



**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY of MILLAND**  
**Wednesday 10 April 2024 in Milland Memorial Hall**

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**PRESENT** Mrs. L Myles (LM) (in the Chair), Mr. J Parker (JP), Sir J Wigram (JW), Mrs. S Hoar (SH), Gillian Morton (GM) Johannes Wassenberg (JWa), Miss V Williams (Clerk) & 5 Members of the Public

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Cllr Louise Myles welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Councillors.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 12 April 2023.**

These have been on the Council website and displayed on the public notice board throughout the year. The Minutes were **Proposed** by Jeremy Parker and **Seconded** by Sue Hoar. Agreed and signed.

**3. Apologies**

Mr A Farley, Mr S Hall, Mr N Oldham, Cllr O Kelly (County Councillor) Cllr B Burkhart (District Councillor)

**4. Speaker – **Guy Parker** The Environment Agency - Technical specialist in groundwater flooding from Chalk aquifers.**

*Unfortunately, Guy was unable to attend but Cllr Parker presented his slides.*

**Flooding from Groundwater – see full presentation on the website**

**Topics covered:**

**Geological overview from Cretaceous period (150 million years ago)**

- The 'impact' of Africa on the Chalk downs of England and the continental drift which took place 50 million years ago. The collision of the plate with parts of Europe caused a ripple effect which created areas including the Chalk Hills of the South Downs.
- The changes in the Weald which wasn't as developed as it is today, took place 500,000 years ago. What exists now is the scarp of the North Downs forming a ridge of Chalk hills which connects Britain with the continent, resulting in the ground topography found today on both sides of the channel. 160,000 years ago the sea broke through the chalk bridge forming the channel.
- Further details on the Wealdon Group including the permeability and water storage capability of the layers of the Earth's crust are included in the presentation.

**Hydrogeology**

- The water in chalk flows primarily through the fractures & capillary action. Intergranular flow is limited due to small pore space. However, storage is quite high at around 40%. A Cubic metre of rock with 40% porosity will hold 400 litres of water.

**Milland**

- The water table of the chalk of the South Downs is in places 100m above sea level. Milland which is primarily Wealdon mudstone is at approx. 50m above sea level – leaving upwards of 50m of hydraulic head.

**Groundwater – who does what?**

- Sussex Resilience Forum is a category two responder that feeds into Central Government and all levels of response are regularly exercised for strategic function.
- In Hampshire and West Sussex the Environment Agency (EA) will develop, provide and maintain the warning service for flooding from rivers and the sea as well as from groundwater on the Chalk. Remote sensors strategically placed around the Country keep agencies informed in real time of the heights of the watercourses.

- Flood risk management authorities – Chichester District Council (CDC) and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) have responsibility for managing:
  - Coordination of flood risk management and account for flood risk when acting as the planning authority in their area.
  - The risk of flooding from surface water, **groundwater** and ordinary watercourses.
  - Community recovery from flooding.
  - A register of flood risk assets and surface water risk.
- Parish Councils have a responsibility for managing:
  - Community Emergency Volunteers.
  - Flood Warden (where applicable).
  - Flood / Winter plan.
  - Stores: sandbags, 2-way radios etc.
- Individuals have a responsibility for managing:
  - Flood Plans.
  - Property level resilience.
  - Sign up for any warnings available.
  - Riparian responsibilities land boundaries run to the middle of the river or the road.
- Riparian owners are responsible for the stretch of watercourse they own:
  - They must:
    - Let water flow naturally.
  - They should:
    - leave all other trees, branches and shrubs - they can help prevent flooding by varying the shape and flow of the channel and reduce erosion.
    - keep any trash screen, weir, mill gate or other structure clear.
- Further detail on the impact of flooding including sewage, flood risk management and groundwater flood resilience, including natural flood risk management, surface water flooding and natural flood prevention measures.

#### **Looking to the future**

- Groundwater and climate change – The EA predicts warmer, wetter and shorter winters as a result of:
  - Less recharge of the ground water in October to March.
  - More rapid recharge in December to February.
  - Top ups from extreme summer rain events.
- EA models provide some information of where money needs to be invested.

#### **5. Overview of 2023-24 – Chair Cllr Louise Myles**

##### **Councillors**

- We said goodbye to 3 of our Councillors at the election in May: Colin Stopher who has lived in the village for 30 years and served on the Council for 6 years, Julie Pilkington and Maureen Truss who had both been councillors for 4 years.
- During the course of the year we have been very fortunate in co-opting four new councillors who represent wider areas of the village and bring new skills and interests to the Council. We would like to extend our thanks to Nigel Oldham, Gillian Morton, Johannes Wassenberg and Seb Hall for stepping up to become Councillors.

##### **Broadband**

- Cllr John Wigram's determination has been rewarded and Open Reach vans have been a regular feature of village life during these past few months. Open Reach tell us that approximately a third of homes in the village should already be connected, 64 are in the process of being connected and we hope the remaining homes should all be connected by the end of August.



Whilst this is slightly later than originally stated it is a good result given all the difficulties encountered along the way.

- Cllr Wigram did point out at the meeting that the process had not been as smooth as he had hoped and certain properties within the Parish had encountered more issues than anticipated.

#### **Annual Spring Clean**

- The Annual Spring clean of the village took place again in March and thanks go to everyone who helped on that day. As noted last year the continued increase in litter was noticeable as traffic has increased and particularly worrying was the number of discarded alcohol bottles along the roadside.

#### **Traffic calming**

- Concern had been highlighted by residents regarding the speed of certain vehicles driving in the Parish especially in relation to Fernhurst Road and Borden Wood. During the year discussions have been held with WSCC Highways to discuss potential Traffic Control Measures including 20 mph restrictions in both areas and village 'gates' for Borden Wood. Work will continue throughout 2024 to explore how speeds can be reduced in both areas.

#### **Milland Lane Water-related issues**

- Everyone will have noticed that water has become an unwelcome feature of Milland Lane in the last few months. The water leaking from the spring in Milland Lane was not improved following initial remedial work carried out by WSCC Highways and it continues to pour out. In addition, many of the drains and ditches down the length of the Lane have not been cleared and significantly reduce the dispersal of water which ends up on the Lane or in peoples' gardens. The Parish Council, along with affected residents conducted a detailed survey of the water and associated problems along the length of Milland Lane and have advised local landowners and WSCC Highways of the need to take urgent action. County Councillor Kate O'Kelly's assistance had been enlisted to help get action from WSCC Highways. Much of the work required by the Hollycombe Estate has now been carried out but we are still awaiting Trippets to clear their ditches.

#### **Parking on Cartersland**

- Increased parking on Cartersland has become a problem and is causing damage to the wildflower meadow. Quotes have been obtained for the remediation work needed for the damaged parking area including erecting a low fence around the permitted parking area. An application will be made to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for a grant as part payment for the work.

#### **Kings Coronation Lunch in May**

- Thanks to a fantastic committee of volunteers the King's Coronation lunch was a great success. Funds raised by the event will be used to fund an outdoor table tennis table in the corner of the recreation field by the flagpole and cherry tree where its close proximity to the shop will encourage maximum use. The table will be installed when the weather improves.

#### **Defibrillator**

- Having taken over full financial responsibility for looking after the defibrillator we are delighted to report that it was used successfully last summer, saving the life of someone in need. The recipient's family has kindly made a donation towards upkeep of the defibrillator. We will be organising further training during 2024 for residents of the village.

#### **New West Sussex Flag**

- The Parish received a donation from the disbanding of the Garden Club and it was used to buy a new West Sussex flag for the village.



### **Queen's Green Canopy plaque**

- To mark the Jubilee our local Griffin's Nursery kindly donated a 20' oak tree which was planted in the Rec last year and a plaque was fitted this year to commemorate the event.

### **Bonfire Committee contribution to the Recreation Field**

- We would like to thank the Bonfire committee for their generous donation towards the upkeep and repair of the rec and children's play area.

### **Hollycombe**

- Three Councillors attended a presentation by the developers regarding the proposed planning application by the new owner.
- The emphasis was on restoration of both the grounds and the house including:
  - Recreating the parkland areas.
  - Rebuilding 2 previously demolished wings of the house.
  - Restoring the house to its original state.
  - Intention to create a carbon neutral property.

### **Enhancing our Community**

- The Council have undertaken a number of initiatives to improve life within the village including:
  - **Meet Ups:** bimonthly meetings in the shop/café for villagers to catch up with neighbours, meet Parish Councillors and share whatever is on their mind.
  - **Welcome Pack:** to be distributed to all who move into the village to provide details of what goes on in the village and how to join in.
  - **Tech recycle:** another collection of unwanted IT equipment and mobile phones is imminent. All equipment collected is sent for safe, professional and ethical recycling with secure and certified data destruction included.
- We welcome suggestions for other initiatives that help the village in the following ways.
  - Support vulnerable groups (eg elderly, carless, lonely).
  - Foster a sense of community (more activities for villagers to join in with/do together).
  - Solve specific problems (eg traffic calming).
  - Improve the village environment/sustainability.

## **6. County and District Councillor Reports**

- a. Report from County Councillor – Kate O'Kelly – Full Report Attached

Points covered:

- Highways
- Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) Committee Update
- Full Council
  - One Motion on property disposal
  - The second Motion was on Digital Exclusion
- Education

- b. Report from District Councillor – Brett Burkhart – Full Report Attached

- Elections
- Sewage
- Local Plan
- Funding for GPs
- Electrification on Waste Fleets
- Budget overview

## 7. Planning Report – Jeremy Parker – Chair of The Planning Committee

- Cllr Parker reported that 2023-24 saw another quiet year for planning within the Parish with few contentious applications.
- Cllr Parker briefly summarised the status of the larger / more complicated applications within the Parish prior to a summary of the applications of interest in very local / neighbouring parishes:
  - **St Cuthman’s** (Wispers) recently purchased by a development company who are looking to develop the site and existing buildings into 26 new properties. Although just beyond the Parish border Milland Planning Committee objected based on the factors that would directly affect it:
    - Access
    - Lack of Affordable Housing
    - Increased traffic
  - **Hollycombe House** the new owner is looking to restore two previously demolished wings to their original state. There is also an intention to carry out extensive landscaping work and sustainable energy provision including solar panels. Following a public consultation attended by a number of Councillors, it was felt that this was a well prepared and positive project.
  - **Significant housing allocation in Liphook** (current proposals for 110 houses in various locations). This, it was felt, would have a significant impact on Milland Parish due to the pressure on roads and infrastructure.
  - **Farnborough airport** – expansion of the quantity and permitted size of aircraft using the airport. The flight path cone for approach to the airport was previously narrowed to enable an easier, more economical and environmentally friendly approach. Milland is on the edge of the cone and therefore largely unaffected. The application is being considered and the Parish has been kept informed throughout the application.

### **Neighbourhood Plan Summary**

- Cllr Parker stated that the Milland Neighbourhood Development Plan (MNDP), published in 2016 and reviewed in 2021, was still an important document in the planning decision process.
- Two policies which are regularly discussed by the Planning committee are:
  - Loss of small homes.
  - Multigenerational living, whilst providing some benefits, can be at variance with the above policy.
- Any applications which may contravene these policies are therefore looked at case by case.

## 9. Finance Report – Full Report Attached

### **Milland Parish Council**

- Precept for 2023-24:           **£35,416**
  - Precept for 2024-25:           **£35,442**
- This reflected an increase of **£26** and less than **1%**
- Total Gross Payments - **£29,910**
  - Total Receipts - **£42,616**

### **Overview of the year:**

- It has been another full financial year following the very busy Jubilee year and we again had a royal celebration for the King’s Coronation. Thanks as always to the wonderful committee who made it happen by raising considerable funds and putting on a fabulous show!
- Once again the Councillors were conscious of the ongoing economic uncertainty and worked hard to keep the increase to the precept to a bare minimum. They achieved this brilliantly and kept the



rise to less than 1% and at the same time built reserves thus ensuring the availability of funds for the necessary projects.

- We have seen a rise in the need for the Council to assist with miscellaneous hedging, ditching and verge maintenance particularly in view of another wet winter and ongoing issues with flooding and damage to the roads. A massive thanks to Rob Findlay for all he does for these projects. I am hoping that if we are successful with our Op Watershed Application we will also see some improvements to our roads.

#### **Expression of Thanks:**

- To all Councillors for their time, hard work and engagement.
- To Rob Findlay for his management of the Recreation Field and ongoing maintenance of the Parish.
- To Becks Fairhurst, Alison Arnott and the rest of the fabulous Coronation nee Jubilee Committee who put in a tremendous amount of work organising the fantastic King's Coronation event.

#### **Recreation Field**

**Total Gross Payments: £3,892**

**Total Receipts: £9,545**

Summary of Payments:

- Maintenance **£3,502**
- Administration (bins, RoSPA Inspection, Moles) **£357**

Summary of Receipts:

- VAT Reclaim **£2,645**
- Bonfire Committee Grants **£1,400**
- MPC Grants **£5,500**

**Closing Balance £9,942**

#### **Recreation Field Summary**

- The inclement weather has meant it has been a more difficult year for the field upkeep. Rob Findlay, despite these conditions, did a wonderful job keeping it looking fantastic.
- The Queen's Green Canopy tree, kindly donated by Griffin's nursery, is thriving and the addition of the official plaque made it look even more regal!
- I am aware that the bonfire clean-up has not been as smooth this year but I can assure that I have regular contact with the Bonfire Committee who are ready to finish the site clearance if it ever stops raining!

#### **10. Looking Ahead to 2024-25**

##### **Defibrillator training**

- To be held at the Milland Valley Memorial Hall on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 1730-1930

##### **Online Safety presentation by Sussex Police**

- We will be arranging for a presentation from the Cyber Protect Officer for Surrey and Sussex Police whose role is to proactively make our communities Cyber Resilient and to massively reduce their chance of becoming a victim of Online Fraud and Cyber Crime. A date will be agreed in the near future and we will promote it via the digital screen, Village WhatsApp group and email list and if possible via MVN



### **Footpath Map**

- Cllrs Parker and Wassenberg are preparing a map of all footpaths in the village to ensure that we can keep a record of how well they are maintained and whether/when work is required.

### **Traffic Calming**

- We look forward to progressing the speed reduction ideas for the Fernhurst Road and Borden Wood.

### **Milland Lane**

- We look forward to resolving the drainage and leakage issues with WSCC Highways very shortly.

## **11. Questions from the Audience**

### **Cartersland Wildflower Meadow Overview**

The Autumn 2023 'cut and collect' mow did not take place due to SDNPA availability and the extremely wet conditions. The wildflower committee acknowledge that this was not an ideal outcome but have since had a meeting with the new SDNPA ranger and a plan is being put in place to ensure that the cuts do take place in the future.

## **12. Summary and Closure**

- The PC will continue to meet and work hard for the Community.
- If you have ideas for improving the Parish or would like to start a community group in Milland please let us know – our role as a Council is to do our very best to make living here as good as it can be for everyone.
- Thank you for coming!

Conclusion of meeting 8.15pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

*These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman*



## Reports

### County Report for Milland Annual Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### Highways

This is the overriding issue and dominates my inbox. The recent period has involved unprecedented amount of rain and the state of roads across the County is shocking. The Cabinet member for Highways assures us all that they have invested in better kit including the new jet patchers and they are having more roving teams who repair defects and will look to repair the nearby defects at the same time. This is a continual gripe for residents as historically if the nearby defects weren't bad enough they were left unrepaired.

It is a story of long term under investment in maintenance and budget pressures on Adults and childrens services. Our group have been advocating more budget to maintenance but also more capital allocated to Operation Watershed which is the fund that parishes can apply to, to investigate flooding and poor drainage issues. If these are resolved then the Highway is less likely to break down with potholes as we have seen.

I have been working with Viki to report and highlight issues related to Highways across the parish, do keep letting me know what is occurring so I can put more pressure on them to respond. The context is a very large county and they have had significant staffing issues in the team I am told, with one senior area manager leaving recently at short notice.

I have a meeting at Hollycombe Primary School next week to discuss the safety issues related to parking at school pick up time.

#### HASC

I sit on the health and adults social care committee at WSCC, we recently scrutinised the downgrade by CQC from Outstanding to Requires Improvement at St Richards, we also reviewed the update on the ambulance service.

The health leaders are working to decrease the backlog of waiting times for planned surgery, the ambulance service presented their improvement plans. They have made significant progress related to their Category 2 (heart attack and Stroke) emergency response times. The cancer referral to diagnosis times have improved but the time to treatment is still in many cases taking longer than their target.

The leaders admitted the backlog for planned treatment and for emergency treatment was causing significant harm.

#### Full Council

At our Full Council in March we debated 2 motions.

##### **One Motion on property disposal**

Calling for more coordination with local planning authority and more engagement with local members and stakeholders prior to these decisions being made.

##### **The second Motion was on Digital Exclusion**





Committing the council to commit more focus to identifying digital excluded groups who tend to be more vulnerable and improving their access to services.

This was unanimously agreed.

### **Education**

Finally the education team have a proposal to relocate Jessie Younghusband school to a new school at Minerva Heights. The decision has been made to proceed to statutory consultation. This decision is largely driven by cost and the urgent need for SEND places.

There is however a big disruption to children parents and the wider community in North and West of Chi with this proposed change.



## **District Report for Milland Annual Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Last year's May elections voted in a significant majority Liberal Democrat Council administration at Chichester District Council. 5 Conservative Councillors, 4 Selsey Alliance and 2 Green Councillors were also voted in. This has brought about a shift in stance in the way the Council is spending taxpayers' money.

Sewage is still a problem: intermittently being released into Chichester Harbour. Everyone, including local MP, Gillian Keegan, is trying to put pressure on Southern Water to rectify this, which will take time and a great deal of investment.

The Local Plan was inherited by the new administration in May 2023 and it was ready to go. However, the new administration wanted to ponder it further, and in the meantime new measures from Highways have been required. Gillian Keegan stepped in to resolve these measures, but this took time. This means that the Local Plan is still not submitted, leaving our area subject to speculative development of hundreds of unwanted houses in the wrong places.

We are still waiting to see how the new administration will achieve the promised reduction in waiting time at doctors' surgeries.

The electrification of the waste fleet at the Contract Services Depot is ongoing. The trial of 2 electrified rubbish trucks purchased in recent years has shown that they are expensive and not yet reliable enough. Regardless, two more rubbish trucks have been ordered.

The good news is that £550,000 has been added to reserves. Much of this comes from the fact that government has increased its Grant to Chichester District Council. Some of the rest of the money may be coming from the disappointing extension of the Parking Charges in our Rural Areas to include Sundays in places like Midhurst. We are a Rural district and should be protecting the working vibrancy of the Rural area.

All in all, as a Council, we are still in a good financial position due to the prudent work of Councillors and Officers over many years.

Brett Burkhart

Chichester District Councillor, Fernhurst Ward



## Financial Report

Precept for 2023-24: **£35,416**

Precept for 2024-25: **£35,442**

This reflected an increase of **£26** and less than **1%**

Total Gross Payments - **£29,910**

### **Expenses Summary**

- Village maintenance including extensive work to the ditches, hedging, mowing and general upkeep **£2,995**
- Queen's Green Canopy Plaque **£148**
- New Flags **£219**
- Defibrillator pads **£72**
- Admin Expenses **£151**
- Hall Hire **£152**
- Accountants, Internal and External Audit **£727**
- Uncontested Election **£267**

**Public Works Loans x 4 - Milland Stores balance - £ (total payment £4,330)**

### **Grants:**

- Recreation Field maintenance & renewals **£6,250**
- Cartersland Wildflower Group **£200**
- Churchyards **£600**
- Cartersland Christmas Lights **£80**

### **Donations:**

- Air Ambulance **£100**

### **Subscriptions:**

- West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) **£295**
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) **£35**
- SLCC **£188**
- Open Spaces Society **£45**
- Action in Rural Sussex **£60** (Total Sub of £120 shared with Milland Valley Memorial Hall)

### **Other:**

- Website and Email hosting **£193**
- IT support and Security **£120**
- Clerks Salary **£8,963**
- PAYE **£53**
- Insurance **£610**

### **Ringfenced funds:**

- Tennis courts resurfacing fund **£4,923**
- Defibrillator Fund **£2,311**
- King's Coronation Fund **£1,045**



**2023-24 VAT reclaim will be £516**

**Receipts:**

As well as the precept the Parish Council received:

- Milland Tennis Club **£2,500**
- VAT refund of **£1,158.33**
- Grant from Milland Gardening Club used for new flag and sundries **£284**
- Queen's Jubilee Committee **£2,783**
- Donation to Defibrillator Fund **£250**

Total Available Funds 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 **£32,528**

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**Recreation Field Summary**

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