

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th July 2022
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr S. Gould
Mr T. Ives

Mr N. Hodder (Chair)
Mr S. Martin

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 10 members of the general public (including one member on zoom).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr S. Driver, Mr T. Khandwala and Mr R. Woodhouse. Reasons for apologies were unanimously received by attending Councillors.

2. DISPENSATIONS

Mr S. Gould requested a dispensation to share information relating to an existing valid planning application for a Mobile Mast at Steeptonbill Farm during consideration of item 13 planning application P/PAEL/2022/04137, he confirmed that he was not requesting permission to vote on the new application. It was proposed by NH, seconded by TI and unanimously agreed that SG should contribute to the discussion of the application.

3. VACANCY AND CO-OPTION

The Clerk reported that Ms K. Finlayson had resigned due to unanticipated commitments to ongoing studies. The vacancy arising from the resignation of KF will be reported to Electoral Services and advertised in due course.

TK had previously suggested that Mr S. Martin may be willing to join the Parish Council. SM had submitted an application by email. It was proposed by NH, seconded by TI and unanimously agreed that SM should be co-opted to the existing vacancy within the Parish Council.

4. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mr D. Morley attended on behalf of Matchpatch to convey Mr K. Gipp's apologies, and to collect the signed lease agreement. The Clerk requested to retain the agreement to scan the signed lease for Parish Council records.

Mrs P. Fifield asked what the Parish Council had done regarding the gate at 27 Milton Abbas, which protrudes beyond the property line, and to express her dismay at the "pop up" no parking signs outside 58/59 Milton Abbas and her hope that this would not become a trend.

NH advised that 58/59 is for sale and that specific events led to the placement of the signs, however he would be happy to email the resident and request that the signs are removed at the point of sale.

NH recalled that he had discussed the gate at 27 Milton Abbas with PF some time previously. The Clerk confirmed that an enforcement case had been raised by Dorset Council.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by TI, seconded by NH, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by NH, seconded by TI, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by TI, seconded by NH, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Extrordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 29th June 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by NH, seconded by SG, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

9. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk had contacted Dorset Council regarding DMMO T491 and had been advised that there may not be any further news until 2024.

The Parish Council insurer BHIB, had recommended that the Play Park Committee should follow suppliers advice to fence off the equipment, however a second inspection report has raised no concerns regarding the apparent subsidence and the Play Park Committee have decided to leave the equipment open for use as they consider Sovereign (the Supplier) have a vested interest in instigating a repair following their quote of £16,000 to repair the equipment (this repair comes with no guarantee) and that the present risk due to subsidence is less than the risk of accident when children inevitably attempt to climb the fencing to gain unauthorised access.

The clerk has made tentative enquiries with Lloyds regarding suitable controls for online banking. There may be a requirement to change financial regulations to accommodate a new system, the clerk will enquire with other councils for comparison.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

An email from Mr R. Golledge with respect to an event on the Millennium Green on 6th August. TI, NH and the Clerk agreed to liaise directly with RG.

Community Governance Review recommendations will be published on 14th July at 6.30pm.

The Street Fair Committee are calling for volunteers to join the committee, in particular to fill the roles of Treasurer, Operations and Publicity Co-ordination.

Mr L. Hughes sent an email regarding The Bulletin requesting further support.

A resident had contacted the Clerk to request better management of the grassed area in front of St James Church. It is currently maintained three times per year by Dorset Council. The clerk to investigate existing maintenance schedule and potential for the Parish to pay for additional maintenance.

Three separate planning concerns had been raised regarding buildings within the village. All three individuals had been provided with the means to share their concerns with the Planning Enforcement officer at Dorset Council.

An anonymous complaint regarding the recent party held in Forge Cottage had been received directly by NH as Chairman. NH stated that it is not possible to work with anonymous communications, and complaints of this nature should be forwarded to the appropriate agencies (Police/ Dorset Council Environmental Health) at the time of the event.

DAPTC have requested any motions for the AGM to be forwarded before the end of August.

An email had been received by the Clerk regarding overflowing bins at the Millennium Green and St Catherine's Chapel. Both of which had been reported to Dorset Council.

RG had reported a wasp nest within the sleepers at the Millennium Green. Quotes had been sought from Pest Control companies - Spectrum (£95, no vat, attendance Thursday earliest), Platinum (£130 no VAT, attendance Monday) and South Coast (£85+VAT, attendance Monday). The Clerk had instructed South Coast. The first application has not been fully successful and South Coast have agreed to return with a second application.

11. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mrs E. Parker had emailed advice for coping with the hot weather, and updates on community participation in Adult Services, Cost of Living help and Housing Support which have been shared by Ellie-gram and on Facebook.

12. REPORTS HOMEWATCH

Mrs E. Payne confirmed by email that Ellie-grams continue to be circulated and new participants have been added to the circulation list.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD

Ms J. Harrison confirmed via EP that the MATCH AGM would be held on 30th July 2022 in the South Aisle.

PLAYPARK None

TRANSPORT None

WELCOME PACK

NH suggested that the recent recycling reminder may be a handy inclusion.

CSW

FR confirmed that the SID is still in the village although it was expected to have been removed on 11th July.

MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

Mr I. Maxwell is liaising with the Clerk and Chairman regarding the future structure of the Trust. RG spoke regarding the “Talent on the Green” event on 6th August, the success of the Boules area. He advised that Mr D. Robinson had been stung 7 times whilst strimming in the Millennium Green (Mrs F. Robinson confirmed that he is recovering), and he confirmed that with the future changes to the Trust, RG is happy to continue grass cutting for the foreseeable future.

TELEPHONE KIOSK None

COMMUNICATIONS

NH confirmed planning applications continue to be published on a regular basis.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS None

NHS WILDFLOWER GARDEN

FR advised that although she had not been involved in the wildflower project, she had been liaising regarding a Jubilee Bench as a permanent reminder of recent events. NH confirmed that despite three different contacts at the Milton Abbey School, and several reminders the promises had not transpired, yet in the meantime, the area has been brought back into good use with the laying of the boules court. FR advised that the Art Group would like to donate a bench, carved and decorated by Ms M. Curtis for location somewhere on the Millennium Green, which could be accompanied by some seeds in jubilee colours sown nearby. The bench will require input by a woodworker or metal worker to form the bench from the two decorated panels supplied, and a small plaque to accompany the bench. NH suggested the £500 wildflower budget should allow for this. FR advised that the community fund also have £211 to contribute. NH confirmed that he will liaise with the school to advise that the wildflower garden is no longer a viable project.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS

NH reported back on a DAPTC “hosted” planning meeting, but advised it had been a long series of excuses for why planning are failing to meet deadlines.

Mr D. Cocking reported via Zoom that he had been in touch with Wessex Internet, but progress continues to be frustrating. A meeting had been scheduled two weeks previous to establish whether Milton abbas was top or middle of the list, but no further correspondence had been sent following the meeting.

13. PLANNING

Decisions

P/HOU/2020/00248 P/LBC/2020/00249 31, Milton Abbas – Modify vehicular access, form driveway & erect gates, erect summerhouse, carry out internal & external alterations – Granted (The applicant was in attendance and confirmed that he had removed an item from the application, in order to obtain permission).

P/HOU/2022/00778 & P/LBC/2022/00779 5, Milton Abbas – Replace extension roof & 4 roof lights, internal alterations, repairs & redecoration, internal boiler - Granted

P/FUL/2022/00956 & P/LBC/2022/00957 58-59 The Three Bears - Subdivide dwelling to form 2 dwelling, carry out internal & external alterations - Granted

P/HOU/2022/01974 Stonecroft – Erect single storey extensions (demolish garage & lean to extension) - Granted

P/VOC/2022/02028 Strawberry Cottage, 49, Milton Abbas - Erect garage & studio (demolish existing garage) (variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/HOU/2021/04572 to amend the approved plans) – Granted

P/NMA/2022/01150 Strawberry Cottage, 49, Milton Abbas - Non material amendment against planning application P/HOU/2021/04572 to allow door and windows to be moved, 2 roof lights moved to right, internal wall to partition the garage, insulate garage walls and lower overall height of walls - Refused

P/HOU/2022/02031 Bramber – Erect single storey side, front & rear extensions - Granted

P/HOU/2022/02814 & P/LBC/2022/02815 51, Milton Abbas – Ext & Int alterations & refurbishment of ancillary annex – Granted

Applications

P/HOU/2022/03603 Johannus, Catherine's Well – Erect porch. It was proposed by NH and unanimously agreed to support this application.

P/HOU/2021/03719 Long Close Farm - Replacement annexe. The applicant was in attendance to explain the original annexe had collapsed, the replacement is the same square footage but to satisfy building regulations will be wider and shorter. It was unanimously agreed to support this application.

P/PAEL/2022/04137 Milton Abbas ATE Windmill Clump - Proposed Base Station installation including the installation of a 25.00 m high fli tower on proposed root foundation, 3 No. antennas, 1 No. GPS module, 3 No. cabinets and all other ancillary development. Councillors and residents agreed that a coverage map would be essential to assess the benefit of the proposal. SG advised that when Vodafone had carried out research for the previous application, Steeptonbill Farm had offered the best coverage of the 5 sites considered (he had attended the assessment visits with the agents). It was agreed to request a coverage map, further understanding of the PAEL application and potentially to request an extension to the 28th July deadline. A member of the public advised that Mr S. Hoare suggested the previous Steeptonbill Farm application could also be extended to keep all options open. SG gave the Clerk permission to liaise with his land agent. NH proposed that the Clerk should contact Cellnex to confirm that the village are interested in the application but seek further clarification of points raised at the meeting. The Clerk to organise an extraordinary meeting as soon as possible, based on the feedback from enquiries.

General Planning Concerns

The owners of 46/47 St James Cottage had emailed NH requesting support from the Parish Council to encourage Dorset Council to get on with making a decision as the property condition is declining rapidly in the meantime. NH proposed that the Council should write to Dorset Planning Authority to address concerns about

the state of the property, which is clearly suffering neglect because no decision has been made. TI pointed out that the owner has an obligation to continue to heat and protect the property throughout the process and not to allow it to become derelict. It was agreed to contact Dorset Planning Authority as above and NH advised that he would email the owner to advise them of the decision that has been made and recommend things that can be done in the meantime to lessen deterioration.

14. FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The final internal audit report has now been posted on the website.

15. DEFIBRILLATOR REPAIRS

Following a recent report from TK explaining the damage to both defibrillator boxes, it was proposed by NH, seconded by SG and unanimously agreed that a maximum provision of £830 would be set aside for replacement of both boxes, following inspection by SD and TK to investigate whether parts from the box at the surgery could be used to repair the alarm on the box at the church.

16. ALLOTMENT LEASE AGREEMENT

The lease agreement put forward by the allotments committee at the previous meeting was signed by SG & TI. The original document will be returned to the Chairman of the Allotment Committee after a scan copy has been obtained by the Clerk.

17. MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST UPDATE

It had been previously suggested that the Millennium Green Trust could be dissolved, and the play park committee would take over the Millennium Green on behalf of the Parish Council, however the Charity Commission confirmed that this would not be viable due to the 1,000 year lease arrangement. Mr I. Maxwell agreed to remain as chair unless others were willing to replace him, but due to a lack of funds held by the trust, the Parish Council will take the financial responsibility for ongoing maintenance as they own the land.

Mr D. Morley pointed out that the Jubilee Orchard trees belong to Matchpatch.

Mrs F. Robinson requested a review of the utility supply to the Millennium Green as she had been led to believe that the electricity supply had been terminated following the Jubilee event.

18. COMMUNITY ZOOM ACCOUNT

NH advised that a number of villages provide Zoom for organisations within the village, and suggested that the Parish Council should share their existing Zoom account with other organisations. NH would be happy to provide training on Zoom and would instigate control measures to ensure that privacy for all users is maintained. It was unanimously agreed.

19. FUTURE OF ONLINE “VILLAGE MEETINGS”

NH expressed his personal view that online village meetings have proven unnecessary. Important issues can be considered by way of an emergency Parish Council meeting. It was proposed by NH, seconded by SG and agreed by the majority that online village meetings will not be routinely held, but legitimate requests for an extraordinary meeting will be accommodated.

20. THE BULLETIN AND FUTURE VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr L. Hughes has communicated his wish to stand down from editing The Bulletin, and there will be no Bulletin in August or September. The Parish Council would be disappointed to see the Bulletin cease to be published and will support and encourage anyone who wishes to take it on. The voluntary support of the treasurer and deliverers was also acknowledged.

21. MOTIONS FOR DAPTC AGM

FR suggested that the Council should request DAPTC to consider exhorting banks to provide a form of online banking that would be compatible with Parish Council financial controls.

22. FINANCE

Balances:

Current A/c	£51,274.87
Playpark A/c	£14,214.30

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses May 2022	1350	£147.98
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary June 2022	1351	£323.13
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses June 2022	1352	£201.72
Darkin Miller Limited (Internal Audit Fee)	1353	£190.48

23. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS None

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting (following the extraordinary meeting) would take place on 14th September 2022 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: