

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 21st SEPTEMBER 2020

Minutes of the **382nd** meeting of the Parish Council held **Monday 17th August 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	Ms. Anne Cullen	p
Mrs. Patricia Banks	p	Mr. Donald Darbishire	p	Mr. Tony Coleman	p
Mr. Kenneth Cameron					

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Graham Wells (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Fran Carpenter, District Cllr David Hawkins.
9 members of the public

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Keith Metcalf for items 8 and 9. Stephen Cannon and Paul Garton for item 7.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Cowell & Cameron. District Cllr Hopkins.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20th JULY:**
Members voted in favour of these minutes being approved.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th July 2020 was a true record of the meeting and were duly adopted and signed by the Chair.
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With the agreement of members, the Chair bought forward item 7.

7. **THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING THE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT “THE BOLTONS”:**
The Chair reminded members of the current situation which had been ongoing for over a year. The Parish Council were pressing Hampshire County Council (HCC) for a resolution as that there were still barriers erected behind properties 7 – 10.
County Cllr Carpenter reported that HCC had spent many hours on this issue and that the legal process was never going to be quick one.

A member of the public suggested that HCC would only be interested in the footpath and that residents might try to extend their gardens to its boundary and that HCC should insist that the land be restored to its former condition.

The Parish Clerk suggested he and the new groundsman assess the situation and begin the work shortly.

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

6. **THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING THE COLLAPSE OF THE SEA WALL NEAR TO “THE WHITE HOUSE”:**

The Chair reported that several meetings had taken place with the District Council and affected resident groups. Also, that members and residents had been in receipt of the Jacobs Report and several briefing notes which

highlighted the project plans and phases. New Forest District Council (NFDC) had submitted bids for funding and had underwritten these to the cost of £1.3 - £1.5million which would cover the expense of the first phase of works. However, there was concern that this still left a large gap unprotected until the next phase could be completed, potentially for a further two winters.

District Cllr Hawkins reported that work was due to start at some time in September with the supply of rock armor from the White House westward for approximately 170 metres as this was the urgent work required. A member of the public welcomed the additional funding that NFDC had underwritten but was alarmed that the whole section would not be completed at one time. This had left residents of Shingle Bank Drive and Needles Point in a state of uncertainty. Denis Robinson-Welch suggested that better communication between NFDC, residents and the wider community was needed and that a meeting should be convened with coastal engineers to discuss how the construction will proceed and the impact on the unprotected section.

Cllr Goode suggested that village residents needed to be suitably informed of the situation, especially as there was likely to be a funding gap.

District Cllr Hawkins agreed to forward information to be circulated and also agreed to press NFDC for a meeting to be held informing the wider community of the current situation.

With agreement of members the Chair bought forward item 8.

8. THE FUTURE OF GRAZING ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND:

The Clerk reported that recently the current Grazier, Sarah Harvey had decided to terminate the grazing contract. Following this, reports had been circulated with various options. The Clerk had also spoken to Sarah to ascertain whether she would continue with the contract if certain works were completed, including to prevent cows escaping, a new water feed and to tackle some residents' concerns. Sarah Harvey had agreed to this arrangement. It was suggested that sheep-wire fencing be erected to Studland Common and Meadow to prevent cattle escaping and that the Orchard be fenced off to prevent access to cattle. A new water feed be arranged for Scholars Retreat and new signage for gates and information boards be introduced. Members unanimously agreed to these proposals.

It was RESOLVED that Sarah Harvey continue grazing Parish Council Land and that new fencing, gates, water supply be installed paid for from grazing and HLS annual income.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR JULY 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 RESOLVED that the Expenditure Report for July 2020 was a true record of expenditure.

b) INCOME REPORT FOR JULY 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 RESOLVED that the Income Report for July 2020 was a true record of income.

9. AN UPDATE ON THE SEA WALL FROM KEYHAVEN TO LYMINGTON:

Cllr Banks reported that she and Cllr Cullen had attended this virtual meeting along with a number of other agencies, community groups and residents. Cllr Cullen reported that the forecasted rises in sea levels and future predictions on climate change posed a serious challenge for this stretch of coastal defence including Hurst Spit in the coming years. The project was at an early stage which still needed significant funding and further consultation. Cllr Banks had suggested that the Parish Council should be included in any future talks as a major contributor.

10. CAMPER VAN PARKING AT KEYHAVEN:

The Clerk reported that complaints were being received daily regarding camper van parking at Keyhaven close to the crabbing bridge. This was an annual occurrence which was particularly bad this year possibly due to camp sites not being open and the lack of parking restrictions at this location. He reported that the office staff were encouraging members of the public to report any environmental issues directly to NFDC.

County Cllr Carpenter reported that enforcement was aware of the situation.

Cllr Goode suggested introducing a height restriction and wondered what HCC policies were for parking in such areas.

County Cllr Carpenter agreed to enquire about the options for restricting parking at this location.

11. PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT NFDC DEVELOPMENT CONTROL MEETINGS:

Cllr Whitlock reported there were concerns that reports from NFDC Case Officers were now very brief and comments submitted by the Parish Council were having to rely on local knowledge without guidance from Case Officers. These reports, she suggested, had proven to be extremely helpful in the past. Cllr Whitlock suggested that each case should be dealt with on its own merit and confirmed comments made at NFDC planning meetings were heard sympathetically. Cllr Banks suggested that Parish Councillors needed to make their own decisions without too much guidance from Case Officers as these decisions were supposed to help Case Officers in their final decision.

District Cllr Hawkins suggested informing him of our concerns so that he could take this forward with the Head of NFDC Planning Dept.

12. THE FOOTPATH AT STURT POND:

The Clerk reported that with Cllr Bishop, County Cllr Carpenter, Mr. Keith Metcalf (MCV) he had visited the footpath from Sea Road Car Park to the end of Sturt Pond. This footpath is under the jurisdiction of HCC; however, Sturt Pond is managed by NFDC.

Mr. Metcalf reported that due to projected sea rises, as previously discussed, this would also affect the Sturt Pond Footpath and that in roughly 10 years' time the path might become impassable. Cllr Carpenter reported that she had informed the relevant County department of the issue, suggesting a possible board walk could be constructed and this was being considered.

13. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES:

The Clerk reported that once informed of a vacancy, the District Council issues a vacancy notice which gives electors the opportunity to call for an election and, in this case, electors have until 26th August to enact this request. Currently, should 10 electors request an election then the election cannot take place before 6th May 2021 and the vacancies would remain until this time. If an election is not requested then the Parish Council must co-opt at the earliest opportunity.

The Clerk reminded members that secret ballots were not permitted.

Cllr Jennions suggested that should interviews for co-option take place, then any Parish Councillor willing to participate should be able to do so. Cllr Bishop reported that was the case and that any recommendation by the "Interview Panel" would need to be agreed and resolved at a Parish Council meeting.

No further comments were received.

14. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

County Cllr Carpenter reported that there are currently two consultations being undertaken, the first is related to highways and the second on electric charging points.

The Clerk suggested that in recent correspondence from HCC it was felt that Milford-on-Sea did not warrant charging points at this time. Cllr Whitlock confirmed that this was due to relatively little off-street parking. Cllr Carpenter suggested that if enough residents request charging points then this might be reviewed.

District Cllr Hawkins reported that he also had been involved with Covid-19 task and finish groups.

15. PROJECT LEADER/REPRESENTATIVE/CLERK REPORTS AND UPDATES:

A. Business, Education & Community

Cllr Whitlock reported that the music event planned for Saturday 22nd was sold out and would run from 12pm – 3pm.

B. Communication & Citizen Engagement

The Clerk reported that the police were considering starting up a regular surgery again and would report back when more information was available.

C. Building & Development

Nothing to report.

D. Environment & Open Spaces

The Clerk reported that a broken storage area at Barnes Lane Recreation Ground had been cleared with the intention to erect a new log storage shed for the MCV. Clerk to report back when further discussions had taken place.

E. Groups & Societies

Nothing to report

F. Health & Wellbeing

Nothing to report.

G. Sea Front & Coastal Protection

Cllr Bishop suggested some work needed to be undertaken at the sea front by the District Council to make the area both safer and more appealing to visitors.

H. Transportation & Infrastructure

Cllr Jennions reported that since being repaired, there were a number of potholes near to the Downton Lane Junction that have reappeared. County Cllr Carpenter suggested these might be temporary repairs until a top dressing was applied.

I. Parish Employment

The Clerk reported that the new Groundsman, Josh Mantock had started his employment and was catching up with a backlog of tasks. Also, that he would be supplied with Parish Council branded T-shirt's and fleeces shortly.

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