

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 March 2026
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr I. Baker (Vice Chair)
Mr S. Gould
Mr L. Usherwood

Mr S. Driver (Chair)
Mr S. Martin

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk), Mrs E. Parker (Dorset Councillor) and 2 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr P. Ford (away), Mr T. Ives (ill) and Mrs J. Jordan (away)
SD and the Clerk had received a written resignation from Ms D. Wyatt on 2nd March.

2. DISPENSATIONS None

3. OPEN FORUM

There were no points raised during the open forum.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2026 had been circulated. It was proposed by IB, seconded by SD, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

As requested by Mr M. Castle-Smith, the clerk had liaised with Dorset Council regarding the replacement glazing for St James Cottage. The Conservation Officer responded to confirm that restoration glass is not required.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

DAPTC AGM will be held online on 30 May 2026 at 10am; the Statement Of Reasonable Expectations will be considered.

The consultation period for the proposed closures of Charmouth, Cranborne, Hamworthy and Maiden Newton Fire Stations will end on 15 May.

Climate webinar invitations have been circulated by email.

The clerk had received further communication from Dorset Planning department, to clarify that solar panels on listed buildings usually require planning permission

and listed building consent if they appear on the front (highway facing) elevation. Milton Abbas Article 4 does not mention solar panels.

7. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR None

8. REPORTS

ELLIEGRAM/COMMUNICATIONS

SD advised that bounced email addresses are being removed from the circulation list.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD/MILLENNIUM GREEN

The security tagged Jubilee Bench will be sited on the Millennium Green as soon as the stake arrives.

PLAYPARK

SG confirmed that Wessex Internet have now concealed the unutilised cables in the play park. He has received two comparative tenders for maintenance works in 2027/28. A larger playpark sign with telephone numbers has been ordered. Need to obtain quotes for preservation works to the bandstand.

SG has laid grass seed where required and submitted an expense receipt for reimbursement.

TRANSPORT

SG reported that following the last transport meeting, it was confirmed that Dorset Council have altered the billing for the PlusBus and each parish council will be responsible for their own bills.

WELCOME PACK

SD will liaise with Mr T. Khandwala, as it may be prudent to combine Communications and the Welcome Pack into one role.

CSW

The Clerk reported that Mr S. Judd has confirmed to JJ that the existing SID rota continues to be acceptable, however he will not always be able to collect it from us on time.

JUBILEE BENCH As above

MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB None

EMERGENCY PLAN

It was agreed to schedule a further meeting with VM.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS

IB thanked those who organized the Post Office's "pop-up" service at the Sports Club.

9. PLANNING

Decisions

P/VOC/2025/07206 & P/VOL/2025/07157 46-47 St James Cottage - Erect replacement extension, (demolish existing lean-to), with internal & external alterations and associated landscaping (with variation of condition no.2 of planning permission P/HOU/2023/07131 & P/LBC/2023/07132) - Granted

P/HOU/2025/07586 & P/LBC/2025/07587 61 Milton Abbas - External alterations to include replacement windows, roof lantern lights and new flat roof covering. Change of door paint colour - Granted

Applications

P/HOU/2026/00197 42-43 Milton Abbas - Carry out garden works including formation of composite deck with seating, erection of shed, replacement of existing steps, installation of steel edging, low wall, water feature and associated landscaping. It was agreed that the levels proposed are as existing, and the results won't be seen from the road. It was unanimously agreed that no comments are necessary.

P/LBC/2026/01296 Milton House – Demolish chimney on southwest elevation – received on 11 March, therefore any concerns will be considered by email, and an extraordinary meeting will be scheduled if required.

General Planning Concerns

LU and SG offered to visit Mr G. Cooper to review the extent of ash die back amongst the proposed tree works adjacent to Little Westwood.

Residents have expressed concerns regarding a 6'x20' African themed mural which has been installed in the grounds of Little Westwood, and the scaffold which obstructs the use of the pavement. The Clerk has referred to Dorset Council for comment and will follow up.

10. HIGHWAYS AND RISK REGISTER CONCERNS

SD suggested that the standing documents should be reviewed and updated as required.

SG advised that the gully at the top of the street opposite Little Westwood is full of shingle. The Clerk will request a visit from the Highways team.

11. VACANCY AND CO-OPTION

SD expressed thanks to DW for her contributions which have been greatly appreciated. The vacancy will be advertised immediately. If there is no call for an election, expressions of interest will be sought (advertised by elliegram and social media) with a view to co-opting at the May meeting.

12. PLAYPARK INSPECTION

Further quotes have been circulated by email.

“Mr Treehouse” offers an annual full safety zipwire inspection for £970 + VAT, with supplementary operation inspections (advised 1-3 month intervals) for £400+VAT per visit. This would be in addition to the annual inspection of the remaining equipment. The existing zipwire can be repaired for £1,775 + VAT.

Infinity Playgrounds offers an “Essential Inspections” package at £599 + VAT service to include 3 operation inspections and 1 annual inspection with full reports after each visit. Quotes will be provided for moderate or high risk items identified, or an “Inspections + Preventative Maintenance” package at £1,199 includes all in the Essentials package with the addition of replacement of worn moving parts,

lubrication, tightening of bolts onsite. The Zipwire servicing is an additional £485 + VAT with reports and costed recommendations.

Technical Outdoor Solutions charge £1,302 + VAT per zipwire inspection.

Control Descent will charge £150 + VAT to travel to quote.

Adventure Course Construction advised it was too far to quote.

JM Adventure don't deal with equipment.

It was proposed by SG, seconded by LU and unanimously agreed that we should select instruct Infinity Playgrounds as one company to do the whole service will limit ambiguity on roles and responsibilities.

13. COMMUNITY PLUSBUS REVIEW As above

14. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that quotes should be sought for a Neighbourhood Plan / Local Plan presentation, to include consideration of options on the sale of the Parish Council land. Scheduled for 27 May 7.00pm with refreshments.

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	£59,577.66
Playpark A/c	£7,487.14

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Hugo Fox Website INV-22436	DD 19/1	£11.99
Hugo Fox Emails INV-20484	DD 22/1	£20.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary January 2026	1496	£419.48
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses January 2026	1497	£29.89
Lloyds Bank Charges to 09012026	DD 03/02	£5.45
Hugo Fox Website INV-23509	DD 18/02	£11.99
Hugo Fox Emails INV-23604	DD 23/02	£20.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary February 2026	1498	£419.48
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses February 2026	1499	£38.69
Lloyds Bank Charges to 09022026	DD 08/03	£4.25
DAPTC Clerk's Conference INV-0389	1500	£30.00
St James Church Donation	1501	£435.00
Reading Room Committee Room Hire	1502	£105.00
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary March 2026	1503	£419.48

Playpark Account

Lloyds Bank Charges to 09012026	DD 03/02	£4.25
Lloyds Bank Charges to 09022026	DD 08/03	£4.75

C Lovell MG & PPk Mtce & Repairs Apr-Dec25	0170	£2,685.00
C Lovell Ppk mtce to 31032026	0171	£700.00

16. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS None

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 13 May 2026 following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:
(Presiding Chairman)

Date: