

MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

'The Old Clock House' ~ Milford-on-Sea ~ Hampshire ~ SO41 0QD



DRAFT

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE

Minutes of the 274th Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held:

Monday 14th November 2011 at 6.30 p.m.
In the Village Hall

MEMBERS p = Present ~ w = Working ~ h = Holiday ~ u = Unwell ~ b = Bereavement

Bob Bishop	p	Susan Whitlock	p	Julian Davis	Chris Willard	p
Jim Read	p	Paul Noble	p	David High	Peter Jennions	h
Ewan Brown	p	Tony Coleman	p	Sophie Beeton		p

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Anne Jenks – Chairman of the Milford Environment Group ~ 2 Residents Mr & Mrs Wolstencroft representing Keyhaven Road property owner ~ District Cllr. Michael Pemberton and Parish Clerk – Keith Metcalf

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that with the agreement of the members the following items would be brought forward following the preliminary items – 5e – Tree in Kingfisher Walk, 5f – Gaultheria Clearance and 5g – Wood Fuel Project.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Coleman declared a Personal Interest in items relating to Milford-on-Sea Bowling Club

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION No residents wished to speak at this point.

3. APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Cllr Davis (Family care) and Cllr Jennions (holiday)

With the approval of the members, the Chairman brought forward item 5e

5e. FELL OR HARD PRUNE SYCAMORE TREE IN KINGFISHER WALK – LAND OWNED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL – TREE OVERHANING PROPERTY FENCE & TOUCHING PROPERTY

Cllr Bishop asked Mr & Mrs Wolstencroft whether they wished to speak at this point. They declined. The Clerk said that the tree was a singleton on one side of the footpath and that it was overhanging the garden boundary and touching the property. There were no other trees on this side of the path, but there were many on the other side. Cllr Bishop invited the residents to speak. Mr Wolstencroft said that they had taken advice from an arboriculturist who had told them that they could remove overhanging branches on their side of the fence, but that this was likely to unbalance the tree. Mr Wolstencroft said that they would be happy for the tree to be either hard cut back or removed.

Following discussion, it was agreed that our Tree Warden would have a look at the tree and advise what course of action would be most appropriate and that this report would be looked at by the Planning Committee at their next meeting on the 28th November. Mr & Mrs Wolstencroft left the meeting.

With the approval of the members, the Chairman brought forward item 5f:

5f. FORESTRY COMMISSION - WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT TO MANAGE GAULTHERIA IN SHARVELLS COPSE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

Gaultheria: The Clerk reported that the Forestry Commission had agreed to fund (50%) of the costs to attempt to remove Gaultheria from Sharvells Copse and that they would pay a sum of £840 over four years towards this. The grant would cover the appointment of a licensed contractor to spray the plant with glyphosate from the season 2012/13 through till 2015/16 with two treatments proposed for the first season.

Cllr Bishop invited Mrs Anne Jenks – Chairman of Milford Environment Group whether she wished to speak. Mrs Jenks asked whether there might be a more appropriate herbicide specific to broadleaved trees. The Clerk will check this with the Forestry Commission.

The Chairman asked members if they would like to apply for this grant. Members agreed that an application should be made to treat gaultheria in the way proposed by the Forestry Commission over the next four years.

With the agreement of the members, the Chairman brought forward item 5g

5g. LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF SYCAMORE & NORWAY MAPLE UNDER A 'WOOD-FUEL' COPPICE/POLLARD SCHEME

Cllr Beeton had circulated a briefing note (Pleasure Grounds Wood Fuel Challenge – copies available from the Parish Office) to all members prior to the meeting. Some members had not had the opportunity to read the report so Cllr Beeton also gave her report verbally.

Cllrs Read and Whitlock raised concerns about the timing of the project and that heavy machinery might be required to harvest the wood commercially. Cllr Read said that in the longer-term he felt he could support the scheme, but not while there were so many other things happening within the Pleasure Grounds and Studland Common.

It was suggested that the Council might wish to employ woodland harvesting contractors when dead, dying or dangerous trees required removing. It was therefore agreed that where such trees were concerned the Council should encourage wood fuel contracting companies to fell and remove such trees at neutral cost to the Council and providing there is no damage to footpaths.

Following further discussion, Cllr Beeton proposed that the Council should further investigate a long-term wood-fuel management solution for sycamore in the woodlands and to look at how wood might be safely extracted without damaging the grounds and to assess the volume and economics of such a scheme. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Brown.

Cllr Bishop suggested an amendment to the proposal to defer consideration of any commercial extraction of wood from the Pleasure Grounds for twelve months. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Read. The amendment was carried by five (5) votes to four (4).

Mrs Jenks departed the meeting.

The Clerk said that an item had been omitted from the agenda, for which he required guidance. It was agreed that this matter could be raised and that the matter could be confirmed at a future meeting.

SHARVELLS COPSE FENCING

The Clerk reported that sections of the rustic fence had been removed, presumed stolen. Following discussion, it was noted that as the trees and shrubs along the road edges providing good cover, it was not necessary to replace the missing fence sections. No further action to be taken for the present.

4. MINUTES OF THE F & GP MEETING HELD 3rd OCTOBER 2011

Cllr Beeton proposed that the minutes be approved and adopted. Cllr Willard seconded this proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the F & GP meeting held 3rd October were a true record of that meeting and were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. EXPENDITURE REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2011

The expenditure reports for September and October 2011 had been circulated. Cllr Willard proposed that the Expenditure Report for September and October be adopted. Cllr Noble seconded this proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Expenditure Reports for **September and October** be approved as a true record of expenditure and were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman

b. **YEAR TO DATE INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD: APRIL TO AUGUST 2011**

		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>	April to October 2011	£93,630	£98,464
<u>Expenditure:</u>	April to October 2011	£59,156	£54,139

c. **BANK ACCOUNT STATEMENTS & RECONCILIATIONS**

Reconciled copies of the bank statements for the Parish Council Current and Money Manager bank accounts were circulated for information. The balances shown below exclude un-presented cheques and receipts at: **1st Nov. 2011**

<u>CURRENT ACCOUNT:</u>	Parish Council A/C	£ 180.34
<u>MONEY MANAGER A/C:</u>	Parish Council A/C	£84,380.67
	Total Bank:	£84,560.01

d. **BOWLING CLUB PROPOSAL FOR REPLACEMENT FENCING**

The Clerk reminded members that following the Bowling Clubs request to ask the Council to take over the ordering of the replacement fences, the matter needed formal approval of the F & GP committee. The Council had approved a grant of £350 towards the fencing and the Club was now prepared to contribute the difference of £1,736.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council would put this work in hand provided the Club nominated a Club member to oversee the day to day work of the appointed contractor. It was noted that the Clerk would find a suitable solution to retaining the small bush/hedge along the northern boundary.

Cllr Willard proposed that the Council place the order with G .Farwell Ltd. for the works to be put in hand and to ask the Club to remit their grant contribution of £1,736 towards the project. Cllr High seconded this proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** to have this work undertaken at the earliest opportunity with the Club providing someone to oversee the day-to-day operations.

- e. **SYCAMORE TREE IN KINGFISHER WALK** (See page 1231)
- f. **GAULTHERIA CLEARANCE** (See pages 1231 and 1232)
- g. **SYCAMORE & NORWAY MAPLE MANAGEMENT – WOOD FUEL OPTION** (See page 1232)
- h. **2012/2013 BUDGET MEETING DATES**

The following dates were agreed:

Tuesday 22nd November, Tuesday 29th November and Tuesday 13th December 2011 at 6.30pm and each meeting to be held in the Parish Office. All Parish Councillors are invited to attend.

The Clerk said that the projected expenditure for the present financial year (2011/12) would be provided at this first meeting.

6. **COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS**

The following community support grants were approved:

University of the Third Age – ‘The Maritime Bus’ Project:	£100
Oakhaven Hospice Trust	£300

It was noted that this concluded this years Community Support Budget.

7. **PROJECT REPORTS AND ACTIONS**

- a. **Bowling Club Draft Lease:** Should be back from Solicitors with advice in next week
- b. **Studland Common Replacement Bench:** The Last Post is making the oak seat at a special price of £200. The seat replicates one made by the Forestry Commission at Sturt Pond.
- c. **Kingfisher Walk seat:** The remedial work alongside the seat has now been undertaken by Keith Mitchell and there have been no further complaints

- d. **Tour Bus & Cycle Routes:** Working Group meeting in the Parish Office has been confirmed for Monday 12th December at 6.30pm. All Councillors are invited to attend.
- e. **Pedestrian Safety – Parking & Traffic Management:** Working Group meeting in the Parish Office on Monday 21st November at 6.30pm. All Parish Councillors are invited to attend.

8. PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT ON HCC LIBRARY SERVICE

It was noted that Nicola Horsey – HCC Assistant Director – Community, Culture, Communities and Business Services has invited the Parish Council to discussions on the longer-term local library service. Following discussion, it was agreed that subject to all parties being involved in local discussions, the Parish Council would be amenable to such talks.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter 25th October 2011 thanking the Council for the community support grant.

10. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Cllr Willard reported the following matters:

- a. White posts at Keyhaven green had been refurbished by a local resident
- b. Dragon’s Teeth missing from green (Clerk to resolve)
- c. No further action possible on replacement post box
- d. BT telephone parts on order and will be repaired soon

District Cllr Michael Pemberton thanked the Clerks for their help with the distribution of the Keyhaven Forum papers. Cllr Pemberton said that Colin Read – NFDC Environmental Services would attend the next meeting with the River Warden and that Pete Durnell – HCC Countryside Service Team leader would also attend.

Cllr Read said that the Parish Council should consider a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee project and that maybe the Millennium Clock could be relocated on a pole (similar to the new clock in New Milton).

It was noted that the Clerk has now completed personal training in the Lantra Awards ‘Basic Tree Survey & Inspection’ course.

The Chairman said that the local community themselves might resolve some of these matters.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Dated:

These Draft minutes have not been confirmed