

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28th June 2023 in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Mr I. Baker

Mr S. Driver

Mr P. Ford

Mr N. Hodder (Chair)

Mr T. Khandwala (Vice Chair)

Mr S. Martin

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 0 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr S. Gould, Mr T. Ives and Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor)

2. DISPENSATIONS None

3. CO-OPTION

The Clerk confirmed that three applications had been received for co-option for the two existing vacancies, however one had been recently withdrawn for personal reasons and one was postponed.

The remaining applicant Mr Iain Baker was present and wished to be considered for co-option. It was unanimously agreed that IB should be co-opted. IB signed the paperwork and joined the Council. He had no dispensations to announce.

4. TO CONFIRM NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR BDO LLP

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council have no known conflict of interests with the appointment of BDO LLP as external auditor.

5. TO CONFIRM THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE EXEMPT FROM EXTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2022/2023

The Clerk confirmed that for 2022/2023 total gross income was £17,199 and total gross expenditure was £15,389 and therefore the Parish Council could be exempted from external audit. It was proposed by SD, seconded by SM and unanimously agreed to certify Milton Abbas Parish Council as exempt from external audit for 2022/2023.

6. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND FINDINGS

The internal audit report had been circulated by email and was available at the meeting. The Clerk read the Internal Auditors findings and suggested management responses as follows;

2.1 – Ensure VAT recovered as planned; “VAT has now been received into our account – the next VAT return will be submitted imminently”.

3.1 – Ensure all minutes published on website; “This was an omission due to our website still being a work in progress and the Play Park minutes still being draft

as no further meeting has been held to approve them. The Play Park minutes are now uploaded and will hold a meeting in July to get draft minutes approved.”

3.2 – Ensure insurance cover adequate; “Additional cover been obtained at an additional cost of £40/yr.”

10.1 – Adjusted errors; “Revised Fixed Asset Registers for 31st March 2022 and 31st March 2023 have been agreed with auditor and figures on Annual Return are marked as “RESTATED” to indicate the change.

7. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

It was proposed by SM, seconded by TK and unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement and it was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk respectively.

8. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

It was proposed by SD, seconded by PF and unanimously agreed to approve the Accounting Statements and they were signed by the Chairman.

9. PLANNING

Applications

P/FUL/2023/03192 Hewish Farm – Continue to use the land to site a holiday lodge. NH explained that the application reviewed in March which the Council supported, was for a second lodge and the application for review today is to make a temporary permission permanent. Following a consideration of the existing facility and the discrete nature of the site, it was proposed by NH and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should support the application.

10. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE JOINT VENTURE

NH had emailed a bullet point summary of the PlusBus (old 311 route) proposal. A weekly service, operated by Dorset Community Transport (DCT) start date early September. The service would operate between 10 and 3 to take passengers to Blandford and Dorchester for shopping purposes on alternate weeks. No fixed route so the driver can drop passengers off at a location of their choice and agree collection arrangements. It is “demand driven”, passengers pay £7 for a return journey, or they can use their bus pass. The service is like the NORDCAT service that some residents of MA already use. However, there is a strong belief that the NORDCAT service will cease after 24 July.

£5,000 p.a. will cover any operating costs associated with the service. A grant has been applied for from DC to cover the first year. The grant paid (if successful) will be up to a maximum of £5K. All passenger income goes into a pot towards the potential £5K liability for year 2 and so on year after year.

The shortfall is the liability of the Parish Councils prepared to support the scheme. Four other PCs have signed up – Melcombe Horsey, Hilton, Cheselbourne and Dewlish – meaning a likely maximum financial exposure of £1k p.a. Ultimately, the PCs agree with DCT if the service is viable after a six-month trial and can ultimately cancel the service at any time.

It was proposed by NH and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should support this venture. NH will continue to liaise with the group on the PC's behalf.

11. KING'S CORONATION "BIG LUNCH" EXPENSES

Following liaison with organisers of the "Big Lunch", NH confirmed that there had been a budgetary overspend due to the number of people who attended exceeding expectation. It was proposed by NH and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should contribute £500 from reserves, towards the shortfall in budgetary provision.

12. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

NH reminded everyone about the Community Liaison event to be held by Wessex Internet in the Hambro Arms on 6th July. It was agreed to publicise this by social media, in addition to the posters; for the benefit of the residents.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 12th July 2023 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed:
(Presiding Chairman)

Date: