was unclear at this time why they did. There were hundreds of dead fish along the whole length of the Danestream and other important wildlife have also perished.
The Environment Agency had placed aeration pumps in the stream to prevent further loss of species and he suggested that it could take many weeks for the stream to be completely clear as this depended largely on the amount of rainfall in the coming days and weeks. However, it could possibly take many years for the stream to fully recover from this event.

Cllr Darbishire suggested the responsible authority should be giving reassurances that this could not happen again. Cllr Cullen suggested that the Parish Council should have been informed sooner so it could have responded by placing warnings signs along the length of the stream within the Pleasure Grounds.

With the agreement of members, the chair bought forward item 5c.

5c. PROGRESS AND COST OF CLEARANCE AND FENCE AT BARNES LANE RECREATION GROUND:

Mrs. Tracy Haupt, Chair of the Resident's Association that share a boundary with the recreation ground, reported that a length of vegetation and fallen trees had been cleared by residents, MCV members and parish staff at no cost. She had received quotes to erect a wooden fence with concrete posts and concrete gravel boards for either 6ft 6", or 8ft in height.
The Clerk reported that this project had already been agreed and that both fence height quotes fell within the allocated budget.
Cllr Bishop proposed the project proceed with a fence height of 6ft 6"; Cllr Jennions seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

> It was **RESOLVED** that a new wooded fence be erected at Barnes Lane Recreation Ground to the area recently cleared, at a height of 6ft 6" and that the cost be split equally between the Parish Council and residents of the neighbouring estate.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd JULY 2024:

Cllr Royle proposed the minutes be adopted; Cllr Darbishire seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

> It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **22nd July 2024** was a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR JULY 2024:

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 Darbishire proposed the expenditure report be approved; Cllr Banks seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour that the Expenditure Report is accepted.

> It was **RESOLVED** that the Expenditure Report for **July 2024** was a true record of expenditure and was signed by the Chair.

b) INCOME REPORT FOR JULY 2024:

The Clerk had, prior to the meeting, circulated copies of the Income Report for the above period.
Cllr Darbishire proposed the income report be approved; Cllr Banks seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour that the Income Report is accepted.

> It was **RESOLVED** that the Income Report for **July 2024** was a true record of income and was signed by the Chair.

c) Item previously discussed:

d) THE COST OF UPGRADING THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE:

Prior to the meeting, Deputy Clerk, Niamh Morrison had circulated a report outlining details and the cost to build a new website for the Parish Council. Cllr Bennett thanked Niamh for all her hard work over several months along with Cllr Cullen.
The initial cost to build the site is £2,560, which is slightly higher than originally estimated.

Cllr Bishop proposed the project proceed at the revised cost; Cllr Hopkins seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

> It was **RESOLVED** that a new parish council website be built at a cost of £2,560 to be paid from available capital funds.

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT:**
Parish Chair, Cllr Bennett reported that he had recently attended a meeting with NFDC officers to discuss the ANRG and Open Space Land at the proposed development north of Manor Road. This meeting had discussed the options and restrictions for the Parish Council should it be interested in acquiring the land to manage. Further information on this subject will be reported under item 8.

Cllr Bennett reminded members of the consultation event taking place on 30th August at The Bridge, relating to the proposed carbon capture pipeline.
He also reported that he was working on a new diary system which would make it easier for Councillors to access events and meetings, also that a tracking device had been fitted to the parish groundsman van. Cllr Darbishire suggested a report be given at the next meeting on the van's usage via data from the tracker.

Cllr Bennett suggested appointing a "safeguarding" person to ensure the wellbeing of all councillors and staff.

Cllr Banks produced a report on the recent NFALC meeting. This forms appendix 1. of these minutes.

Cllr Darbishire suggested that more thought be given to the option of overnight parking at NFDC car parks for campervans. It was agreed the Clerk should contact NFDC officers to arrange a meeting to discuss this option.

7. **ADOPTION OF COMPLAINTS POLICY, RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE GRIEVANCE POLICY:**
Cllr Royle proposed the adoption of all three policies; Cllr Darbishire seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Complaints Policy, Risk Management Plan and the Grievance Policy all be adopted.

The Clerk confirmed that further policies would be updated in the coming months and that he had produced a list of policies and their dates for review.

8. **UPDATE ON THE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MITIGATION LAND AT SS7/SWALLOWFIELDS:**
Cllr Whitlock reported that a meeting was held with two officers from New Forest District Council (NFDC), the Clerk and several Parish Councillors to discuss the possibility of obtaining the ANRG and Open Spaces at the proposed development north of Manor Road. It was likely that whomever the land was eventually passed to would have to manage not only the large open space north of the current greenhouses, but land within the site and on its perimeter. Currently NFDC are developing a plan for the management of these areas that would have to be adhered to with little deviation. The land will form part of the 106 agreements, but specific detail is unlikely until approx. 2027. Cllr Whitlock reported that the land may come with funding. However, the funding value would be eroded overtime due to inflation.

NFDC officers had suggested that ultimately it would be the decision of the developer who would take ownership and management of the land and contact should be made with Pennyfarthing Homes should the Parish Council wish to continue exploring management options for the land.
NFDC confirmed that the land north of the greenhouses would not be used as a site compound when the development starts

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Pennyfarthing Homes and arrange a further meeting. Cllr Pepper suggested all members of the Parish Council should be invited to a future meeting.

9. **AN UPDATE ON THE LAND HELD BY FRIENDS OF CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY:**
Cllr Whitlock reported that she had attended, along with the Parish Clerk, a meeting at the community meadow with the Chair of Friends of Christchurch Priory (CP) and their designated committee. The Priory had been instructed by their insurance company that a defined boundary should be established and that the committee were discussing options for planting a hedge, erecting a fence (with a gate) or digging a ditch. Cllr Whitlock had suggested that a ditch posed some safety concerns and that restricting access to the land was contrary to the signed documentation. Cllr Whitlock reported that a suggestion of a defined path around the perimeter had been suggested and that this was also unadvisable.
Friends of CP had agreed to undertake a valuation of the land and resume contact with the Parish Council to discuss the option of the Council purchasing the land on behalf of the community.

With the agreement of members. the chair deferred item 10.

11. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**
County Cllr Carpenter reported that she had attended a recent meeting to discuss the Keyhaven to Lymington project and other than four specific areas it was unlikely that any action would be taken for at least 10 – 15 years. The area would be monitored and depending on environmental impacts, a managed realignment would take place.

She also reported that the second phase of the Keyhaven and Barton Consultation was likely in the Autumn.

District Cllr Hawkins reported that he had attended the recent planning committee at NFDC.

District Cllr Reid had made his apologies but had sent a written report saying he had supported the planning application for the Village Hall and attended the Council Tax reduction Task and Finish group.

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. PLANNING COMMITTEE
To receive for adoption the planning minutes from 1st July 2024.
Members voted unanimously in favour of adopting these minutes.

B. FINANCE & FORWARD PLANNING COMMITTEE:
The next meeting is scheduled for **25th November** to set the 2025/26 precept level.

C. AMENITIES, WOODLAND, COASTAL & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:
The next Amenities Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 15th October** at 10.30am.

D. TOURISM, TRADERS & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:
The next meeting to be scheduled for **24th September** 2024.
Cllr Darbishire reported that external parties had been invited and the agenda would be forwarded closer to the meeting date.

E. MOS1 COMMITTEE:
The next meeting will be held when work on the open space land has progressed further.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
The Clerk reported that he had received quotes to undertake a red book valuation of the Bowls Club facility and that the cost was £1,250 - £1,500. Parish Councillors decided not to undertake a valuation at this stage.
As this was not an agenda item the Chair suggested this item is placed on the next Parish Council agenda for further discussion and potential vote on options regarding the bowls club.

14. **OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT:**
None.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 8.15pm.

……………………………. Chair ……..…………………… …...Date