MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 08 July 2026
in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr S. Driver (Chair)
Mrs J. Jordan
Mr S. Martin
Mr S. Gould
Ms J. Macleod

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk), Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor) and 6 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr I. Baker (family commitments), Mr P. Ford (holiday), Mr T. Ives (bereavement), Mr L. Usherwood (family commitments).

2. DISPENSATIONS

SG advised that as a working colleague and friend of Mr G. Coleman, he would abstain from the planning application for Hewish Farm.

3. OPEN FORUM None

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 13th May 2026 had been circulated. It was proposed by SG, seconded by JJ, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2026 had been circulated. It was proposed by SG, seconded by JJ, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.
The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 29th June 2026 had been circulated. It was proposed by SG, 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 had reported complaints regarding verge degradation (report number 1324666).
The issues relating to the bridge at Milton Abbey School have been reported to the Headteacher, Nick Barrow, Steve Lane (both Milton Abbey School staff) and Dorset Council. SD will add notes to the risk register to document our course of action and reasons.

The planning response regarding legally required works to chimneys has been circulated by email.
Infinity have been instructed as the new play park inspectors (project ref AF-26.062). The first inspection has been carried out and the MUGA bolt has been repaired.
Dorset Council have advised that DMMO T491 is currently scheduled for submission to the Planning Inspectorate during 2027.
The Tregonswell Almshouses governing documents have been amended to remove the requirement for a PC or PCC appointed trustee.
Dorset Council do not offer support to obtain the data from the SID and suggest following up with ViaTraffic for support. SM will follow up.
The non conforming post box has been reported to the Dorset Council planning enforcement team.
Mrs V. Macnamara has confirmed that she is too busy to continue with the Emergency Planning project.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated by email or was available on the table.
The clerk drew attention to the following:
The Dorset Council Register of Interests system has been upgraded following changes in data protection legislation. All Councillors are required to resubmit their declaration of pecuniary interests and instructions have been emailed to all councillors. Deadline has been set as 17th July 2026.
A resident has reported a fallen tree in Jane's Wood. LU is organising a team to clear the fallen tree and will liaise directly with the landowner.
A resident of Catherine's Well has reported the following three issues
- Overgrown vegetation in Damer Close obscuring visibility (resident supplied with Housing Association contact information to progress complaint)
- Overgrown laurel bush at bus stop (reported to Dorset Council 1324665)
- Hambro car park obscured by overgrown verges (reported to DC 1324664)

Shillingstone resident email pointing attention to changes in their Neighbourhood plan that could allow sustainability arguments to be used to weaken, dilute or bypass local character and conservation protections. He urged all to consider the attachments and respond if appropriate, directly to Dorset Council. SD reiterated that all councillors should read this email.
A resident had circulated their personal response to the Hewish Farm planning application.
The Millennium Green Trust have closed their bank account as they have been inactive for over 3 years. The residual balance of £22.53 had been paid as a cheque to the clerk and paid into the Parish Council account.

7. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

EP will chase the enforcement team for an update regarding the African themed mural at the top of the street.
The Emily Faulkner Trust are meeting on 27th July and 10th August 10am at Blanchard and Bailey Solicitors to review this year's applications. Mr J. Early was

not aware that IB had been nominated to replace Dawn Wyatt as the representative for Milton Abbas. The Clerk will follow up by email.

8. REPORTS

ELLIEGRAM/COMMUNICATIONS/WELCOME PACK

SG advised that a new resident has requested a copy of the welcome pack.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD/MILLENNIUM GREEN

Ms V. Downes asked whether MATCH is still active as she believed the funds have been distributed. SD advised that Mr B. Isherwood intends to reactivate it.

JM asked for LU to speak to Mr R. Pressland regarding the beech hedge at the far side of Jane's Wood before meeting with the Tree Surgeon.

PLAYPARK

SG reported that the play park inspection revealed a few urgent works and some warranty repairs required. The Clerk will contact Sovereign regarding the warranty repairs. JM and SG are meeting at the park on Monday to review the remaining issues. It was agreed that the replacement bolts and caps should be done when Infinity visit to replace the basket swing and zip wire. SD will produce a compliance matrix.

TRANSPORT SG reported all working well.

CSW

SD reported that the SID is still in the village and working well. JJ has met with Maria Attwood (Dorset Police) and it was suggested that it should be ascertained whether the village want a CSW team and 20mph limits. If so, volunteers must be police checked and trained before hourly sessions are arranged. Three or more volunteers are required for each session. Some of the existing kit is outdated and needs to be replaced. The camera van can be invited by resident request.

MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB

SD reported on the fire which had destroyed the premises occupied by The View Coffee Shop. The Chair of the Sports Club Committee is liaising with insurers to reestablish utilities and move forward.

EMERGENCY PLAN

SG will visit VM to see if there is anything to hand over.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SG has obtained documents from Jo Witherden from the previous plan. JM and SG have reviewed the documents with a view to reestablishing a working party. SG and JM would like to schedule an open meeting in October for JW to speak to residents and answer questions, and for volunteers to come forward. SG & JM to compile costing for consideration at the September meeting. SD offered to assist with communications.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS None

9. PLANNING

Decisions None

Applications

P/PAAC/2026/02582 Hewish Farm – Change of use & conversion of agricultural buildings to 3 dwellings**.** Mrs F. Oliver confirmed that she has submitted an

objection. Ms V. Downes had circulated comments to the councillors by email, and explained that whilst she had no objection to the conversion of the barn, she has concerns regarding the proposed rerouting of the access for which works have already commenced. Mr G. Coleman explained that the improved access is required as the existing gate to small for the agricultural machinery. He has built back to reduce the flood risk and will plant a hedge in the autumn. GC explained that the planning application is in very early stages and there are many issues to iron out. The Parish Council have not been asked for comments and therefore no response was considered.
P/LBC/2026/02938 The Old Rectory – Enlarge existing parking area, remove section of wall & plant new yew hedge. It was agreed that the proposed works will not be visible from the road and no concerns were expressed.
P/TRC/2026/03462 Milton Abbey School – Cypress, Yew, Ash, fell to ground level
P/TRC/2026/03470 Milton Abbey School – Cypress, Yew, Ash, fell to ground level
Applications received before the meeting
P/HOU/2026/03582 Athelstan House – Installation of 14no solar PV panels. Mrs F. Robinson requested a copy of the Dorset Council guidance re solar panels in a conservation area.

10. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN AMENDMENT
The Clerk reported that the external auditor had requested an amendment to assertion 4 as the notice of the conclusion of audit had not been posted until 4th October 2025.

11. DATA PROTECTION POLICY
The PC Data Protection Policy dated 11/11/2019 is now online and has been circulated by email along with the latest model policy for comparison. Comments to be circulated by email.

12. IT POLICY
The IT policy dated 01/07/2025 is now online and has been circulated by email along with the latest model policy for comparison. Comments to be circulated by email.

13. PUBLICATION SCHEME
The Publication scheme dated 07/12/2017 is not online and has been circulated by email along with the latest model policy for comparison. Comments to be circulated by email.

14. ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT
A draft accessibility statement has been published online as at 07/07/2026 and requires further review.

15. REVIEW HIGHWAYS & RISK REGISTER CONCERNS
With respect to the verges within the parish, street markings suggest that repairs are imminent.

Regarding the bridge on the road to Hilton, SG suggests that Dorset Council should consider appropriate signage to alert road users before they reach the bridge. Two existing signs from Milborne St Andrew and one from the Street are missed. The School do their part to alert visitors and deliveries to approach from the Hilton direction but SG has countless photos of vehicles which have been caught out by the low bridge. EP will ask the Highways Officer to visit.

16. ZIP WIRE & BASKET SWING REPAIRS

Quotes for repair of the zip wire and basket swing had been circulated by email. It was unanimously agreed that both quotes should be accepted.

17. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Clerk confirmed that email instructions have been circulated and all Councillors are legally required to resubmit their declarations under the new system.

18. FINANCE

The receipts and payments spreadsheet, latest bank statements and list of cheques for payment had been circulated by email and was available at the meeting.

Balances:

Current A/c	£ 68,141.38
Playpark A/c	£ 8,334.64

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

Hugo Fox Website INV-27411	DD	11.99
Hugo Fox Emails INV-27579	DD	20.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary May 2026	1508	£ 419.38
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses May 2026	1510	£100.99
Lloyds Bank Charges 10042026-09052026	DD	£4.25
Hugo Fox Website INV-28644	DD	£11.99
Hugo Fox Emails INV-28714	DD	£20.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary June 2026	1511	£419.58
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses June 2026	1512	£758.01
HMRC PAYE & NI Qtr04 2025/2026	1513	£75.01
HMRC PAYE & NI Qtr01 2026/2027	1514	£1.12
Darkin Miller Ltd Internal Audit Fee	1515	£262.64
Lloyds Bank Charges 10052026-09062026	DD	£11.17

Playpark Account

Lloyds Bank Charges 10042026-09052026	DD	£ 4.25
Lloyds Bank Charges 10052026-09062026	DD	£4.25

19. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS None

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 09th September 2026 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date: