

# 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 DECISION MEETING ON THE 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

Minutes of the **381st** decision meeting of the Parish Council held **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

It should be noted that due to the current Coronavirus situation this meeting was held via Zoom. The public were made aware of the agenda and link to the meeting

### MEMBERS

Mr. Bob Bishop	p	Mr. Matthew Goode	p	Mrs. Susan Whitlock	p
Mr. Tim Cowell		Mr. Peter Jennions	p	Mr. Josh Mantock	p
Mrs. Patricia Banks	p	Mr. Donald Darbshire	p	Mr. Tony Coleman	p
Mr. Kenneth Cameron		Mrs. Pauline Taylor	p	Ms. Anne Cullen	p

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Jon Crouch for item 7. Neil Peacock, Roger Whitefield, and Denis Robinson-Welch for Item 6.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Cowell & Cameron.

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

### 6. **THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING THE SEA WALL NEAR TO THE WHITE HOUSE:**

The Parish Clerk gave an update on the current situation regarding the partial collapse of the Sea Wall near to the White House and that a Skype meeting had been held with various interested parties on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. He reported that NFDC were coordinating this project and that information NFDC were able to supply was continuously changing. He also reported that at present the landowner, Proxima, were failing to engage in the process. The Clerk also reported he had discussed the financial options available with NFDC's Head of Finance.

The Chair requested comments from members of the Public.

Mr. Denis Robinson-Welch suggested that the District Council had taken too long in obtaining reports on the problem and that the whole of the collapsed section should be tackled at one time. He questioned NFDC's claim that it was just 50 homes that would be affected and that many other properties and facilities were in danger of being lost if no solution were found. He suggested that the sum of £100,000 being offered by the District Council was insufficient and that owners of the 50 homes identified by NFDC would find it difficult to raise the 1.179 million expected of them.

Mr. Neil Peacock suggested the wider community should engage in finding a solution and that there should be no further delays as bad weather could have a serious impact. He suggested that the current proposals given by NFDC were not workable and that they should be seeking additional funding from other agencies and that the Parish Council and residents should be actively encouraging NFDC to do so.

Roger Whitefield reported that additional funds were being made available by central government and that NFDC should be seeking to obtain some of this funding and suggested that if repairs to the groyne had been undertaken earlier this situation would not have arisen.

Cllr Bishop suggested there needed to be a clearer action plan and that all authorities should be engaging in finding a solution as quickly as possible.

Cllr Goode suggested there was some urgency in getting Proxima's involvement. Cllr's Taylor and Whitlock suggested the wider community be informed. Cllr Cullen suggested the final total cost might be far greater than reported.

District Cllr Hopkins reported that Proxima were refusing to engage in the process. Also, that other agencies need to contribute to the project, which meant affected residents may also have to contribute. District Cllr Hopkins reported that she was in full support of residents finding a solution to this issue.

District Cllr Hawkins reported that NFDC were looking at all available funding options and that both landowners and residents may have to find contributions to the project. He also suggested that a solution needed to be found before the winter was upon us.

County Cllr Carpenter reported that there were strategies and policies in place to which both County and District had to adhere to and the Shoreline Management Plan was accessible to members of the public. Also, that the NFDC was working towards obtaining as much external funding as possible.

Cllr Bishop reported that the Parish Council would continue to press for a solution and there was intense concern that action needed to take place very soon.

With the agreement of members, the Chair brought forward item 7.

**7. THE REQUEST TO ALLOW SEATING ON THE VILLAGE GREEN FOR CAFÉ BUSINESSES:**

Jon Crouch, owner of "The Cave", reported that currently businesses were operating at 25% - 30% of capacity due to current social distancing requirements and that his and other local businesses would not survive at this level. He suggested that the summer months were vital in the survival of businesses and requested permission to allow limited seating on the Village Green for this period. He agreed to take responsibility for additional waste, cleaning seating and tables, adhering to government guidelines and was aware that this arrangement would cease if conditions were not adhered to.

Cllr Darbshire suggested this was a fair request that should be supported. Cllrs Coleman, Jennions, Banks and Goode also supported this request subject to a more detailed proposal being submitted.

Cllr Taylor suggested that any proposal should not widely impact on the public use of the Village Green.

Cllr Bishop suggested that Mr. Crouch submit a detailed proposal to the Parish Council which it could consider quickly.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE:**

Members voted six (6) in favour, three (3) against and one (1) abstention.

It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on <b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b> was a true record of the meeting and were duly adopted and signed by the Chair.
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**5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**a) EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR JUNE 2020:**

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

Members had no further comments on expenditure items.

It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Expenditure Report for <b>June 2020</b> was a true record of expenditure.
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**b) INCOME REPORT FOR JUNE 2020:**

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

Members had no further comments on income items.

It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Income Report for <b>June 2020</b> was a true record of income.
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With the agreement of members, the Chair agreed discussion on a late Grant Application.

The Chair reported that a request for £600 had been received from a newly formed girls cricket club along with support letters from residents. Cllr Mantock suggested that equipment could be purchased for less than requested. Also, that grant application rules state that payment cannot be made to personal bank accounts.

Cllr's Goode, Taylor and Jennions suggested that further information be obtained and that an appropriate bank account be opened by the club.

The Clerk agreed to write and obtain additional information.

**8. THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING AN OPERA EVENT AT BARNES LANE RECREATION GROUND:**

Cllr Whitlock reported that usually this event would have taken place in the Community Centre but was not possible due to current restrictions. Confirmation had been gained from the Football and Cricket Clubs that Barnes Lane Recreation Ground was free on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> August. The Community Centre would take responsibility for managing the event and would comply with any restrictions currently in place, that offsite parking had been agreed and a contribution would be made to cover the use of the Pavilion. Councillors unanimously agreed that this event could take place subject to government guidelines being observed.

With the agreement of members, the Chair suggested discussing item 9 as the last item on the agenda.

**10. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

County Cllr Carpenter reported that the decision on library services would be made on 28<sup>th</sup> July and that it was very likely that Milford Library would become a community library which would receive some county support in the transition as well as being able to apply for grant funding. Also, she was due to meet with representatives of the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss the Hurst Spit to Lymington coastal frontage project.

District Cllr Hopkins reported that District Councillors had continued to work from home and was keen to receive any community engagement stories that were seen as positive during the current corona virus outbreak.

District Cllr Hawkins reported that he also had been busy at home responding to numerous e-mails and that he had used District Councillor allocations for food parcels to Milford residents.

**11. PROJECT LEADER/REPRESENTATIVE/CLERK REPORTS AND UPDATES:**

**A. Business, Education & Community**

Cllr Whitlock reported that the Community Centre would be open as soon as possible.

**B. Communication & Citizen Engagement**

Nothing to report.

**C. Building & Development**

Cllr Bishop reported that the Clerk would be contacting the developer regarding the play facilities to be installed. Cllr Banks suggested undertaking the public consultation on the land being transferred to the Parish Council by the end of the year.

**D. Environment & Open Spaces**

The Clerk reported that the Grazier had given notice that she would stop grazing cattle on Scholars Retreat and Studland Common & Meadow from 31.8.2020 but would keep Baskets Field if required.

**E. Groups & Societies**

The Chair introduced Stephen Tarling the Quadrant representative for the National Park. Stephen thanked the Parish Council for allowing him to join the meeting and thanked Cllr Banks for representing the Parish Council.

**F. Health & Wellbeing**

Cllr Mantock reported success in receiving grants of £2.5k for pitch improvements and £800 for club house repairs. He also reported that a further £9.5k had been applied for to obtain additional goals and equipment.

**G. Sea Front & Coastal Protection**

Cllr Taylor reported that users of the beach huts seemed to be ignoring social distancing rules.  
Cllr Bishop reported that the field owner from Milford to Barton had re-aligned much of the fence so that the public could walk along the coastal path and that this could be somehow acknowledged.  
Cllr Bishop suggested discussions should be had with NFDC regarding the poor condition of the sea front.

**H. Transportation & Infrastructure**

Nothing to report.

**I. Parish Employment**

Cllr Cullen Reported that 12 applications were received for the role and 4 candidates selected for interview. The interview process conducted on the 14/07 by Bob, Graham, Donald, and Anne. All candidates were asked identical questions and were invited to ask questions of the interviewing panel.

It was agreed that Josh Mantock was the stand-out candidate and should be offered the position. The Clerk reported that Josh Mantock had been made aware he would be unable to remain a Parish Councillor if he were a paid employee of the Parish Council. The Clerk also reported that appointing a new Councillors might not be possible until May 2021.

Members voted unanimously in favour of employing Josh Mantock as Parish Grounds Maintenance Operative.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council employ Mr. Joshua Mantock as Parish Groundsman on a 26-hour contract over four days per week. This employment to commence when Mr. Mantock had completed his current notice period.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None received.

13. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION:**

None received.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and **CLOSED** the meeting at 8.35pm.

..... Chair

.....Date