

Milford-on-Sea Parish Council

Report by the Parish Clerk 2017 – 2018



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Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am – 12pm

Parish Clerk: Graham Wells

Asst. Parish Clerk: Sarah Pitt

Role of the Parish Council

The Parish Council is the custodian of land/property owned on behalf of its community. It manages:

- The Pleasure Grounds – Local Nature Reserve
- Sharvells Copse (Shorefields Copse) – Local Nature Reserve
- Centenary Copse
- Barnes Copse – Local Nature Reserve
- Studland Common – Local Nature Reserve and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Studland Common Grazing Field – Local Nature Reserve and SINC
- Studland Community Orchard
- Barnes Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion, sheds and grass cutting equipment
- Carrington Lane Play Park
- Swallow Drive/Grebe Close public open spaces
- Baskets Grazing Field (Keyhaven)
- Hordle Meadow Grazing field
- The Boltons public open space
- The Old Putting Green (Hurst Road)
- The Village Greens at Keyhaven and Milford-on-Sea
- The Bowling Club Green and Pavilion (The Bowling Club maintain and manage the facility)
- Dance Studio in Sea Road Car Park (managed by the VCCC)
- Bird Hide at Sturt Pond Nature Reserve (Managed by Milford Conservation Volunteers)

Contractors are appointed by the Parish Council to maintain all the above land and property (except where indicated). Hordle Grazing Field and the Sea Front Play Park are owned by the District Council but leased to the Parish Council who maintains them.

- Hordle Grazing Field
- The Hurst Road Seafront Play Park

The Parish Council employs two part time Clerks for a total of 44.5 hours per week.

The Parish Council Planning Committee makes valuable observations to the local planning authority (New Forest District Council and the National Park Authority), on every planning application and all Tree Work Orders for the Parish, which are taken into account by the relevant bodies when making their final decisions.

Finance

Producing the annual budget takes several months (including several working group meetings) and is then passed through to the full Parish Council Meeting, which is open to the public and to which residents are invited to attend and contribute to the process under a Public Participation Scheme (details of which are available from the Parish Office during normal office opening times).

The annual expenditure budget for 2017/18 was £177,442. For 2018/19 the expenditure budget has been set at £184,110. This sum covers **employment, property, administration, contracted general maintenance, sports facilities, projects, capital expenditure, community support village enhancements, and other grounds maintenance costs.**

Due to financial constraints being experienced across the country we have set a budget for 2018/19 that includes a minimal increase to meet the following requirements:

1. £10.0k Contingency for sponsored memorial seats (renovation & insurance over 20 years)
2. £3.10k Possible Parish Election
3. £5.00k Working Reserve
4. £7.50k Upgrade to “Toddler” Sea Front Play Area
5. £5.00k Community Support
6. £2.50k Revetment Work on the Dane Stream
7. £3.00k Removal of Dangerous Trees
8. £31.0k Enhancing and Maintaining Play Facilities (carried over from 2017/8)
9. £0.50k New Tourist Map

To meet the 2017/18 budget, the Parish Council needed a precept of £98,975 (the difference between income received by the Council from grazing rent, reclaimed VAT, grants and interest etc.) and the total expenditure for the year. This represented a 5% increase on the previous year’s precept to Milford-on-Sea Council Tax payers.

To meet the 2018/19 budget, the Parish Council needs a precept of £101,944, this equates to a 3% increase on the previous year.

Below is a summary of the proposed expenditure for 2018/19 compared with 2016/17 and 2017/18. The additional is being taken up through reserves held and windfall receipts.

	2016/ 17	2017/18	2018/19
Employment:			
Salaries – two part time staff	£26,944	£28,580	£30,686
National Insurance and Pensions	£ 7,224	£ 6,329	£7,133
Property:			
Rent, Rates, Insurance and Utilities	£13,076	£12,814	£13,180
Administration:			
Newsletters, Telephone & Broadband, Travel, Stationary, Photocopying, Community Support, Training, Audit, (Parish Elections 2015)	£13,710	£14,510	£14,660
Contracted General Maintenance:			
Grass & Hedge Cutting, Footpath Maintenance, Play Park Gardening and Tree Work	£21,140	£23,739	£23,739
Sports & Play Parks:			
Recreation Ground, Sea Front and Carrington Lane	£ 3,500	£ 5,560	£5,000
Capital Expenditure:			
Contingency	£ 1,000	£0	£0
Projects:			
Hanging Baskets, Seat Maintenance, Youth Activities, Loan Repayment, Lengthsman Scheme, Footpaths, Football Pitches & Enhanced Play Facilities	£46,268	£80,410	£84,712
Land Maintenance:			
Woodland/Common Management, Pond, Grazing Fields, Footpaths & Revetment	£ 6,000	£ 5,500	£5,000
Totals	£138,862	£177,442	£184,110

Parish Council Achievements in Partnership with Village Groups, Associations and Sponsors for 2017/2018 and Projects in the Pipeline for 2018/2019:

- 10-year Natural England Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) grazing agreement continues with the clearing of several scrub sections of Studland Common as well as stump grinding to all cleared areas.
- Continuation of a 10-year programme to manage the Upper & Lower Pleasure Grounds.
- Installation of new play equipment at Carrington Lane Play Park, re-levelling the football pitch and supply of new 5-a-side goals.
- Repairs to several pieces of play equipment at the Sea Front Toddler Play Park.
- Continued upgrade of footpaths, culverts, bridges, ditches and revetments in the Upper and Lower Pleasure Grounds.
- Additional play equipment at Milford Seafront expected before the 2018 Summer Holidays.
- Continuing to upgrade and repair the benches along the Cliff Top, Keyhaven and village centre.
- Major revetment work along the Danestream.
- Replacement of “Dragon’s Teeth” at Keyhaven.
- New Tourist Map for the Parish.
- Grants awarded to Milford Community Care Group, Compass Counselling, Milford, Community First Responders, SCARF, Victim Support, Milford-on-Sea Historical Record Society, Keyhaven War Memorial, Dementia Action Group.

Volunteers help extensively around the village in many ways. They spend many hours of their own time each year supporting the Council and enhancing community facilities. The Parish Council welcomes this support, which benefits the wider community and thanks those that give so much of their time so freely to the village.

The Parish Council is made up of 12 elected representatives, all of which serve a four year term.

Residents are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings and may address the committees in the public participation sections.

The Parish Newsletter is in the bi-monthly “Village Voice” and on our website
www.milfordonsea.org.uk

