

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th March 2022
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr S. Driver

Mr Steve Gould

Mr N. Hodder

Mr T. Ives

Mr R. Woodhouse (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 4 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr P. Amor, Miss K. Finlayson & Mr T. Khandwala, Dorset Cllr Mrs E. Parker

2. DISPENSATIONS None

3. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the advertisement of the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr D. Cocking, there had been no call for an election and therefore Councillors are able to co-opt as necessary. RW suggested that the vacancy should be publicised in the Bulletin and on social media prior to any decision being made.

It was proposed by RW, seconded by SG and unanimously agreed that NH should become Vice-Chairman.

SD volunteered to take on the lead role in fingerpost restoration, and TI offered his support. (DC has delivered equipment and materials to NH and emailed an inventory).

TK offered to take up as lead for the Defibrillators and had liaised with DC by email.

4. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mrs E. Payne reported that the churchyard path has been completed and is due to be inspected by Mr T. Ford in due course.

NH reported on a resident complaint following the attendance of a food truck named "The Duck and Chicken" at Catherine's Well on Monday 7th March from 3.30pm. Their second vehicle had caused significant damage to the grass verge and the food truck had blocked the bus stop and children had to alight the bus into the road. The Vendor had indicated that they had had permission, however this had not been sought from the Parish Council, and Dorset Highways confirmed that parking in a bus stop is illegal (Highways Code point 243). The Parish Council have previously supported the attendance of the Tikka Truck, who requested permission and heeded advice not to attend prior to 4.30pm so as not to hinder the school bus. The Clerk was asked to call the Vendor and ask them not to attend earlier than 4.30pm and not to park their second vehicle on the grass verge. (NH supplied telephone no).

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by RW, seconded by NH, 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 the Planning Enforcement Officer had attended the site at Little Westwood twice and saw no evidence of works being carried out. He confirmed that the new planning application has not yet been granted (as at 21/01/2022). Planning ref EN/2021/00501.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated by email.

The clerk drew attention to the following:

Mr D. Morley had contacted the Clerk on behalf of Matchpatch to confirm that a new lease has been drawn up including new trustees and will be passed at their AGM on 25/03/2022 after which a copy will be supplied to the Parish Council.

Nationwide had confirmed that a cheque had been sent to the Clerk following the closure of the account, however it had not been cashed, so they would send a new cheque which should take approximately 10 days to arrive.

The PCC had advised that a Council owned tree had fallen across an access gate. TI had been to view the obstruction and Mr S. Bowers had attended to remove the obstruction.

Mr C. Burdett-Clark had enquired whether any of the Jane's Wood Working Party had removed aluminium signs from his property. JW WP had replied to confirm that they had not removed any signage.

Notice of a consultation on "Off-Roading" in Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Mr G. Cooper had emailed a detailed response to consideration of his planning application at the meeting in January. The email had been circulated to Councillors and the Councillors confirmed that the contents did not change their response to Dorset Council.

Further emails have been circulated from "Dorset Deserves Better" calling for a reappraisal of the Dorset Local Plan.

CBC had emailed to confirm that the post supporting the kissing gate at the entrance to Jane's Wood is rotten and restricting access as the gate drags along the ground. Councillors suggested that MATCH / JW WP should consider whether a kissing gate is necessary, or whether it can be removed instead of repaired. The email has been circulated to Councillors, MATCH and the JW WP for review. Whilst discussing Jane's Wood, TI requested the Clerk to obtain revised dates for Working Party access to be forwarded to Mrs Burdett-Clark.

8. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs E. Parker's report was available for residents to read. The Clerk announced the contents of the report and advised that it had been posted as a file on the Milton Abbas Parish Council Facebook group.

9. REPORTS

HOMEWATCH

Mrs E. Payne confirmed that she had circulated many reports on behalf of the Parish Council and Dorset Council amongst others.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD

EP had circulated an Ellie-gram re a fallen tree in Jane's Wood.

The MATCH AGM is scheduled for 26th March at 11.00am in the Reading Room.

PLAYPARK

The Play Park Committee will meet in the Play Park on 6th April at 7.30pm to be preceded by an asset inspection (following the second inspection report).

TRANSPORT

NH reported another car accident at Lower Lodge. Highways have advised that the site still scores too low to warrant a change of speed, however they may be prepared to install additional signage suggesting an advisory speed of 30mph due to bends in road.

NH advised that the Bulletin had published an email which had been forwarded as a courtesy from NH to Mr & Mrs Hughes as residents of the site where the accident had occurred, not to LH as Editor of the Bulletin; whilst the contents were not sensitive or confidential, it had not been NH's intention to have the email published.

WELCOME PACK

TK was not available for comment, however following contact from a resident, the Clerk had reviewed the Welcome Pack and forwarded a list of suggested edits.

CSW

NH advised that the SID has returned to Milton Abbas for March. The data has been downloaded and will be analysed in due course. (Copy to be emailed to Winterborne Stickland Clerk at their request).

MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST None

TELEPHONE KIOSK None

COMMUNICATIONS

NH confirmed that significant* planning applications have been reported on the Milton Abbas Community Facebook page and circulated by Ellie-gram.

*(Planning amendments and consultation type reports have not been shared).

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS None

PLATINUM JUBILEE ARRANGEMENTS

NH advised that the Steering Group are meeting on 10th March.

NHS WILDFLOWER GARDEN

NH has been disappointed by the lack of progress to date; he has contacted Milton Abbey School for an update and awaits their response.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS

DC forwarded an email from Wessex Internet, advising that following their Project Board Meeting on 02/03/2022 it was confirmed that they would need to use Physical Infrastructure Access (PIA) – connection of their own new fibre installation to existing poles and ducts – meaning that a new cost and ground survey of the village is required, which should take a couple of months to complete.

10. PLANNING

Decisions

P/HOU/2021/04572 Strawberry Cottage, 49 Milton Abbas – Erect garage & studio (demolish existing garage) - Granted

Applications

P/HOU/2020/00248 31 Milton Abbas – Modify vehicular access, form driveway & erect gates, erect summerhouse, carry out alterations. NH pointed out the delay between receipt and validation of the application (dated 2020) and the fact that many of the works appear to have been completed (some discussion ensued regarding the summer house which may be a current work in progress). Since this application was the subject of a previous resident enquiry, NH has contacted the anonymous resident to draw the application to their attention. It was agreed that if the anonymous resident wishes to make comments, they should be made directly to Dorset Council due to the fact that the Parish Council response will be submitted before the next public meeting. It was proposed by NH that the Parish Council support this application, there were 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

P/PABA/2022/00741 Oxhouse, Delcombe – Erection of an agricultural building for the storage and housing of sheep on a temporary basis. It was proposed by RW and seconded by NH that this application be supported. There were 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

P/FUL/2022/00956 & P/LBC/2020/00249 The Three Bears, 58-59 Milton Abbas – Subdivision of dwelling to form 2no dwellings including replacement and additional windows. Replace roof on garage. It was proposed by NH and seconded by RW that this application is supported. There were 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

P/HOU/2022/01281 Nether Fen, Milton Abbey School – Erect garage. It was proposed by SD and seconded by RW that this application is supported. There were 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Any General Planning Concerns

P/NMA/2022/00584 Cornborough, Milton Abbey School – Non-material amendment to planning permission no P/HOU/2021/01632 to remove the NE chimney (information only).

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 (information only).

P/FUL/2021/05710 Little Westwood – Erection of 1no detached dwelling – resident feedback received. A copy of Mr G. Cooper's email was made available. GC explained the contents of the email. The boundary hedge was removed to replace a public sewer and whilst out, electric supply cables were buried underground to avoid the need for a pole. The hedge will be replaced with 300 hedging whips next week. GC sought an apology from TI regarding the suggestion that a previous application for 3 houses had been submitted. TI apologised. GC asserted that this is not an application for an additional dwelling as there is an existing granted application for 2 properties on this site. Councillors explained the context that this application related to a property in

addition to Little Westwood. GC acknowledged the Councillors right to like or dislike the proposal but explained the long drawn out consultation process which had lead to this specific application and questioned the Councillors qualification to comment on the professional guidance he had sought. NH suggested that if further applications were submitted, it would be helpful if GC could attend the meeting and share this information, but that Councillors are not expected to be professionally qualified as their comments relate to the local context that the professionals may not be aware of. Whilst the granted application (previously supported by the Parish Council) was for brick and flint properties of a character consistent with the location, there were concerns with the new application regarding the large veranda, extensive use of glass, it's location with respect to the existing property, Little Westwood, and the roofline which would be created. RW thanked GC for attending and voicing his concerns.

11. EFORESTS.CO.UK FREE TREES OFFER

Held over until KF is available for comment.

12. FINANCE

The bank statements and expenditure and receipts spreadsheet had been circulated by email, including a bank reconciliation and Clerk's overtime spreadsheet (showing 16hrs overtime worked to 07/03/2022).

The Clerk advised that due to the 3 year long term agreement, there would be no need to seek quotes for an internal auditor this year.

The Clerk had circulated details of the national pay agreement for local government workers and supplied calculations to support the backdated payment that would be included in the March 2022 Clerk's Salary.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the assets listed on the Fixed Asset Register should be inspected before the end of the financial year. GC pointed out that one of the posts of the noticeboard at Sylvan Corner has rotted. TI confirmed that he will view the post with a view to carrying out a repair.

Balances:

Current A/c	£45,944.85
Playpark A/c	£15,204.00
Nationwide A/c	£1,159.36

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary January 2022	1333	£311.14
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary February 2022	1334	£311.14
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses Jan & Feb 2022	1335	£39.88

Play Park Account

Mr C. Lovell Play Park Maintenance	145	£1,150.00
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13. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

RW read a letter from the Tregonwell Almshouse Trust regarding the retirement Parish Council nominated trustee Mr K. Armstrong, due to ill health. The Trust requested that the Parish Council consider nominating Mr R. Pressland as the new Parish Council Trustee at their earliest convenience. RW suggested that the majority opinion should be sought by email and conferred to the Trust by the weekend, with the discussion to be ratified at the meeting in May.

The Clerk asked whether Councillors were prepared to schedule an Annual Parish Meeting (separate to the Annual Parish Council Meeting) due to the ongoing prevalence of Covid 19. NH suggested that restrictions had continued for too long already and offered to liaise with the Clerk regarding an APM for 2022.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would be take place on 11th May 2022 following the Annual Parish Council Meeting which would commence at 7pm and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: