

## MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

### **PRESENT**

Mr I. Baker (Vice Chair)  
Mr S. Gould  
Mrs J. Jordan

Mr P. Ford  
Mr T. Ives  
Mr T. Khandwala

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk), Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor), Mrs L. Kettley (Dorset Firewise Community Assistant) and 2 members of the general public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Mr S. Driver (work), Mr S. Martin (work) & Ms D. Wyatt (family commitment).

**2. DISPENSATIONS** None

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

IB explained he would be chairing the meeting as SD was unable to attend due to last minute issues at work. IB suggested that item 13. Emergency Plan Fire Prevention should be moved up to follow the Open Forum, so that LK can leave after any questions.

### **4. OPEN FORUM**

The following points were raised:

Mr R. Golledge asked for an update on works to the Jane's Wood boundary and expressed his extreme disappointment at the length of time it was taking to get works carried out. IB explained that due to the extent of works required, regulations dictate the Parish Council must obtain best value for money and therefore the decision will not necessarily be a fast one. It was suggested that Mr L. Usherwood (parishioner) may be able to assist with the tree work applications.

RG asked when the Catherine's Well repairs are scheduled to be carried out and whether works include improvements to the pavements. The Clerk will ask Phil Goodland (Dorset Highways Officer) for an update.

LK (Firewise) explained that Firewise aim to help communities work together to take small inexpensive steps around the home, garden and community to reduce the risk of wildfires, by conveying information about risks & prevention etc to community hubs to disseminate via word of mouth, social media and other channels. Victoria Macnamara and LK have discussed the intention to produce a Community Emergency Resilience plan to deal with issues such as wildfire, power cuts and flooding amongst other risks. LK emphasised the need to identify residents with specific skills, and establish a working group to build a

plan, at which time she will be pleased to return to assist with compiling the fire risk plan. Discussion arose around the dangers of unmanaged woodlands, thatched properties and dense growth which becomes potentially flammable during drier months. With the support of the Councillors and willing volunteers, VM intends to identify owners and managers of the local woodlands, and to tap into / build on existing knowledge and practice. It was suggested that Milton Abbey School should be contacted. SG (Emergency Officer / Flood Warden) requested to be involved in the plan. LK left "Preparing your home for wildfire" flyers to be distributed.

## **5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 had been circulated. With respect to the overhanging trees reported in matters arising, SG clarified that trees owned by Mr Coleman were not adversely overhanging the carriageway, but Mr Miller's trees needed to be cut back. It was proposed by SG, seconded by TI, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 had been circulated. It was proposed by TK, seconded by TI, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

## **6. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk advised that Councillors have new email addresses linked to the website domain in the format [first name]@miltonabbasparishcouncil.gov.uk and can be found listed at

<https://www.miltonabbasparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/milton-abbas-parish-council-20306/councillors/>.

The Elliegram email address is [elliegram@miltonabbasparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:elliegram@miltonabbasparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Pothole and verge issues reported at the January meeting were reported to Dorset Council through their website.

SG advised that the Armco barrier along the road towards Milton Abbey School had been repaired.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

An email from a Winterborne Whitechurch resident regarding the dropped manhole cover and various potholes on the road to Milton Abbas had been forwarded to Dorset Council for comment.

Various details had been forwarded to Mr McAvoy following questions concerning the budget and reserves.

## **8. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR**

Mrs E. Parker advised that due to complaints from Milborne St Andrew residents, she had liaised with the Dorset Council Planning Enforcement Officer regarding activities at Bagber Farm. The enforcement officer had requested a retrospective

planning application but advised that this may take some months to filter through the system. This matter has now been escalated to the Head of Planning.

A local resident had contacted EP regarding flooding on the road towards Milton Abbey. Dorset Council have cleared the gullies, but this does not appear to have resolved the problem. EP continues to liaise with Dorset Highways but advises that they are currently under intense pressure. IB added that something should be done about the leaf litter and detritus washed down the hill from the opposite junction as often the resultant flooding is over knee high and threatens to connect with the flooding on the school road. IB wondered whether the drains have collapsed somewhere. SG offered to meet Dorset Council officers on site if that would help.

## **9. REPORTS**

**HOMEWATCH** None

**MATCH/JANE'S WOOD** None

### **PLAYPARK**

SG reported that he had met with TI, RG, Steve Gorson (Play Park Committee), Charles Lovell (Ppk Grounds Maintenance) and the Clerk on site on 5<sup>th</sup> March to inspect the park, Millennium Green, hedges and trees. CL was requested to provide quotes to crown lift trees, cut back hedges and brambles and prune fruit trees, pressure wash benches and concrete, replace rotten and missing bench timbers and weed the boules area. CL was also requested to revise the current annual maintenance contract to include maintaining these areas during the year. Charles Tibbey would be asked to quote to treat rusting skate equipment, deal with finger entrapment hazards and cut the bolts on the MUGA. The Clerk was asked to seek quotes for replacement of roundabout matting, damaged see-saw seats and fixings identified as missing in the 2024 inspection report and to clean and treat the timber bandstand to increase longevity. It was agreed to liaise with councillors by email but if works did not exceed £4,000 they could be approved without a need to meet.

### **TRANSPORT**

SG confirmed he would attend the next meeting and report back in May.

### **WELCOME PACK**

TI reported a new resident in Catherine's Well. It was suggested that the WP should be advertised as a pinned post on the Community Facebook page.

### **CSW**

JJ reported there are currently 3 volunteers and offered to submit a follow-up article in The Bulletin.

### **MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST**

RG continues to cut the grass to the extent permitted by the conditions.

### **JUBILEE BENCH**

Mrs F. Robinson had circulated an action plan by email. SG suggested that the area where the covered seating had been removed from the play park may be a better area. Concerns were once again raised regarding ongoing management of any wildflower garden.

**EMERGENCY PLAN** (See Open Forum)

**MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB** None  
**REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS**

JJ reported that Mr Nixon from 26 Milton Abbas conveyed his appreciation to the Parish Council for their consideration and support of his planning application.

**10. PLANNING**

**Decisions**

**P/HOU/2024/07139 & P/LBC/2024/07124** 26 Milton Abbas – Erection of single storey side and rear extension (demolish existing) and remodel garage. New external brickwork stair and patio area. Repointing of two chimneys - Granted

**P/CLE/2024/07217** Ash Barn, Long Ash Farm - Certificate of Lawfulness to continue using the building as an independent dwelling house with associated parking area – Granted

**P/HOU/2024/07218** Long Ash Farm – Form vehicular access – Granted

**Applications**

**P/MPO/2025/01223** Fishmore Hill Farm - Discharge requirements of planning obligation dated 11/04/1995 relating to planning permission number 2/1983/0250 to Erect farmhouse concerning occupancy restriction. Councillors had no comments.

**11. REVIEW HIGHWAYS & RISK REGISTER CONCERNS**

Dorset Highways advise that improvements are scheduled for April – July 2025.

**12. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATE AND THEME**

It was agreed to schedule the APM for 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm in the Reading Room with complimentary refreshments to follow. The theme will be Emergency Planning, to include some defibrillator training, an explanation of the new Elliegram service and a presentation of the Emergency Plan first steps (fire risk).

**13. EMERGENCY PLAN FIRE PREVENTION – LINDA KETTLEY** (See Open Forum)

**14. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – JO WITHERDEN**

JW had emailed to advise that due to changes in funding and an update to the Dorset Local Plan, the May meeting would be a better time to visit.

RG asked what the Parish Council plan to do with the land they own. IB advised that since this affects the whole Parish, there should be a consultation process prior to any decision being made.

**15. FINANCE**

The receipts and payments spreadsheet, latest bank statements and list of cheques for payment had been circulated by email and was available at the meeting.

**Balances:**

Current A/c	£ 54,799.52
Playpark A/c	£ 11,397.44

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Hugo Fox Website January 2025	DD	£11.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary January 2025	1459	£397.86
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses January 2025	1460	£213.29
Hugo Fox Website February	DD	£11.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary February 2025	1461	£397.86
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses February 2025	1462	£25.09
Mr M. Peat Surgery Tree Works	1463	£260.00

Playpark Account

Mr C. Lovell Replacement to 161	163	£975.00
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**16. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS** (None)

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 following the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7pm and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: