

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 16th OF JUNE 2025.

Minutes of the 437th meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 19th May 2025.**
In the Village Hall, Park Road

AGM

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	
Mr. David Royle	Mr. Gary Fox	p		

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Carpenter
Roz Water (Lymington Times)

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

1. ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR:

Cllr Banks proposed Cllr Bennett remain as Chair to the Parish Council; Councillor Pepper seconded this proposal and Cllr Bennett agreed to remain as Chair.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Bernard Bennett is elected as Chair of the Parish Council.

2. ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR:

Cllr Bennett reported that Cllr Cullen was willing to stand as Vice-Chair and would accept nominations in her absence. Cllr Darbshire proposed Cllr Cullen; Cllr Bliss seconded this proposal
Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Anne Cullen is elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR TO THE FINANCE AND FORWARD PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Cllr Pepper proposed Cllr Royle; Cllr Bliss seconded this proposal.
Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr David Royle is elected as Chair of the Finance and Forward Planning Sub-Committee.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR TO THE FINANCE AND FORWARD PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Members agreed to elect the Vice-Chair to this sub-committee and the next finance meeting.

5. ELECTION OF OTHER SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICIALS AND PLANNING CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR:

Members agreed that the officials elected for all other committees would remain as they currently are and that officials be elected at the relevant Sub-Committee meetings when they meet during the next year.

6. CO-OPTION OF AN ADDITIONAL PARISH COUNCILLOR:

Following interviews for the co-option of an additional Parish Councillor the interview panel recommended Mr. Gary Fox be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Cllr Bennett Proposed Mr. Fox. Cllr Pepper seconded this proposal:

Members voted unanimously in favour and Mr. Fox signed his Acceptance of Office.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr. Gary Fox be Co-opted as a Councillor for Milford-on-Sea Parish Council.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Bliss declared an interest in item 15.

8. APOLOGIES: Cllr's Bishop & Cullen. District Cllrs Ward, Hawkins and Reid.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

10. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29th APRIL 2025:

Cllr Banks proposed the minutes be adopted; Cllr Hopkins seconded this proposal.

Members voted unanimously in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **29th APRIL 2025** was a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

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

Cllr Pepper highlighted the number of times a payment was made to Netserve. Cllr Darbishire suggested looking into a fixed monthly payment plan.

Cllr Bennet reported that the Assistant Clerk, Niamh Morrison, was investigating the cost of IT Support from the new Website provider. It was agreed to obtain a cost for an IT support package once the website was live.

Cllr Royle proposed the expenditure report be approved; Cllr Jennions seconded this proposal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. CHAIRS REPORT:

The Parish Council Chair, Bernard Bennett, reported that his photograph had been taken for the new website and encouraged Councillors to do the same.

He welcomed new Councillor Gary Fox to the Council and also thanked County Councillor Carpenter for all her efforts in helping resolve the parking issue at Keyhaven.

Cllr Bennett acknowledged that there had been a great deal of comments on social media regarding the proposed planning application for the old car wash and that this would be discussed at the next planning meeting on 2nd June.

He reported that drop-in sessions were starting at The Bridge relating to the Hurst Spit to Lymington Project.

Cllr Bennett reported that the Public Meeting being held on Wednesday 28th May had been well publicised and hoped all Councillors could attend on the evening.

13. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Prior to the meeting Cllr Cullen had circulated updated Terms of Reference for the Staffing Sub-Committee. Cllr Darbshire proposed these be adopted; Cllr Royle seconded this proposal.

It was RESOLVED that the updated May 2025 Terms of reference for the Staffing Sub-Committee are adopted.

14. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Cllr Banks reported that she, Cllr Hopkins and Planning Clerk Niamh Morrison, had visited a Pennyfarthing Homes Development in Fordingbridge on 30th April. She reported that it had been a very informative meeting and commented on what appeared to be an improvement in design in comparison with developments several years ago.

She reported that the proposed development north of Manor Road will be known as Swallowfields and not Swallowfields Park.

Cllr Banks reported that the Keyhaven Forum in the future will be attended by Cllr Cullen representing the Parish Council. In her absence, Cllr Banks reported on the meeting of 13th May which she had attended as a local resident.

15. AN UPDATE ON NFDC/PARISH COUNCIL WASTE BIN REVIEW:

The Clerk reported that he and the Assistant Clerk had recently met with officers from New Forest District Council (NFDC) to review waste bins, emptied by NFDC, located on Parish Council land and within the three Parish Council Play Parks.

He reported that in 2024/5 the cost to empty the waste bins rose from £420 per year to £5,700 per year and that in the financial year 2026/27 this would increase again to approx. £10,000.

NFDC had suggested that some of the Parish Council waste bins could be removed or replaced with bigger, more efficient bins and at the same time any new bins could be relocated to more appropriate locations.

Cllr Darbshire asked if the Parish Council would have to pay for any replacement bins and the Clerk confirmed this would be the case. However, he suggested that the cost of replacing bins would be offset by reduced and fewer time-consuming collections.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerks, along with assistance from NFDC Officers, to identify where and what size of bins could be replaced, and then report back to the full Parish Council with further details and costs.

16. DRAINAGE CULVERT AT THE SWIFTS:

Cllr Pepper reported that she had observed children playing in the drainage culvert at the southern end of the public open space at the swifts, close to the play area. She suggested that there was a drop of several feet that may cause an injury. She also suggested that the current fencing was easy for children to climb over or get between.

Cllr Fox suggested that the actual drainage pipe should be covered by grills and at the very least there should be warning signs in the location.

The Clerk reported that the land still belonged to Pennyfarthing Homes and that the current work to the drainage culvert was to ensure it complied with the planning application for The Swifts before it is passed to the District Council.

Cllr Darbshire suggested, even though this land does not belong to the Council, it has an obligation to inform Pennyfarthing Homes, NFDC and the School.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to inform all the above parties.

17. SETTING UP A SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE DEVOLUTION PROCESS:

On 28th April 2025 several Councillors and the Clerk attended a meeting on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution. Cllr Bennett suggested that this might have a bigger impact on Towns and Parish Councils than expected. He suggested that a new sub-committee be formed so that it can respond to any issues that affect Milford-on Sea Parish Council.

It was agreed to convene a meeting when further information becomes available and elect officials to the sub-committee at this meeting.

18. GATE SIGN AT THE COMMUNITY MEADOW:

Cllr Darbshire reported that the information on the brass plaque mounted on the southern gate is now out of date due to the acquisition of the land by the Parish Council. He also suggested that an extra plaque should be placed on the norther entrance gate
The Clerk agreed to arrange for updated plaques to be produced.

19. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

County Councillor Carpenter reported that a decision had been made by the Portfolio Holder at Hampshire County Council (HCC) to proceed with completing the parking restrictions at New Lane/Saltgrass Lane. She reported that there had been numerous discussions on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution. Cllr Carpenter suggested that if carers in Milford needed additional, informal support they could attend the “Care Café” in Hordle.

All three District Councillors had sent their apologies for absence and no reports had been received.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the planning minutes from **7th April 2025** for adoption.
Members voted unanimously in favour of adopting these minutes.

B. FINANCE & FORWARD PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:

The next Finance meeting is scheduled for **9th June 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.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

None received.

16. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT:

Cllr Pepper circulated a poster detailing the open event at the Community Meadow and encouraged as many Councillors as possible to attend if they could.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 7.35pm.

..... ChairDate