

Milland Bonfire & Fireworks Meeting – 17th April 2026

Minutes of meeting (Held remotely by telephone/WhatsApp)

Present: Dave Allen, John Collier, Steve McKecknie, Jeremy Parker, George Quinnell, Justin Whitehouse.

1. The recreation field is now dry enough for us to add some top soil and grass seed to make good the bonfire site. Estimated cost of top soil and seed is £100. **(Steve to obtain top soil and grass seed and complete the work asap)**
2. We have enough parts from the two white marquees that were damaged to make one usable marquee. We will replace the scrapped marquee with a pop-up gazebo of the same type and size as the ones purchased two years ago at a cost of £650. **(John to order the new gazebo asap)**
3. The Hog roast oven has been repaired and serviced by George at a cost of £326.40
4. Lloyds Bank now charge us a monthly account fee of £4.25 (£51 a year) plus transaction fees for withdrawing or depositing cash. We agreed to look for an alternative bank that doesn't impose charges and also consider making the event cashless to avoid the transaction fees. **(All of us to consider these options before the next meeting)**
5. Total profit in 2025 was £2037.84. After the expenditure and bank charges mentioned above are deducted the net profit is approximately £900. It was agreed that we should add £100 to this amount from our reserve funds and distribute £1000 within Milland. Traditionally we always give donations to the Sports Club and the Recreation Ground (via the Parish Council) and any other group(s) that apply. This year the only applicant is Hollycombe School who want money to fund a literacy improvement programme. The initial proposal was to split the £1000 equally between the three groups. However, Jeremy, in his capacity as a Parish Councillor, was of the opinion that the Recreation Field did not need any money this year and that the money should be donated 50/50 between the Sports Club and the Hollycombe School. This was agreed unanimously. **(John to distribute the donations asap)**
6. We believe that admission charges for our event are significantly cheaper than any other local bonfire and have not been increased for many years. Prices in 2026 will be higher. **(John to propose new ticket prices before the next meeting)**
7. It was confirmed that we would run another event on Saturday 7th November 2026.
8. Date of next meeting: To be confirmed.