

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th November 2021
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr D. Cocking (Vice-Chair)
Mr S. Gould
Mr T. Khandwala

Mr S. Driver
Mr N. Hodder

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 4 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr P. Amor, Ms K. Finlayson, Mr T. Ives, Mr Rowan Woodhouse, Mrs. Emma Parker (District Councillor)

DC advised that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of writing up the minutes and will be deleted afterwards.

2. DISPENSATIONS None

3. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mr L. Hughes announced that another car had left the road, coming to rest in his front garden recently; the second such incident within a short period of time. He advised that the fence had been destroyed, along with highways signage, a recently refurbished fingerpost and the Flower Power Planter. He urged Councillors to consider the fact that the 30mph limit quite clearly needs to start further out of the village. Previous Highways officers have admitted this fact to Mrs S. Hughes but have advised that the process to move the speed limit is too expensive. LH advised that there is now more traffic using the track to Milton Abbey and visiting Fishmore Hill Farm and the bend is obscured by excessive tree and hedge growth. It was confirmed that this is the third known accident in this location since LH moved in and the fifth on the location of the double bend within the same period. LH pointed out that there is a pedestrian footpath around the bend which has been totally overgrown in moss to a depth of over 5cm. If the footpath were cleared it was agreed that pedestrians could traverse the junction with more safety, and it would clearly define the run of the road. NH agreed to discuss these concerns with Mr S. Mephram Highways Officer at Dorset Council. It was agreed that the new gallop track may be a contributing factor to a required review of the road layout due to increased traffic and potential visual distraction. NH will contact the owner, Ms S. Clarke prior to contacting SM.

Mrs E. Payne, representing the St James Church PCC presented the finances for maintenance of the open grave yard including grass cutting costs which have increased to £315 so far in 2021. The PCC request consideration of an increase from the existing annual donation (£235) to at least £315 per year. It was confirmed that this will be considered during the annual budget review.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2021 had been circulated. It was proposed by NH, seconded by TK, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

TK requested clarification on why PA's apology had been recorded since PA had attended on zoom. The Clerk advised that current legislation does not permit Parish Councils to meet online and therefore decisions can only be made by Councillors who are physically present. It was however appreciated that PA had managed to attend virtually and provide valuable input to the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

PA had reported the additional hedge cutting at The Old School House by email on 31st October 2021.

The Clerk had liaised with Milton Abbey School regarding the trees felled opposite the Abbey. The Clerk is waiting for a response from Ms T. Edwards.

P/FUL/2021/01605 & P/LBC/2021/1606 58-59 The Three Bears Milton Abbas – Subdivision of dwelling to form two dwellings and erection of two storey extension (demolish single storey rear extension). Comments from previous meeting have been added to the Planning Officers file.

The Clerk had liaised with Planning and Planning Enforcement officers regarding the removal of the boundary hedge at Little Westwood. The Planning Officer indicated that works should not yet have commenced as planning conditions have not been met.

Seven out of nine Councillors have completed the electronic Register of Interests. One is not yet reflected on the Parish Council page of Dorset Council, investigations are ongoing.

The cloud number 01258 880383 for the Parish Council is now live and has received two phone calls.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated by email.

The clerk drew attention to the following:

An email from eforests.co.uk; Mr A. Haining offered over 150 trees to public communities. KF has expressed a keen interest in taking advantage of the offer and requested that it is included in the next agenda. DC pointed out that the location and ongoing liability for maintenance are critical decisions to be made and pointed out that any location must be on public land as the trees must be available for physical access by members of the public.

A resident has expressed confusion after encountering two signs on public footpaths to Milton Abbey. These correspond with signs identified by NH previously. NH confirmed that one sign (at Cornborough) has now been removed, however the sign at Monks Path/Queens Walk still suggests that access beyond the Abbey is restricted despite the fact that TE has confirmed all footpaths have now been re-opened.

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs E. Parker's report was available for residents to read. The Clerk announced the contents of the report and advised that it had been circulated by Ellie-gram during the month. NH suggested that it should be posted as a file on the Milton Abbas Parish Council and Community Facebook pages.

8. REPORTS

HOMEWATCH

Mrs E. Payne confirmed circulation of various media including Dorset Community Action emails, Rural Funding advice, Fuel Poverty guidance and the Dorset Cllr Report amongst others.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD

EP relayed a message from Ms J. Harrison confirming a MATCH meeting next week, the report will be circulated by email.

EP relayed a message from Mr I. Maxwell confirming no updates for Jane's Wood or the Millennium Green.

PLAYPARK

SG advised that there will be a Play Park Committee meeting next Thursday in the Hambro Arms at 7.30pm.

TRANSPORT

NH added to LH report regarding the recent accident, to enquire whether the cost for a replacement planter would be covered by any insurance claim. LH confirmed that he is liaising with TI to ensure that it is included. DC pointed out that the recently restored aluminium "Milton Abbas" sign was damaged and the "Please Drive Carefully" sign and support posts have been destroyed.

WELCOME PACK

TK confirmed that the WP has been updated on Facebook and copies sent to NH and the Clerk for further distribution.

CSW

FR had sent apologies, but via NH confirms that there are plans to encourage CSW activity in the future.

MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST As above MATCH/JW Report

COVID 19

NH confirmed a third booster jab is available but it is up to individuals to book online as they are not being rolled out by the local surgery. TK asked whether it is pertinent for the Parish Council to encourage residents and Councillors to wear masks during meetings. It was agreed that this should be up to each individual, however masks should be made available for attendees. It was agreed that Covid 19 no longer needs to be a standing agenda item.

TELEPHONE KIOSK See item 10

COMMUNICATIONS

NH confirmed that planning applications have been reported on the Milton Abbas Community Facebook page and circulated by Ellie-gram.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS

NH reported on a recent zoom meeting with Mrs J. Witherden and Ms. C Redding from Milborne St Andrew Parish Council, in which it was established

that there is interest in a joint venture although Milborne St Andrew do not own land, so their intention would be somewhat different to Milton Abbas. Mr S. Parker has still not responded to various lines of contact, however JW has contact details for another member of the team at Dorset Council. The next step may be a future joint meeting at Milborne St Andrew.

PLATINUM JUBILEE ARRANGEMENTS

NH suggested another Bulletin article will be forthcoming to update residents on progress and it will be necessary to canvas residents to see what they want from the celebrations.

NHS WILDFLOWER GARDEN

NH has been in touch with Milton Abbey School who are interested in becoming involved. The Play Park may have some observations to report following their meeting next week. It is clear that a long term commitment to maintenance will need to be identified and documented ahead of inception. NH will feedback to Ms M. Curtis following the Play Park meeting feedback.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS

TK has secured confirmation that Milton Abbas has been included on the Dorset Council Phase 2b sites list for electric car charging points, however Milton Abbas will struggle to qualify due to the fact that there is a significant amount of off-street parking available to residents. Private properties are not eligible for the government grants so the Hambro will not be a viable site for a funded facility, and investigations regarding planning constraints within a Conservation Area will need to be considered (likely a fast charger is the best potentially acceptable solution in the circumstances). TK has been referred to Joju to obtain a feasibility study which will cost £1 per site, so it will be necessary to arrange a site visit to identify potential sites for consideration. SG suggested Catherine's Well as a potential site, but TK pointed out that there may be some congestion issues to consider.

9. PLANNING

Decisions

P/FUL/2021/01456 Fishmore Hill Farm - Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian & construction of all-weather gallop - Granted

Applications

P/FUL/2021/02846 Woodview Chalet, Park Farm – Erection of a dwelling and formation of additional parking space. DC pointed out that this is a modification of an application that was previously granted. Councillors had no concerns regarding this application.

P/HOU/2021/03117 & P/LBC/2021/03118 56-57 Milton Abbas - Raise existing chimney stacks, make alterations to existing roof, windows and cladding. Councillors had no concerns regarding this application.

P/LBC/2021/04451 51 Milton Abbas - Internal and external alterations to remove an existing oil fired boiler and heating fuel tank and installation of air source heat pump. Councillors had no concerns regarding this application.

Any General Planning Concerns

P/PAPA/2021/02556 Land at Delcombe Wood Ibberton Hill to Woolland Hill jct and viewpoint to lane Woolland – Form Track. The Dorset Planning team confirmed that there is no provision in Town and Country Planning to restrict Forestry works in Historic Parks. The resident who raised concerns has thanked the Parish Council for their enquiries and will continue their appeal through Historic England.

Following personal research, DC presented photographic evidence of local woodland management over the years. Using aerial photographs from 2009, 2017 and 2020 it was clear that swathes of forest have been felled, most of which have subsequently been replanted. It was agreed that within the depth of the forest, the visual impact on the landscape may be minimal, however on the edges of the forestry land the impact is dramatic. During analysis of the photographs, it became evident that an area of woodland had been cleared behind Delcombe Manor which does not appear to have been replanted. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries of the owner of Delcombe Manor as to the purpose of the clearance.

10. TELEPHONE KIOSK MATERIALS REQUIREMENTS

Further to an email list of materials circulated by SD and approved by more than five Councillors by email exchange, it was proposed by SD, seconded by DC and unanimously approved to purchase materials to the gross total of £305.49 (subject to potential price increases) to commence refurbishment of the Catherine's Well kiosk. The Clerk will confirm that the kiosk is not listed under planning laws.

11. PLATINUM JUBILEE BID

NH had circulated the draft bid by email. He summarised the bid to the Council and advised regarding updates including addresses and bank details. NH will be a main contact on behalf of the Parish Council and Jubilee Events Steering Committee, the Clerk will be principle contact for the purpose of the grant application. The requested sum is £3,050 for marquees, toilets, large screens and related infrastructure. It is anticipated that the grant total may be reduced by the Lottery team, but there is £2,000 from other income sources to compliment the grant. It was proposed by NH, seconded by TK and unanimously agreed to submit the bid application online. TK thanked NH and the Steering Group for their hard work. The Group were identified as Mr M. McAvoy, Mrs E. Payne, Mrs F. Robinson, Mrs P. Phillips, Ms J. Harrison and Ms C. Matthews.

12. BUDGET

Clerk to forward a copy of the Expenditure to Date and predicted out turn report by email. The Clerk requested all Councillors to consider expected expenditure for 2022/2023 and forward information by email so that a draft budget can be compiled for discussion at the Village Meeting on Zoom in December and finalised for approval at the January 2022 meeting.

DC asked what the £45,000 balance on the Parish Council Current Account was for. The Clerk will provide details of reserves with the budget reports for review.

(£45,044.69 balance includes recently received precept for October 2021 to March 2022, and unrepresented cheques, therefore artificially higher than usual at present).

13. FINANCE

The bank statements and expenditure and receipts spreadsheet were available on the table for review, including a bank reconciliation to 14th October 2021.

Balances:

Current A/c	£45,044.69
Playpark A/c	£15,224.00
Nationwide A/c	£1,159.36

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary October 2021	1321	£311.14
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses October 2021	1322	£45.59

Play Park Account

Elite Playground Inspections	144	£150.00
------------------------------	-----	---------

14. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS None

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 12th January 2021, (following the Village Meeting on Zoom on 8th December 2021) and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: