

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 15th SEPTEMBER 2025.

Minutes of the 439th meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 21st of July 2025.**
In the Village Hall, Park Road

MEMBERS (p = present)

Mr. Bernard Bennett	p	Mrs. Susan Pepper	p	Mr. Ian Bliss	p
Mrs. Christine Hopkins	p	Ms. Anne Cullen	p	Mr. Bob Bishop	
Mrs. Patricia Banks	p	Mr. Donald Darbishire	p		
Mr. David Royle	P	Mr. Gary Fox	p		

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Niamh Morrison (Assistant Parish Clerk), District Cllr Ward, District Cllr Hawkins, Roz Waters (Lymington Times)

Parish Chair, Cllr Bennett welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
2. **APOLOGIES:** County Cllr Carpenter, District Cllr Reid, Cllr Bishop.
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM) HELD ON THE 16th OF JUNE 2025:**
Cllr Cullen proposed the minutes be adopted; Cllr Pepper seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th of June 2025 was a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

5. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

a) **EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR MAY 2025:**

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

Cllr Hopkins proposed the expenditure report be approved, Cllr Bliss seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour that the Expenditure Report is accepted.

It was RESOLVED that the Expenditure Report for June 2025 was a true record of expenditure and was signed by the Chair.

b) **INCOME REPORT FOR JUNE 2025:**

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the Income Report for **June 2025** was a true record of income and was signed by the Chair.

c) **RECONCILED BANK ACCOUNTS:**

The bank statements were circulated for information purposes:

6. **CHAIRS REPORT:**

The Chair's report consisted of a Devolution update. He confirmed that he recently attended the Hampshire County Council briefing hosted by Nick-Adams King. He reported that the Devolution update was condensed and full of useful information. He has subsequently received a link to view the presentation again and can circulate for others should they wish to see the presentation.

He reported the next Hampshire County Council Devolution event is in Winchester on 7th of August. Cllr Bennett and Cllr Cullen have confirmed their attendance for this.

7. **THE ESTIMATE TO UNDERTAKE WORK ON THE PATH FROM STURT POND CLOSE:**

Prior to the meeting a quote from NFDC was circulated. A conversation was held about the ownership of the path in its entirety and any money that would have been received with it. It was recommended that the full history of the path be established.

It was agreed that the quote received by NFDC would not be accepted and that the Parish Council would remain committed to maintaining their areas of any land. The Parish Council agreed that they would use external contractors to carry out any necessary work. Some of the recommended works would be considered moving forward. It was agreed that the full history and ownership be investigated.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would continue to establish history and monitor the path.

8. **AN UPDATE ON A "DIY" PERSON FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

Cllr Darbshire confirmed that he had sourced 3 "DIY" self-employed persons who would be willing to carry out ad-hoc jobs for the Parish Council. He has asked the Parish Clerk to liaise with them. Cllr Darbshire confirmed the resources were in place although the detail in how they could be utilized was unclear.

A discussion was held regarding the Parish Council's requirements and how these can be best met. It was agreed that further details were required. Remits, engagement terms, rates (hourly and /or daily), availability in terms of hours or day/half-day and readiness to undertake work at short notice all need to be established and documented.

It was **RESOLVED** that the terms of engagement would be actioned and documented.

9. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

Cllr Pepper confirmed that she attended recent meetings at The Old Meadow. In attendance were David Horne (MCV), Sue Crabb and Rachel Foster (Milford Gardening Club). She reported that the meetings have been very productive. They have developed quite a few suggestions to consider and plan to meet again in early September.

Cllr Banks reported that she attended two Devolution events, both on Monday and on Tuesday. They would discuss devolution in greater detail later.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION/ DEVOLUTION:

Cllr Banks stated that there was still much more detail to follow on this topic.

Cllr Hawkins confirmed that Hampshire County Council's proposal was to merge New Forest District Council with Southampton and Test Valley. New Forest District Council believe they should be either stand-alone or merged with more "country" type councils where there would be more common ground. Cllr Hawkins confirmed that New Forest District Council would be putting forward what they are in favour of in terms of Devolution and this will be shared shortly.

Cllr Ward reported that New Forest District Council have a meeting date of Thursday, 25th of September regarding Devolution when the District Councillors will have more detail on the topic.

Cllr Hawkins confirmed that more information would be made available and will liaise with Cllr Cleary regarding the District Council's preference. It was suggested that a briefing presentation be organised with Cllr Cleary and that there is potential to include other parishes. The parish office will liaise with Cllr Hawkins with regards to a date for this briefing.

11. THE FUTURE OF PARISH COUNCIL GROUND EQUIPMENT:

A discussion was held about the necessity for the Parish Council to retain their landscaping equipment. It was agreed that the requirement to retain the van, trailer, ride-on-mower, and turf groomer was not necessary and that all four items were redundant. It was agreed that the power barrow would be kept. The immediate action is to ensure that all assets are stored safely and securely until such time that they are sold. It was unanimously agreed that the items being sold would be first offered to neighbouring parishes to purchase at market value prior to being sold in the open market.

Cllr Darbshire agreed to oversee the schedule of sales with the council staff.

It was RESLOVED with immediate effect that Parish Council Ground Equipment would be sold.

12. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Ward reported that Cllr Derek Tipp was writing to the Secretary of State regarding the concerns regarding reform of planning committees.

Cllr Hawkins raised concern about the lack of voice of people who are currently represented.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. PLANNING COMMITTEE:

To receive the planning minutes from **2nd of June** for adoption. Members voted unanimously in favour of adopting these minutes.

B. FINANCE & FORWARD PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:

The next Finance and Forward Planning meeting is scheduled for **24th of November 2025**.

C. AMENITIES, WOODLAND, COASTAL & ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE:

The next Amenities meeting is scheduled for **14th October 2025**.

D. TOURISM, TRADERS & TRAFFIC SUB-COMMITTEE:

The next meeting is scheduled for **23rd September 2025**. It was noted that an earlier meeting could be arranged if required. Cllr Darbshire confirmed that representatives from Milford-on-Sea Music Festival would be invited to attend.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

16. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT:

Cllr Royle reported that Bowls Club solicitor has been in contact with some minor changes to the lease. The Parish Council's solicitor will review these suggested changes at a cost of £500.00.

Cllr Bennett highlighted that co-option process would take place in August.

Cllr Pepper recommended that Councillors put forward their suggestions for the August training session on Monday, 18th.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 7.40pm

..... Chair Date