



MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY of MILLAND
Wednesday 09 April 2025 in Milland Memorial Hall

Present: Mrs. L Myles (LM) (in the Chair), Mr. J Parker (JP), Mrs. S Hoar (SH), Gillian Morton (GM) Julie Pilkington (JIP), Cllr B Burkhart (District Councillor), Miss V Williams (Clerk) & 26 Members of the Public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Cllr Louise Myles welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 10th April 2024.

These have been on the Council website and displayed on the public notice board throughout the year. The Minutes were **Proposed** and **Seconded** - Agreed and signed.

3. Apologies

Mr A Farley, Mr S Hall, Mr N Oldham, Mr J Wassenberg

4. Speaker – Andrew Griffith Member of Parliament for Arundel and South Downs

Mr Griffith opened by thanking the Parish Councillors and all who support the community and reminded that his primary role was to represent and serve his constituents.

He went on to cover the following topics:

Boundary review

- He summarised that he believed the boundary changes had benefitted all parishes within the new Arundel and South Downs constituency. This purely rural constituency consisted entirely of small parishes, made up of villages and small towns who had shared interests and common issues.
- His focus would be:
 - Supporting the farming community.
 - Roads – he highlighted that ours are some of the most dangerous roads in the south of England due to the de-restriction of A roads which have been utilised by a higher level of road use than they were initially designed for.
 - Supporting local high streets.

Role of an MP

- Mr Griffith briefly summarised the three main roles of an MP and how he was fulfilling these roles with the needs of the constituents at the forefront of his contribution:
 - Legislation – debating, challenging and ultimately voting for laws or amendments to them.
 - Holding the Government to account including spending.
 - Convening ability to help achieve results across the layers of local councils and public bodies.

Questions from the Audience

Q. what is your relationship with SDNPA especially in relation to the proposed developments in Liphook?

A. Meetings are held every 6 - 8 weeks to discuss a long list of issues including planning projects. Although the large development in Liphook is outside our constituency, its close proximity means Mr Griffith confirmed that he was working closely with and supporting the MP for Farnham and Bordon to ensure that the decisions being made were not detrimental to the Parish.

Q. For our area, what is currently the most important part of legislation you are involved with?

A. The planning and infrastructure bill. Due to our protected landscape, whichever planning system is chosen, we are always going to be a point of tension. The planning process is disproportionate and is



not being addressed currently. As a result the bill is trying to remove the voice of local councillors in support of growth. He concluded that central decisions remove the voice of local democracy and he felt that more power should be in the hands of the Parish and more weight given to neighbourhood plans to allow villages to expand at a sensible rate.

Q. what are your thoughts on Unitary Authorities?

A. Mr Griffith summarised that he is not a fan of change for change's sake and is cautious of top-down imposed changes. To be a success these need to be looked at individually and appropriately funded. Sussex is very different to many other counties due to its size and varied communities, each with very different issues and needs. He raised his concerns that the Rural areas would lose out to the bigger more high profile areas, especially at risk are police and hospitals.

Q. Is there a limit to the number of houses that can be built and where will the sites be?

A. There is no higher limit but there are constraints on how fast they can be built because of resources and manpower. The siting of new houses raised a more contentious issue particularly in rural areas.

Q. Could you talk about the dire state of rivers?

A. There are certainly obstruction issues caused by increased number of people. However water quality has never been better and it is continually monitored to ensure further improvements and increased quality.

Modern monitoring is definitely more advanced and this includes monitoring the levels of hormones in the rivers. Years ago this would have gone undetected. Consequently the water quality is appearing to be in a worse state.

Storm drains and sewage overflows are of concern due to a previous lack of investment and necessary improvements to sewage systems despite the significant increase in house numbers. This is being addressed retrospectively but the now essential improvement works are being reflected in increased water bills. Laws around responsibilities of the water companies must be improved to include increased sanctions and consequences.

Q. There is a perception that urban based policy makers do not understand the needs of farmers.

A. An example of where this is true is the imposition of inheritance tax on farms (and businesses). This falls on a small group of people and does not raise as much money as perceived. The big misunderstanding is the belief about the level of income that comes out of asset ownership. Farmers may have a lot of assets but low income. Therefore, this inheritance tax may be unrealistic resulting in farms being forced to sell off land and assets thereby reducing the size of the farm.

Q. What are your feelings on the current global issues – how should people to respond to the tariffs?

A. For a number of years there were ongoing improvements in business and consumerism for all which produced commercial dependence on other countries without strategically looking at the negative impacts. The situation changed with the Russian invasion of Ukraine because this highlighted trade frictions between other nation states. Ultimately we do have a functioning industry that we should be proud of, but there is more work to do and money to be spent to fix the issues which have arisen.

5. Overview of 2024-25 – Chair Cllr Louise Myles

Following thanks to Mr Griffith and introducing the Parish Councillors present, Cllr Myles covered the following topics (full report attached):

- **Councillors**

- Sadly, we said goodbye to one of our Councillors, John Wigram, this year. As many of you will know John was instrumental in setting up the village broadband project for which we cannot thank him enough.



- We are delighted to welcome back to the Council, Julie Pilkington who left us for a short while but has very kindly returned to fill the hole left by John and we are delighted to have such an experienced Councillor back on board.
- Broadband
- Annual Spring Clean
- Traffic calming
 - The Rising Sun Crossroads and School approach:
 - Borden Wood
 - Portsmouth Road
- Milland Lane Water-related issues
- Milland Lane Water-related issues
- Other road issues
- Parking on Cartersland
- Footpaths
- Durrants Pond
- Defibrillator
- Hollycombe House
 - The History
 - The Build
 - Process
- Devolution
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Bonfire Committee contribution to the Recreation Field
- Enhancing our Community
- Meet Ups
- Welcome Pack
- Tech recycle:
- Working Parties for Parish Maintenance
- Graffiti
- CIL Fund

6. District Councillor's Report – Cllr Brett Burkhart

Following an introduction to her role and responsibilities Cllr Burkhart covered the following points (full report attached):

- The Farmers' Tax - CDC was able to lend its voice and add pressure on this issue.
- Planning
- Parking
- Environmental Projects
- Other Projects
- Finances and Taxes
- Devolution

7. Planning Report – Jeremy Parker – Chair of The Planning Committee

- Cllr Parker reported that it had been an uneventful year for the planning committee with only one contentious application in Borden Wood:
 - MPC submitted an objection based on:



- The increased size of the proposed property.
- The proposal not being in keeping with the vernacular.
- He reported that the one of the main reasons for CDC refusing the application was the Milland Neighbourhood Plan and this demonstrates how important the document is.
- Cllr Parker reported that the only other project of interest is the redevelopment of Hollycombe house which although is just outside the Parish, will impact on it and therefore the Planning Committee are monitoring the development.
- Cllr Parker finished by summarising the Council's concerns regarding the application for 287 houses in Liphook along the area of the Longmoor road. Again, although outside the parish, the planning committee had raised concerns about the increased traffic that would inevitably travel through the Parish. He confirmed that this would be closely monitored by the PC.

8 Finance Report – Full Report Attached

Milland Parish Council Financial Summary

Precept for 2024-25: **£35,442**

Precept for 2025-26: **£34,200**

This reflected decrease of **-£1,242 (-3.5%)**

Total Gross Payments - £34,916

Ringfenced funds:

- Tennis courts resurfacing fund **£7,423**
- Defibrillator Fund **£2,389**
- King's Coronation Fund **£1,045**
- CIL Grant **£9,314**

Receipts:

As well as the precept (**£35,442**) the Parish Council received:

- Milland Tennis Club **£2,500**
- VAT refund of **£300**
- CDC Grant for Catersland Fence **£800**

Total Available Funds 31st March 2025 £ 50,191.83

Overview of the year:

- It has been a slightly quieter financial year due to less events but there has still been considerable activity. I think one project which requires a mention is the welcome pack initiative. Huge thanks to Cllr Jeremy Parker and all those who contributed to producing this fabulous booklet which we are now handing out to all new residents along with vouchers to the shop and the Riser – thanks to both establishments.
- The Councillors are still conscious of the ongoing economic uncertainty and have worked hard to keep the precept at an acceptable level for the residents while allowing the PC to support all projects and community initiatives.
- We have once again seen a rise in the need for the Council to assist with miscellaneous hedging, ditching and verge maintenance particularly in view of another wet winter and ongoing issues with flooding and damage to the roads. I would like to add a massive thank you to Rob Findlay for all he has done and continues to do for these projects.
- Looking forward we have some exciting discussions ahead to discuss the spending of the CIL and Bonfire Committee Grants.

**Clerk's Expression of Thanks:**

- To all Councillors, for their time, hard work and engagement.
- Jeremy for the welcome pack.
- Louise and Sue for their ongoing commitment to the Milland Meet Ups.
- To Rob Findlay for his management of the Recreation Field and ongoing maintenance of the Parish.
- To the bonfire committee for the money they raise and fantastic community spirit that they embody!

Recreation Field Financial Summary

Total Gross Payments: **£6,838**

Total Receipts: **£6,850**

Summary of Payments:

- Maintenance **£5,242**
- Administration (bins, RoSPA Inspection, Moles) **£367**
- Repairs and Renewals (play bark, graffiti removal) **£1,043**

Summary of Receipts:

- Bonfire Committee Grants **£750**
- MPC Grants **£6,100**

Closing Balance **£ 9,954.68**

Overview of the year:

- Another long and wet winter has meant another difficult and soggy end to the year for the field. Rob Findlay, despite the difficult conditions, once again has done a herculean job of keeping it looking fantastic.
- After another brilliant bonfire and fireworks night huge thanks must go to the committee who completed the clear up and remediation works so quickly.

10. Looking Ahead to 2025-26**Meet Ups**

- We will continue to have meet ups during 2025, both as a means of providing face to face contact with Councillors and also as a way of providing company for residents who may not have the opportunity to meet up with people on a regular basis.

Tell us what you want

- We will be asking people in the village what they would like the Council to be addressing and what initiatives would make the village a better place for everyone.
- We are keen that no one should be excluded, so in addition to canvassing opinion via social media, MVN we may also be doing some door knocking to reach out to villagers who might otherwise be missed.

Tech recycle

- We will have another collection date when residents can bring unwanted computers/phones etc. to be securely recycled and reused.



Traffic Calming

- We look forward to progress being made on the traffic calming measures in Bordon Wood and the old Portsmouth Road and we will continue to see what might be done around the crossroads and the school.

Defibrillator training

- We have a date for another session in May – please let Viki know if you wish to attend.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

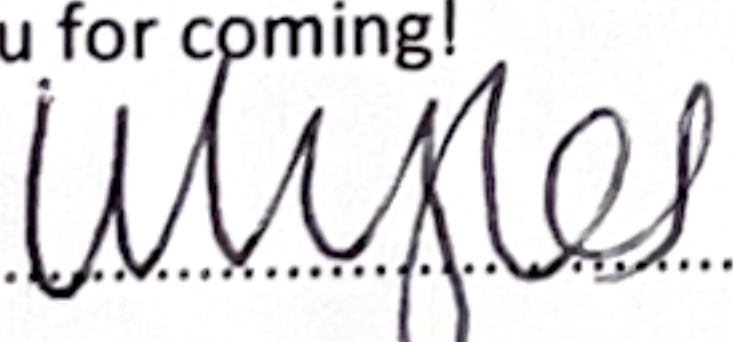
- We hope matters will become clearer next year on what this might mean for Parish Councils and we will keep everyone posted via Council meetings and via MVN

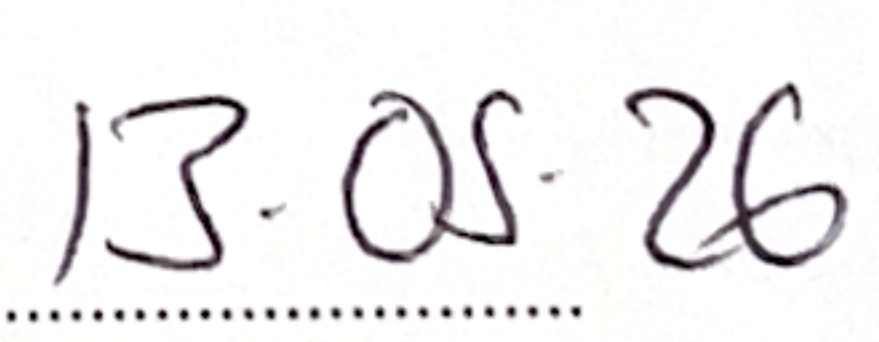
Online Safety presentation by Sussex Police

- We will be arranging for a presentation from the Cyber Protect Officer for Surrey and Sussex Police whose role is to proactively make our communities Cyber Resilient and to massively reduce their chance of becoming a victim of Online Fraud and Cyber Crime. A date will be agreed soon and we will promote it via the digital screen, Village WhatsApp group and email list and if possible, via MVN

11. 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 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!

Chairman 

Date 

These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman