

## MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

### PRESENT

Mr I. Baker  
Mr S. Gould  
Mr T. Ives  
Mr S. Martin

Mr S. Driver  
Mr N. Hodder (Chair)  
Mrs J. Jordan

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 3 members of the general public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor) who arrived at 8.20pm following a meeting elsewhere.

**2. DISPENSATIONS** None

### 3. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mrs E. Payne reported that Mr C. Martin is no longer working on the open cemetery.

Mrs F. Robinson noted that parish wide communications are more difficult following the absence of The Bulletin as many chose not to engage with Facebook/emails/Ellie-grams and asked the Parish Council to consider options to resolve the communication gap. It was noted that the village notice boards are sited at the top of the village, the Post Office and the Church. Suggestions such as a village email list / WhatsApp group were considered. FR suggested a more "house to house" contact is required. SD advised that Milton Abbey School had offered some student help to get The Bulletin circulating again, but no response at present. If The Bulletin was to be restarted, it would be predominantly electronic with the possibility of 20/30 copies to be collected from the Post Office, Steeptonbill Farm Shop or BT Kiosk. There would be a need for a consistent supply of content for articles. TI suggested the Village News, but this is distributed to subscribers. NH suggested that a once off door-to-door delivery of a letter requesting people to supply an email address to receive items of interest. The Clerk suggested that the Parish Consultation could potentially be used to request contact information or gain suggestions for better forms of communication.

FR said following the success of The Views café, a footpath is required from the village. The Councillors suggested several offroad routes using permissive paths. FR asked the Parish Council to ask for Highways intervention.

Mr R. Golledge asked if there was any progress regarding the sale of the land adjacent to the Surgery. NH said that there is no progress to report at present.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 had been circulated. It was proposed by SD, seconded by JJ, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

Following receipt of a quote for £2,709 to repair the zip wire, Sovereign Play Equipment had subsequently accepted it was a warranty repair and supplied a reduced quote for £847 for Heras fencing, signage, removal of spoil and tensioning of the zip wire following repair. Councillors felt that there should be no charge for a warranty repair and asked the Clerk to contact Sovereign and ask for the repairs to be carried out without charge.

Lloyds bank have accepted TK and SM as additional signatories and sent the equipment for online banking. The Councillors agreed to progress online banking after the election, for use by the end of May.

Mr S. Hoare MP had replied to confirm that he would review DMMO T491 with the Dorset Council Chief Executive.

Highways Officer Mr P. Goodland confirmed that the gullies on the road to Milborne St Andrew are scheduled for repair within 28 days, but the repairs to Catherine's Well are on the capital programme so will take longer, but he will chase it up.

PG confirmed that signs are to be placed at Luccombe Stables to alert drivers to slow down for horses.

With respect to the continuing appearance of empty Stella Artois cans by the roadside, PG suggested reporting as fly-tipping to Dorset Waste (report ref DW-FT595056266) and the PCSO as a potential drink-driver concern. Councillors reported that the frequency appeared to have reduced.

#### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

Voters are urged to get photo ID prior to the elections.

Dorset Council have revised their approach for drafting the Local Plan and therefore there will be a new schedule for delivery.

Resident reports of concerns regarding verge erosion in Milborne St Andrew have been raised with the Highways Officer.

Milton Abbas Street Fair AGM will be held in the Reading Room at 7.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Temporary road closure notice for 11-15<sup>th</sup> had been circulated by Ellie-gram.

#### **7. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR**

The February report was available to view. See item 8 "Other PC Officers Reports" for EPkr report.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **HOMEWATCH**

EPayne confirmed that the usual emails have been circulated.

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

In Mr B. Isherwood's absence EPayne reported that Mr E. Watts is completing the MATCH financial accounts for the Charity's Commission. More volunteers are required. No Janes' Wood news.

### **PLAYPARK**

SG reported that 3 quotes had been received for the Captain Mannering subsidence repairs.

Sharman and Company Developments Ltd quoted £13,988.17+VAT to dismantle and set aside equipment and surround area with heras fencing. Dig an area of 64sqm to 300mm and edge area with 6x1 timber edging. Supply 40 tons type 1 stone, compact and surface with premium grade wetpour soft surfacing in black. Rebuild equipment, replace timbers as needed, remove spoil to land adjacent to surgery.

Dorset Council Landscape Services quoted £14,026.15+VAT to part dismantle equipment, supply and install new footings, remove spoil and existing rubber mulch, supply and install compacted stone subbase, and lay new Junglemulch resin bound safety surface approx. 90m<sup>2</sup>.

Sovereign Play Equipment quoted £16,247.58+VAT to remove and reinstall rhs of unit, lay 74sqm natural mix rubber mulch safer surfacing, inc 70mm groundworks and 100mm chase & cut. Removal and disposal of existing surfacing, spoil and pre-installation survey.

It was proposed by SG, seconded by TI and unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Dorset Council as Sharman & Co are not specifically play area specialists, and there was a lack of confidence in the Sovereign quote.

### **TRANSPORT**

NH attended the PlusBus meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March to review the first six months. Dorset Community Transport reported 214 passengers over 25 wks (average 8.5/week). On the Blandford route, 99 passengers presented bus passes, 4 paid the fare, on the Dorchester route, 103 passengers presented bus passes, 8 paid the fare. Max 11 passengers in one week on both routes. Potential revenue would be £2,400 per year, costs are £100 per week for DCT, so the combined Parish Council contribution could be £2,500 per year. The service has been well received and can be funded within the existing budget.

NH advised that a new volunteer would be required for Transport Officer in May.

### **WELCOME PACK**

FR has emailed TK several SF amendments, NH has noted some additional amendments required to MATCH and 180 club. NH suggested that TK should circulate the pack quarterly to organisations and ask for updates as necessary.

### **CSW**

FR advised that JJ has volunteered to take over the CSW team in May.

### **MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST** None

## **TELEPHONE KIOSK**

SD and Mrs P. Driver have scheduled an Easter refurbishment session to board out the kiosk and set out ready for a book swap facility.

## **JUBILEE BENCH**

FR advised that a project team is required for a wildlife garden and to locate the bench. JJ offered to help.

## **MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB None**

### **D-DAY 80 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

SM advised that following liaison with the Sports Club Committee, arrangements are being made for a beacon, music and a BBQ. The Rev. Lewis Pearson has confirmed that St. James Church bells will be rung. SM may ask Milton Abbey School whether they wish to be involved.

## **ELECTIONS**

The Clerk confirmed that notices have been posted, nomination forms are available, and the Clerk is available for guidance and support in person, by WhatsApp, telephone and can supply videos to help complete documentation if required. Having entered the pre-election period, candidates may generate their own publicity, but should not use Parish Council activities for this purpose and existing Councillors should not use their Parish Council email addresses for the purpose.

## **REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS**

EPkr reminded everyone that it is essential for voters to have relevant photo ID or apply for a postal vote. The Household Support Fund has been extended until September 2024. Vouchers up to £150 are available.

## **9. PLANNING**

### **Decisions**

**P/HOU/2024/00145** The Barn, Deer Park – Erect two storey and single storey side extension – Granted

**P/HOU/2023/07099 & P/LBC/2023/06200** 58-59 The Three Bears – Internal renovations to replace concrete floors & repair ceilings. External renovations to replace cement render with lime. Refurbish flat roof to extension. Remodel internal layout of existing extension. Add ensuite and downstairs shower room in original cottage – Granted

**P/HOU/2023/07131 & P/LBC/2023/07132** 46-47 St James Cottage – Erect replacement extension (demolish existing lean to), with internal and external alterations including associated landscaping – Granted

**P/HOU/2023/005861 & P/LBC/2023/05866** 26 Milton Abbas – Erect single storey side extension & rear extension with rooms in a new roof. Demolition of existing rear extension and remodel of existing garage. New external brickwork stair and patio area, removal of rear elevation door and installation of window to match adjacent. Extension & repointing of two existing chimneys. – Refused

### **Applications**

**P/HOU/2023/06724 & P/LBC/2023/06725** 53a Milton Abbas – Install oil fired central heating, including new boiler, pipework and radiators – amended plans. Councillors had no objections.

**P/CLP/2024/00420** Land At E 378950 N 100170 Bagber Farm Access To Bagber Farm Cottages Milborne St Andrew – Construct water reservoir for agricultural irrigation – For information only.

### **General Planning Concerns**

TI reported that the Windmill Clump cell phone mast appears to be live for O2 and Vodafone customers and enquired whether any additional providers are planning to add on to the service. TI also reported that the signal has wiped out TV reception for several houses in the village. NH asked the Clerk to contact the agent and ask what can be done about the interference with TV signals and answers to other queries.

### **10. JANES WOOD & SEYMOUR WOODLAND QUOTES**

Quotes from Knighton Forestry, Shawyers and Hinton Forestry had been circulated by email. Dorset Council are yet to submit their quote. SM highlighted several inconsistencies between quotes and requested further information relating to the cheapest quote received. It was agreed to seek further information before appointing a contractor.

### **11. ADOPT A “.GOV.UK” WEBSITE DOMAIN**

The Clerk advised that the previous domain had been chosen in haste due to the failure of the previous website, however .gov.uk is a dedicated domain extension for the public service sector and therefore provides users with some assurance that the content will be reliable. It will be more expensive but there is currently a £100 contribution to costs if the domain host is one of 35 select Approved Registrars on the Parish Council Domains Helper Service shortlist (selected due to their superior support packages). In addition the JPAG Practitioners Guide promotes the use of a .gov.uk domain as best practice and it will become an audit point next year. The Clerk recommended that Councillors accepted the expense of dedicated Parish Council email addresses for the purposes of freedom of information requests. The existing domain expires 17th November 2024. Last year the Parish Council precepted £500 towards the new website and spent only £120 so there is money available in reserves. The Councillors agreed that the Clerk should move the website and email services to a .gov.uk domain.

### **12. CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS DAPTC COSTS FOR ELECTION VIDEOS**

The Clerk advised that the contribution was not compulsory, so the videos have been used on the Milton Abbas PC Facebook group. It was unanimously agreed to contribute £30 towards DAPTC expenses.

### **13. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AND MAY ORDINARY MEETING DATE**

It was unanimously agreed to hold the Annual Meeting and May ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

#### 14. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATE AND TOPIC

It was unanimously agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Reading Room and invite Clare Jennings (Dorset Council Community Resilience Liaison Officer) to talk to residents about ways to be more resilient as a community and personally.

#### 15. FINANCE

##### Balances:

Current A/c	£45,336.82
Playpark A/c	£23,906.91

The following cheques were authorised:

##### Current Account

Dorset Council Tree Survey	1422	£672.00
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Salary January 2024	1423	£376.47
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses January 2024	1424	£69.39
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Salary February 2024	1425	£376.47
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses February 2024	1426	£30.39
DAPTC Crowd Funding contribution (pending item 12)	1427	£30.00

#### 16. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

NH announced that as this would potentially be his last meeting, he would like to express his thanks for everyone's support especially during his time as chairman.

#### 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: