



MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY of MILLAND
Wednesday 13 April 2022 in Milland Memorial Hall

PRESENT - Cllr J Parker (Chairman), Cllr C Stopher, Cllr Sir J Wigram,
Miss V Williams (Clerk) & 7 Members of the Public

1. Welcome

- The Chairman, Cllr Jeremy Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- The year began with PC meetings still being held via Zoom but in June “face to face” meetings recommenced.
- The Council has seen two significant departures:
 - Cllr Nigel Cartwright died in August 2021 having retired from the Council a few months earlier. Cllr Cartwright had been on the Parish Council for six years during which time he was also a Governor and Council representative to Hollycombe School, as well as spending time as Chair to the Planning Committee. Cllr Parker stated that he had always appreciated Cllr Cartwright’s values and comments.
 - The second departure is hoped not to be a permanent one but following 13 years on the Parish Council we see the current stepping down of Cllr Matt Cussack. Cllr Cussack informed the Chairman that it is a decision not taken lightly and is due solely to work and family commitments. As Chairman for a number of years he had overseen the important production of the Milland Neighbourhood Development Plan as well as giving support to the neighbouring villages who were fighting the Durand Academy and Fracking site. Cllr Cusack’s extensive practical experience as a rural land manager and his access to a willing band of volunteers in his day job with the National Trust have been of great benefit to the parish over the years. The Parish Council is very grateful for all his hardwork and will no doubt be taking him up on his offer of advice and expertise and hopes he will one day return to the Council.
- The Council now has a vacancy and would welcome applications for anyone wishing to join the PC and work to help improve the community.

2. Introduction of Guests and Councillors

Rachel Ritchie – UN Climate Ambassador

Cllr Colin Stopher, Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Cllr Sir John Wigram, Broadband Project Lead

3. Apologies

Mr A Farley, Mrs J Pilkington, Mrs S Hoar, Mrs L Myles, Mrs M Truss, Cllr Kate O’ Kelly (County Councillor)

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 03 June 2021.

These have been on the Council website and displayed on the public notice board throughout the year. The Minutes were **Proposed** by Colin Stopher and **Seconded** by Neil Pilkington.

5. Speaker – Rachel Ritchie – UN Climate Ambassador

- Rachel was a Chartered Accountant in London before retraining as a school teacher taking the role of Eco Lead in the schools where she worked. She went on to study for an Open University degree in Environmental Studies and is now a Climate Communicator accredited by the UN.

“The Climate Crisis – what you can you and your community do?”

- The industrial revolution brought with it the discovery that burning fossil fuels was an extremely efficient method of generating power. However the by product was an increase in Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Methane (CH₄) – the greenhouse gases. These two gases are essential to the earth to retain heat, but now the increase of these gases is causing the earth to heat up to a point where it is being destroyed.

- Until 1850 the Earth maintained a steady temperature but since that time the temperature has not just risen but has done so at an unprecedented rate. This unacceptably high level is resulting in climate change causing the environmental destruction of the Earth.
- This heating is causing global disasters:
 - Flooding – increasing globally resulting in other ecological problems such as crop growth.
 - Melting Ice – destroying habitats and causing sea levels to rise.
 - Droughts - increasing globally and again impacting on crop growth.
 - Wildfires – increasing globally including areas that had never experienced them previously.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which is a UN body for assessing the science related to climate change has issued 3 reports in the last 6 months:
 - Code Red – the physical science basis
 - Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability
 - Mitigation of climate change
- In 2015 it was hoped that the global temperature rise would not exceed 1.5°C – it is currently at 1.2°C. The best case scenario is that the rise will be kept below 2°C but this extra half a degree will have a catastrophic impact on the earth.
- Temporarily exceeding global warming of 1.5°C will result in severe impacts for nature, some of which will be irreversible.
- There is though hope:
 - The science is now unassailably firm.
 - Public awareness is high.
 - There is evidence that the public are keen to see action on the climate crisis.
 - Solutions are out there.
- The amount of carbon production per person for just a survivable world is 2 tonnes/year. The current UK average for personal carbon production is 10-13 tonnes/year. The average in the South East of the UK is 15 tonnes per year; therefore changes are needed.
- Personal Actions to reduce climate crisis:
 - Fly less / not at all.
 - Eat less meat / no meat.
 - Eat locally produced food.
 - Use reduced carbon energy.
 - Travel as sustainably as possible.
 - Reduce consumption.
 - Use your voice – talking to individuals or groups and ask questions.
 - Ask questions of service providers regarding financial investment and actions.
- There is a need for local and national Government to make it easier for all to live low carbon lives via:
 - Incentives
 - Grants
 - Subsidies
 - Impartial information
 - Promoting conversations across all media
- What can a Parish and its Council do?
 - Establish specific local initiatives
 - Be a force for good
 - Encourage the formation of Climate Awareness Groups
 - Support Local Plan Policies regarding the environment
 - Promote practical action by local people

- Encourage and facilitate community bulk purchasing
- Demonstrate green living:
 - Save energy / use low carbon energy
 - Manage land for nature
 - Increase tree cover
 - Introduce wildlife corridors and rewilding
 - Buy green
 - Use / promote / provide green transport
 - Minimise waste going to landfill
- Ensure the climate change or nature implications of every decision are known
- Designate sites within the neighbourhood plan for trees, renewable energy and restoration
- Use the NP to ensure sustainable construction
- Cllr Parker thanked Rachel for the enlightening talk and pointed out that Milland is very much addressing the need for positive changes to help tackle the climate emergency including hosting the Green Fair, supporting the Wildflower Group and supporting EV charging points and that it would definitely like to see initiatives like a repair shop in the Parish.

Questions:

It was noticeable that even during the recent petrol shortage that cars did not slow down on the surrounding roads. Can the PC again look at the speed limits in the Parish?

A. Speed limits are discussed at nearly all PC meetings and communication with Highways continues. The PC shares the concern of residents but it is Highways who decide on speed limits and currently there is no plan to reduce them in the Parish. The Clerk stated that all Parishioners can report issues including speed limits on the Love West Sussex website and that the more “noise” the Parish makes, the more likely it is to be heard.

6. Overview of 2021-22 – Chairman Cllr Jeremy Parker

Broadband

- The Parish broadband initiative will come to fruition within the next year. Cllr Parker thanked a small band of very determined individuals, led by Cllr John Wigram and Robert Fraser who have been instrumental in driving the project forward. Hurdles have included plans by OR to pause the scheme while they assessed the impact of the latest Government rural broadband initiative, but vigorous lobbying by the team has ensured that our project will move forward as planned.
- We have now achieved the requisite number of validated voucher pledges –if you have yet to respond to the BT email asking you to validate, please do so now.
- Cllr Wigram reiterated that all costs are covered by the vouchers and detailed the 2 stage process of laying cables:
 1. Along roads either overhead on poles or below ground in ducts.
 2. To properties where everyone who has pledged will be invited to take out a fast fibre contract and OR will fit the fibre to properties.

Questions:

Following the recent storm related power cuts, there is concern that Copper Wire landlines are to be removed leaving some properties very vulnerable during periods without electricity?

A. There have definitely been mixed messages regarding the removal of copper wires. However the Government has stated that there is currently no intention to remove these wires and that the new fast fibre cable will be laid alongside the existing copper wire.

Playground



- One of Lorraine Grocott's final acts as parish clerk was to procure the new play tower on the Recreation Field which has proved to be very popular. The PC is maintaining the momentum and is now focusing on replacing the Trim Trail.
- The Trim Trail was an outstanding example of community spirit having been built by a team of volunteers over 20 years ago – the potential new equipment suppliers have marvelled at its quality. However, it is now sadly reaching the end of its usable life and we are working towards replacing it with something that can be enjoyed by children of all ages.
- We are still at the early stages of obtaining quotes and applying for funding but will be updating the website regularly on the progress.
- We are working with Hollycombe School and Milland Valley Nursery to give the children the voice they deserve. We have devised a plan to allow them, quite literally to vote (with stickers), for their favourite design. These votes will not determine the final decision but will enable the PC to have a really informed discussion.

Green Fair

- The Milland Green Fair held on September 26th last year was a great success thanks largely to the efforts of Cllr Sue Hoar, the Parish clerk and the Eco Rother Action Group.
- We were extremely proud of this event, the first of its kind and we very much hope The Fair will run again, possibly in conjunction with the Rural Fair in the same year.

Rural Fair

- It is very much hoped that the Rural Fair – one of several major Milland success stories – will run again next year (2023).
- There is a real need for volunteers – both in the planning and on the day. There are lots of roles to suit lots of talents so do please put your hand up when the call goes out.
- It is the rural fair that funds the free Milland Valley News; without the income it generates the MVN will cease as a free paper.

Website

- The new Parish Council website launched in September includes the new Parish Council logo which is being used more widely to make our communications readily visible to everyone.
- If you have any news or information for your group or organisation which you would like to be added to the website, please contact the Clerk whose email has finally been updated in line with the website and it is hoped that this change will make it easier for people to contact the Council: clerk@milland-wsx-pc.gov.uk

Christmas Lights

- The Council made a small grant towards the wonderful Cartersland Christmas Lights this last December which was more than matched by generous donations from residents. Special thanks to Cllr Sue Hoar, Les Glaysher and an amazing team of volunteers for lighting up Milland so beautifully for the month of December.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

- The PC is very grateful for all the feedback regarding styles / bridges / footpaths that need improvement so please keep the information coming.



- In spite of the pressures on finance, WSCC is keen to improve the accessibility of rights of way with their 'gates for stiles' scheme and the Clerk is working closely with them to assist in keeping our footpaths clear and safe.

Lorraine's Farewell

- It was always intended that Lorraine's departure after some 32 years as parish clerk should be celebrated by a party. Over a year late we managed to say farewell and thank her face to face in the Riser in January.
- This was not the scale of the "send off" she deserved due to the constraints of the pandemic but it was a great celebration of thanks to an outstanding Clerk. It was also a bonus that her family were able to join us and see how much she has been appreciated.
- Lorraine's legacy as Clerk will endure for many years and the PC is most grateful to her for the extended handover to Viki and the very healthy state in which they were handed over.

Vandalism

- The old oak tree opposite the shop has been damaged in such a way as to try to kill it. The PC takes cases of vandalism including fly-tipping and littering very seriously and we are working with Highways, the District Council and the Police Rural Crime Team to try to prevent further damage.

Milland Neighbourhood Development Plan (MNDP) Review

- Chairman Parker thanked Cllr Stopher for all his work in carrying out an extensive Neighbourhood Plan (NP) review.
- The review commenced in 2020 and was initially heavily restricted by the pandemic.
- Following a meeting held with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Special Advisory Service CS was able to update on the current NP review:
 - There is no requirement to review NPs as they do not lose any power if not reviewed.
 - Legislation does though require that Local Plans (LPs) are reviewed every 5 years with the SDNPA Plan up for renewal in 2024 although there is some uncertainty surrounding this due to the complications arising from the Government White Paper.
 - NPs do need to reflect changes which happen at LP or National Level in order to ensure that there is no conflict between them. It is therefore recommended that if a NP is to be reviewed it should take place in line with a LP review.
 - To date the NP Review Committee have reviewed the Policies and only one Policy H1 – Enlarged Homes has been highlighted for review.
- It was therefore agreed by Full Council that there is no requirement to review the NP at this time and that any further work will cease until the necessary review takes place in line with the Local Plan.

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

Points covered:

- Election in May 2021
- Children's Services
- Waste
- Ambulance response times
- Ukraine
- Transport
- Cycling
 - Rother Valley Way – Petersfield to Midhurst leisure route along the old railway line



- Midhurst Greenway – off route across Midhurst from Holmbush to Easebourne
- Finances
- **Next drop-in Rogate Village Stores 9th May 10.30-12.30**
- 9. Planning Report – Colin Stopher
 - The Council had been consulted on 43 applications and there have been 6 pre-applications for Milland in the past twelve months.
 - The Planning Committee commented on 25 of the applications.
 - Current status of applications:
 - 16 Applications approved.
 - 1 Application refused.
 - 2 Applications withdrawn.
 - 19 Applications awaiting decisions – the majority of these are well past the given decision date.
 - Delays in Planning decisions are partly due to the added complications of the Local Plan particularly policies involving the environment. Planning Officers are also still catching up on a considerable backlog caused by the pandemic especially in relation to site visits.

Questions:

Concern raised that a pre-application request submitted in November was still without an answer.

A. Cllr Stopher requested further details and asked to speak to the resident after the meeting in the hope that the PC could assist in getting some answers from CDC.

10. Finance Report – Full Report Attached

Precept for 2021-22: **£33,170**

Precept for 2022-23: **£34,658**

Precept increase: £1,488 – The PC continue to work hard to keep all precept increases to a minimum to reflect the increasing financial pressures imposed on all.

Total Gross Payments - **£31,978**

Total Receipts - **£36,643.96**

Overview of the year: The parish council has continued to support community assets and groups especially by hosting the Milland Green Fair and the new MPC bespoke website.

Expression of Thanks: To all Councillors and to Rob Findlay for his management of the Recreation Field and ongoing maintenance of the Parish.

11. Looking Ahead to 2022-23

Platinum Jubilee

- The PC is supporting – though not running - the organisation of events during the weekend of the Jubilee - Thursday 02 June – Sunday 05 June 2022 and we are now working closely with several groups to make this a weekend to remember.
- Plans currently include:

Thursday

- Cricket / rounders match in the afternoon at the Sports Club.
- The lighting of the Beacon at dusk with thousands of other communities across the country.

Friday:

- Great Trippetts polo match - if an opposition can be found!

Saturday and Sunday

- An exhibition of Milland Memories in the village hall over the weekend.



- Big Lunch on the Rec on Sunday.

Pedestrian Gate for the Rec

- Following discussions for a lasting commemoration it had been decided that a new pedestrian gate be purchased for the recreation field.
- The suggestion of a bespoke gate created by Richard Weaver of Design Through Metal Work based in Milland was unanimously supported by the PC.
- Fundraising will be organised as part of the Jubilee Celebrations and it is hoped to have the gate in place by the end of this Jubilee year.

Broadband

- The PC acknowledges that there will be some disruption when optic fibre is laid all around the village at the end of this year and into next.
- We hope that much of the work will use existing telegraph poles but there will inevitably be some roadworks.

Falklands 40

- 14th June 2022 is the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict and it is hoped that the beacon will be lit as an act of remembrance.
- Further details to be posted on the website.

12. Questions from the Audience

Questions:

If there is a covenant that ensures the properties of Stretton's Copse remain as social housing primarily for local people, how has the recent sale of a bungalow happened?

- A. Cllr Parker commented that as part of the Hyde 50 strategy the Housing Association is aiming to reduce the age of properties to no more than 35 years by 2050 and is focused on producing a sustainable and energy efficient portfolio.
- There is also a focus on working with residents to allow for movement to more suitable areas / properties as situations change.
- The Clerk is to contact Hyde and investigate the facts surrounding the sale of this property.

13. Summary and Closure

- The PC will continue to meet and do its best for the Community.
- If you have ideas for improving the parish or would like to start a community group in Milland do 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 Councillor Milland Annual Parish Meeting 13th April 2022

County Councillor Report

Election in May 2021

Following the election in May 2021 the new council continues to be under control of the Conservative administration. The make up of the new council includes Conservative – 47, Lib Dem 11, Labour 9, Green and Independent alliance 3.

Children's Services

The Children's services were found to be inadequate by Ofsted in 2019 – they are on an improvement journey and the Sec of State has just agreed that they can continue on this journey without needing to set up a new Trust because the progress is significant. This is a big step forward – they have an excellent relatively new Chief Exec and the new Director of Children's services is leading on this challenging project. This is all the more difficult because all this work has had to be done during the pandemic.

Waste

Under the new Environment Act 2021 waste collection authorities (WCAs) will be required to collect food waste separately. The cabinet at WSCC have made the decision to invest the capital at the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant to convert it so that separately collected food waste can be processed there. They are still waiting for the Districts and Boroughs to fund and arrange the collection of separate food waste – most are waiting for Government guidance of when this will be mandatory but the move by county is making this one step closer. Some of the Boroughs are involved in a pilot collection scheme.

Ambulance response times

I have asked the Cabinet Member for Public Health to investigate recent ambulance poor response in Rogate – he is going to ask SECAMB to investigate the particular unfortunate circumstances. I will continue to raise this serious issue of poor ambulance response times in rural areas. Have discussed with the Cabinet member and now the Health Committee Chair about using the Fire Station in Midhurst as a rest station for ambulance crews. Will report back when I have more on this.

Ukraine

I had a meeting with Chief Exec of WSCC and our Group Leader this week. Becky Shaw CEO said the community teams are working flat out – often waiting for Government guidance which has been difficult. They are already visiting homes and doing the necessary minimal checks eg the number of bedrooms, she was keen to say that they were trying to make it as straight forward as possible. The Community team at WSCC will be liaising with schools regarding school places for Ukrainian children. There are still lots of questions about how the process is going to work, community groups are also working with local charities. At Full Council we raised the main issue which is delay with visas and the nightmare of bureaucracy faced by Ukrainians (some without papers and internet) and their potential hosts. Any questions to the community team should go to the community team on this email ukrainesupport@westsussex.gov.uk



Transport

The new West Sussex Transport Plan was agreed at Full Council on 1st April – our group abstained as we did not feel it was ambitious enough in terms of active - travel walking and cycling priorities, improvement of bus services across the poorly served parts of the county, it did not significantly address improving the rail services or the right priorities on rolling out the EV charging infrastructure. There is very little in the plan about driverless cars and the the plan covers the years up to 2036 – I pointed out that this needs to be addressed at its next review. Anyone interested in more detail about the plan - it was part of the Full Council agenda papers on the 1st April - the debate can be seen on the webcast.

https://westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/653738

Cycling

Rother Valley Way – Petersfield to Midhurst leisure route along the old railway line

Midhurst Area Cycling met last week – we had an update from the SDNPA officer who has been working on this. First meeting of the Friends of RVW is at 5.30pm on 10th May at the South Downs Centre in Midhurst – all welcome. The Friends group will then lead and progress this scheme. Phase 1 is Petersfield to Nyewood – along the railway alignment as much as possible.

Midhurst Greenway - off route across Midhurst from Holmbush to Easebourne

I recently had a meeting with WSCC officers leading on the scheme following on from the consultation. The most frequent concerns raised in the consultation were the width and the surface on Jubilee path, the replacement of the bridge and the route round the North of South pond, potentially disturbing the tranquillity there. I am hopeful that they will now consider a 20mph / traffic calming option in South Street to be added into the scheme - this might make it possible to direct the route South of the pond. The plan is to revise the scheme in the light of the consultation then meet up with key stakeholders again before presenting the new plans to the community.

Finances

This is going to be a very challenging times for many residents with soaring energy bills. The District Council is keen to reach out to residents who need guidance.

To anyone who may benefit from financial support. This includes financial help, debt management advice along with a range of other services. For further information

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances>

My next drop-in Rogate Village Stores 9th May 10.30-12.30

Financial Report

Precept for 2021-22: **£33,170**

Precept for 2022-23: **£34,658**

Total Gross Payments - **£31,978**

Miscellaneous costs: £2,206 which included:

- Village maintenance including extensive work to the ditches, hedging, mowing and general upkeep **£1,197**
- Milland Green Fair **£726**, which was paid for almost entirely by a Great Big Green Week (GBGW) Grant of **£620** and the PC contributing **£106**, which was far less than the approved £250
- Lorraine Grocott Leaving Party **£432** to which the PC contributed **£172** and the balance paid for by generous contributions **£260**

Milland Green Fair Final Cost				
Item	Cost (exc. VAT)	VAT	Total	Estimate/Actual
Flyers	£43.99	£43.99	£43.99	Actual
Banner	£105.00	£0.00	£105.00	Actual
Advertising	£100.00	£20.00	£120.00	Actual
Coffee for Stalls	£12.00	£0.00	£12.00	Actual
Misc	£80.64	£0.00	£79.14	Actual
St Johns Ambulance	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00	Actual
Tents (@£30 x 5)	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	Actual
Security	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00	Actual
Total	£671.63	£99.99	£726.13	

Grant from GBGW	£620.00
Contribution from Parish Council	
Council	£106.13
Total	£726.13

Public Works Loans x 4 - Milland Stores balance - £18,078 (total payment **£4,547**)

Grants/ Donations £7,515: These include:

- Recreation Field maintenance & renewals **£6,265**
- Cartersland Wildflower Group **£200** (includes sum for mowing)
- Milland Defibrillator **£600** for essential repairs to the phone box
- Churchyards **£450**.

Subscriptions:

- West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) **£267**
- Action in rural Sussex (AirS) **£144** (with a **£60** contribution from MVMH)
- Open Spaces Society (OSS) **£45**
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) **£35**
- SLCC **£115**

Other:

- Final Website invoice for new website **£425**
- IT support and Security **£160**
- Clerks Salary **£9,528**
- PAYE **£2,757**



- Insurance **£510**

Ringfenced funds:

- Tennis courts resurfacing fund **£4,070**.

Receipts: As well as the precept **£33,170**, the Parish Council received:

- The regular **£1000** payment from the MTC
- VAT refund of **£566**,
- Grant from GBGW for the hosting of the Milland Green Fair, and the Parish Council received SDNPA for CIL payment **£56** which is yet to be allocated.

Overview of the year: The parish council has continued to support community assets and groups, especially hosting the Milland Green Fair and the new MPC bespoke website.

Conscious of this the PC worked hard to keep the increase to the precept to a bare minimum.

There has once again been more attention given to miscellaneous hedging, ditching and verge maintenance particularly in view of another wet winter.

Expression of Thanks: To all Councillors. To Rob Findlay for his management of the Recreation Field and ongoing maintenance of the Parish.