

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th January 2024
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr I. Baker

Mr S. Driver

Mr P. Ford

Mr S. Gould

Mr N. Hodder (Chair)

Mr T. Ives

Mrs J. Jordan

Mr T. Khandwala (Vice Chair)

Mr S. Martin

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 10 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor)

2. DISPENSATIONS None

3. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mr M. McAvoy demonstrated a lack of historical information readily available for visitors to and residents of Milton Abbas and proposed the formalisation of a self-guided tour of Milton Abbas to include a historical timeline, map with key features, recommended route, QR codes and signage welcoming people to Milton Abbas "Historic Village". There is a £2.5k Historic England/English Heritage grant which could be sought to cover the costs of signage and leaflets, and the Community Fund could put a bid in to the Street Fair. The Milton Abbey School have offered their support, other village groups have also been consulted. MM invited the Parish Council to support the venture. MM had circulated an email to councillors prior to the meeting with a suggested signage option, and NH had visited MM for an informal discussion. Dorset Highways team had shared some guidance regarding regulations for signage adjacent to the highway. The Councillors showed interest in the venture and MM expressed gratitude for the sentiments of support he had received from the various village groups. NH confirmed that the Parish Council would be pleased to get involved.

RG confirmed that the footpaths at the top end of Catherine's Well are still in a poor condition. The Clerk confirmed that a further report has been submitted to the Dorset Council website.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

The Dorset Council tree survey including a 12mth action plan for Janes' Wood and Seymour Woodland had been circulated to Councillors. The Action Plan has been

shared with Hinton Forestry, Shawyers and Knighton Countryside for to obtain comparative quotes.

Mr S. Hoare had replied with a copy of the response from the Minister of Housing regarding Neighbourhood Plans and their relative weight in planning decisions. It stated that the Planning Inspector's view is final, the Government are not at liberty to intervene, a five-year housing land supply is critical, and precedent rarely applies in planning as there are material differences between proposals. This had been shared with Councillors.

TK confirmed that the defibrillator at St James' Church has been repaired and is back in place.

The Sports Club had communicated a new priority for funds. (Reports & item 11).

6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

A DAPTC webinar on the Local Transport Plan briefing (the Parish Council are a key stakeholder and there is an online survey, and briefings).

The application for "The View Coffee Shop" to be licenced.

D-Day 80 circular regarding beacons to be lit at 21:15hr on 6th June 2024 as "Lamp Lights of Peace" and for church bells to be rung "Ringing Out for Peace".

DAPTC are holding a March meeting to consider the change to an organisation Limited by Guarantee ahead of their extraordinary AGM in April 2024.

DAPTC are now charging £45/year for the .gov email address from April - this has been included in the budget.

Residents have reported that the bin at St Catherine's Chapel is overflowing again. The Schools Admissions policy consultation ends 26th January.

A resident has reported an extraordinarily large number of Stella Artois cans appearing in the verge between Catherine's Well and Deer Park/Gate House since July 2023 as though someone regularly travels this route and discards multi-packs each time. Councillors and the public have also noticed this unfortunate occurrence. The Clerk will continue to make enquiries.

7. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR None

8. REPORTS

HOMEWATCH

Mrs E. Payne confirmed the usual circulars by Elliegram.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD

(Via EP) Mr B. Isherwood advised that there will be a MATCH meeting when the accounts have been brought up to date.

PLAYPARK

SG advised that the seat has been removed from the zip-wire as one of the posts is rotting. SG had received a second quote for the repair of the Captain Mannering equipment for £13,988.17 + VAT. If successful, this company will repair the zip-wire for free if the Parish Council pay for the replacement post. (Dorset Council's quote was £14,026.15 + VAT).

The Clerk will follow up with the Sovereign warranty to see if they will carry out the repair.

TRANSPORT None

WELCOME PACK None

CSW None

MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

Mr R. Golledge asked whether anyone would be willing to assist in trimming the hedges and trees before the beginning of February. PF, Baz and JJ offered help.

TELEPHONE KIOSK None

JUBILEE BENCH None

MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB

Mr D. French, Mrs K. Leigh and Mrs H. Bridge advised that the toilet facilities are unusable so the priority must now be to install a disabled toilet. They have requested 3 quotes from local builders and envisage that the cost may be in the region of £2-3K.

D-DAY 80 6TH JUNE 2024

SM suggested a joint venture with the Sports Club. Volunteers will be required. KL suggested that the Sports Club would have to review their liability insurance to see whether they would be covered to host an event. JJ, PF and SM will meet with KL to progress this venture.

ELECTIONS

Nomination forms are now available online and from the Clerk. First delivery to Dorset Council will be booked for a week after the March Parish Council meeting and all potential candidates are welcome to ask for assistance completing the forms or handing them in to Dorset Council. It will be necessary in March to choose the Annual Parish Meeting date and the date for the Annual Parish Council Meeting and first ordinary meeting of the Council following the election.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS None

9. PLANNING

Decisions

P/FUL/2022/07042 Hewish Farm - Change of use of land from agricultural to residential accommodation (siting of a holiday lodge) – Granted

P/LBC/2023/05049 Hambro Arms – Repair internal reed ceiling - Granted

P/HOU/2023/05172 & P/LBC/2023/05173 Hollyhock Cottage 24 Milton Abbas – Install air source heat pump - Granted

P/CLE/2023/05100 Little Hewish Barn - Certificate of Lawfulness to provide confirmation that the development works have been commenced and that the consent should not expire - in relation to 2/2020/1303/NMA Forming structural opening to create new French doors and erecting exterior cladding (standing seam zinc) to front elevation. Building works commenced under planning permission 2/2020/1303/NMA Internal alterations to form new staircase, bedroom and en-suite bathroom including laying of new foul drains Forming structural opening to create new French doors and erecting exterior cladding (standing seam zinc) to front elevation - Granted

P/HOU/2023/06006 & P/LBC/2023/06007 52 Milton Abbas - Erect single storey side extension, (demolish existing garage). Create access to rear garden. Cut back and extend retaining wall to create courtyard area and form new steps – Granted

Applications

P/HOU/2023/07099 & P/LBC/2023/06200 58-59 The Three Bears, Milton Abbas - Carry out internal renovation works to replace concrete floors and repair existing ceilings. Carry out external renovations to replace cement render to cob walls with lime. Refurbish existing flat roof to extension. Remodel internal layout of existing extension. Add ensuite shower room and downstairs shower room in original cottage. JJ declared an interest as this is her property. JJ confirmed that the Conservation officer has approved the flat roof repair, some internal alterations and cedar cladding to preserve original features along with the addition of a bathroom and ensuite. JJ left the room whilst the Councillors considered the application. There were no objections.

P/HOU/2023/06724 & P/LBC/2023/06725 53a Milton Abbas – Install oil fired central heating. There were no objections.

P/HOU/2023/07131 & P/LBC/2023/07132 St James' Cottage - Erect replacement extension, (demolish existing lean-to), with internal & external alterations and associated landscaping. There were no objections.

10. PARISH CONSULTATION 2024

MM has been involved in 6 Parish Consultations in 20 years. These allow residents to identify what is good and not so good in the community and suggest projects that may benefit the community. NH suggested that the next consultation should include a housing needs survey, which will be required before the Parish Council decide whether to sell the land by the surgery. MM has all the documents from previous surveys and would be happy to help with the next one. TI advised that Bournemouth University have helped with a previous survey and perhaps Milton Abbey School may be willing to assist with the production, distribution, or collation of results. NH offered to lead a small group and consult with SD and PF.

11. SPORTS CLUB QUOTES

The sports club were asked to supply their quotes to the Parish Council for consideration as soon as possible.

12. JANES' WOOD AND SEYMOUR WOODLAND QUOTES

Hinton Forestry have supplied their quote in response to the action plan from Dorset Council, however the contents will not be made public until the remaining contractors have supplied their quotes.

13. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2024/2025

NH advised that the largest change is the addition of a provision for works to Janes' Wood and Seymour Woodland. The Precept was raised to £15,700 in 2019/2020 and has remained at this level since. The Parish Council have acknowledged a responsibility to maintain the land, but funding 100% of the works from the precept would lead to a significant increase in the precept. Therefore, the budget had been drawn up with options A - funding the whole of the tree works

from reserves, B – funding half the tree works from reserves and C – funding all the tree works from the precept, to inform Councillors in their decision. It was proposed by TK, seconded by SG and unanimously agreed to raise the precept to £22,736 allowing for potential funding of 50% of the budgeted tree works from reserves.

14. FINANCE

Balances:

Current A/c	£47,479.43
Playpark A/c	£24,737.06

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary November 2023	1418	£352.97
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses November 2023	1419	£89.08
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary December 2023	1420	£564.47
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses December 2023	1421	£33.99

15. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

It was noted that the DMMO T491 application from September 2009 was decided in favour of a bridleway in July 2018, however due to a complaint, is subject to appeal, with little progress since. NH asked the Clerk to ask SH to intervene.

Councillors advised that the Ionos email service is less than satisfactory. The Clerk asked for a list of complaints to raise with Ionos. NH said that he'd retest his email service.

TI advised residents to be aware that there may be problems switching their landline number to a broadband facility and recommended that they should clarify whether they can keep their existing number prior to switching.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 13th March 2024 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: