



## MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY of MILLAND Wednesday 12 April 2023 in Milland Memorial Hall

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**PRESENT -** Cllr L Myles (Chair), Cllr C Stopher, Cllr Sir J Wigram, Cllr M Truss, Cllr S Hoar  
Miss V Williams (Clerk) & 1 Member of the Public

**1. Welcome**

- Chair Cllr Louise Myles welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Introduction of Guests and Councillors**

- **Tom Richardson** – County Councillor – Rother Valley Division

**3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 13 April 2022.**

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

**4. Apologies**

Mr A Farley, Mrs J Pilkington, Cllr Kate O' Kelly (County Councillor)

**5. Speaker – County Councillor Tom Richardson – New Speed Limit Policy**

**Background**

- Until recent changes to cabinet role titles Cllr Richardson was the Advisor on Road Safety to the Cabinet Member for Highways.
- A County Councillor since 2020 and previously a Traffic Officer for the Police.

**The New Policy**

- The first task was to review the County's speed limit policy as it was felt that the old policy prevented changes to the existing 60mph speed limits.
- The new policy has brought in changes aligned with the new Highway Code with the speed limit policy now being focused on:
  - Functional hierarchy of road users which means that it will not be just the type of road that will be scrutinised but also for what the road is used and by whom.
- The result is that Parishes can now apply to automatically reduce 60mph to 40mph speed limits.
- Further reductions of speed limit to either 30mph or 20mph can also be applied for using the Community Highways Scheme (CHS) and these will be looked at on a case-by-case basis. The 20mph speed limit will only be achieved if it is deemed to be appropriate to the road and road users and cannot be applied everywhere. However, it is the intention to apply 20mph zones outside every school in the County.

**Implementation**

- In order to establish a new speed limit there is a need to display the Highways approved and installed signage. This has historically included repeater signs to be displayed at mandatory distances which has prompted issues with regard to expense and cluttered street furniture, often resisted by residents. The new policy has addressed this and now states that as well as initial speed indication signs, speed limits painted directly on the road may now be used to replace the repeater signs.
- Historically there had been no definition of a village which affected the application of speed limit policies. A definition has now been written but kept deliberately broad to allow engineers to work with individual Parishes to develop bespoke and specific plans.

**The Community Highways Scheme (CHS) Application**

- Proposals must submit:

- Explanation as to the reasons why the Parish supports the changes and the overall benefits to the residents.
- Maps of the Parish with suggested speed changes, photos etc as it is important to work with neighbouring Parishes to identify any overlap.
- Details of each road / zone, including why the changes are being proposed (current issues, benefits etc).
- Resident research summary indicating clear approval for the proposed speed limit changes. This last point is extremely important and the Parish must canvass / survey to demonstrate clearly the level of support for the proposed changes.
- There is a defined difference between 20mph stretches of road and 20mph zones:
  - 20mph roads are applied to individual stretches of road and do not require traffic calming measures.
  - 20mph zones are whole areas and the law states that traffic calming measures are required at 150m intervals within the zone.
- Applications are then assessed by Highways and if accepted subsequently implemented. However this is dependent on both funding and logistics and may take up to three years.
- Parish Councils can choose to self-fund accepted applications as part of the developer Highways Scheme as this does reduce the time to implement but can be at a significant cost for which finances must be raised by either addition to the precept or other fundraising.

#### **Road Safety Strategy**

- Alongside the new speed limit policy the County Council is also looking to review and update the strategy. This includes proposals to increase road safety by education. The first initiative is the engagement of an advanced driving course for young drivers. This is currently being formulated in conjunction with the Goodwood Estate who have donated use of the track to allow up to 600 places for young drivers to work with advanced instructors to better develop safer driving techniques.

#### **Questions**

**Q.** Does the County have discretion to adopt policies not used nationally?

**A.** As the Highway Authority the County can apply any approved technologies and methodologies.

**Q.** Are there rules governing the addition of signs or can Parish Councils / residents erect signs?

**A.** Any street furniture added to the highway requires a licence and approved installation. This is primarily for safety reasons as the approved street furniture is designed to absorb much of the damage in the event of a collision. Any street furniture which is not licensed and approved will be removed.

**Q.** What is the predicted impact of electric vehicles on road safety?

**A.** The accidents caused by the quieter electric vehicles is constantly monitored and the sound of these vehicles may need to be increased.

#### **6. Overview of 2022-23 – Chair Cllr Louise Myles**

##### **Broadband**

- Despite valiant attempts by Cllr John Wigram to get this project completed during the year Openreach have not managed to accomplish this due to encountering a 'major challenge' bringing the cable into the Valley.
- Because of this delay everyone participating in the scheme needs to revalidate their vouchers as they only have a 12-month shelf life from March 22. We look forward to full fibre broadband in the village before the end of this year.



### **Update by Cllr Wigram**

- Regular conference calls are currently taking place with Openreach to ensure that the re-validation process is successful.
- There are currently some unknowns involving the timescale for re-validation.
- Latest updates detail that 149 validations are required and that 105 had been completed in the week prior to Easter.
- The need for re-validation is being advertised by all available means: social media, website, emails and the digital screen.

### **Digital Screen in the shop**

- At the suggestion of last year's outgoing Chair, Cllr Jeremy Parker, a digital screen has been installed in the shop for use by the Council and other village groups. It has been a great asset to village communication especially for those who do not have access to our social media posts.

### **Playground equipment**

- Following consultation with interested parties (notably the children and caregivers of Milland Valley Nursery and Hollycombe School) and thanks largely to lottery funding obtained by the Council, we have managed to secure a new set of Trim Trail equipment for the playground which is now fully operational and hopefully will be enjoyed by village children for many years to come.

### **Platinum Jubilee in June**

- Thanks to a fantastic committee of volunteers including Cllr Jeremy Parker and our clerk Viki, the village enjoyed 4 days of great Jubilee celebrations including: a "6-a-side" village cricket tournament, the Beacon lighting at Cartersland, a "Sing Your Heart" session at the Riser, polo at Trippetts, an exhibition of Milland memories in the hall and the Milland Great Big Lunch on the recreation field.

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

- To mark the Jubilee our local Griffin's Nursery kindly donated a 20ft oak tree which was planted on the Recreation Field and which will soon have a plaque fitted to commemorate the event.
- Thanks to support from Woodland Trust we were also given a package of 30 trees including various species such as Hawthorne and Hazel which were duly planted to better screen the field from neighbouring land behind.

### **Catersland Wildflower Group Information Board**

- The Parish Council worked with the Wildflower Group to obtain a grant from Beelines to scarify the green, purchase seeds and put up an information board which is now in place.

### **Memorial bench for Allan Jones**

- In memory of her grandfather and all the work he did as a handyman for the Church and the village, Allan's granddaughter raised the money for a memorial bench which is now sited by the Village Hall, overlooking the recreation field.

### **Traffic calming**

- Concern has been highlighted by residents regarding the speed of certain vehicles driving in the Parish especially in relation to Fernhurst Road and Milland Lane.
- A survey has been conducted amongst residents and Hollycombe school with a view to submitting a proposal to WSCC for speed reduction.

### **Defibrillator**

- The Parish Council have taken over full financial responsibility for looking after the defibrillator and Viki organised some community training on how to use it in February. Thanks to all who took part in the training and the Bonfire committee for funding it. It is hoped that this extremely valuable training can become an annual event.



- Many thanks to the Claire Collins who oversaw the installation of the defibrillator and who continues to monitor it.

#### **Christmas Lights**

- Once again the Council made a small grant towards some replacements for the Cartersland Christmas Lights. The switching on ceremony, opened by Hugh Bonneville, was held in December.
- Once again, many thanks to Cllr Sue Hoar and the wonderful team of volunteers for lighting up the village during December.

#### **Annual Spring Clean**

- The Annual Spring clean of the village took place again in March; many thanks to everyone who helped over the weekend. The increase in litter is noticeable as traffic has increased and of particular concern is the number of discarded alcohol bottles along the roadside.

#### **Boundary changes**

- The Council found out very late in the day about a consultation undertaken by the Boundary Commission which proposes to move our Parish (along with several neighbouring parishes), from Chichester (Gillian Keegan's constituency) to Arundel (Andrew Griffith's constituency).
- The communication about the consultation was extremely poor and the Council has written to CDC, The Boundary Commission and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to complain at the inadequate promotion of the consultation.

#### **Councillors**

- We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Cllrs Colin Stopher, Julie Pilkington and Maureen Truss. We would like to thank them all for their hard work over the years and we are keen to hear from anyone wishing to step up and be co-opted onto the Council within the next few weeks.

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

Points covered:

- Midhurst Fire
- Walking and Cycling
- Health

#### **8. Planning Report – Colin Stopher – Chair of The Planning Committee**

- This year I will compare the Planning figures for the past four years during which time the exceptional events of the National Pandemic brought about changes, not just in the volume of Planning Applications but in the way the Planning Department in Chichester has functioned and the concomitant delays experienced that have been a source of frustration for many.
- The lockdowns meant that CDC Planning Officers worked from home and although able to cover much of the desktop work involved in reviewing new Applications, they were unable to make the site visits that normally take place.
- In addition, the back office staff were unable to notify neighbouring properties about proposed developments and although the Parish Council were able to notify some, this was not a responsibility and so in some cases people were unhappy if the news did not reach them.
- The system of pre-applications which allows an applicant unsure about the acceptability of their plans could seek advice from CDC Planning used to be notified to Parish Councils but during last year that ceased as part of the efforts to catch up on the backlog of work.

- This notification was useful to PCs, particularly with contentious cases as it gave a chance to be prepared if a successful opposition was to be made. We are told that it is unlikely these notifications will be resumed.

**Four Years of Milland Planning**

Year	Apps	PC Comments	Pre Apps	Advice Given	Approved	Refused	Approved on Appeal	Withdrawn	Planner Objection	Outstanding at Year End
Apr 2019-Mar 2020	32	18	3	0	20	4	2	5	0	0
Apr 2020-Mar 2021	28	26	4	4	19	2	0	2	1	0
Apr 2021-Mar 2022	43	25	6	0	16	1	0	2	0	19
Apr 2022-Mar 2023	27	19	N/A	0	10	3	0	2	1	6

- Although memories of the Pandemic are receding and most businesses are returning to normal with fewer people working from home, it has not gone away and Local Government offices on reduced attendance which has some effect on the speed of planning.
- Other hoops that must now be negotiated for many planning applications include bat survey and now water neutrality assessments.
- The new problem we all have to deal with is the rise in the cost of living and this has reduced the number of applications and from the trend in the early months of this year seems likely to lead to fewer planning applications.
- Finally, I would say to anyone thinking of moving to Milland that although you may find the Planning System sometimes difficult to negotiate it is also a major factor in keeping this area relatively unspoilt by major development, something that you cannot fail to notice less than four miles away in Liphook.

#### 9. Finance Report – Full Report Attached

Precept for 2022-23: **£34,658**

Precept for 2023-24: **£35,416**

Total Gross Payments - **£40,586.35**

Total Receipts - **£45,361.50**

#### Miscellaneous costs: £9,259

- Grants: **£8,728**
  - Recreation Field maintenance & renewals **£6,282**
  - Cartersland Wildflower Group **£1,396** (**£1,196** Grant awarded by SDNPA)
  - Churchyards **£600**
  - Cartersland Christmas Lights **£150**
  - Defibrillator **£300**
- Donations: **£150**
- Subscriptions: **£444**

#### Ringfenced funds:

- Tennis courts resurfacing fund **£2,670**
- Defibrillator Fund **£2,277**
- King's Coronation Fund **£1,217**

#### Recreation Field:

#### **Summary**



It has been a busy year for the Rec especially with the now completed playground improvements made possible because of the generous grants received.

**Total Gross Payments: £20,568**

**Total Receipts: £18,757**

- **Overview of the year:** It has been a busy financial year with a substantial amount of money raised in grants in order to improve our wonderful Parish. Our Councillors are fully aware of the ongoing economic uncertainty and have 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. To Becks Fairhurst, Alison Arnott and the rest of the fabulous Coronation nee Jubilee Committee as they have put in a tremendous amount of work organising two incredible events.

**10. Looking Ahead to 2023-24**

- The King's Coronation Big Lunch which is to be organised by the wonderful Jubilee Committee is to take place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- Broadband as detailed above continues to progress and it is still hoped the project will be completed in the coming year.
- Elections for the District Council will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Voter ID will be required by all electors voting in person.
- The Parish Council is not required to hold an election and it continues to recruit new members for co-option.

**11. Questions from the Audience**

**None**

**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 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 7.55pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

*These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman*



## **Reports**

### **County Councillor report Milland Annual Parish Assembly**

#### **Introduction**

Sorry not to be able to attend this evening. It is difficult to summarise the work of WSCC and report on all its activities – it is a vast organisation with services that cover waste disposal, schools, adults and children's services and of course Highways. The largest budget item by far is supporting vulnerable adults and children. Understandably as everyone uses the Highways all the time as County Councillors issues related to the Highways fill our intrays. Tom has covered the new speed policy which is good news and should mean residents are more able to achieve appropriate reductions in speeds in their communities, where they know best. I have chosen 3 topics to highlight in my report. The Midhurst Fire, a Walking and Cycling update and a very brief update on our latest Health and Adults committee deliberations on dentistry.

#### **Midhurst Fire**

The current situation in Midhurst is nearly as challenging as Covid if not more so in some ways. From the start the community have been totally amazing, the compassionate response on the first morning was truly heartening. We were able to support our group of Ukrainians displaced by this desperate war very quickly. I am sure they will have felt the love and support from the community at this most difficult time for them. At the beginning I was very keen to make sure our efforts weren't duplicated so I made sure the County Community team leaders were in direct contact with the Midhurst leaders on the ground who were coordinating the town response. Since then the full impact of the road closure has hit businesses in the town and the surrounding villages, residents lives have got more difficult in many ways, accessing healthcare has been particularly difficult. I was at the Business Network Meeting last week, the strength of feeling from the business owners of the devastating effect the road closure is having was eloquently expressed. The cross community recovery group are working in innovative ways to get the message out that Midhurst is open for business. The community team are still looking for places to rent or possible new hosts for Ukrainian residents in the Northern Chichester District – anyone who has property or offers of being a host should get in touch with the West Sussex community team. [communities@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:communities@westsussex.gov.uk) or phone: 033 022 27980.

#### **Walking and Cycling**

Last month I met with officers at WSCC who are finalising their new walking and cycling strategy – we agreed for a key performance indicator (KPI) of actual outcomes of use of the paths rather than kms built (previous KPI was 7.5km of newly paths built a year) and for better maintenance of paths. Poor maintenance leads to decreasing use and works against the active travel strategy. WSCC are still rated as zero by Active Travel England in terms of their ability to deliver cycling and walking schemes. The member and officer group looking at this met up with the Hampshire teams who are a few years ahead. I was really pleased to hear that the cycling team at WSCC are really keen to learn from them, to drive the culture change that is needed. We will hopefully be regraded in the Summer, then more of the much needed money for developing and delivering walking and cycling schemes will be available to communities across WSCC again.

#### **Health**

At the Health and Adult social care committee in March – we again looked at access for residents to NHS dentistry across West Sussex. Many residents including young people have no access to an NHS dentist, dentists in their preventative work often pick up other non dental conditions such as oral



cancers and poor oral health is also linked to other physical health conditions. West Sussex is not unique it is a national issue that urgently needs addressing. We all agreed that this is a priority and that we will lobby together using all the levers we can.





## **Financial Report**

Precept for 2022-23: **£34,658**

Precept for 2023-24: **£35,416**

Total Gross Payments - **£40,586.35**

**Miscellaneous costs: £9,259**

which included:

- Village maintenance including extensive work to the ditches, hedging, mowing and general upkeep **£3,510**
- Digital Screen **£808** (Funded entirely by grants)
- Tennis Court Improvements **£3,900** (Funded by grants from the Tennis Club)
- Defibrillator Course **£170** (**£120** funded by Bonfire Committee)

**Public Works Loans x 4 - Milland Stores balance - £ (total payment £4,439)**

### **Grants:**

- Recreation Field maintenance & renewals **£6,282**
- Cartersland Wildflower Group **£1,396** (**£1,196** Grant awarded by SDNPA)
- Churchyards **£600**
- Cartersland Christmas Lights **£150**
- Defibrillator **£300**

### **Donations:**

- Air Ambulance **£50**
- Citizens Advice **£50**
- Samaritans **£50**

### **Subscriptions:**

- West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) **£299**
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) **£35**
- SLCC **£110**

### **Other:**

- Website and Email hosting **£259**
- IT support and Security **£160**
- Clerks Salary **£9,528**
- PAYE **£2,757**
- Insurance **£510**

### **Ringfenced funds:**

- Tennis courts resurfacing fund **£2,670**
- Defibrillator Fund **£2,277**
- King's Coronation Fund **£1,217**

### **Receipts:**

As well as the precept the Parish Council received:

- Milland Tennis Club **£2,500**



- VAT refund of **£515**
- Grant from SDNPA for the Catersland Wildflower Meadow **£1,196**
- Queen's Jubilee Committee **£2,221** (Ringfenced for the King's Coronation and Donations to charity)
- Defibrillator Fund **£1,977** (transferred to the PC to now take responsibility for maintenance)
- Grants for the Digital Screen **£850** (Received from George Street Trust, Bonfire Committee and The Milland Valley Memorial Hall)
- Community Infrastructure Levy **£609** (transferred to the Recreation Field for the new playground equipment)
- Bonfire Committee Contribution to the Defibrillator Training **£120**

Total Available Funds 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 **£13,658**

### **Recreation Field Summary**

It has been a busy year for the Rec especially with the now completed playground improvements made possible because of the generous grants received.

**Total Gross Payments: £20,568**

**Total Receipts: £18,757**

#### Summary of Payments:

- Maintenance **£4,516**
- Repairs to the basketball unit **£648** (Funded by the Bonfire Committee)
- The Trim Trail Equipment **£12,486**
- Administration **£272**

#### Summary of Receipts:

- VAT Reclaim **£368**
- Trim Trail
  - National Lottery **£9,487**
  - Bonfire Committee **£1,000**
  - CiL transfer from PC **£609**
  - The outstanding **£1,030** was taken from the Recreation Field reserves.

Closing Balance **£4,939**