

MILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr. Jeremy Parker
Clerk: Mrs. Lorraine Grocott, BEM
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MINUTES of the Meeting of MILLAND PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday, 3rd September 2020 in Milland Memorial Hall

Present: Mr. J Parker (in the Chair), Mr. M Cusack, Mr. C Stopher, Mrs. M Truss
 Cllr Dr K O’Kelly, County Councillor
 One Member of the Public – Mr. Rob Findlay

840. Apologies – Mr N Cartwright, Mr A Farley, Sir J Wigram, Mrs S Hoar, Mrs J Pilkington

841. Minutes of the Meeting 2nd July 2020 –
 Approval proposed by Mrs M Truss and seconded by Mr C Stopher.

842. Declaration of personal or prejudicial interests –
 a) Item 9. VE/VJ Day – Mr Parker is secretary of the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

843. County Councillor’s report – Dr Kate O’Kelly

1. WSCC Covid Update

In the 14 days between 17th to 30th August, 105 people in West Sussex tested positive for the coronavirus. This has increased over the last month, 51 people tested positive over the 14 -day period 4th to 17th August. Almost a third of all people testing positive during this period were residents of Mid Sussex (33 positive cases). 10 in Chichester over the last week.

In terms of a rate per 100,000 population over the latest 14-day period the rate in West Sussex was 12 per 100,000, this is approximately half the national rate. The rate in Mid Sussex is like the national rate. But the level of Pillar 2 (community) testing being undertaken in the county is now decreasing, and this may impact the number of positive cases being identified. Capacity for testing has decreased for West Sussex as they are prioritising lab testing for other areas with higher prevalence. Concern that this will mean that we might be late to spot an outbreak.

We have had our first meeting of the Councillor group scrutinising the local outbreak plan. Our Public Health team assured me they are now receiving enough detailed data about individual cases.

CDC team are working with the WSCC and ready to work on any local outbreaks.

2. Local Testing

As part of the Government’s UK-wide drive to increase accessibility to testing, the Department of Health and Social Care is to begin work this week on a new drive-in COVID-19 testing centre at Tangmere airfield.

The new facility will provide regional testing capacity for the government’s Test and Trace scheme. Testing will also continue to be conducted at the Gatwick regional testing centre, as well as at mobile testing units and through home delivery kits.

The new testing centre is expected to open on Friday, 4 September.

West Sussex residents with symptoms of COVID-19 should continue to request a free test for the virus at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

3. Cycling

Rother Valley Way progress meeting – SDNPA have allocated more funds and more officer time. Hope to see more progress on this over the next few months.

Midhurst Green Way – WSCC have asked stakeholders for their feedback on the outline plans.

Tranche 1 Government funding for seven emergency temporary cycleway schemes in West Sussex has been approved by the Department for Transport. The CDC scheme in Chichester has been completed. Looking for feedback from residents For the second tranche of Government funding a bid has been submitted. I am sitting on the County Member group looking at the government funded cycling schemes which includes reviewing the impact of the schemes.

https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/eatfchichester/consult_view/

4. Full Council

WSCC Full Council on 17th July. The Council discussed their plans for Reset – what they want to do, and Reboot – How they intend to do it. I added an amendment to the recommendations such that climate change needs to be an overarching theme – this was agreed. The financial challenges are considerable – predicted deficit in year budget £34m but that was prior to the latest announcements from more Gov funding. They predict this latest funding will improve the situation but is unlikely to be enough to remove the estimated deficit entirely. Main problem is National funding goal posts keep moving and big decisions on future funding deferred.

844. Public Participation – Mr Findlay expressed his concerns about the distance residents had to go for Covid testing.

845. Matters arising – Mr Jeremy Parker

Item 830 No.4 SSALC – Effective Communications and Engagement in a Post-Lockdown World in July. The session was about the increasing role of social media but for this Council it would involve significant expense, including making the Council’s website mobile friendly.

Item 835. Email addresses for residents. The Council is proposing to send out news updates using these addresses. To ensure that the Council is compliant with GDPR it will need to send out an email asking residents for Consent for their information to held by the Council to be used for this purpose. The Assistant Clerk, Ms V Williams was asked to action this.

Item 836. SSE repairs to the road surface – The Council is pleased with the repairs done along the Rake Road by SSE. The Clerk was asked to remind Highways that they have agreed to including in their works programme the repairs to the opposite side of Rake Road.

Item 838b). Rights of Way inspection was carried out in July. Local information on problems were provided. The Rights of Way Officer has provided an update on the issues raised and the action to be taken. He will be in contact with landowners/farmers regarding stiles and other issues. Several signs and planks need replacing.

Item 838©. Tullecombe Cycle Trail – The problem of cyclists parking at the crossroads has now stopped due to a new car park being created at the top of the hill, however there are concerns about possibly collision because the cyclists have to come down through the Sussex Path. BIKEPARK are considering relocating parts of the trail and installing warning signs.

Highways are going to replace the culvert under the road which should stop the flooding.

CS asked if BIKEPARK could discourage cyclists parking in the small bay at the junction.

The Clerk was asked to raise this with the Clerk at Rogate PC.

Minutes of Milland Parish Council meeting 3rd September 2020

846. Finance report – L. Grocott

Milland Parish Council	Statement - Sept 2020						
Balance b/f	18.6.2020			29420.83			
Receipts	18.6.20-2.9.20		nil				
Payments 26.5.20-2.9.20	18.6.20-2.9.20			-6567.85			
				22852.98			
Payments for approval	3.9.2020						
R Findlay	Hedging Opp Durrants pond	112.00		OL225	P	112.00	OpenSp
L Grocott P.5 31.8 (5)	Sal £972.50; Office £62.50 P.5	840.60		OL226	P	840.60	LGA72
HMRC 31.8 (5)	PAYE P.5	194.40		OL227	P	194.40	LGA72
L Grocott P.6 30.9 (6)	Sal £972.50; Office £62.50 P.6	840.40		OL228	P	840.40	LGA72
HMRC 31.9 (6)	PAYE P.6	194.60		OL229	P	194.60	LGA72
V Williams 30.9 (6)	Sal Taxable Pay £982.11 (£462.11) P.6	462.11		OL230	P	462.11	LGA72
HMRC 30.9 (6)	PAYE P.6	tbc		OL231			LGA72
HMRC; NI; Pension (6)	NI £22.81; Post Tax Pension £18.48	tbc					
Rec Field	Maintenance 2/2	2250.00		transfer	P	2250.00	OpenSp
Rec Fld	Administration	250.00		transfer	P	250.00	OpenSp
Linch PCC	Churchyard Maint Mil/lpg/Linch	225.00		OL232	P	225.00	OpenSp
Donations	Samaritans, CAB, Air Ambulance	150.00		-5519.11	OL233/34/35 P	150.00	GPoC
	Estimate Balance			17333.87		5519.11	
	Less Ringfenced Funds			-11420.00			
	Available funds			£5,435.16			
Ringfenced funds				2nd half Precept due 17 September 2020 £18880.00			
MTC Resurfacing fund		£3,070.00					
Clerks Gratuity		£8,350.00					
Total Ringfenced		£11,420.00					

P - Precept; O-Outside Precept; E-Excess of Precept

These payments were approved.

Other matters: -

- The Clerk has been in contact with Moore the External Auditors in Peterborough. They have advised that the accounts have passed the first phase and have been forward to the senior auditor for signing off. Confirmation is expected in October.
- NALC has published the national salary pay scales for clerks effective from 1 April 2020. The Clerks and Assistant Clerks pay will need to be backdated.
- Precept meeting 2021-2022 will be held at Borden Village Hall at 10am on 17th October.
- The Clerk will be doing a balance of the half year accounts at the end of September which will include the 2nd half of the precept from the District Council.

847. Covid-19 update

- Milland Volunteers - Now that the flow of requests for assistance has dried up the Milland Volunteers area representatives have been stood down. To meet Data Protection requirements, they will be asked to submit an email to the Clerk confirming that they have permanently deleted all emails, email addresses and other contact details and correspondence from their computers/phones.
- Milland Volunteers website – A Zoom meeting has been held between Milland Valley News (MVN), Milland Volunteers (MV) and Milland Parish Council (MPC) to discuss the future of the MV website. It was built by Indigo Concept (IC) specifically for the community's response to Covid-19. The costs were covered by a grant from SSE £900 and MPC £600. The site is now owned by MPC. At the end of the Zoom discussion it was suggested the site could either be mothballed, passed to MVN, or melded with the MPC site. Mr Parker has discussed ideas with Mr Fairhurst, Indigo Concept. He has advised that it would be too expensive to meld the two websites. Further discussion will take place but for the time being the site will be mothballed. Mr Fairhurst says that he is happy to maintain the website as is, at no charge, indefinitely. MVN needs time to decide on how it would use the site. The Milland PC site is currently a Notice Board site and further discussion will take place next year as to whether to make changes to the site.

848. VJ Day 15th August

To celebrate the 75th anniversaries of Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan. The Council has agreed to replace the old bench at Durrants Pond, and it is expected in mid-September. The District Council has approved a grant £250 toward this project. A plaque will be placed on the seat.

849. Planning – Mr Stophera) Current applications: -

02592/FUL – Erection of Stable, Robins Farm, No objection – in Progress

01796/FUL – CoU – Smugglers Copse, Borden – Object in present form – In Progress

03080/FUL – Siting of Shepherd Hut and EcoPod – Hazelbank Farm -Support

03328/PA3C – Notice of Prior Approval for CoU from business to residential – Rakers Yard – Object

03136/FUL – Demolition of existing & erection of new two-storey residence – Wardley Farm Cottage

b) Planning Meeting held 6 August to discuss application 01796/FUL – Smugglers Copse - Change of use from forestry to mixed use comprising forestry, production of forestry products, education and training courses and associated camping. Erection of barn for use for forestry, production of forestry products, education, and training courses. Erection of toilet and shower building. Retention of roundhouse, framing bed, pizza oven, IBC and solar panel.

Mr Stopher has spoken to the planning officer on several occasions because although the application was only for the .47 hectares of the site, local concern was for future of the cleared area of the site. Mr Stopher impressed upon the planning officer that in the past the complaints had been for the entire site of 10.5 hectares, the Enforcement notice had been for the entire site, the Appeal had been for the entire site and the planning inspectors decision has been for the entire site. Therefore, there was an argument the application should be resubmitted for the whole site. The Consultee response from MPC includes several recommendations for conditions on the site if the SDNPA Planning Committee decide to approve the application. It is understood that the applicant is in discussion with Forestry England about the replanting of the site.

c) Planning application 03328/PA3C – Rakers Yard - Notice of Prior Approval for CoU from business to residential. Councillors discussed this application. The meeting voted to object to the application on the following grounds: 1) loss of local business; 2) loss of local employment; 3) weak and old sewage system; 4) local flooding from stream; 5) car accident hot spot.

d) Review of Milland Development Neighbourhood Plan (MDNP) – A group has been formed to review the Plan and they will be meeting in the Autumn.

850. Environment and Amenities

a) Climate Change – Zoom meeting with Gillian Keegan MP September 4. Mrs Hoar has offered to take part of the discussion. Mr Parker had submitted two questions 1) Can CDC guarantee that material sent from recycling does not end up being dumped in country's such as Malaysia, where the environmental impact of our waste is significant., 2) Why has CDC decided not to proceed with a separate food waste collection?

b) Land opposite Durrants Pond – The Chairman would like to see the area cleared and tidied up so that it is a feature as you enter Milland. Mr Cusack and Mrs Hoar will look at the area more closely at the area in the Autumn. Mr Cusack will arrange for his volunteer group to clear the area. Once the area is cleared, they will be able to identify its value for flora and fauna and formulate a plan.

c) It was noted that alder branches are growing out of the stump by Durrants Pond and will need to be cut back.

851. Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE) – Petersfield/Fernhurst Network Upgrade

During the next 15 months SSE will be investing £8.4 million over a 19-month long project to future proof a significant section of the South East network. The project will build resilience to the area's power supply through the undergrounding of sections of cable and the refurbishment of the primary substation on Bedford Road in Petersfield. Sections of the Fernhurst Road from Milland crossroads will be closed from September 2020 until January 2021. Access will be maintained for residents to properties and pedestrians.

852. Highways and Byways

- a) Cartersland Green repairs to the verge surface – The Council has received formal approval from Highways for two permanent parking bays, currently used for overflow carparking and BT. The Council has a quote for £984 from Mr Findlay. Start date will be in the Autumn.
- b) Footpath in front of Durrants Pond – slope to the ditch – The footpath needs to be relevelled. Highways have now included this project into their works programme.
- c) Flooding on the Rake Road, before Harting Combe – Highways have raised a job to install a new gully here and pipe across the road into a lower area. It is still at the pricing stage. They are waiting for the Senior Highways Steward to advise after a Drainage Meeting with the Contractors.
- d) Highways maintenance - Residents can report potholes through the Love West Sussex app.

853. Local groups / organisations

- a) CDC All Parishes Meeting – Thursday 16 September via Zoom. CS and VW.

854. New Clerk's orientation

Ms Williams has commenced employment as Assistant Clerk. Working with the current Clerk she has covered aspects of finance and audit, recreation field, data protection, Agendas, local history.

855. Date of next meeting – 12 November 2020 at 7pm in Milland Memorial Hall

Chairman: _____ Date : _____

These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman.