

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 in St James Church, Milton Abbas, at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr Mr N. Hodder (Chair)	Milton Abbas Parish Council
Cllr Mr T. Ives	Milton Abbas Parish Council
Dorset Cllr Mrs E. Parker (on Zoom)	Dorset Council

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk), and 7 members of the general public in person and on zoom combined.

1. WELCOME FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

NH welcomed everyone and explained that this is not a Parish Council meeting, but a meeting of the Parish for which there is a legal requirement to hold an Annual Parish Meeting between the 1st May and 1st June annually. NH explained that he has been Chairman of the Parish Council for a week and despite leaving the village to move to Milborne St Andrew, home is where the heart is, and he deems it an honour to lead the Parish Council over the next 12 months.

2. APOLOGIES

Ms J. Harrisson, Mrs E. Payne and Mr D. Robinson.

3. OPEN FORUM (MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH)

Mrs F. Robinson announced that there are 3 key vacancies on the Street Fair 2023 Committee - Treasurer, Operations Coordinator and Publicity Coordinator. This will be the 50th anniversary of the first Street Fair held in 1973 so it will be a bit special. Mrs P. Fifield enquired regarding the ownership of the sports field and its future. NH offered to follow up with the remaining trustee to ascertain any potential plans.

4. THE QUEENS' PLATINUM JUBILEE

NH handed over to Mr M. McAvoy as leader of the planning committee. MM expressed his hope that by now, everyone is aware of the programme of events, to include Friday 3rd June; St James' Church - a floral interpretation of the Jubilee, Marquee on lawn outside St James' Church for tea and cakes. Friday 3rd /Saturday 4th Reading Room - Milton Abbas Local History Group exhibition - 70 years of history in Milton Abbas and beyond. Friday 3rd June Milton Abbey School Theatre - Jubilee Concert - an evening of film and music celebrating the last 70 years. Saturday 4th Hambro Arms - a chance to watch the 'Party at the Palace' concert taking place at Buckingham Palace on Saturday night on a big screen under a marquee. Sunday 5th - Millennium Green - 'The Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch' - for Milton Abbas villagers - free lamb roll/veggie pitta bread lunch and drink for those who have reserved tickets, fun activities and games for all - including a Tug of War competition, Children's Races, a Competition/Treasure Hunt covering the Queen's 70 year reign, Face Painting and Transfers by the Playpark team and the Best Dressed Competition. Flyers have been delivered to every household. NH thanked MM for initiating the debate on potential celebrations, and leading the progress to date, and thanked all the committee members for their input.

5. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

NH advised that there is one vacancy following the resignation of Mr D. Cocking and invited residents to contact himself or the clerk if they were interested in co-option.

6. THE FUTURE OF VILLAGE MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

NH advised that a year ago, the parish council had decided to reduce the number of meetings from 10 to 6 per year, currently held in January, March, May, July, September and November, supplemented by potential online zoom meetings in April, June, October and December (of which two had occurred to date) to enable communications in between meetings. The Parish Council now has a Facebook page and group and planning notices and road closures have been advertised through this channel, in addition to the "Ellie-gram" and Clerk's emails. The Parish Council can call an extraordinary meeting whenever required. To date, there have been few agenda items for the online Village Meetings and there is no legal requirement to hold them. In addition, residents are welcome to contact Councillors or the Clerk at any time. NH suggested that there may be no need to continue with the Zoom meetings, unless anyone felt that they served a purpose. Most residents were in favour of continuing the online Zoom meetings for the present time. FR suggested that we have been through a reasonably quiet period recently and there may be more need for the intervening meetings in coming months and suggested that each month should have a subject focus eg Street Fair plans. NH concluded that the consensus is to continue for the time being but pointed out that they may be chaired by others, as they are not legal meetings.

7. COMMUNITY ZOOM ACCOUNT

NH drew attention to the benefit of Zoom/Skype/Teams etc through Covid and beyond. Many groups have used these mediums through lockdown and since lockdown many have continued with online or hybrid meetings. NH suggested that the Parish Council could share their license with any groups and organisations in the village that may wish to participate, and whilst there may be a few control issues to consider, many groups could be saved the expense, without any additional cost to the Parish Council. FR expressed her support of this suggestion. NH suggested that an additional camera could provide a forward-facing aspect, FR added that an improved microphone for capturing everyone's comments would help those online.

8. FUTURE HOUSING IN MILTON ABBAS

NH drew attention to the Dorset Council requirement for additional housing in Milton Abbas and that the Neighbourhood Plan identified several suitable sites, including one owned by the Parish Council. Two developers have recently expressed their interest in developing the site and there will come a time when the Parish Council must consider releasing the land for development. NH explained that one means of managing the transfer and maintaining a level of control would be to form a Community Land Trust (CLT). This would be an organisation with a constitution, directors, potentially a Parish Council representative, and staffed and managed by residents of the village with the appropriate skill base. Training and grants are available. Set up costs may be in the region of £3-4,000. Mr R. Golledge asked if there was a time limit to provide the number of houses set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. Mrs E. Parker pointed out that the plan must be kept up to date. EP suggested the idea should be put to residents and they should be canvassed for their thoughts on the best way forward.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

FR reminded all present that there would be a clean-up activity at the Millennium Green on Sunday between 10.30-12.30 in preparation for the Jubilee activities. NH thanked all those present for attending and expressed his hope that there may be more in attendance next year. The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed:
(Presiding Chairman)

Date: