

## MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

### PRESENT

Mr S. Driver

Mr S. Gould

Mr N. Hodder (Chair)

Mr T. Khandwala

Mr S. Martin

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 6 members of the general public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Mr P. Amor, Mr T. Ives, Mr R. Woodhouse & Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor)

**2. DISPENSATIONS** None

### 3. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mr R. Golledge asked why the Parish Council were not proactively seeking to release the equity value of the land behind Middleton Row and taking advantage of S106 money from the developer. NH advised that these things don't happen over night and professional advice is required.

Mrs F. Robinson asked whether the Street Fair could use the land behind Middleton Row for car parking in 2023 and advised that a formal request will follow.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by SG, seconded by SM, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

### 5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 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.

### 6. MATTERS ARISING

There has been no call for an election, following the advertisement of the vacancy created by Ms K. Finlayson's resignation, and the Councillors are required to co-opt a new member at their earliest convenience.

Following a third visit from South Coast Pest Control (without charge) the wasp nest has been successfully eradicated.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

A parent had requested details of bursaries/grants for a 16 year old student starting A Levels at Milton Abbey School. Some information has been forwarded to the parent.

A member of Milton Abbas Art Group had contacted the Parish Council to request consideration for a donation. This enquiry is believed to be linked to an email from another resident, who had requested the Parish Council to consider covering the cost of internet/Wi-Fi at the Reading Rooms since it should be seen as an essential means of contact due to the lack of mobile reception in the village. NH understands that the Broadband is currently funded by the Computer Café at approximately £350 per year. There are cheaper packages available, and the Parish Council already donate to the Computer Café internet. The PC could consider a contribution equivalent to the cheapest rate for a similar service (approx. £240 per year). The clerk was asked to make tentative enquiries with both Ms J. Harrison and Mr D. Duncombe-Anderson.

Weldmar Hospice had offered to visit with their outreach vehicle and had asked for recommendations for a beneficial time and location.

Another resident has suffered a fall on the slabs at the bottom of the Lovely Steps. SD advised that some rebar is protruding dangerously on certain steps and offered to photograph. The clerk will contact the Countryside Ranger again.

Two residents had enquired regarding trees for the Queen's Canopy. NH advised that KF had been leading this project but had not attended since raising the project and the biggest hurdles still remaining are where the trees should be planted and who should take on responsibility for future management.

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

EPK's bereavement leave ends 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

## **9. REPORTS**

### **HOMEWATCH**

Mrs E. Payne has continued to circulate Parish and County Council circulars including road closures, Tour of Britain updates etc.

### **MATCH/JANE'S WOOD**

EPy advised that JH has announced a leaflet drop to encourage new members, and the Post Office will be a drop off point for completed leaflets.

### **PLAYPARK** None

### **TRANSPORT** None

### **WELCOME PACK**

TK advised that Milton Abbas Swimming Club is no longer operational as Milton Abbey School have tightened up regulations relating to use of the pool.

### **CSW**

FR advised that the SID is not currently working, she will contact Winterborne Stickland Parish Council for more information.

Mr G. Cooper took the opportunity to draw attention to the speed of traffic through the street, and in particular the speed and attitude of cyclists. Some discussion ensued regarding the results of surveys which favoured street narrowing. SM suggested work commuters at 7.30/8am and 4.30/5pm are a significant problem and TK added that delivery drivers are also regular offenders.

#### **MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST** None

#### **TELEPHONE KIOSK**

SD confirmed that the primer has been purchased 25% cheaper than estimated. Volunteers to assist with the painting would be greatly appreciated.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

NH confirmed that he continues to circulate information on planning applications through the usual channels. Leaflets were dropped to every house in the Street at 5pm on 8<sup>th</sup> September, just before the race was cancelled at 6pm!!

#### **COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS**

NH confirmed no news/progress this month, but an important part of the process raised by RG in the Open Forum.

#### **NHS WILDFLOWER GARDEN**

NH advised that this has come to a natural demise, due to the lack of response by members of Milton Abbey School. FR asked for the Jubilee Bench to be added to the list, for next year.

#### **REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS**

TK asked whether the alarm could be disconnected on the surgery defibrillator, since the damage sustained leads to the alarm activating unnecessarily. The box has been taped up to prevent the alarm activating, which is counter productive to any emergency access requirement. The alarm on the box at the Church has not worked for some time, and Councillors considered whether it was necessary to replace it. It was unanimously decided that both boxes should be fully operational. Councillors have already voted to replace the boxes as necessary (to a combined value of £830) on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022. SD, TK and SM will view the boxes to assess the viability of repair and or replacement and email confirmation of action will be sought.

## **10. PLANNING**

### **Decisions**

**P/HOU/2021/04453 & P/LBC/2021/04454** St James Cottage 46-47 Milton Abbas - Demolish existing garage and lean-to. Erect single storey extension and carry out associated internal and external alterations and landscaping – Refused

**P/FUL/2022/02294** 1 Catherine's Well (land at) – Erect garage – Refused

**P/FUL/2022/03336** Luccombe Farm & Holiday Cottages - Installation of swimming pool & glazed enclosure – Granted

**P/HOU/2022/03603** Johannus Catherines Well – Erect porch – Granted

**P/PAEL/2022/04137** Milton Abbas ATE Windmill Clump - Proposed Base Station installation including the installation of a 25.00 m high fli tower on proposed root foundation, 3 No. antennas, 1 No. GPS module, 3 No. cabinets and all other ancillary development – Prior approval not required

The Clerk was asked to request a progress report from Mr T. Walsh on behalf of the agent for the mast application. SG confirmed that a representative from Vodafone has contacted him requesting to rent the land identified in the previous mast application, but he has yet to respond to the letter.

### **Applications**

**P/VOC/2022/05797** Little Westwood garage - Erection of 1no. dwelling, garage, access & parking (with variation of condition 1 of P/FUL/2020/00019 to amend approved plans) – Owner GC explained that the application was to move the development 1-2m further west to increase the separation between Little Westwood and the new building, to improve the appearance of the site. Since the drawings had not been available online prior to the meeting, the Clerk had requested an extension to consider the application in November.

### **11. THE RUINS TEMPORARY CAMPSITE FACILITY**

NH thanked both Ms H. Sealey (representing the management of the campsite) and Mr F. Hart (representing residents in the locality of the campsite) for attending. NH explained that concern had been raised regarding some events held during the period of the licence, where loud music and bright lights had continued beyond the 11pm curfew and had not ceased when requested. Residents are concerned that this venture will continue to grow, and that the organisation concerned (known as “Travel Squad” on social media platforms) have already considered rebooking for 2023. HS admitted that things had got out of hand, but the organisation have apologised. HS confirmed that they have obtained permission for visitors to access the site via the track from the Hilton Road, although the cars passing beyond the houses was not appropriate. HS confirmed that they are not planning a festival next year but wish to offer services during the Street Fair.

NH suggested that if residents feel that they are detrimentally affected by events such as this in the future, it would be advisable to contact the appropriate authorities at the time of the event, so that action can be taken if necessary, as it is too late to act on the past. The Parish Council cannot police individual activities, but Environmental Services have out of hours services and the Police may also be able to help. NH thanked both HS and FH for their open exchange.

### **12. EXTERNAL AUDIT – OPT IN OR OUT OF 5 YEAR REGIME**

Under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities\*) Regulations 2015, SAAA is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. (\*those whose gross annual income or expenditure is less than £6.5 million) The next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27.

All authorities require an appointed external auditor even if the authority meets the criteria to qualify for exemption, and there is a complex procedure required under statute to appoint their own external auditor. It was unanimously agreed to opt into the central procurement regime.

### 13. ASSET REVIEW FEEDBACK

NH and the Clerk had carried out a physical review of all assets on the asset register and NH had compiled a list of assets requiring attention. The list has not yet been circulated to Councillors, but the Clerk will obtain quotes from local tradesmen and add to NH's report and circulate for approval at the next meeting. NH advised that the most serious defect at present is the damage to the gate and fence to the field behind Middleton Row which requires urgent attention. GC advised that the Noticeboard at Sylvan Row is currently only secured by one post as the other appears to have rotted.

### 14. SPEED LIMIT REPEATER SIGNS

NH advised that residents have pointed out that the 30mph repeater signs on posts through the street can barely be seen due to deterioration and dirt. The Clerk has contacted Dorset Highways (report 1201752), but NH suggests that the Parish Council should replace them if there is no response from Dorset Council.

### 15. FINANCE

The finance spreadsheet and reconciliation had been circulated by email and was available with bank statements at the meeting.

#### Balances:

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Current A/c  | £47,989.84 |
| Playpark A/c | £13,980.30 |

The following cheques were authorised:

#### Current Account

|  |      |         |
|--|------|---------|
| Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary July 2022          | 1356 | £323.13 |
| Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses July 2022        | 1357 | £44.79  |
| Dorset Council Repair Accident damage to signs | 1358 | £858.00 |
| Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary August 2022        | 1359 | £323.13 |
| Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses August 2022      | 1360 | £42.99  |

The Clerk confirmed that she had booked a place at the Clerk's Conference for £45.

A VAT reclaim for £271.41 will be submitted following the meeting.

### 16. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS None

### 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: