

**Minstead Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting  
Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 19.30**

**Meeting held in Main Room in Minstead Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs W Andrews (Chair), M Causton, G Hough, G Saunders, J Smith, R Taylor, Cllr Mrs Andrews (NFDC), PC Carl Peverill (Hampshire Constabulary), PCSO Richard Williams (Hampshire Constabulary), B Mollett (Clerk) + 18 public.

**1. Attendance Register and Apologies**

Apologies noted from Cllr H Bennett, Cllr E Heron (HCC) and 3 parishioners

**2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, 10 March 2021 (*Held via Zoom in accordance with COVID regulations*)**

These had been published and were agreed and signed.

**3. Matters Arising**

None

**4. Report by Chairman**

Cllr Bill Andrews reported:

Thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting, isn't it a pleasure to be able to meet in person again.

Whilst life in general remains different for us all, many local issues remain much the same.

**Fabric**

- We are delighted that the Minstead Community Shop continues to be well patronised, many thanks to all the team involved in that.
- The housing for the village clock on the old shop building has still not been replaced, and the clock is still not running.
- Our Parish Lengthsman, Stephen Short, carries out regular maintenance checks of bus shelters, seats, war memorial area, flagpole, footpath signs, PC-owned trees etc. with repairs and maintenance as required. He cleans our road signs, drains and gullies, monitors the condition of our Roadways, Hedges and Ditches and works on our footpaths and their drainage. Many thanks to Stephen, and to Cllr Saunders for keeping him informed of our needs.
- We continue to receive support from Hampshire County Highways both directly and through the good offices of Cllr Heron. Please use the HCC website to report road issues directly.
- Please remember that all property owners are responsible under Riparian Ownership for keeping their hedges cut back and ditches cleared alongside their properties, even if these are outside their garden boundary.

**Community**

- We are well pleased with the useful and much-visited Minstead Community website, and the ever-expanding reach of our Facebook page. Many thanks to Cllrs Georgie Hough and Jack Smith for keeping on top of those.
- Continued efforts to bring Ultrafast Fibre Broadband to the whole Parish have borne some fruit, more is coming. Our thanks to Cllr Richard Taylor for all his efforts.

- Our Monthly eNewsletter is distributed to nearly 300 addresses, please sign up if you don't yet receive it, and copies are kindly printed and delivered to neighbours who are not connected to email. Our thanks to Cllr Miranda Causton for masterminding this.
- Your PC currently grants regular financial support to Citizens Advice New Forest, and to All Saints PCC for churchyard maintenance, and you will shortly hear from our Financial Officer of other largesse.
- Litter picking in and around the village and car parks is carried out by Councillors and public, special thanks to Sean Hayward our Postie for all his efforts in this respect.
- We have continuing liaison with local police and see quite a bit of our police Community Support officer as he goes about his business. Thanks to Cllr Helen Bennett for this. You will hear from PC Carl Peverill later this evening.
- Your Council represents the interests of Minstead parishioners on several bodies and at various meetings. We continue to offer support and advice in planning, and many, diverse matters.
- Council is presently planning events in celebration of our Queen's Platinum Jubilee, look out for further information and invitations.

### Council

- In June 2021 we welcomed Mr Barry Mollett who has taken up the reins of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with aplomb, and from whom you will hear next.

**Finally, my thanks to all Parish Councillors and our Clerk for their support, industry, and effectivity; to both County and District Councillors for their continued support; AND most importantly to you, our Parishioners, for giving us the opportunity to continue to serve you.**

### 5. Financial Statement

Barry Mollett, as Responsible Financial Officer, reported on Parish Council finance:

- Audit of the governance of Minstead Parish Council and the accounts for financial year ending 31 March 2021 was successful.
- Council has increased the precept request to £12,000 (from £11,500) for the coming year, 2022-2023.
- Council finances remain healthy with a current balance exceeding £35,000. Once again, this winter we were fortunate that no snow ploughing was required. There have been the usual costs relating to council administration and fabric maintenance within the parish.
- Grants were received this year from:
  - HCC to support HCC Parish Lengthsman Scheme: £1,100 towards Lengthsman salary; this will continue into 2022-23.
  - NFDC Business Support Grants: £8,000
- Parish Council has made grants so far this year to:
  - Minstead Hall: £2000 supporting refurbishment
  - Minstead Flower Show Society:
    - £430 towards cost of room rental for the Flower Show in 2021.
    - £600 supporting the upcoming 2022 Flower Show
  - Minstead Players & Junior Minstead: £550 supporting replacement of aging equipment and lighting
  - Minstead Community Shop: £1000 supporting refurbishment

You can view the PC's finances yourself at any time on the Minstead website: details published monthly in the minutes and a quarterly budget report is also produced and published.

**6. Report by Hampshire County Councillor Edward Heron**

Cllr Heron had sent apologies as he was unable to attend due to illness.

**7. Report by New Forest District Councillor Mrs Diane Andrews**

Cllr Mrs Diane Andrews briefed the meeting on Waste Strategy:  
Waste Strategy 2022-2027

Why are we making changes to the collection of our rubbish?

First and foremost, We MUST change to meet new legislation being introduced by central Government. There is a legal obligation to apply the waste hierarchy.

Which is:

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

ENERGY RECOVERY by anaerobic and incinerator

LANDFILL a last resort

At present our recycling rate in the New Forest is 34% the average across England is 43% This average is stagnant, future recycling targets will not be met without change. The Government suggest an increase to 55% by 2025.

To increase to this new figure, we need to recycle a wider range of items to include pots, tubs and plastic trays. We wait to hear if the Gov will include tin foil and plastic wrap.

At the moment 50% of councils in England collect food waste.

We will be bringing in a separate collection of food waste which will be separate from your general waste. It will be important for us to be compatible with all our partners to ensure we are all collecting the same items across Hampshire.

It is probably no surprise to hear that we will be using wheeled bins, they are safer for operatives and will reduce the amount of general waste (food waste being collected separately.) One bin will be for the collection of glass cans and plastic. The other for general waste. Dry Paper and card will use a reusable bag. Food waste will be collected in caddies.

The collections would look something like this over a two-week cycle.:

- Weekly food waste collection
- Fortnightly Paper and card collection
- Fortnightly mixed recycling wheeled bin
- Fortnightly general waste in wheeled bin

Garden waste would be a paid service also collected in a wheeled bin. We would however encourage home composting.

There was a survey which many people have asked how will people in flats and terraced houses manage? For some bags will continue. For those elderly or with disability there will

be an assisted collection service, which we already offer residents. The response to the survey showed 50% welcomed wheeled bins, and there was strong support for food waste collections.

Roaming animals in the countryside may be an issue but, as now, your bins should be left inside your gate or cattle grid and the operative will access your property to collect waste and return containers.

If used correctly the capacity of the wheeled bins will be sufficient for most, but for larger households with the need for more capacity, they will be able to apply for larger bins but will be advised on reducing their waste.

This is all very well. But how will we know if we have succeeded what are our targets?

Minimise Carbon by 1,000 tonnes or 9%

Reduce to 5% the amount of waste per head of population.

Exceed the Government's target of 55% recycling by 2025

Reduce the level of contamination of recycling to 5% (It is presently 15-20%)

We are awaiting clarification for Government timelines and funding but hope to take this strategy to Cabinet and Council in July of this year.

Whilst I am all in favour of increasing recycling and being more efficient,

I worry that wheeled bins may be left out on the roadside rather than put away. This is a lovely village and in a National Park. If everyone left them inside their gates or cattlegrids this would help in keeping the village rural. NFDC will be monitoring this situation.

In closing, since I have been a District Councillor 120 million single use plastic bags have been used for collecting rubbish and recycling. This situation is obviously unsustainable and must change.

Thank you.

#### **8. Police report by PC Carl Peverill**

PC Carl Peverill updated the meeting on 3 key initiatives being undertaken by Hampshire Constabulary which were:

- Operation Treadstone related to a number of car break-ins in the Minstead Parish
- A31 Site Clearance
- Fly Tipping

A number of questions in relation to the above and other issues were discussed and responded to by PC Peverill.

*Action: Clerk to provide parishioner with contact details for local PCs which is available in the Beat Report published each month on Facebook (Completed)*

#### **9. Discussion of Climate Change Impact on Council Decisions**

Cllr Taylor outlined the ways in which the climate and nature emergency would affect policy and decisions. These include:

- planning with a requirement for biodiversity net gain on all development
- transport with a change of emphasis to walking and cycling to reduce carbon emissions and improve wellbeing and

- improvements to utilities to reduce demand for water and increase electricity supply as transport and heating move to electric.

Actions to improve nature recovery, and increase natural ways of reducing carbon emissions will become ever more centre stage.

He suggested that the village celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by developing a scheme of wildlife friendly planting in gardens and paddocks to create a local nature recovery network under the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative. This would be aimed at the 2022/23 planting season and use local expertise to plant the right tree in the right place, support nature recovery, and increase carbon sequestration ([The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](http://TheQueen'sGreenCanopy.org)).

Anyone within the village interested in any of these issues can let the Parish Council know by emailing [minsteadclerk@gmail.com](mailto:minsteadclerk@gmail.com) with a view to forming a group to move things forward.

A parishioner suggested that energy efficiency within the village could be a fruitful topic to explore with which Cllr Taylor fully agreed.

#### 10. Discussion on 20's Plenty Speed Campaign

Cllrs Hough and Causton led a discussion on the above (a copy of their presentation is available on the website with these minutes)

Whilst there was support for the scheme it was suggested that further consultation with parishioners should take place on both location and feasibility before any decisions are made on this initiative. It was clarified by Cllr Hough that this will take place and had been identified as the first step in the process (slide 6).

#### 11. Items requested by the Public

- Allotments with the parish: Whilst this matter was discussed and noted that there had been previous attempts, any progress would be dependent of a suitable area of land being available to progress.
- ROOMS (Restore our Original Minstead Shop): a parishioner briefed the meeting on the objectives of this local campaign and requested Parish Council support for the initiative. Robust discussion was held on this topic.  
*Action: Parish Council to consider and respond to the request for support*
- Road Conditions and Village Cleanliness: Discussion was held on whether some of council reserves could be directed towards roadworks and general village cleanliness. Suggestion of a Village spring clean was also made.
- Vote of Thanks: A parishioner put forward a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for the work they continue to do to support the parish. There was also a particular vote of thanks to Mrs Polly Osborne, the previous clerk, for the great work and support she provided prior to her retirement.  
*Action: Chairman Cllr B Andrews to pass on the parishioners' appreciation to Mrs Osborne*

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 4 April 2020 at 19.30.

Meeting closed at 21.30