

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25th January 2023
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr S. Driver

Mr S. Gould

Mr T. Ives

Mr S. Martin

Mr P. Ford

Mr N. Hodder (Chair)

Mr T. Khandwala (Vice-Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Parker (Dorset Councillor), Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 1 member of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr P. Amor (working late)

2. DISPENSATIONS None

3. APPOINT VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was unanimously agreed that Mr T. Khandwala should be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

4. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mr R. Golledge asked whether any progress had been made in regard to selling Parish Council owned land for development. NH advised that a date had been arranged for the Councillors to meet with Planning Consultant Ms J. Witherden to consider the options.

RG asked whether the Parish Council intended to make any arrangements to celebrate the King's Coronation on the weekend of 6th to 8th May. NH has arrangements to participate in events in Milborne St Andrew. Mr M. McAvoy has not been well recently and may not wish to be involved in the same way as he was for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Being Street Fair year, many of the usual volunteers will be already fully committed to other preparations. NH offered to put a notice on the Community Facebook page requesting volunteers. If volunteers step forward, the Parish Council will consider applying for a grant. RG asked who was responsible for the maintenance of Jane's Wood as he was concerned regarding trees overhanging the gardens of properties at Sylvan Row, the foliage of which cuts out a significant amount of light to the gardens in the summer. NH advised that whilst the wood is owned by the Parish Council, financial responsibility is down to MATCH. The Clerk advised that in previous years, Jane's Wood Working Party have submitted the application for works to be carried out, however the works are left to neighbouring property owners to carry out. The Clerk will contact the Working Party to obtain their comments.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by TK, seconded by TI, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

The Parish Council website address is now www.miltonabbas-pc.org.uk and whilst there are clearly some updates required, it is live. The Parish Councillors can now have dedicated email addresses for their activities for the Parish Council.

Dorset Council have confirmed that volunteers will not incur any liability for maintaining the slabs at the bottom of the Lovely Steps, although they have asked to be kept informed of any maintenance carried out.

The Clerk had attended the Reading Room Committee meeting, and a report had been circulated to Councillors by email.

The Clerk had attended the DAPTC AGM and had circulated a report by email, including the responses for each of the motions.

Mr M. Peat has confirmed that he will tend to Seymour Woodland and the laurel hedge in February and that he will log up the cuttings and leave them for collection by residents.

Mr G. Coleman will cut the grass in the land behind Middleton Row for £52/hr and predicts that each cut may take between 2-3hrs.

Mr C. Lovell has confirmed that he will tend both the fence for the land at Middleton Row and the chain link play park fence and will maintain the noticeboards.

Mr S. McGregor has confirmed that he will fix the new defibrillator boxes in place on Friday 27th January. The Clerk will obtain a contact number to facilitate turning off the electricity for the defibrillator at St James' Church.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated by email or was available on the table.

The clerk drew attention to the following:

DAPTC have advertised online meetings to consider the 20mph policy, electric vehicle charge points and digital inclusion. NH suggested the 20mph policy should be an agenda item for the next meeting. Dorset Cllr Mrs E. Parker provided a detailed explanation of the criteria and activities in local villages.

DAPTC have highlighted the NPPF review and this was supplemented by additional information from Ms. J. Witherden (Planning Consultant and Cllr for Milborne St Andrew). NH has asked JW to elaborate on the changes at the Planning session in February.

A public transport report compiled by Hilton Cllr Mr C. Jones.

A resident complaint had been received regarding a caravan parked on the garden of a house in the street. The Parish Council have written a letter to the resident concerned asking them to move the caravan.

Mr Andrew Taylor (Chairman of Cheselbourne Parish Council) had shared information regarding their 20mph campaign.

8. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

EP asked everyone to continue to report potholes using the Dorset Council website. Monthly reports from EP have been shared by email and on the website and Facebook pages.

9. REPORTS

HOMEWATCH

Mrs E. Payne continues to share information from Dorset Council, Homewatch and the Parish Council.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD

Mr I. Maxwell reports that the Jane's Wood sign has been reinstated.

PLAYPARK

SG advised that Mr D. Eastment has been to view the Captain Mannering structure. DE thinks that it would be better to shore it up in place rather than move it. He is checking his insurance to see whether he would be covered to carry out the work.

TRANSPORT

NH advised that he had reviewed the Hilton bus report and wondered why there was no reference to the existing community transport options including the DCT PlusBus service. His concerns had been communicated to CJ by the clerk.

WELCOME PACK

TK will email the latest Welcome Pack to the Clerk after updating with the Councillors new email addresses.

CSW

The SID is in Milton Abbas for January and appears to be working well.

MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

RG advises that he will arrange for the mowers annual service and have the invoice sent to the Clerk.

TELEPHONE KIOSK

SD reported that the recent Ellie-gram request for volunteers had two responses – one offer of assistance and a suggestion from America to use the kiosk as a book swap facility.

COMMUNICATIONS

NH continues to circulate planning applications and other useful information on Facebook.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS

The planning meeting with JW on 22/02/2023 will help councillors consider whether this could be a viable solution.

JUBILEE BENCH None

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS

As Chairman of the Milton Abbas History Group, SM reported that a Saxon pendant had been discovered by a local metal detectorist and within 2 weeks, funds have been raised to facilitate Dorset Museum to purchase the artefact. Fundraising efforts culminated in an evening presentation by Dorset Museum and Archaeologists, providing context on the pendant and an explanation of the

laws relating to finding treasure. MATCH and the Street Fair have contributed to the fund and the £10,000 target was exceeded; excess funds will be used towards future upkeep of the artefact.

10. PLANNING

Decisions

P/HOU/2021/03719 Long Close Farm – Replacement Annex - Granted

P/FUL/2022/05508 Luccombe Fm & Holiday Cottages – Erection of a chapel – Withdrawn

P/HOU/2022/05886 & P/LBC/2022/05887 46-47 St James Cottage Milton Abbas - Carry out Internal and external alterations. Demolish lean-to extension, chimneys and flue. Erect single storey extension and carry out associated works. Erect balcony, remove window and widen opening to insert French doors. Install replacement/ additional windows and doors, Landscaping works – Granted

P/VOC/2022/07034 – Land at 1 Catherine’s Well - Erection of 1no. two storey dwelling (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/FUL/2021/00489 - insertion of a first-floor window to south elevation) – Granted

Applications

P/HOU/2022/05763 27 Milton Abbas – Retain erected summerhouse. TI confirmed that the summer house is not visible from above or below the site and it appears that there are no services to the summer house. SD remarked that without the red ring on the photo to identify the location, it was totally obscured by trees. It was unanimously agreed that the application raises no concerns.

General Planning Concerns

RG advised that since the garage on land at 1 Catherine’s Well had been rejected, an abnormally large shed has been erected. SM confirmed that the shed is as large as a garage. EP and the Clerk will report to Dorset Planning team for their consideration.

11. APPROVE BUDGET AND AGREE PRECEPT

The budget had been circulated by email. By funding £4,575 expenditure from the general reserves, the precept could be maintained at £15,700. It was proposed by SD, seconded by NH and unanimously agreed that the budget should be accepted and the precept should remain at £15,700 for 2023/2024.

12. PROVISION FOR OVERSPENDING

Following a review of projected spending for 2022/2023, it was identified that the Clerk’s salary would be overspent by £320 due to the NJC pay increase, Clerk’s expenses would be overspent by £185 due to additional travel from Tolpuddle, maintenance of land assets and devolved services would be overspent by a cumulative total of approximately £3,000 due to the asset review and the defibrillator project would be overspent by £925 due to the damage incurred to the protective cases. It is possible to fund £412 of the overspend from the underspend in Stationery and Admin, Reading Room Rent, Insurance, Audit and Training. The balance of the overspend would be funded from the general reserves. Whilst it appears that the Sundries heading would be overspent by

£750, this expenditure is offset by income from Liverpool Victoria Insurance for the traffic accident at Lake Lodge.

It was proposed by SD, seconded by TK and unanimously agreed that the overspends should be funded as explained.

13. DAPTC WORKING TOGETHER DOCUMENT

The Clerk had recirculated the Working Together Document and recommended that Councillors continue to review and comment on the progress of this document as it would help to shape the future of communications between Parish / Town Councils and the Dorset Council.

14. FINANCE

Balances:

Current A/c	£53,899.25
Playpark A/c	£14,460.30

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary November 2022	1370	£511.13
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses November 2022	1371	£1,061.34
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary December 2022	1372	£346.63
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses December 2022	1373	£36.39
The Reading Room Committee July & November	1374	£25.00

The Clerk presented a Lloyds mandate for signature to allow "Non-Signatory" access to the Lloyds bank accounts by the Clerk, in preparation for online banking in the near future.

15. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

NH advised that in addition to the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, there would also be an Annual Parish Meeting, in the Reading Rooms. A variety of local organisations have expressed an interest in attending to talk to the village and it would be a good opportunity for Councillors to meet with residents.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 8th March 2023 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: