

MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on April 12th 2006 in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT Mr I Maxwell (Chairman)
Mr J Fifield
Mrs E Fry
Mrs F Robinson
Mr A Tice
Mr T Ives
Mr D Clegg

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs C Hendy (Clerk), Mr M Cox (District Councillor), and 3 members of the general public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs F Oliver, Mrs H Cox (County Councillor) and Mrs D Jones (District Councillor).

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on March 8th 2006 had been circulated. It was proposed by Freddy Robinson, seconded by Liz Fry and unanimously agreed that they should be accepted as a true record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application from Milton Abbey School as he is an employee of the school.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Freddy Robinson reminded the members that it had previously been suggested that an article should be placed in The Bulletin with regards to finding a new Homewatch Co-ordinator. John Fifield agreed to organise this, he also suggested that the article should be in parallel with approaching a suitable candidate, possibly one of the newer Parish Council members.

Allen Tice queried if Michael McAvoy had been invited to attend the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that he had been invited, but was unavailable, but would be happy to attend May's meeting if it was felt necessary. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that they would like Mr McAvoy to attend, the Chairman agreed to arrange this.

David Clegg reported that a decision from the public inquiry regarding Mr J Boulter's canter track could be expected sometime in mid May.

The Clerk confirmed that the 'Best Kept Village' competition had been entered and it was agreed that the 'Best Community Village' would not be entered this year.

The Chairman requested that all local publications (The Bulletin, The Scarecrow, The Valley News & The Village News) be treated equally with regards to the publication of the Parish Council minutes. This motion was proposed by John Fifield, seconded by Tom Ives and unanimously agreed.

The Clerk confirmed that all notices regarding the casual vacancy and election had been posted within the time frame given by Democratic Services. There are two candidates David Soden and Linda Whelan. The election will take place on Thursday 27th April at The Reading Rooms from 8.00am to 9.00pm.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available on the table. A letter had been received regarding the broken steps on Bridleway 1 (The Street to Catherine's Well), the Rights of Way Officer carried out a site visit but could not find a problem. John Fifield responded that the top part of the Bridleway is in a very poor condition especially after heavy rain. It was suggested that the Abbey School may be able to assist with repair work, the Chairman agreed to speak with contacts at the school. The Clerk was requested to contact the Rights of Way Officer to organise another site visit.

An advice notice from DCC regarding Avian Influenza had been received. The Clerk agreed to provide all members with a copy.

A copy of the document 'Interim Guidance on the Development of Areas of Amenity Open Space, Play Areas and Commuted Sums' had been received from NDDC, Freddy Robinson requested the document with regards to The Heritage Trail.

A response had been received from John Peake, Chairman of DCC, supporting the Parish Council's recent letter to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister regarding Standards in Conduct in English Local Government.

The Clerk reported that the notice and advertisement of the annual audit had been received.

Information had been received from the Land Registry regarding voluntary registration of land. It was proposed by John Fifield and seconded by Liz Fry that a list should be drawn up of Parish Council land and to discover if it is registered. The Clerk confirmed that a list already exists as it is required for insurance and audit purposes.

6 ANY REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Michael Cox reported that the Budget had been adopted after some amendments. NDDC are awaiting a service level agreement with East Dorset so they can continue to provide for tourism in North Dorset. In the recent Performance Audit, NDDC were classified as 'fair', but were progressing to a 'good' rating in some areas.

7 PARISH PLAN REVIEW

A questionnaire had been received from NDDC regarding a review of the Milton Abbas Parish Plan. The aim being to summarise all actions and projects that have been delivered up to the present time. David Clegg expressed concern that the Parish Council has not had enough involvement in the Parish Plan and a sub-committee should be set up. It was decided that the PC needed the advice of Michael McAvoy on how to proceed with this review. It was decided that adequate time could not be given to the questionnaire at the meeting, but all members agreed to meet at a convenient time, with the sole purpose of completing the questionnaire. The Clerk agreed to contact NDDC to arrange an extension for the return of the questionnaire. The Clerk read an email received from Michael McAvoy regarding the Street Fair Inquiry and the Bournemouth University survey to update the Parish Plan, confirming that he had decided to completely separate the two. He hoped this would meet the concerns raised at March's meeting. It was concluded that the NDDC review questionnaire needed to be dealt with before the PC could endorse the Bournemouth University survey.

8 INSURANCE

Information had been received via the DAPTC regarding an alternative insurance package for smaller councils from Zurich Municipal in association with Community First. Insurance is currently with Allianz Cornhill. It was proposed by Freddy Robinson, seconded by Liz Fry and unanimously agreed that the Clerk should obtain a quote from Zurich. John Fifield was called away during this item.

9 DUNBURY SCHOOL MILTON ABBAS SITE

The Clerk reported that the Diocese have just instructed their Architect to resubmit the application. No news was available on the MATCH Consortium application. Michael Cox

offered to investigate. There was discussion regarding the news that the Winterborne Stickland site was due to undergo considerable building alterations. It was noted that the cost of these alterations amounted to over £1million, whereas the proposed school at Catherine's Well was estimated to cost £650,000. Freddy Robinson requested confirmation as to whether the school would be shut during the alterations. Liz Fry as a Governor of the Dunbury School confirmed that the Winterborne Stickland site was expected to be closed for approximately 8 months. John Fifield returned to the meeting.

10 REPORTS

(a) **Homewatch** Nothing to report

(b) **MATCH and Jane's Wood** John Fifield reported that the hedging plants have been planted.

(c) **Playpark** David Clegg offered to be the PC representative on the Playpark committee. It was agreed that David Clegg would place an article in The Bulletin requesting other parents to join the Playpark committee. David Clegg and Freddy Robinson would be the signatories for the Playpark account, Clerk to arrange.

11 OPEN HALF HOUR

The following points were raised:

- ?? It was suggested that the PC should request a donation from the Street Fair Committee to assist with the cost of repairing the street furniture and generally sprucing up The Street, especially as the village has entered the 'Best Kept Village Competition'. The Clerk was requested to write to The Street Fair Committee.
- ?? Parish Council funds should not be used for charitable donations when Street Fair funds are available, could the Street Fair donate money to the Parish Council to be given to charities?
- ?? It was suggested that information from the Homewatch co-ordinator could be circulated via email.

12 PLANNING

Decisions: 2/2006/0164 - **Fishmore Hill Farm** – Formation of a veterinary (equine) surgery within an existing barn - **Granted**

Applications: 2/2006/0328 – **Milton Abbey School Maillard Wing Extension** – remove internal partitions, replace aluminium windows, new partitions, sanitary accommodation and services - No objections (unanimous) as long as Conservation Officer has been consulted.

2/2006/0294 – **Milton Abbey School Tregonwell House Mezzanine** - remove internal partitions, new partitions, sanitary accommodation, renew wiring and heating installations - No objections (unanimous) as long as Conservation Officer has been consulted.

Ian Maxwell declared an interest and took no part in consideration of these two applications. Liz Fry took the Chair. John Fifield requested that he be excused and he left the meeting.

13 FINANCE

The Clerk reported that she had purchased a copy of Local Council Administration by Charles Arnold-Baker, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should fund this and the book would become Parish Council property.

Balances: Current A/c £497.94 Portman A/c £1115.95 Playpark A/c £2386.14

The following cheques were authorised:

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| Clerk's Salary | £148.14 |
| Clerk's Expenses | £46.45 |

DAPTC subscription £129.03

14 CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the members that when he stands down at the AGM he does not wish to be re-elected as Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on **May 10th 2006** and would be the **Annual General and Parish Meeting**. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.