

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 18th NOVEMBER 2024.

Minutes of the 431st meeting of the Parish Council held **Monday 21st October 2024.**
In the Village Hall, Park Road

MEMBERS

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), District Cllr's Ward, Reid & Hawkins,
Roz Waters (Lymington Times), Vicky Missen from Wessex Internet and six members of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING:

As both the Chair and Vice-Chair were unable to attend this meeting Cllr David Royle was elected to the role of Chair for the meeting.

Cllr David Royle welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

He reported that confirmation had been received from Exxon Mobile who had withdrawn its application to construct a carbon capture pipeline.

He also reported that there had been an emergency grant application that had not been received in time to be placed on the agenda.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Bliss declared an interest in item 9. Cllr Pepper declared an interest in item 7. Cllr Royle declared an interest in item 13 and requested a dispensation for this subject. The Parish Council agreed with this dispensation in accordance with its standing orders but confirmed that Cllr Royle was unable to vote on any proposal under item 13.

3. APOLOGIES: Cllr's Bishop, Jennions, Cullen & Bennett and County Cllr Carpenter.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. Philip Butler for the emergency grant application from Milford & Keyhaven Sea Scouts.

With the agreement of members, the Chair brought forward item 7.

7. A PRESENTATION FROM WESSEX INTERNET REGARDING BROADBAND TO THE VILLAGE:

Vicky Missen, Regional Community Manager of Wessex Internet introduced herself and reported that Wessex Internet had been awarded a government contract to supply fibre optic cabling to rural communities. 450 properties had been identified in Milford with a further 1,100 properties also likely to benefit from the project.

Although there were some final planning conditions to be approved, it is likely that installation would start mid-November and last for approx. 12 weeks. However, this was dependent on climate and any unforeseen circumstances. Although it is planned that Wessex will use existing BT ducting it is probable that some additional ducting will need to be dug and some BT poles might need to be utilised.

Cllr Darbshire asked if it was only Milford, and not Keyhaven, that the current contract covered. Vicky Missen confirmed this was the case.

Cllr Royle asked about transferring from an existing personal contract. Vicky reported that Wessex may be able to help with this but it largely depended on the current contract and any penalties which would apply on early cancellation.

Vicky Missen reported that there was going to be a public meeting on 29th October between 3.30pm and 5pm at The Bridge.

5. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2024:

Cllr Hopkins proposed the minutes be adopted; Cllr Darbshire seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **16th September** was a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 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 Bliss proposed the expenditure report be approved; Cllr Darbshire seconded this proposal.

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

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

b) INCOME REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024:

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

Cllr Bliss proposed the income report be approved; Cllr Darbshire seconded this proposal.

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

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

c) GRANT APPLICATION FROM MILFORD PRE-SCHOOL:

A grant request had been received for £250 from Milford Pre-School to enable them to purchase and fill raised flower beds.

Cllr Pepper proposed awarding the full amount. Cllr Darbshire seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that £250 be awarded to Milford Pre-School from the Community Support Grant Allocation.

d) THE PURCHASING OF A GRASS COLLECTOR:

A request had been received from the Parish Ground Staff for a grass collector. They suggested that this would be of benefit to many of the playing surfaces and other open space parcels of land.

Cllr Darbshire suggested that frequent grass collection would help stop thatching and uneven surfaces.

Cllr Banks proposed the purchase. Cllr Darbshire seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council purchase a grass collector at a cost of approx. £200 from Capital funds

EMERGENCY GRANT APPLICATION:

Mr. Philip Butler from Milford & Keyhaven Sea Scouts introduced himself and reported that since covid the group had struggled with volunteers to run the activity. However, they are taking steps to attract new volunteers, reform the committee and trustees, raise funds and reduce costs. He suggested this was an important community activity that attracted young people from Milford and Keyhaven.

Mr. Butler reported that this application was a “one-off” and the group would not be looking for financial support each year.

However, it was essential that funds were obtained now to enable the Scout Group to keep functioning.

Cllr Whitlock suggested it was a well-presented application and proposed awarding the full amount requested. Cllr Banks seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the £1,500 be awarded to the Milford and Keyhaven Sea Scouts paid from the Community Support Allocation.

7. Item previously discussed.

With the agreement of members, the Chair brought forward item 11.

11. THE COMMUNITY MEADOW AND RESPONSE TO FRIENDS OF CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY, FOLLOWING THEIR RECENT CORRESPONDENCE ON THE LAND BEHIND THE CHURCH:

Cllr Whitlock reported that recent correspondence had been received from Friends of Christchurch Priory (FoCP) stating that it was their intention to sell the land via a sealed bid process. This tender process was due to run from the 1st of November for one month. This, she suggested, was a better option than going to an auction as it would potentially give more time to raise funds for any potential purchaser.

There were two further points to consider from their e-mail, the first being a suggestion to amend the right of way over the land and make a designated path. Cllr Whitlock suggested this should not be considered. Secondly, FoCP were considering erecting a fence up to 2 metres in height along the boundary of the two parcels of land.

It was suggested that the Clerk contact FoCP to request that any fence be more in keeping with the area and that there should be a wide enough gate to allow the ride-on mower to access Parish Council Land. Also, to obtain all the documentation relating to the tender process.

FoCP had given a guide price for the land of £100k. However, it was felt that this far exceeded an earlier valuation of the land by the Parish Council, especially as planning permission for the site was unlikely.

Cllr Pepper suggested urgently forming a working group so that this item could be discussed in more detail and to invite “Friends of the Community Meadow (FoCM)” to the meeting.

Nicola Priest (FoCM) agreed to attend the meeting and to enquire as to the legality of the right to cross the land.

Cllr Royle reported that the Parish Council did not hold sufficient funds to purchase the land.

Cllr Darbshire suggested that the community was looking at the Parish Council to take a lead on this matter.

It was agreed to hold a working group meeting this coming Friday morning the 26th October.

Additional notes post meeting:

FoCP confirmed they were only going to erect a low-level fence and that they were not going to place a gate in the fence, but just to leave a gap. They were amenable to allowing this gap to be wide enough for the Parish Councils ride on mower.

The Parish Council further requested that a hedge be planted instead of a fence erected and are awaiting a response to this request.

8. A REPORT FROM THE RECENT TOURISM & TRADERS COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER:

Cllr Darbshire reported that it had been a useful meeting that was well attended by Councillors and local traders. It had been a tough year for local traders as the summer had not been brilliant. He suggested that although the previous year’s Arts and Music Festival had been well attended, local businesses had not overly benefitted from the event. Equally there had not been a charitable donation as the organisers had suggested funds were required to pay for next year’s event up front.

Cllr Darbshire suggested that the terms to use the village green should be amended to state that only village traders are allowed to operate from the village green when an event takes place.

Cllr Pepper proposed that only local traders should be allowed to use the village green in connection with planned events requiring food and drink outlets. Cllr Hopkins seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that if events held on the Village Green required food and drink outlets that this should be offered to local businesses in the first instance

The Clerk agreed to amend the terms and that the minutes from the meeting would appear on the council's website following approval.

9. USE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN:

Cllr Whitlock reported that at times cars were parked on the Village Green when an event was being held. The Clerk agreed to amend the Village Green booking form to state no parked cars were allowed on the Village Green other than during set up or take down.

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from NFDC suggesting they were developing a strategy that would determine the "right bin in the right place". It was also suggested that sensors could be placed on the existing bins next summer to check their filling rates.

The Clerk reported that there had not been a charge for benches to be placed on the Village Green during the summer. Cllr Darbshire suggested that the benches had proved popular and that they could be used by anyone at any time. Cllr Banks suggested this could be reviewed in the future.

Cllr Hopkins proposed that there is no charge to allow benches on the village green and to review this after one year. Cllr Darbshire seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that benches can be placed on the Village Green without charge during the summer months.

10. A REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES, WOODLAND, COASTAL & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

Cllr Darbshire reported that a number of voluntary groups had attended the meeting. MCV Chair, David Horne, had given an update on the pollution of the Danestream and suggested that a fine was likely. He agreed to maintain contact with the Environment Agency (EA) and provide updates when received.

A report from the Gardeners of the Community Meadow had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting which indicated that the community meadow was now established. However, there were still issues regarding the disposal of green waste.

Cllr Darbshire reported that work by the EA had been completed on the sluice gates at Keyhaven.

Adrian Palmer from Milford Conservation Volunteers had reported there were task days booked for the next six months and that the next project was to undertake further clearance of an unused parcel of land next to the Tony Locke Orchard to allow for the planting of further fruit trees.

The Clerk reported that the minutes from this committee were yet to be finalised and would be circulated to members and placed on the website.

11. Item previously discussed

12. CONSENT FOR COUNCILLOR AND EMPLOYEE PICTURE PROFILES TO BE ADDED TO THE NEW WEBSITE:

Prior to the meeting, Deputy Clerk Niamh Morrison had circulated a website example indicating how this might appear.

Cllr Pepper proposed to allow picture profiles to the new website. Cllr Banks seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that when the new website is developed each Councillor and employee will have their photograph and a brief profile added.

Due to a declared interest Cllr Royle passed the Chair to Cllr Pepper for item 13.

13. A REPORT FROM THE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE BOWLS CLUB:

Cllr Pepper reported that a recent working group meeting had discussed in depth proposals to secure the long-term future of the Bowls Club. Following this meeting she had circulated the suggestions from the working group.

Cllr Royle reported that the Bowls Club were due to hold their AGM in November and that any proposals from the Parish Council could be discussed by them at that meeting.

The Clerk suggested discussing the proposals with the Bowls Club prior to taking any further course of action.

Cllr Whitlock proposed the recommendation from the working group be suggested to the Bowls Club. Cllr Bliss seconded this proposal.

Members voted six (6) in favour and One (1) abstention due to a declaration of interest.

Post meeting note:

The Proposals suggested have not been included in these minutes as they have yet to be presented to representatives of the Bowls Club.

14. DOG FOULING SIGNAGE FOR PARISH COUNCIL LAND:

Cllr Pepper reported that she had researched appropriate signage that could be placed in various locations and that the cost ranged from £3 - £10 per sign.

Cllr Darbishire suggested that at last month's meeting the success of dog fouling at Barton had been reported as successful and asked how this had been achieved.

District Cllr Reid reported that a group in Barton had been formed to collect dog waste.

The Clerk and Cllr Pepper agreed to produce proposals at the next Parish Council meeting.

15. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Cllr Ward reported there was an upcoming webinar on flood and coastal risk mapping which some Councillors may have an interest in. Also, bids for the next release of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds could be submitted soon. She also reported on the next round of public engagement on the Hurst Spit to Lymington Coastal Strategy.

Cllr Ward suggested that Section 106 agreements for agreed sites, including SS7 Manor Road, would not be finalised until early next year. She had given £150 of her Councillor allocation to Magical Milford.

Cllr Hawkins reported he had been attending an NFDC task and finish group for financial projects. He had been undertaking several community engagements as part of his new role as Chair of NFDC and will be attending the remembrance services at Keyhaven and Milford.

Cllr Reid reported that NFDC's local plan part two was going slowly as it was awaiting clarification on housing figures from central government which may consider that the District falls largely within a National Park.

He reported that he was on task and finish groups at NFDC considering Council Tax Exemptions and affordable housing.

Cllr Reid reported that he still had Councillor allocations available.

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive for adoption the planning minutes from 2nd September 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 minutes from the meeting on **Tuesday 15th October** will be presented at the next Parish Council Meeting for adoption.

D. TOURISM, TRADERS & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:

The next meeting to be scheduled for 2025

E. MOS1 COMMITTEE:

The Clerk had circulated a response from Kate Ryan, NFDC's Chief executive suggesting that the land behind the school would be transferred to NFDC shortly.

17. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

18. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT:

None.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 8.20pm.

..... Chair Date