

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 November 2024
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

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

Mr S. Driver (Chair)
Mr T. Ives
Mr S. Martin

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk), Mrs Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor), Mr Andrew Parry (Dorset Councillor) and 3 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr P. Ford and Mr T. Khandwala.

2. DISPENSATIONS None

3. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

SD welcomed everyone followed by a summary of the meeting with Phil Goodland (Highways Officer) on 30th October to survey roads and pavements around the Parish and agree on remedial actions to prevent injury or harm. PG had marked some potholes and verge degradation with white paint and advised that these repairs should be carried out within 28 days. Larger scale works such as the resurfacing of Catherine's Well would be carried out within 3-6 months. The subsidence of the road to Hilton appears to be due to a badger or fox den and will prove more complex. Communications with the landowner have been initiated, relevant bodies will be consulted regarding the relocation of the badger/fox community and the road will be surveyed, excavated and backfilled and then resurfaced. These issues will remain on the risk register until resolved.

4. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mrs P. Fifield attended to point out that the public have right of way over the front gardens of houses in the street, and therefore speeding traffic need not present a significant danger to pedestrians.

Mr R. Golledge asked for progress on the meeting with Mrs Burdett-Clark as owner of the land over which an easement to access Jane's Wood exists. SD advised that a potential way forward exists but a public meeting to discuss would be necessary and some further information is required before the meeting can take place.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2024 had been circulated. Reference item 12 (SNG work at Catherine's Well) RG advised that it was not pipework to be covered up, but a kerb stone placed. It was proposed by IB,

seconded by JJ, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs J. Witherden (Planning Consultant) confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan is due for update prior to June 2026 (either a “light touch” or a fuller review). She pointed out the present over the housing target (and how that would cascade down to parishes). JW has no capacity for additional work in this financial year but may be able to accommodate Milton Abbas after March 2025. A light touch review could cost in the region of £9,300+VAT. It was agreed to invite JW to attend the meeting in January when some of the uncertainty should be resolved. The Clerk will research potential grant funding.

The Clerk has met with RG to view the alternative access’ to Jane’s Wood and will make enquiries with the owners.

The Zip Wire is re-tensioned and safe for use, the HERAS fencing will be removed from the toddler swing on Saturday.

The viewing platform at St James’ Church has been repaired.

The steps adjacent to and opposite The Old Hospital have been refreshed to a high standard and received many compliments. The Clerk will enquire regarding the future of The Lovely Steps.

The Captain Mannering equipment at the play park has been reinstated along with replacement rubber bark matting.

The .gov.uk domain is currently in the final weeks of a 6 week application process.

Further quotes have been sought for the Millennium Green, Play Park, Surgery, Jane’s Wood and Seymour Woodland.

The Clerk has continued to email Wessex Internet re abandoned cable reels.

Alison Turnock (Dorset Council) has emailed a comprehensive reply to questions raised regarding the Local Heritage List at the last meeting. This response will be circulated with the December edition of the Bulletin.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

PCSO Sarah invited Councillors to attend a community contact point at Moreton on 16th December at 10am.

An email regarding the government consultation on the viability of remote/hybrid meetings and proxy votes which should be completed by 19th December.

Lloyd’s bank have introduced bank charges from January 2025. These will be applied at 50% for the first 12 months. They will be approximately £5 per account per month.

Dorset Cllr EP invited Chairmen and Clerks to an informal gathering to discuss areas of common interest in the ward, if successful, these meetings could be held more formally quarterly or six monthly in the future.

8. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

EP introduced Mr Andrew Parry, Group Leader for Dorset Council, and advised that he would be happy to answer questions and concerns about Dorset Council activities. EP and AP are available at meetings or outside of meeting times as necessary.

9. REPORTS

HOMEWATCH

Mrs E. Payne confirmed that she continues to circulate emails from the Parish Council and the Bulletin on a regular basis. She suggested that the Ellie-gram service should be included as a resource in the Welcome Pack and will request TK to include it in future revisions.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD None

PLAYPARK

SG suggested that now the repairs to the Captain Mannering equipment have been carried out, the Parish Council should seek to get some compensation from Sovereign for failing to uphold the warranty. It was unanimously agreed.

SG also suggested that he, Mr S. Gorson and the Clerk should submit a grant application to the Street Fair Committee for works to the roundabout to reinstate the disabled access, and the skate park to extend the life of the equipment. It was unanimously agreed that this would be a good use of any grant awarded.

TRANSPORT None

WELCOME PACK

The latest WP had been uploaded onto the Parish Council website prior to the meeting.

CSW

JJ confirmed that a call for volunteers had been circulated by Ellie-gram and two definite and two tentative offers had been received. A minimum of four volunteers are required to reinstate the group. TI volunteered to join the group and offered to speak to previous CSW members to see if they may still be interested. JJ will send out a follow up Ellie-gram and SD will include it in the December Bulletin.

MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

RG continues to cut the grass when it's dry enough and has recently demonstrated to the Clerk areas that require strimming, pruning and cutting back.

JUBILEE BENCH

JJ will contact Mrs F. Robinson to find out what is required.

MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB

Mrs K. Leigh emailed a report to confirm that the toilet is in and working, the sink has been installed and the walls and floor have been painted and tiled. When the electrics have been completed, the tiling behind the sink can be finished and the handrail can be fitted.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS None

10. PLANNING

Decisions

P/FUL/2024/04921 & P/LBC/2024/04922 Two Sisters Cottage, 53 Milton Abbas – Change of use from sui generis (mix use of C3 Dwelling, C3 dwelling restricted to holiday occupancy, and tearooms) to C3 dwelling house; erect extension (demolish toilet block) - Granted

Applications

P/FUL/2023/00950 Luccombe Farm – Removal of garage, construction of two storey side extension, first floor extension, porch, subdivision of dwelling to create two dwellings. Appeal Reference APP/D1265/W/24/3351408. The Councillors had no further comments.

P/HOU/2024/02228 & P/LBC/2024/02730 26 Milton Abbas – Erection single storey side extension & remodel of existing garage. Proposed new external brickwork stair & patio area. Proposed removal of rear elevation door & installation of window to match adjacent. Extension & repointing of 2no existing chimneys. Appeal Reference APP/D1265/W/24/3349400 & APP/D1265/W/24/3349457. Although the deadline has passed, it was proposed by SD and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Planning Inspectorate to advise that the owners had attended a meeting of the Parish Council to clarify concerns regarding their application and the Councillors support this application.

P/FUL/2024/06472 Little Westwood – Erect dwelling, garage, access and parking. Mr G. Cooper had supplied additional supporting information by email. The Councillors had no further comments to add.

11. RISK REGISTER / HIGHWAYS ISSUES

SD advised that there is no further update at present but confirmed that it will remain on the agenda until all issues have been resolved.

12. CAPTAIN MANNERING WARRANTY

Since Councillors have agreed to pursue Sovereign for compensation in lieu of warranty, the Clerk requested that any time spent on the recovery should be paid as overtime rather than part of the salaried hours and recovered from Sovereign as part of the claim. It was unanimously agreed.

13. TREE WORKS

Further quotes have been sought but not received in time to collate for comparison. It was unanimously agreed that quotes should be reviewed by email and an action plan should be decided as soon as possible (to avoid works clashing with the nesting season from February) and decisions ratified at the January meeting.

14. DAPTC AGM

Councillors will nominate an attendee and reconsider the motions by email.

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.

The Clerk had emailed a draft budget including previous year spend, spend for the year to date and a proposed budget for 2025/2026 which included increased salary and website costs, Office 365 etc, and matched last years precept. Councillors were asked to review the budget, respond to items marked for their attention and feedback prior to the January meeting as the precept must be agreed on January 8th.

Balances:

Current A/c	£56,833.95
Playpark A/c	£28,294.91

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Hugo Fox September 2024	DD	£11.99
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Salary September 2024	1448	£383.05
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses September 2024	1449	£69.19
Hugo Fox October 2024	DD	£11.99
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Salary October 2024	1450	£486.69
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses October 2024	1451	£114.24
DAPTC Clerk's Seminar	1452	£58.00

Playpark Account

Dorset Council Captain Mannering Repair	00159	£16,831.38
Mr R. Gollidge Mower Fuel	00160	£126.09

16. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS None

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 8th January 2025 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: