

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th May 2023 in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, following the Annual Parish Council Meeting

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. Sellen (Clerk) and 10 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None

2. DISPENSATIONS

SG declared an interest in the Sports Field planning application.

3. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Ms Teresa Jones and her colleague Ms Janna Froud attended on behalf of Wessex Internet to answer questions relating to the proposed roll out of fibre (to the door) broadband to Milton Abbas. TI asked for the Parish Council Deed of Grant to be amended to replace “best endeavours” and “reasonable” with quantifiable terms. JF agreed to liaise with the legal team and respond to the Clerk. JF explained that installations are deliberately kept to the boundary of land where possible to avoid future conflicts of interest, and for the approx. 2 per year applications for re-routing, there has not yet been an issue. TJ outlined some of the issues and proposed solutions for properties in Milton Abbas and advised that there will be a community consultation event in the village for further questions and answers. In addition, Wessex Internet will be represented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May in the Reading Room. It was anticipated that the service would be available in Milton Abbas by the end of Summer 2023.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2023 had been circulated. It was proposed by SM, seconded by TK, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26th April 2023 had been circulated. It was proposed by SD, seconded by SM, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that a link for reporting accidents on the Dorset Council website has been shared by email, on Facebook and by Ellie-gram.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

The Milton Abbas Sports Club requested the Clerk to read their formal thanks to MATCH for a donation to reroof the pavilion and works to the parking area.

An email from DAPTC with respect to Dorset Infrastructure Funding Statements (previously S106 agreements), which should be essential reading for Councillors.

The Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan is out for review between 14th April and 26th May.

Milton Abbey School vacancies which had been circulated by email and on the website.

McMillan annual cycle ride will pass through Milton Abbas on 2nd July between 08:00-16:00.

The Hedgehog Highway Project requested homeowners to create 5" gaps in the fence to enable hedgehogs to navigate gardens and they are selling surrounds for this purpose.

8. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

A report containing updates on Road Maintenance, Pot Holes, Parking Fines, Parking Machines, second Homes Council Tax, Home Upgrade Grants, Household Support Grants, Electric Vehicle Charging Points, School Attendance Strategy and 20mph limits was available to read and has been uploaded to the website. Pertinent points have been shared to the Community and PC Facebook pages.

9. REPORTS

HOMEWATCH

EP advised that the usual emails from Dorset Police re rural crime, Highways re road closures etc are being circulated.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD

EP advised that Mr B. Isherwood is currently unwell, Ms Harrison has resigned. BI and Mr E. Watts will manage MATCH in future. Several trustees have resigned and they are looking for volunteers. They have recently agreed a significant donation to the Sports Club. No news from Jane's Wood.

PLAYPARK

SG advised that an urgent committee meeting is required. It was agreed to add the Parish Councillors to the Facebook Play Park Committee group.

TRANSPORT

NH advised that Melcombe Bingham, Hilton and Ansty Councils are negotiating with Dorset Community Transport with the intention of creating a rout from their

area through Milton Abbas and on to Dorchester and/or Blandford and are looking for additional Councils to join the group. (See Chairman's Urgent below).

WELCOME PACK None

CSW

Mrs F. Robinson confirmed Milton Abbas are due to host the SID again in June and September 2023.

MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST None

TELEPHONE KIOSK None

COMMUNICATIONS

NH confirmed that the usual notices re planning have been circulated.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS None

JUBILEE BENCH

FR confirmed that the scope has been expanded to include the Jubilee and Coronation. The artist has supplied the decorated panels and a forger is required to supply the ironmongery. SD to liaise with FR.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS None

10. PLANNING

Decisions

P/CLE/2023/000966 Keepers Cottage DT11 0AZ – Certificate of lawfulness for the use of buildings for residential purposes ancillary to Keepers Cottage – Granted

P/HOU/2022/07774 & P/LBC/2022/07641 26 Milton Abbas - Alterations to facilitate erection of single storey side extension & rear extension with rooms in a new roof. Demolition of existing rear extension & remodel of existing garage. New external brickwork stair & patio area. Removal of rear elevation door & installation of window to match adjacent. Reinstatement of blocked up inglenook fireplace to the existing office at ground floor level. New sanitary wear, flooring, ceiling finishes & underfloor heating to host dwelling. Extension & repointing of 2no. existing chimneys – Withdrawn

Applications

P/FUL/2023/02017 Milton Abbas Sports Club – Change of use of existing unused shower block / storage building into a café. Mr J. Kayll was in attendance as a neighbour to the Sports Field and Mrs D. Bazely attended as a neighbouring business owner. TI declared an interest as a member of the Sports Club Committee. TI confirmed that a private individual is renting the building from the Sports Club, which will provide funds for future improvement of the facilities. JK enquired as to the potential scope of the proposed business as he'd heard that the committee plan to host weddings, festivals etc, DB expressed concerns about transport access issues. Councillors were keen to ascertain that support of the application could not inadvertently lead to a future loss of sporting amenity on the site, especially since a local Cricket team had been refused use of the facility. Councillors also felt that parking facilities should be limited to avoid reduction of sports area. SM suggested that the facility required refurbishment, however any planning should be in line with the primary purpose of the sports facility. PF suggested a sports facility with a café could be preferable. It was proposed by

NH and seconded by TK that the Parish Council should support the application but make the local planning authority aware of the concerns expressed regarding the wider use of the playing field facilities. There were 5 votes in favour, SG and TI abstained due to their respective interests. It was agreed that the PC should contact the Sports Club and ask them to outline their future intentions.

11. DORSET COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED GUIDANCE FOR PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

NH advised that the document relating to listed buildings is a key document that clearly expresses Dorset Council's position on a variety of changes to listed properties.

12. PLAY PARK MAINTENANCE RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH CHARLES LOVELL AND NEW POST GUARDS FOR EQUIPMENT

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Lovell has increased his annual maintenance charge to £1,400 due to increasing fuel costs. Post guards are required at an approximate cost of £150 as the Play Park Committee have requested that he strim around equipment rather than use weed killer. It was proposed by NH, seconded by SG and unanimously agreed to extend Mr Lovell's contract and to purchase post guards.

13. LAND AT MIDDLETON ROW

The Clerk had emailed plans from land registry relating to PC and Housing Association land and it was clear that a small plot at the end of Middleton Row is still owned by the Housing Association.

14. 20MPH POLICY REVIEW

For any new application, the Community Speed Watch team must be reconvened. SD suggested that the speed limit should be extended around the corner past Lower Lodge, and along the road past the sports field. SM suggested that with the increase in electric cars, speeding is more of an issue as they are quiet, no one will hear them coming. FR reminded people that in the interim, individuals can continue to report speeding cars to Dorset Police.

15. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINT APPLICATION

TK has received an email from Dorset Council in response to his most recent application, which refers to the original 2021 application which suggests Milton Abbas could be included in Phase 2b of the process. The next stage will be a feasibility study, but this won't be any time soon. A bollard facility is likely to be the best solution for Milton Abbas; all costs will be fully covered, but there will be limited usage as it is a slow charge facility.

16. FINANCE

The Clerk had circulated the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 receipts and payments spreadsheets by email, and they were available at the meeting.

Balances:

Current A/c	£50,491.73
Playpark A/c	£14,460.30

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses March 2023	1386	£47.04
Mr I Maxwell sundry expenses for Millennium Green	1388	£112.47
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Salary April 2023	1389	£352.97
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses April 2023	1390	£49.74
DAPTC Annual Subscription	1391	£234.77
Mr M. Peat Fallen Tree removal	1392	*£1,000.00

*It was agreed that cheque 1392 would be funded from reserves as it had been instructed in 2022/2023 but the invoice did not arrive until the following financial year.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council are exempt from external audit due to the income and expenditure being below £25,000 respectively. The internal audit is scheduled for 12th June and the exemption certificate is due to the External auditors by 30th June, therefore an extraordinary meeting will be required to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Reports around 21-26th June and the public rights period can commence after this but by 3rd July latest.

17. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

TK reported that the Sunday Coronation "Big Lunch" organised at the Hambro Arms had been a great success, was well organised and well attended. He enquired whether the Parish Council could show their support for the hard work that had gone into it. NH confirmed that at the January meeting, the Parish Council had agreed to support a community event if volunteers could be found to organise it. He was aware that the event had been funded in part by the Community Fund and since the event had been so well attended, it was possible that the outgoings may have been more than anticipated. He suggested that it should be an agenda item at the next meeting to consider a financial contribution towards any shortfall between expected costs and outturn costs.

NH encouraged everyone to consider attending the Annual Parish Meeting in the Reading Room on 24th May, where he promised drinks, nibbles and no "death by power point"!

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next ordinary meeting would take place on 12th July 2023 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: