



Milland Parish Council Minutes – March 2025

MILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mrs Louise Myles
Clerk: Miss Viki Williams
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MINUTES of the Meeting of MILLAND PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday, 12th March 2025 in Milland Memorial Hall

Present: Mrs. L Myles (LM) (in the Chair), Mr N Oldham (NO), Mr J Parker (JP), Mrs G Morton (GM), Mr A Farley (AF), District Councillor Eleanora Newbery (EN)

211. Apologies: Mr S Hall (SH), Mrs S Hoar (SH), Mr J Wassenberg (JW)

212. Minutes of the Meeting 8th January 2025

Approval **proposed** and **seconded**

213. Declaration of personal or prejudicial interests

- **None**

214. Co-option of Councillor

- The candidate Julie Pilkington is applying to re-join the Council.
- Vote held: Unanimous in favour – **Julie Pilkington (JPi) co-opted**

Action: Clerk

215. Reports from the County and District Councillors – full report attached - Summary below:

Update from County Councillor January 2025

- County Councillor Kate O’Kelly had previously emailed the Clerk to inform of her imminent planned resignation.
- There will be a by-election on May 1st for her successor with whom she will work closely to ensure a seamless transition.

Update from District Councillors March 2025

- English Devolution White Paper
- Recycling changes for businesses
- Council Tax Rise
- Petworth Pump Track

Updates provided in the Meeting:



Milland Parish Council Minutes – March 2025

- EN reminded councillors that the Sussex and Brighton Devolution Consultation was now open and closing on 13th April. She encouraged all members to express their views and opinions: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/sussex-and-brighton-devolution-consultation/>
- It was **AGREED** that this would be advertised via the website, social media and digital screen.

Action: Clerk

216. Public Participation

- All matters were covered under agenda items:
 - 219. b) – Other Planning Matters
 - 220. b) ii – Traffic Calming – Portsmouth Road
 - 220. c) – Durrants Pond

217. Matters arising from the Minutes

- The clerk confirmed the following events were booked and would be advertised via MVN / Digital Screen / Website /social media:
 - AED Course – Friday 23rd May 1730 - 1930
 - Litter Pick – Weekend of 29th and 30th March
- LM confirmed that she has a meeting booked with Trippets Estate regarding ditch clearing responsibilities.

Action: Clerk / LM

218 Other Administration

a) Milland Valley Memorial Hall Heads of Agreement Review

- AF reported that the meeting with the Chair of the VH held in January had been very useful with productive discussions. It had been agreed that a surveyor should be contacted in order to understand the extent of the infrastructure under the Village Hall Car Park. The Clerk is to now investigate a suitable surveyor but they will only be commissioned on receipt of a quote approved by both parties who have agreed to share the costs.
- The Chair of the Village Hall is also reporting to the other members of the Village Hall Committee and is proposing that the hall undertakes a proportion of the costs in regard to repairs on or around their curtilage. A further update will be supplied for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

b) MPC representative for Village Hall Committee

- Following the resignation of Cllr Wigram the Clerk asked for a volunteer to sit in as the PC representative on the Village Hall Committee. Due to some overlap between the PC and Hall meetings the dates will be monitored closely to enable the representative to attend both meetings where possible.
- It was **AGREED** that this position would be agreed at the Annual Statutory Meeting in May when all representative positions would be reviewed and finalised.

Action: Clerk

c) Milland Tennis Club (MTC)

- The Clerk confirmed that MTC now had new committee members including a new Chair and Treasurer. She has worked closely with the Chair to assist them with their understanding of the financial regulations that govern any spending from the PC Account which includes ring fenced funds.



Milland Parish Council Minutes – March 2025

- The Chair had reported that the court requires some urgent attention to deal with some substantial issues with moss. The work is expected to take two days due to the specialist nature of the work and the Clerk accepted two quotes for the Council on which to make a final decision:
 - **Quote 1**
Coloured Courts Ltd.
To carry out a full clean and chemical to the courts at Milland TC
£390 + vat per court.
 - **Quote 2**
Clearway
To carry out a full clean and chemical to the courts at Milland TC
£500 + vat per court.
- It was **AGREED** to approve Quote 1 and the Clerk confirmed that she would inform MTC that they can now proceed with the work.
- Moving forward the intention would be that the court would be treated annually as a matter of course. As this is one of a number of proposed improvement projects for the Courts and surrounding area and the Agreement held between the two parties was up for review, it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with the Chair, Treasurer and AF as PC representative for the club.

Action: Clerk

d) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant – Potential Projects

- Milland Parish Council has received a payment of **£9,313.59** from the SDNPA's CIL fund and have 5 years to assign the money.
- The CIL collected by the SDNPA can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure including transport, flood defences, schools, play areas, parks, cultural and sports facilities.
- It was **AGREED** that as there are currently several potential projects this would remain on the agenda for future discussion. Councillors were encouraged to submit any ideas for discussion during this time. If deemed necessary, a shortlist could then be put out to Public Consultation.
- The Clerk confirmed that she has now forwarded the summary of rules for spending to all.

e) Permission request to use Village Hall car park

- Milland Parish Council had received a request via the village hall to use the village hall car park for a mobile refill shop.
- The request is for permission to park a van in the car park adjacent to the Hall for either one morning for 3-4 hrs or one afternoon for 2hrs, on a weekly basis. The mobile shop focuses on the sale of everyday essentials without single use plastic packaging.
- There was a discussion regarding the possible impact of such a request including concerns with the setting of a precedent, loss of available parking spaces and the possible impact on the shop. It was **AGREED** that the primary stakeholder was Milland Stores ("the shop") and the PC are not inclined to support the request unless the shop believe it would be a benefit to them.

Action Clerk

f) Bonfire Night 2025

- Council gave formal thanks to all members of the bonfire committee for all their hard work providing another fantastic community event and for the huge amounts of money that they have raised over the years.



Milland Parish Council Minutes – March 2025

- The council **AGREED** that the date for the next bonfire night would be Saturday 1st November 2025.

g) Adding value to the Parish

i. Welcome Packs

- The Clerk reported that she still had adequate stocks of the welcome packs but had also spoken to the printers regarding a plan for implementing any required updates to the text prior to the next print run.

ii. Milland Meet Up

- LM reported that the last Meet Up which took place on 12th February 2025 was again well supported. The next Meet Up is to take place on Wednesday 16th April 2025 10am-11.30am at the Milland Stores coffee shop and would be advertised via all available means including a message on the WhatsApp group.

219. Planning

a) Planning Applications/Decisions

Planning Applications

Week 54

- **SDNP/24/05250/PA3R** Change of use of agricultural barns (B1 and B2) to commercial uses (Class E(g)(iii)). New Barn Farm, Rake Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7JU

Week 3

- **SDNP/24/05011/LIS** First floor internal alterations. Old Kingsham Farm, Cooks Pond Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7JY

Week 4

- **SDNP/25/00035/HOUS** Single storey side extension. Idle Hill, Milland Lane, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7JN

Week 6

- **SDNP/24/05267/HOUS & SDNP/24/05268/LIS** Landscape works including new driveway, pathways, pergola, new gates and removal of partial existing wall. Mill Cottage, Milland Lane, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7JP

Week 7

- **SDNP/25/00151/HOUS** 1 no. outbuilding in rear garden for home office use. Meadow House, 9 Mill Vale Meadows, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7LZ
- **SDNP/25/00028/FUL** Proposed replacement dwelling, relocation of existing garage barn and new site access and driveway. Springfield, Cinder Lane, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7LR
- **SDNP/24/05283/HOUS** Single storey rear and dormer window roof extensions, change use of garage to habitable accommodation and front porch. 9 Drakeleys Field, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7NH

Planning Decisions

Week 6

- **SDNP/23/03908/LDE** Existing lawful development - change of use of 3 no. units from offices to residential use. Units 2, 4 and 5, Campbell Park, Fernhurst Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7LU - **APPROVED**

Week 7

- **SDNP/24/05250/PA3R** Change of use of agricultural barns (B1 and B2) to commercial uses (Class E(g)(iii)). New Barn Farm, Rake Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7JU New Barn Farm, Rake Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7JU - **Prior Approval Required and Refused**



Milland Parish Council Minutes – March 2025

Week 8

- **SDNP/24/04344/HOUS** Removal of rear conservatory to add new pergola, re-clad existing garage, infill existing pool opening to allow new pool location, add a new opening to the rear elevation and build new pool house. Oak Tree Farm, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7NA – **APPROVED**
- **SDNP/24/05011/LIS** First floor internal alterations. Old Kingsham Farm, Cooks Pond Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7JY – **APPROVED**

Week 9

- **SDNP/24/01140/FUL** Replace old grass court with new pickleball court. Durrants Farm, Fernhurst Road, Milland, West Sussex, GU30 7LU – **Application Withdrawn**

b) Other Planning Matters

- The owners of the Black Fox Inn attended the meeting to update on their active planning application and to ask for advice regarding difficulties in arranging a meeting with SDNPA planning team. It was **AGREED** that the Planning Committee would review the application to see if they could assist with a solution.

Action: JP

- JP discussed the importance of the upcoming Local Plan Review, summarising the housing requirements imposed on the local areas. The resulting pressure on Milland's roads and infrastructure were discussed. LM suggested that MPC **object** based on:
 - The impact on the lanes which are not designed to support such a high level of traffic.
- She reiterated that the Council should also ask for:
 - Assurance that the essential supporting infrastructure such as GPs, be mandated to be included in the plans.
 - The inclusion of more Affordable Housing.

Action: JP / Clerk

220. Environment & Amenities and Highways matters

a) Highways Project Delays

- The Clerk summarised the ongoing frustration with delays relating to the large Highways projects throughout the Parish. There are now three projects that are too large for immediate remediation:
 - Cinder Lane
 - Milland Lane
 - Iping Cemetery.
- The Clerk reassured the committee that these projects were all still in progress and she was in constant communication with Highways to ensure that residents remain updated.
- She gave thanks to Rob Findlay who has carried out a temporary repair to the Iping cemetery parking area which had become dangerous and unusable.

Action: Clerk

b) Traffic Calming

i. **Borden Wood**

- GM reported that she had now received an email regarding the application but it did not appear to be progressing as expected. It is understood that the application is still with the police prior to moving forward to the public consultation stage. However, the email now received implied that it had now stalled because of some confusion about the village gates. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would now send an email in order to move the project forward.

Action: Clerk

ii. Portsmouth Road

- The resident that made the TRO application attended the meeting and reported that it had now reached the final stage. She reported that they were struggling to gain access to the results of the public consultation or updates as to whether or not the application was now progressing to the next stage.
- Due to a lack of response to the residents' emails enquiring about progress, it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would again follow up with Highways.

Action: Clerk

iii. Wardley Lane

- AF reported that a couple of residents had reported an increase in speeding on the lane and their concerns were that this, combined with deterioration in the road surface, was making it dangerous for the many walkers who also use the road.
- As a first step AF had written to all residents to determine if a TRO would be supported and the result had been unanimously in favour of a TRO.
- The Clerk stated that TROs are community initiatives and that she and GM would happily work with the residents to advise and support them with an application if they would like to proceed.

Action: AF / Clerk

c) Durrants Pond

- The resident assisting with the project attended the meeting to update on the work that she had undertaken. She reported that there were still a number of complexities with moving the project forward because of complicated nature of the required works.
- She had spoken to the ranger who was positive that something could be achieved. She summarised that one of the main issues was that there were 8 owners / stakeholders responsible for the pond.
- She concluded that as well as the work required for the pond itself the streams that feed into it must also be addressed to reduce future silt build up. She confirmed that she would continue to work on the project and provide a report once complete.
- It was **AGREED** that the resident would forward all the information to the Clerk once complete thus allowing the Council to try and work with all interested parties to move this large project forward.
- The Councillors thanked the resident for all her hard work which was very much appreciated.

Action: Clerk

d) Cartersland Verge Repairs

- The Clerk reported that she continues to receive questions regarding any remedial improvements required for the now very muddy and rutted parking area on the corner of Cartersland Wildflower Meadow by the crossroads.
- Following a discussion with regard to the history of this area it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate some remediation works to ensure that the problem does not worsen.

Action: Clerk

e) Village Hall Car Park Lights

- After discussion it was **AGREED** that instead of 'like for like' replacement light fittings, the fitting of sturdier and more 'fit for purpose' lights would be investigated. Quotes to be collected ahead of the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman.



Milland Parish Council Minutes – March 2025

District Councillor Report – March 2025

English Devolution White Paper

The Government's recent English Devolution White Paper published in December 2024 includes plans for the creation of new Combined Mayoral Authorities, as well as Local Government reorganisation, in all areas that currently have a structure of County and District Councils. These two-tier structures will cease to exist over the next 3 years with all areas moving to single-tier Unitary councils.

Following applications from the upper tier authorities in January, East and West Sussex and Brighton have been confirmed within the Devolution Priority Programme meaning there will be Mayoral Elections in May 2026, and that elections for the new Unitary Authorities will take place in May 2027. There will then be a shadow year for the new unitary councils before taking full effect from April 2028 at which point the County and District Councils in those areas will be dissolved.

Achieving such a major reorganisation within the timescales set by government will be challenging and will require the reallocation of existing resources to focus on the work required during the transition period. In the short term there is an expectation that the relevant authorities will work together to develop and agree evidence-based proposals to shape the geographies of the new unitary councils that will achieve what is best for the local areas. This will be followed by working with other West Sussex authorities to get all of the requisite elements in place to ensure that the Shadow Authority is ready to come into effect.

Once we enter the shadow year the existing District and County Councils will be limited in their ability to take new strategic or major decisions and will be expected to deliver their services on a business-as-usual basis.

Surprisingly, given the detail with which this is now being implemented, the Government has launched a devolution consultation on creating a new Strategic Combined Authority and a mayor for the wider region of West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton. This consultation runs for eight weeks, until 11:59pm on 13 April 2025 and can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution.

Recycling changes for businesses

The government's 'Simpler Recycling' legislation comes into force on 31 March 2025 and requires businesses with 10 or more full time employees to have separate collections for recycling and food waste. CDC's [Business Waste and Recycling team](#) are on hand to help ensure it is easy to become compliant, as well as quick and cost-effective. [Email today](#) or call 01243 534617.

Council Tax Rise

The decision was made at Chichester District Council's Full Council meeting on 25 February 2025, where the 2.99% rise was agreed for 2025 to 2026. This means that the average Band D council taxpayer will pay £192.06 a year for the council's 80 plus services. This amounts to around 52 pence a day.

Chichester District Council collects all the council tax, but only keeps around an 8% share of this. The other 92% is then distributed to West Sussex County Council (77%); The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (11%); and parish councils (4%). Each of these public service providers make decisions about its council tax increases independently.

Petworth Pump Track

CDC has released £70,000 for a pump track in Petworth. A pump track is a purpose-built circuit track for cycling, featuring banked turns and features. This means riders can 'pump' or generate their own momentum through up and down movements, instead of pedals. These tracks also cater for a wide



Milland Parish Council Minutes – March 2025

variety of rider ability. The project will be led by Petworth Town Council, in partnership with local landowners, subject to all of the relevant planning permissions being in place. Over the last 10 years both the district and town council have been working to find a suitable site for a skate park, but unfortunately an appropriate location has never been identified. Last year, we asked Petworth Town Council to come up with alternative ways to use the money that we had set aside, and they put forward the idea for a pump track instead and asked us to re-allocate the funds to this project. The district council's ward member for Petworth, Harsha Desai, has also worked with the town council and other local landowners to help find a suitable site. As a result, an area of under-used farmland has been identified, and a planning application will be submitted shortly.

With thanks and best wishes,
Brett Burkhart