

Next meetings

Planning - Monday 1st February, 1st March, Tuesday 6th April.

Parish Council - Monday 22nd February, 22nd March, 12th April.

Meetings are currently held on Zoom. The meeting link is available on the agenda from the website. Members of the public can speak for 3 minutes about agenda items—please contact the Parish Office if you would like to do this.

How to Report a Pothole or Fallen Tree

It's the time of year when potholes seem to appear overnight and trees can be blown down in the windy weather. There is a quick and easy way of reporting these issues to the County Council – just visit their website: **www.hants.gov.uk** and click on the "Report a road problem". You



can then select from a variety of issues including potholes, flooding or fallen trees. Enter in a few quick details and

the County Council will investigate and act accordingly.

Was Milford more Magical this Christmas?

The Parish Council would like to thank Diane Brushwood and Tracy Haupt for their hard work on the Christmas decorations in the centre of the village. Thanks to Simeon Morgan and his team for helping to erect the tree and Cllr Donald Darbishire for organizing the traders' trees. Many more people and organisations took part and thanks are also extended to



everyone who contributed. Tracy and Di are keen to receive feedback on the festive decorations, as planning for Christmas 2021 must start now. We would be very grateful if you could answer the

questions below, by 22nd February, To do this we need your suggestions and feedback, as soon as possible, so please tear off and return the questions below to the Parish Office or complete the survey online:

<https://forms.gle/uoUvbW9s7gs9qr5m7>

Q1. What did you like about this year's Christmas decorations?

Q2. What did you dislike about this year's Christmas decorations?

Q3. What would you like to see on the village green and around the village centre for Christmas 2021? (Please note that lights across the street are not possible due to height restrictions).

Thank you very much for your feedback.

MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Clerk: Graham Wells Asst. Parish Clerk: Sarah Pitt

Tel: 01590 644410

Website: milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email: clerk@milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk



January/ February 2021

Covid Lockdown Number 3

Due to the current pandemic, the Parish Office is currently closed to visitors. If you are isolating and require assistance from the Mutual Aid group, call the office on 01590 644410 and leave a message. We will return your call the next working day. You can also email the office: **clerk@milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk** or visit the website: **milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk**. Please note the change of email and web address.

Sea Wall update

Work on the sea wall repairs is nearing completion. All the large rock armour boulders are in place and the contractors



are tidying up the site. NFDC is in negotiations with the landowners to reinstate the footpath, which is hoped will be resolved in the coming weeks. NFDC has submitted funding applications to the Environment Agency for the next stage of

works and are now looking to start consultation with local community on the next phase. We will update you of this in future editions.

Hurst Spit to Lymington Project

The changing climate, rises in sea levels, and heavier rainfall poses a threat to our coastlines, rivers and the people and wildlife that live alongside them. In the New Forest, a 13km section of coast, from Hurst Spit in the west to the Lymington River in the east is currently being investigated to see what risks these threats bring, along with how and when actions may be taken to reduce them.

The Environment Agency is working with the Parish Council, NFDC, Hampshire County Council, Natural England, engineers JBA Consulting and other local groups and partners to assess the risks and seek opportunities to work with natural processes so we can continue enjoying this environment now and in the future.

The habitats and species of our coastline are of international importance and the rich biodiversity creates a stunning landscape attracting visitors, which is great for the local economy. The area is also

popular for activities such as walking, sailing and fishing. All of these things need to be sustained whilst adapting to natural changes and managing the risk of flooding. The Hurst Spit to Lymington project is setting out to achieve this.

The project is in its early stages and is likely to take many years, effort, and substantial funding to complete. Its aim is to create a future for this coastline that is acceptable to as many people as possible, whilst recognising that some challenging decisions may be required. To find out more visit the webpage <https://bit.ly/36FJY8b> to sign-up to updates and complete the online questionnaire.



Make sure you are registered to vote in the May local & Parish Council elections

On Thursday 6 May, residents in the New Forest District will be voting in elections for the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire County Council, and our Parish Council by-election. NFDC is already making plans to help you stay safe at the polling stations, and there are several ways to have your say in May:

- you can vote in a polling station
- you can vote by post
- you can appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf, known as a proxy vote.

To vote in the elections – either at a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf as your proxy – you must first be registered to vote, which can be done online in just 5



minutes. If you aren't already registered, you can register at:

<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

If you're thinking about voting by post, you can apply to do this now. This will make sure your application is processed early, and your postal vote can be sent to you more quickly once the candidates for the elections are confirmed.

To apply to vote by post, download, print and fill in the form from NFDC's website [https://newforest.gov.uk/media/173/Postal-Vote-Application-Form/pdf/Application to Vote by Post.pdf?m=637309366170170000](https://newforest.gov.uk/media/173/Postal-Vote-Application-Form/pdf/Application%20to%20Vote%20by%20Post.pdf?m=637309366170170000)

Once you have completed the form and signed it, send it to the electoral team at New Forest District Council, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, SO43 7PA or you can scan it and email it to:

electoralservices@nfdc.gov.uk

If you aren't able to cast your vote in person, you can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. To apply for a proxy vote, complete the form to vote by proxy <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-proxy>, explaining why you can't get to your polling station in person.

Caution urged over winter months for New Forest animal accidents

Commuters are urged to be vigilant as accidents involving animals in the Forest peak between 5pm and 8pm on weekdays in the winter months.

Low light, dazzling oncoming headlights and weather makes visibility poor. So it's encouraged to slow down from 40mph to 30mph, a move which adds only 3 extra minutes to most journeys but can drastically reduce accidents.

Last year, 159 New Forest animals – were involved in collisions. Most drivers involved in animal accidents are relatively local people on regular trips. The high-risk routes near Milford are:

B3054 from Lymington to Dibden Purlieu
B3055 from Brockenhurst to Sway

Accidents involving livestock, are required by law to be reported to police as soon as possible.

How drivers can help:

- Be ready to stop – animals can step out even when they've seen you approaching.
- Drive slowly, especially at night – there is a pool of darkness behind the headlights of approaching cars – an animal may be standing in it.
- Give animals a wide berth – cross to the other side of the road and be prepared to STOP.
- Grazing animals on both sides of the road? Take extra care as they may cross.
- One animal by the roadside means others are close by.
- Bends and tops of hills need more care – animals may be standing in the road out of sight.
- Reflective collars worn by some ponies may help you see them in the dark – be aware not all livestock have them.
- Deer can easily jump the fences alongside roads – and when there is one deer more will usually follow.



Census 2021

Households across the New Forest will soon be asked to take part in the 2021 Census.

The census happens only once every ten years and gives the Office for National Statistics the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.

It will be the first Census run mainly online and you'll get a letter to your household with a unique access code, allowing you to complete the questionnaire on your computer, phone or tablet.

Census information is used by charities, central and local government, and others, to put services and funding in the places where they are most needed. Which is why it is so important everyone takes part.

Census day will be on 21 March, 2021.

Households will get their letters with the online codes from early March.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. For more information, visit <https://census.gov.uk/>

New NFDC Planning Advice Available

The NFDC Planning Team has introduced a new Duty Planning Officer system.

The officer can assist you with simple questions such as:

- general advice on planning considerations and permitted development rights
- how to apply for pre-application advice and what this service involves
- how to apply for planning permission and general advice can be given on requirements for validating planning applications

The appointments are on the phone for 15 minutes and can be booked online 14 days in advance at <https://newforest.gov.uk/article/2001/Duty-Planner-Service>