

Parish Council's Annual Report 2024 - 25



Milford-on-Sea Parish Council

22 High Street, Milford-on-Sea,
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01590 644410



The Parish Council is the custodian of land/property owned on behalf of its community.

- The Pleasure Grounds – Local Nature Reserve
- Sharvells Copse (Shorefield’s Copse) – Local Nature Reserve
- Barnes Copse – Local Nature Reserve
- Studland Common – Local Nature Reserve and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Studland Common Grazing Field – Local Nature Reserve and SINC
- Scholars Retreat Grazing Field
- Tony Locke Community Orchard
- Barnes Lane Recreation Ground and Chris Walford Pavilion
- Carrington Lane Play Park
- The Swifts Play Park
- Hurst Road Play Parks
- Allotments at The Swifts
- Swallow Drive/Grebe Close Public Open Spaces
- The Centenary Copse (next to Milford Bridge)
- Baskets Grazing Field (Keyhaven)
- The Community Meadow (Next to All Saints Churchyard)

The Parish Council maintain all the above land and property. Land at Hurst Road and the Centenary Copse are owned by the District Council but leased to the Parish Council who maintain them.

The Parish Council Planning Committee makes valuable observations to the local planning authority (New Forest District Council and the National Park Authority), on every single planning application and all tree works orders for the Parish, which are considered by the relevant bodies when making their final decisions.

The Parish Council employs a full time Parish Clerk, a part time Planning/Assistant Clerk for 20 hours per week.

Producing the annual budget takes several months (including several working group meetings) and is then passed through to the full Parish Council Meeting, which is open to the public and to which residents are invited to attend and contribute to the process under a Public Participation Scheme (details of which are available from the Parish Office).

The annual expenditure budget for **2024/25** was £226,279. To meet the budget, the Parish Council needed a precept of £214,700 (the amount requested from New Forest District Council) this represented an increase of £11.76 per household per year (Band D) 19.4%.

2025/26

Due to the increase in employers’ national insurance, the continuing increases in materials and other administrative costs out of the Parish Council’s control, the **2025/26** expenditure budget has been set at £245,373. To meet this budget the Parish Council needs a precept of £239,400, this represents an increase of £5.91 per household per year (Band D) 8.1%.

Employment:	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2025/26</u>
Salaries	£103,709	£109,994	£113,454
National Insurance and Pensions.	£29,693	£ 34,764	£38,297
Property:			
Rent, Rates, Insurance and Utilities.	£17,165	£19,010	£19,150
Administration:			
Newsletters, Telephone & Broadband, Travel, Stationary, Photocopying, Training & Audits.	£18,360	£14,500	£17,350
Youth & Community Support:			
Youth Grant, Support Grants, Community Centre Loan.		£16,472	£17,972
General Maintenance:			
Waste Bin Collection, Fuel, Benches, Christmas Lights.	£ 7,500	£13,400	£14,900
Sports & Play Parks:			
Recreation Ground, Sea Front, Carrington Lane, The Swifts.	£ 3,900	£ 4,150	£ 5,100
Planting Projects:			
Community Meadow, Hanging Baskets, Tont Locke Orchard & Additional Small Projects.	£21,115	£ 4,989	£ 7,150
Land Maintenance:			
Woodland/Common Management, Forest Paths, Hedges Tree Surveys & Work, HLS Maintenance & River Revetment.	£ 3,200	£ 9,000	£12,000
Totals	<u>£204,692</u>	<u>£226,279</u>	<u>£245,373</u>
Capital Expenditure:			
CIL carry over from previous year.	£ 15,502	£ 9,149	£ 15,377
CIL received.	£ 17,760	£ 12,710	
CIL expenditure.	£ 24,113	£ 6,482	
CIL Balance	£ 9,149	£ 15,377	
Mitigation Funds (Swifts Play Park)			
MF carry over from previous year.	£ 28,578	£ 18,713	£ 12,753
MF received.	£ 0	£ 0	
MF expenditure.	£ 9,855	£ 5,960	
MF Balance	£ 18,713	£ 12,753	

Parish Council Achievements in Partnership with Village Groups, for 2024/2025

- Natural England Higher Level Stewardship grazing agreement continues with the clearing of several scrub sections at Studland Common as well as stump grinding to all cleared areas.
- Programme to manage the Upper & Lower Pleasure Grounds.
- Repairs to MEG Bridge and Boardwalk and Bridges near to Mill Meadow Pond
- Complete refurbishment of the Chris Walford Pavilion at Barnes Lane Recreation Ground
- Further planting and landscaping at the Community Meadow

- Reduction of all Parish owned hedges to 4.5ft in height.
- Continued upgrade of footpaths, culverts, bridges ditches and revetments in the Upper and Lower Pleasure Grounds.
- Continuing to upgrade and repair benches along the Cliff Top, Keyhaven and the Village Centre.
- New Picnic tables at Carrington Lane Play Park
- Removal of Scrub and Hedge Encroachment at Barnes Lane Recreation Ground & Carrington Lane Play Area.
- Replacement climbing unit at Carrington Lane Play Park
- New Picnic Benches next to Needles Eye Café

Projects planned for 2025/26

- Facilities on the Land Behind the School (Subject to land transfer)
- Additional Benches on Studland Common
- Upgrade of Parish Website
- Hedge Clearance & Fence at Barnes Lane Recreation Ground (Phase two)
- Expanding the Community Meadow recently purchased
- Expansion of the Tony Locke Orchard

Volunteers help extensively around the village in many ways. They spend hundreds of hours of their own time each year supporting the Council and enhancing community facilities. The Parish Council welcomes this support, which benefits the wider community and thanks those that give so much of their time so freely to the

The Parish Newsletter is in the bi-monthly *Village Voice* and on our website www.milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact us:

Telephone	01590 644410
Email	clerk@milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk
Letter to	The Parish Office, 22 High Street, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0QD
Opening Hours:	10am – 12pm and 1pm -3pm (Monday to Friday)

Residents are welcome to attend all parish council meetings which are held in the Village Hall and may address the committees in the public participation sections.

Details of Parish and Planning Committee Meeting are on the Website and on Village Notice Boards.