

## MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

### PRESENT

Mr I. Baker

Mr S. Gould

Mr T. Ives

Mr T. Khandwala (Vice Chair)

Mr S. Driver

Mr N. Hodder (Chair)

Mrs J. Jordan

Mr S. Martin

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk) and 2 members of the general public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Mr P. Ford & Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor)

**2. DISPENSATIONS** None

### 3. OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

Mr R. Golledge asked whether Dorset Highways had responded to the complaint about the surface of the pavements in Catherine's Well. The Clerk advised that the uneven pavement surfaces, the verge gully outside the Reading Room and the overgrown pavement adjacent to The Old Hospital had been reported to Highways and that a response had been received on the day of the meeting advising that all works had been carried out. No pavement works have been carried out at Catherine's Well, so the Clerk will follow up with Dorset Highways.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 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

The Clerk confirmed that no covenant had been indicated on the Jane's Wood deeds prohibiting the Parish Council from paying for works to be carried out.

The Clerk had contacted various Arbor culturalists and Forestry Companies for advice and quotes for works in Janes Wood and Seymour Woodland (See item 11).

The pavements, pothole, verges adjacent to The Old Hospital and overflowing bins at St Catherine's Chapel have all been reported to Dorset Council via the Dorset Council online reporting system. The Parish Council website has been updated to include a "Dorset Council Links" page under the "Resources" heading, providing direct links to report fly-tipping, potholes, overflowing bins and planning enforcement issues.

The Agent for the Windmill Clump mobile mast application confirms that “The structural elements for this site were built at the end of October” ... allow “3-4 months for equipment and operators technical requirements to align and the site to be fully operational”.

Regarding the item 13 at the September 2023 meeting, the clerk had emailed MP Mr S. Hoare twice. Read receipts had been received from his PA and Ms K. Hoare, but only a delivery receipt for SH for the first email. A read receipt from SH for the second email had been received on the day of the meeting. His PA replied to confirm that SH had read the email and would reply in due course. NH referenced a recent planning approval in Pimperne where the Neighbourhood Plan was not given significant weight and suggested that the review of the Neighbourhood Plan should be added to the draft budget for consideration. NH, SM and the Clerk had met with Symonds and Sampson re sale of Parish Council land for development. (See item 13).

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:

The Reading Room Committee Annual Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm, NH will attend.

NALC new pay scales.

Upcoming DAPTC Working Together webinars for Community Tree Projects, Litter Free Dorset, Analogue land line switch off (Summer 2024), Scribe Lite finance software.

A request from the Blandford Mayor to wear chains at a Milton Abbey School event. (The Clerk had responded to confirm that NH had no objection).

Climate and Ecological Emergency Support Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Environment Agency advice for reporting flooding to home and business (now included on Parish Council website under “Resources” as “External Agencies”).

SSE advice regarding compensation claims for power cuts lasting more than 12 hrs, (now included on website “External Agencies”), and to report damage to SSEN power equipment via the “PowerTrack” app or by calling 105.

Citizens Advice AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

An enquiry from Mr M. McAvoy requesting support to kickstart the next Parish consultation in 2024.

## **7. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR None**

## **8. REPORTS**

### **HOMEWATCH**

Mrs E. Payne emailed to confirm various reports which had been circulated by Ellie-gram re planning, road closures etc.

### **MATCH/JANE’S WOOD**

EP confirmed that Mr I. Maxwell and Mr B. Isherwood had nothing to report.

### **PLAYPARK**

SG advised that a contractor had attended the play park to view the subsidence issue at the Captain Mannering installation and will provide a report for the next meeting. Options remaining to dismantle and move or backfill with stone. A Halloween event had been very well attended by over 80 people; donations on the day were disappointing, however some residents had come forward following the event to express their appreciation and make a donation. £88.37 will be banked.

#### **TRANSPORT**

NH advised that the Community Bus has been well received since it started in September and is generally full. So long as it continues to be full, it will not cost the Parish Council any money.

**WELCOME PACK** None

**CSW** None

#### **MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST**

RG advised that he'd attempted to cut the grass however the mower has an oil leak and can't be driven. It is due an annual service but can't be driven so a trailer will be required.

#### **TELEPHONE KIOSK**

SD reported that renovations have been slowed by the weather. In the absence of alternative uses, it may well become a book swap facility.

**JUBILEE BENCH** None

#### **MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB**

TK had attended the sports club opening event and commended the organisers. He said it was great to have another facility in the village, and he complimented the café.

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

SM advised that the History Group felt that this event does not align with the scope of their current activities, however Mr & Mrs Leigh have expressed interest in the event and suggested lighting a beacon at the sports field. SM will investigate potential grants and the Clerk will add it to the draft budget for consideration.

#### **ELECTIONS**

Residents will need photo ID to vote in the upcoming elections.

Existing Councillors must apply to be considered for election.

There is a new page on the Parish Council website for election related news which will be updated periodically.

Dorset Council have vacancies for polling clerks, counters etc.

NALC will provide a free "Democracy In Action" event online on 14<sup>th</sup> November to encourage residents to have greater involvement in Parish Council activities.

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

TK advised that the defibrillator by St James' Church is still removed for repair.

Mr D. Cocking emailed an update on Wessex Internet progress; WI are working towards going live by Christmas but the weather could slow this down. WI expressed their gratitude for the patience, understanding and support of the village whilst they overcame various challenges. Councillors asked when the

wires would be buried into the lawns and asked for a more specific action plan to include timings.

Milton Abbey School head, Mr J. Watson, emailed an update including news of a Christmas concert in St James' Church, the potential return of swimming club, and new signage for the grounds and paths around the school indicating open and prohibited areas. He also offered to assist with the production of a new village circular along the lines of the Bulletin. NH suggested that he and SD could progress this directly with JW.

## **9. PLANNING**

### **Decisions**

**P/HOU/2023/01362 & P/LBC/2023/01363** 42-43 Milton Abbas - Change of use and conversion of barn to form annexe, workshop and garage accommodation. Erect terrace to provide useable amenity area. (Revised scheme to that approved under extant consents 2/2001/0725 and 2/2001/9126) - Granted

### **Applications**

**P/HOU/2023/05861 & P/LBC/2023/05866** 26 Milton Abbas - Erection of single storey side extension & rear extension with rooms in a new roof. Demolition of existing rear 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. TI had emailed some observations, NH suggested that this is a similar application to the March 2023 application, to which the Parish Council had not objected, but had expressed concerns regarding the reduced parking. It was proposed by TK, and seconded by IB that the same response should be submitted to this application. There were 7 votes in favour and one against.

**P/FUL/2023/05324** Luccombe Farm & Holiday Cottages – Erect ground mounted solar PV panels. It was proposed by SD, seconded by SG and unanimously agreed to support the application.

**P/HOU/2023/05172 & P/LBC/2023/05173** Hollyhock Cottage 24 Milton Abbas – Install air source heat pump. It was agreed that in principle there was no objection, although the effectiveness of an air source heat pump in a non sealed building as there is a potential it could over work. The Councillors had no comment to submit.

**P/CLE/2023/05100** Little Hewish Barn - Certificate of Lawfulness to provide confirmation that the development works have been commenced and that the consent should not expire - in relation to 2/2020/1303/NMA Forming structural opening to create new French doors and erecting exterior cladding (standing seam zinc) to front elevation. Building works commenced under planning permission 2/2020/1303/NMA Internal alterations to form new staircase, bedroom and en-suite bathroom including laying of new foul drains Forming structural opening to create new French doors and erecting exterior cladding (standing seam zinc) to front elevation. For information only.

**P/FUL/2023/00950** Luccombe Farm - Removal of garage, construction of two storey side extension, construction of first floor extension, construction of a

porch, subdivision of dwelling to create two dwellings. The Councillors had no objection.

**P/HOU/2023/06006 & P/LBC/2023/06007** 52 Milton Abbas - Erect single storey side extension, (demolish existing garage). Create access to rear garden. Cut back and extend retaining wall to create courtyard area and form new steps. TI expressed concerns about the gabled roof and French windows that would be visible from the street. SM asked whether the plans indicated that the French windows might be uPVC. It was proposed by NH, and seconded by IB that the Councillors should support the application, with the caveat that the French windows should not be uPVC. There were seven votes in favour and one against.

#### **10. REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATH**

NH had emailed to proposed that he would purchase a wreath to lay at the Milton Abbey School remembrance service on 12th November for a purchase cost of £25 including VAT and accompanying donation to the Royal British Legion of £25. It was unanimously agreed that this should be funded from reserves.

#### **11. JANE'S WOOD & SEYMOUR WOODLAND TREE WORKS**

Shawyers had visited Jane's Wood and Seymour Woodland and reported a significant amount of ash die back and overhanging branches, but advised that it was too large a project for them to quote for the work, and recommended a forestry style company. They confirmed no dead trees to the rear of Sylvan Row. They would be happy to quote for specific individual works as required.

Knighton Countryside had been asked to quote in place of Shawyers.

Dorset Council had quoted to survey around 110 trees across both sites, provide a tree report and accompanying location plan for £560 + VAT.

Soundwood confirmed that they could carry out the same standard as Dorset Council but could not compete with the price quoted. They recommended that the Parish Council do not employ Dorset Council to carry out identified works as they will be more expensive, but confirmed that this survey will meet our risk assessment duties as landowners.

The Clerk and the Chair had agreed to pay for the Dorset Council survey and then consider what to put into place for tree management based on the survey results.

RG objected to the Parish Council spending money on Jane's Wood since MATCH had agreed to meet all the maintenance costs. NH pointed out that the agreement has no value if there is no longer a fund to meet the costs from. It was agreed to publicise the decision to spend money by adding the item to the agenda (including costs), so residents could have a chance to object.

RG asked what progress had been made regarding access. The Parish Council intend to continue to pursue access via the easement as necessary.

#### **12. MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB CONTRIBUTION TO REFURBISHMENT**

Mr C. Henderson was present to represent the Sports Club. The Clerk read an email from the secretary of the Sports Club, Mrs K. Leigh, requesting a donation

towards intended works; the next phase planned to replace various windows at a cost of £3,120 + VAT (windows will be purchased and fitted individually as funds permit). CH answered questions and supplied the quotation from Newglaze. The Councillors advised that £3,000 is included in the budget to support works at the Sports Club, but that 3 quotes would be required to comply with financial regulations. Councillors remarked that it was good to see the facility being put to good use again and passed on their thanks to the team.

### 13. DAPTC AGM RESOLUTIONS

SD volunteered to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. The motions to be considered relate to DAPTC i) adopting the Armed Forces Covenant, and ii) transitioning from a constituted membership body to a limited company in April 2024. It was proposed by NH, seconded by TK and unanimously approved that SD should vote yes to both motions.

### 14. FORMAT FOR SELLING PARISH COUNCIL LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

NH, SM and the Clerk had met with Mr A. Tregay (Symonds & Sampson) for some informal advice. AT had emailed a 4 page document with ideas to move forward. It was agreed that it would be preferable to sell with planning permission rather than without, so the Parish Council could apply for planning itself, pay a Consultant to lead the project, or work with a local housing association who could fund the project. TK asked whether a decision had been taken to sell the land. TI suggested that since it's included in the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council could be criticised for not acting on their intention. It was agreed that lack of action could lead to another Gleeson style application from a developer. SM suggested that the AT's document should be circulated amongst the Councillors prior to the next meeting and then reviewed in detail.

### 15. BUDGET

A preliminary draft budget had been circulated by email. Councillors were asked to review and comment on the draft by email as the budget must be agreed and the precept submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Ideally this could be resolved at the January meeting if all alterations are made and found to be acceptable, otherwise a special meeting will be required.

### 16. FINANCE

#### Balances:

Current A/c	£49,740.43
Playpark A/c	£24,648.69

The following cheques were authorised:

#### Current Account

Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Salary September 2023	1407	£352.97
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses September 2023	1408	£72.69
BHIB Insurance (refunded in error by BHIB)	1409	£36.13

Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Salary October 2023	1410	£352.97
Mrs E. Sellen Clerk's Expenses October 2023	1411	£37.89
DAPTC Clerks' Conference 28/09/2023	1412	£45.00
Cllr Mr N. Hodder Remembrance Wreath & donation	1413	£50.00
St James Open Cemetery Donation	1414	£435.00
MA Health & Disability Fund Donation	1415	£250.00
Computer Café Donation	1416	£300.00
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses May II 2023	1417	£268.80
Playpark Account		
Mr R. Golledge Mower Fuel	0154	£130.00

### **17. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS**

TI asked about the DMMO process, since the woodland behind Exchange Cottage is up for sale. The Clerk was asked to investigate what would be required to formalise the existing public access.

### **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed:  
(Presiding Chairman)

Date: