

MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

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



Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL

On Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS

Mr. Bob Bishop	p	Mrs. Christine Hopkins	p	Mrs. Susan Pepper	p
Mr. Bernard Bennett	p	Ms. Anne Cullen		Mr. Nick Haining	p
Mrs. Patricia Banks	p	Mr. Richard Baker		Mrs. Lynn Wylde	p
Mr. Gary Fox		Mr. David Royle	p		

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Carpenter, District Cllr Hawkins
Roz Waters (Lymington Times) & 12 members of the public.

Parish Council Chair Cllr Bernie Bennett welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Each attending Cllr introduced themselves.

1. **APOLGIES:** Cllrs Cullen, Fox, Baker. Assistant Clerk Niamh Morrison.

2. **REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

The Chair suggested that the meeting gave everyone the chance to review the previous year, what the Parish Council had achieved and what it could improve upon. Also to look at the year ahead and report on some of the challenges the Parish Council are facing. The main section of the meeting was to hear questions the public had and to respond to those.

The Chair thanked all the Councillors who have served on the Council during the past year and welcomed several new members that have joined in recent months. He passed on the Council's thoughts to the family of Ken Cameron who had passed away earlier in the year.

The Chair reported that during the last year the Parish Council's website had been relaunched and much had been achieved to enable the Council to operate within modern guidelines and policies.

The Parish Council had financially supported many local charities and good causes in the last year.

The Chair suggested that there was a great community spirit within Milford and thanked all the volunteers that helped keep Milford a place for everyone to enjoy.

3. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, Cllr David Royle gave the report on planning

a. Overview

During the year, the Parish Council has fulfilled its statutory role as a formal consultee in the local planning process, reviewing and commenting on planning applications submitted to the Local Planning Authority. The Council sought to balance sustainable development with the protection of local character, amenities, and environmental considerations.

b. Volume of Applications

Total planning applications received: 78 Planning Applications were considered by the Parish Council.

Application types included:

- A new convenience store, Design of Swallowfields (Manor Road), Householder extensions and alterations, Change of use applications, New residential dwellings (small-scale), Works to trees (both Tree Preservation Order Works and Conservation Area), Lawful Development Certificates, Consultation on the proposals for the New Local Plan.

c. Key Planning Issues Considered

The Council focused on the following recurring issues when forming its recommendations:

- Impact on neighbouring properties (privacy, overlooking, noise), Highway safety and parking provision, scale, mass, and design in relation to surrounding development, street scene and character, protection of conservation areas and listed buildings, flood risk and drainage, environmental and biodiversity impacts.

d. Community Engagement

Planning matters were discussed at open Parish Council meetings, allowing public participation. Residents were encouraged to submit their views directly to the Local Planning Authority (NFDC). The Council continued to publish planning agendas and minutes on its website and noticeboards.

e. Key Achievements

Maintained consistent and timely responses to all consultations.
Improved record-keeping and tracking of planning applications.
Strengthened understanding of planning policy among councillors through training.

f. Priorities for the Coming Year

Further councillor training on planning and enforcement.
Closer engagement with the Local Planning Authority on planning policy updates.
Monitoring of major approved developments to ensure compliance with conditions.
Encouraging early community involvement in significant proposals.

4. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE:

Cllr Royle gave an outline of the Finance Committee. He reported that 2025/26 had been a year of change as the Parish Council had moved from employing ground staff to engaging contractors to undertake the grounds maintenance. He thanked previous Councillor Donald Darbishire for work on the contract, Land Products for being helpful and flexible and Scott McIntosh for completing work outside the scope of Land Products.

Cllr Royle reported that, although not universally popular, the Parish Council had purchased larger waste bins which made an annual saving of over £12,000. Cllr. Royle explained that the annual expenditure for 2026/27 was not expected to increase significantly. However, the precept had been increased as the Parish Council were advised to hold more reserves than it currently holds.

5. REPORT FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

County Councillor Fran Carpenter thanked residents for re-electing her as their County Councillor. She reported that a new leader of the County Council was due to be elected the following day. Following this the committees that runs the Council would be elected from the split of different political parties recently elected.

Cllr Carpenter reported that the County Council were considering requesting a judicial review take place on the recent announcement of the split of the county before the new Unitary Authority is formed.

Q. Cllr Royle asked what a judicial review would involve.

A. Cllr Carpenter reported that any review would consider whether the process that took place adhered to all the legal requirements it needed to.

6. REPORTS FROM NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

District Councillor Hawkins reported that New Forest District Council were also considering launching a judicial review for the same reasons above, as the overwhelming response to the consultation was to keep the New Forest as a whole.

He reported that the Local Plan Review event held at Hordle had been the most well attended of all the events held throughout the district and thanked residents of Milford and Hordle for their responses, which District Council Officers were impressed by.

7. INFORMATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION / DEVOLUTION:

The Clerk reported that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) had largely gone under the radar due to many other local issues. However, it was likely that LGR would have a big impact on Milford Parish Council and residents. He reported that NFDC had provided a list of over 40 assets they held in Milford and Keyhaven and that subject to negotiations many of these assets could be passed to the Parish Council to run and maintain.

The Clerk reported that further information could come to light over the coming year.

8. LOCAL PLAN REVIEW:

The Clerk reported that there was no further news on NFDC's Local Plan Review. NFDC, he suggested would be looking at the responses submitted in the recent consultation and would be providing a draft plan for further consultation in the late summer/autumn.

8. QUESTIONS OR MATTERS RAISED BY THE ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

Q1. *Is there any further update on the development north of Manor Road?*

Cllr Royle reported that reserved matters had not yet been concluded and a full planning application was likely this year. Pennyfarthing Homes had suggested that the development might start in the spring of 2027.

Q2. *There is still an issue with sewerage and flooding several times a year along Keyhaven Road leading to Keyhaven Village, can this be sorted?*

County Cllr Carpenter reported that work was due to start soon and that "drains" were on the work list.

Q3. *The current waste bins on the Village Green are too tall, and the colour does not blend with the surroundings?*

The Clerk reported that the smaller bins that were on the Village Green were constantly overflowing which was causing several complaints each week. When NFDC introduced the new wheelie bins to each household, they advised a similar set up for bins on Parish Land. The Clerk suggested he would contact the manufacturer to see if a change of colour was possible

Q4. *Upon the abolition of the County and District Councils, what authority would Milford be part of?*

County Cllr Carpenter reported that the new Unitary Authority would be known as Mid- Hampshire.

Q5. *What is the population of Milford?*

The 2121 census shows a population of 4,731.

Q6. *What is happening about the hedge along New Lane at Regency Homes?*

Cllr Pepper reported that the Parish Council along with residents from Keyhaven and residents at Regency Homes have been working hard to resolve this issue so at least part of the hedge can remain. She suggested that Regency were finding it difficult to engage a new contractor due to the adverse publicity.

Cllr Royle read out the response to the Parish Council from NFDC, mainly stating in their view it ***“is not an important hedge”***

Q7. *What does the Parish Council think about coastal management and realignment?*

The Clerk reported the Council does have a representative on the Keyhaven to Lymington Panel. Also, that it is updated quarterly on the Christchurch Bay Project.

Cllr Pepper reported that funding to maintain Hurst Spit had been secured.

County Councillor Carpenter reported that there was a meeting being held this week to consider the recommendations and that there would be further public engagement during the summer.

Q8. *What is happening about the field behind the school?*

The Clerk reported that the Allotments and Play Area belonged to the Parish Council. The remainder of the area still belonged to Pennyfarthing Homes (PFH) who were in discussions with NFDC to transfer the land to them Cllr Banks suggested this would not be done until PFH adhered to the requirement of the planning application and the land was safe to use.

The Chair of the meeting thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 8.45pm.

..... Chair

..... Date