

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 29th OF APRIL 2025.

Minutes of the 435th meeting of the Parish Council held **Monday 17th March 2025.**
In the Village Hall, Park Road

MEMBERS (p = present)

Mr. Bob Bishop	Mrs. Susan Pepper	p	Mr. Ian Bliss	p
Mrs. Christine Hopkins	Mr. Peter Jennions	p	Ms. Anne Cullen	p
Mrs. Patricia Banks	Mr. Donald Darbshire	p	Mr. Bernard Bennett	p
Mr. David Royle		p		

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Hawkins and Ward, County Cllr Carpenter
Roz Water (Lymington Times) and twelve (12) members of the public.

Parish Chair, Cllr Bernie Bennett welcomed everyone.

With the agreement of members, the Chair brought forward item 5 and relinquished the Chair to enable a planning meeting.

5 PLANNING MEETING/APPLICATIONS

Cllr Pepper Proposed Cllr Banks as Chair for the Planning Meeting. Cllr Hopkins seconded this proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour.

Four tree applications were discussed along with two planning applications.
Minutes of this meeting are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Banks closed the planning meeting and Cllr Bennett resumed as Chair of the Parish Council.

- 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr's Royle and Bennett declared an interest in item 8. Cllr Royle requested a dispensation. Members agreed unanimously to this.
Cllr Pepper declared an interest in item 9.
- 2. APOLOGIES:** Cllr Bishop and District Cllr Reid.
- 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mr. Ian Wollam for item 6f. Mrs. Gill Watson for item 9.
- 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2025:**
Cllr Hopkins proposed the minutes be adopted; Cllr Royle seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th January was a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.
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With the agreement of the members, the chair brought forward item 8 and relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Cllr Cullen.

8. LEASE PROPOSAL FOR MILFORD BOWLS CLUB:

Cllr Royle reported that a final lease had been drafted and agreed, subject to full Parish Council approval, by both the Parish Council's working group and the Bowls Club. In addition to the lease, a side-letter had also been agreed which refers to the current condition of the building. He reported that the Bowls Club were looking to secure a lease that ran for a minimum of 25 years to enable them to apply for funding in the future. Cllr Royle also reported that the Parish Council's Solicitor would be invited to review the final lease agreement to confirm that there were no outstanding items which should be included.

Cllr Darbshire thanked Cllr Royle for all the work he had undertaken on preparing the lease.

Cllr Bennett thanked the Bowls Club for their participation in agreeing to the lease proposals.

Cllr Hopkins proposed the Parish Council enter into a lease agreement with the Bowls Club for a term of 25 years which included a side letter explaining the condition of the building and the Parish Council's expectations on future repairs. Cllr Pepper seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council agree a 25-year lease with Milford Bowls Club which includes a side letter on the condition of the building.

Cllr Bennett resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

With the agreement of members, the Chair brought forward item 6f.

6f. A GRANT APPLICATION FROM HOME-START HAMPSHIRE

Mr. Ian Woolam introduced himself and reported that during the last year Home-Start had supported 3 families in Milford and 14 families in the New Forest. Currently funding is required to enable the organisation to train more volunteers. Money is also raised from the National Lottery, Children-in-Need, Towns and Parish Councils and it costs £1,300 to support a single family.

Ian confirmed that all staff are DBS checked and are fully aware of the limitations imposed upon them in some circumstances.

Cllr Pepper proposed awarding the £200 requested; Cllr Darbshire seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that £200 be awarded to Home-Start Hampshire from the Community Support Fund.

With the agreement of members, the Chair brought forward item 9.

9. SUPPORTING TRAFFIC SPEED RESTRICTIONS ON MANOR ROAD, NEW VALLEY ROAD AND BARNES LANE:

Mrs. Gill Watson introduced herself as a representative for residents living along Barnes Lane. She suggested that due to the increase in volume, speed of traffic and lack of footpaths on Barnes Lane and surrounding roads, the speed limit should be reduced in this area. She reported that Hampshire County Council (HCC) had recently introduced a policy enabling a request for this to happen and was seeking support from the Parish Council.

Cllr Darbshire suggested contacting the local police office for some additional guidance.

The Clerk suggested that HCC's policy required some criteria to be obtained prior to any application being submitted and suggested the Parish Council's Speed Indicator could be used to gather this information.

He also reported there is a cost of at least £10-£15k and there was no guarantee of success.

Cllr Bennett suggested obtaining the data and once this was done the Parish Council would consider the next phase of this process.

Subsequent note following the meeting:

Hampshire County Council's Highways team reported the following day, that a minimum of £30k would need to be secured for a speed restriction bid.

Item 5 previously discussed

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a/c) EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025:

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

Cllr Banks proposed the expenditure reports be approved; Cllr Cullen seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour that the Expenditure Report is accepted.

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

b/d) INCOME REPORT FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025:

The Clerk had, prior to the meeting, circulated copies of the Income Reports for the above period.

Cllr Cullen proposed the income reports be approved; Cllr Royle seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour that the Income Report is accepted.

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

e) GRANT APPLICATION FROM CITIZENS ADVICE:

The Clerk reported that a grant had been awarded to Citizen's advice most years.

Cllr Royle proposed awarding the £300 requested; Cllr Bliss seconded this proposal

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that £300 be awarded to Citizens Advice, New Forest from the Community Support Fund.

6f) Previously discussed

6g) 2025/2026 FORWARD PLANNING PROJECTS:

Prior to the meeting a list of proposed projects had been circulated. Chair of the finance committee, Cllr Royle, suggested the full Parish Council agree to the projects proposed by the Finance and Forward Planning Sub-Committee.

Cllr Pepper suggested that further information needed to be gathered before a decision on a Pétanque Terrain was agreed. The Clerk reported that a meeting with a contractor, to obtain a quote to construct a terrain was planned. Cllr Banks suggested this item be discussed at the next finance meeting when actual costs were available.

Cllr Royle reported that no confirmation had been received on the council's CIL bid for additional benches. He suggested however that this project proceed and the cost covered by sponsorship.

Cllr Cullen proposed that the remaining projects proceed; Cllr Darbishire seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following projects are completed in the 2025/26 financial year.

1. Two replacement benches along the Coast Road
2. Additional benches on Studland Common and Studland Meadow
3. Further extension of a new fence at Barnes Lane Recreation Ground
4. A sum of money to enable the development of the Community Meadow

6. CHAIRS REPORT:

The Parish Council Chair, Bernard Bennett, reported that Kenneth Cameron had resigned as a councillor due to ill health and that the co-option of two new councillors can start at the end of the month.

He also reported the land behind the church was now in the Parish Councils ownership and that there was a meeting the following week to discuss the development of this land.

Cllr Bennett also reported that the Planning Clerk, Niamh had returned to work following a prolonged illness.

Item 8 previously discussed

Item 9 previously discussed

10. WHEN TO FLY A FLAG ON THE VILLAGE GREEN:

The Clerk reported that prior to the meeting a request had been received to fly the Ukrainian Flag at this year's music festival. Cllr Hopkins suggested that Milford, along with most other local councils, had supported the situation in Ukraine and still do. However, she felt it was inappropriate to fly their flag at the music festival. Cllr Cullen suggested that flags in support of other countries were of equal importance, and it was difficult to draw a line between them all.

Cllr Bennett proposed that the Parish Council should remain neutral on this subject.

Members agreed unanimously with this position.

11. INDUCTION SCHEDULES FOR NEW COUNCILLORS AND EMPLOYEES:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated training schedules for new Councillors and Staff.

Cllr Cullen proposed that these be adopted. Cllr Banks seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that new training schedules for new Councillors and Employees are adopted as Parish Policies.

12. COUNCILLOR SURGERIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a potential list of dates for surgeries to take place.

Cllr Cullen suggested that a booking system might not be the best option as residents were used to coming to the office without an appointment. She suggested that Councillor Surgeries take place on a Saturday morning by two councillors at the same time and that the Parish Clerks did not need to be in attendance. She also suggested trialing this for a three-month period and that she and Cllr Pepper would start the process together.

13. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

County Councillor Carpenter reported that any decision affecting the parking at Keyhaven will continue despite potential devolution. However, she had no further information on when any changes will be implemented.

She reported that there were extensive discussions taking place on the restructuring of local government and it was likely that there would be three unitary authorities covering Hampshire.

District Councillor Ward reported that 46 beach hut licenses were being terminated and the owners had been informed. She also reported that NFDC had recommended not to undertake any further work along Hurst Spit. However, NFDC had written to the Secretary of State on this matter.

District Councillor Hawkins reported that he continued to support Milford at planning meetings and that he also was involved in the discussions on devolution and the restructuring of local government.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the planning minutes from **13th January 2025** and **3rd February 2025** for adoption.

Members voted unanimously in favour of adopting these minutes.

B. FINANCE & FORWARD PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:

The Parish Council received, for information, the minutes of the committee held on **24th February 2025**.

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

The Parish Council received, for information, the minutes of the committee held on **11th March 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.

E. MOS1 SUB-COMMITTEE:

A meeting to discuss MOS1 will be held when further information becomes available.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

16. **OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT:**

None.

The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 7.55pm.

..... Chair Date