

MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

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



Parish Clerk: Graham Wells

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH ON MONDAY 8th MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present:

- Councillors B Bishop (Chair), M Goode (Vice-Chair), T Coleman, P Jennions, P Taylor, T Cowell.
- County Councillor F Carpenter
- Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), Sarah Pitt (Assistant Parish Clerk)
- 18 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Bob Bishop, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks and new District Councillor Fran Carpenter. He also made a tribute to Cllr Michael Hallé who recently passed away and also sent the Parish Council's best wishes to Cllr Sophie Beeton who is currently poorly.

1. APOLOGIES

- Cllrs P Banks, S Whitlock, S Beeton, G Maziere, District Councillor M Kendal.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2016

The Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

3. BRIEF REPORTS BY THE PARISH CHAIRMAN, CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEES, DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The Chair gave a brief overview of the Parish Council's activities over the past year. Highlights included improvement works to footpaths in the Pleasure Grounds, which have been done in conjunction with volunteers from the Milford Conservation Volunteers and who were thanked for their efforts; work at the Barnes Lane Recreation Ground to create additional pitches and additional play equipment at Carrington Lane Recreation Ground. Cllr Bishop said the precept had increased by 5% for 2017/18 but this was the first rise for six years and equated to approximately 66p per week per household for a Band D property – a rise of 90p for the year. Cllr Bishop stated the Annual Expenditure

budget had risen from £138,000 to £177,000 which included monies from Developers' Contributions for improvements to play facilities in the parish and which had to be spent by given deadlines.

Cllr Goode commented that if the monies were not spent in time the money would be handed back to the Developer.

A member of the public asked what the deadline was for spending £32,000. The Parish Clerk stated this was Christmas 2016 and had been used for improving the pitches at Barnes Lane Recreation Ground. He went on to say the next tranche should be spent by November 2017 and that £40,000 had been spent on additional play equipment at Carrington Lane Recreation Ground. There was a balance of £80,000.

A member of the public noted the new wooden gates at Carrington Lane Recreation Ground had some slats missing. The Parish Clerk confirmed this would be repaired swiftly.

A member of the public commented that Carrington Lane Recreation Ground looked much better and as he lived locally could hear children enjoying themselves. The Parish Clerk confirmed that earth moved from installing the play equipment would be used to level the football pitch. The pitch would then have an improved schedule of weekly grass cutting.

A member of the public commented that a tree near the entrance to the Rec looked dead and queried if this would be removed. The Parish Clerk would investigate.

A member of the public commented that she felt the proposals for additional play equipment for 6-14 years old at the Seafront looked tacky and would turn Milford into Blackpool. She stated that in her view children only comprised 11% of the population of the parish and the seafront would be spoilt for such a small number and that the proposed scheme had not been well promoted in her view. Cllr Bishop stated a survey had been recently conducted on these proposals. The proposals had been publicised on various Parish Council agendas over the past year, on the Parish Council website, social media, noticeboards around the parish, the Village Voice which is delivered to every household in the parish, as well as being mentioned in the press. There had also been a Consultation Event in the Community Centre which attracted over 100 people.

The Parish Clerk reported that the survey had received over 265 responses to date, from which 75% had been in favour of improving the play facilities for older children in that location. He went on to say that the next stage would be to discuss the proposals with the District Council who own the land.

A member of the public asked how the site was chosen. Cllr Bishop said that the Parish Council had discussed all options with officers from the District Council. The conclusion was the seafront already had play facilities for

toddlers and was adjacent to toilet facilities and would be the logical choice. Cllr Bishop said the area in question would be relatively small and would leave most of the current grassed area untouched.

A member of the public asked if the play facilities could be built on the MOS1 land near the school instead. The Parish Clerk replied that this would have only limited play facilities on it and that other sites such as Barnes Lane Recreation Ground was fully used for football and cricket pitches.

Another member of the public commented that he had lived in the village all his life and the scheme was very good in his opinion and the community had a responsibility to provide somewhere for older children to play safely.

Cllr Goode commented that local businesses relied on footfall to survive and the Parish Council also had a responsibility to help attract visitors to the area. He also stated that the area around the school was difficult to access for many people in the village. He said the Parish Council always considered the views of families, businesses and other local residents when drawing up plans, as was demonstrated by the changes to the design of the new Beach Huts achieved by the Parish's lobbying.

Cllr Cowell commented that it was difficult for children to have a voice in the consultation process and there would be objections wherever play facilities were chosen to be located in the village.

A member of the public commented there had been a lot of dissent over plans for the Community Centre but this was now a huge asset to the village and that the number of replies to the play facilities survey was very commendable.

Cllr Taylor commented that the Councillors were representative of the whole village and that it was not possible to keep everyone happy all of the time.

The Parish Clerk said there were relatively few occurrences of vandalism in the village and there were more issues with other anti-social behaviour, such as dog-fouling. He said the seafront is an open site with lots of footfall.

A member of the public said that she was against the previously-proposed zip wire and skatepark but that as a grandparent she would welcome the additional equipment. The current facilities for toddlers were not suitable for children with disabilities, which the new equipment would be. She said she felt the Parish Council had made an effort to communicate.

A member of the public reported incidences of defensive driving of Sea Road as there was no white line in places which he felt was dangerous. Cllr Bishop agreed this was an issue would be raised with Highways Department at the County Council.

The Chair thanked the member of the public for their points and then introduced:

Sarah Pitt (Assistant Parish Clerk)

The Assistant Clerk reported that over the past year, the Parish Council has dealt with 114 Planning Applications. 59 Planning Applications were supported by the Parish Council and subsequently granted by NFDC. Five Applications were supported by the Parish Council but refused by NFDC and eight Applications were not supported by the Parish Council and also not granted by NFDC. Therefore there has largely been consensus between the Parish and District Councils.

Cllr Bishop said the proposals for the School Lane site provided 46 homes instead of the 30 stated in the current Local Plan. He said the District Council had been written to on this matter and on concerns on the location of the car park and drop off access point, as it was on a dangerous bend.

Cllr Goode said there should be a balance between proving developers with a return and providing homes for key workers and people with a connection to the village. The plot had been declassified from Green Belt land and it should be designed to bring the maximum benefit for the village.

A member of the public asked what was the proportion of affordable homes? Cllr Goode said there should be market rate houses priced lower and housing association managed rental properties but the details were unclear.

Cllr Bishop said the rules had recently changed and that developers were not obliged to include affordable housing if it was not viable to do so. Cllr Goode said a recent scheme – supported by the Parish Council - for 12 dwellings in the centre of the village, 4 of which were due to be affordable - had been recently blocked by the District Council as being too large and the revised scheme for 8 dwellings now had no affordable homes included. He said the Parish Council tried to influence the plans for the benefit of the village but this was not always possible.

A member of the public asked if the car parking on the road near the school could be addressed as it was dangerous.

Cllr Bishop commented that there had been a public meeting with the developer of the land north of Manor Road for 170 homes and that a copy of the plans had been requested by the Parish Council and should be forthcoming shortly.

A member of the public said that Milford-on-Sea Community Panel had recently launched a new charity to act as a networking organisation for voluntary groups in the parish. It would support any small voluntary group in terms of advice and structure and that over 20 groups were already affiliated.

There were no further questions so the Chair thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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Chairman

Dated:

DRAFT