MILTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th September 2026 in the READING ROOM, MILTON ABBAS, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr I. Baker (Vice Chair)
Mr S. Gould
Ms J. Macleod
Mr L. Usherwood
Mr S. Driver (Chair)
Mr T. Ives
Mr S. Martin

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Sellen (Clerk), Mrs. Emma Parker (Dorset Councillor) and 1 member of the general public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Mrs J. Jordan (prior engagement), Mr P. Ford (away) and Mr S. Martin late arrival due to traffic.

2. **DISPENSATIONS** SG advised that he is a friend and colleague of the Long Ash Farm applicant.

3. **OPEN FORUM** None

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2026 had been circulated. It was proposed by SG, seconded by JM, and agreed by those who had attended the previous meeting, that they should be accepted as a true record.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that some have not yet submitted their registers of interest online on the Dorset Council website and that it is a legal offence not to submit within 28 days of accepting office.
SG and JM are reviewing the relevance of the Neighbourhood Plan, and have obtained paperwork from Ms J. Witherden (lead consultant).
Maintenance report 1324666 carriageway degradation on road from Winterborne Whitechurch reported as “fixed” 20/07/2026.
Maintenance report 1324665 laurel hedge at bus stop reported as “no safety defect found, will continue to monitor” by Dorset Council.
Dorset Council Planning Enforcement team have advised a backlog is delaying investigation of the mural at Little Westwood.
Dorset Councillor EP is waiting for a date to walk the village with new Highways Officer Jack.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The clerk drew attention to the following:
A pop up post office is running in the Reading Room on Thursdays from 9.30am – 11am alongside the Computer Club.
Owner of 26 Milton Abbas has confirmed works commenced 10/08/2026 ongoing unit spring 2027 and apologises in advance for the disruption. Contact details for site have been supplied to the Clerk.
A resident has reported an attempted fire within Jane's Wood (police report DOR-20260804-0076).
The Clerk received a complaint regarding regular bonfires adjacent to woodland, despite the obvious fire risk created by the heatwave. The Parish Council circulated guidance by email, through the Elliegram and on posters, advising residents to avoid all unnecessary fires during the hot weather. The Clerk has also enquired whether the recent Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to prohibit BBQ's and Campfires during the summer heatwave can be extended to include Milton Abbas. Warning signs can be obtained from Dorset Council at a cost of £62+VAT each. SG, IB, JJ, JM and SD voted by email to confirm that up to 6 signs can be ordered for retention by SG in event of future heatwaves.
Mr R. Golledge has requested volunteer assistance to remove the winter grit from his home and place in the bins for use in the winter. SG will assist on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.
The Consultation on the draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Dorset closes on 9th November.

7. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

EP advised that the online non emergency highways issues reporting system will be offline between 14 – 22 September. The telephone number remains for emergency reports only.
A village walk with the new Highways officer is scheduled for 22nd September at 2pm and EP requested reports of concerns and alerts (new and old) ahead of the village. SG & SD requested to attend.
EP outlined changes proposed by the Boundary review; Puddletown will be excluded from the ward, Turnworth and Dewlish will be included. Hilton and Ansty are not coming back. The ward is now larger, despite the fact that EP had asked whether two cllrs may be required or two smaller wards may be more appropriate.
EP advised that the Enforcement officer has visited Little Westwood regarding concerns raised about the mural, and suggests that the mural should be moved, or retrospective planning permission should be sought.
North Dorset Councillors held a joint briefing to explain the changes introduced by the NPPF. Some planning decisions have been delayed up to three weeks pending the outcome. From the end of October, very few applications will be heard by committee due to increased delegated powers to planning officers. Parish Council responses will be crucial to represent the community – responses must reflect NPPF criteria. Neighbourhood Plans remain relevant and will require updating following the implementation of the local plan in two years time.
SM arrived (7:50pm).

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8. REPORTS

ELLIEGRAM/COMMUNICATIONS/ WELCOME PACK

SD confirmed the usual communications have been circulated. TK has relinquished the WP to Mrs P. Driver and it is currently under review.

MATCH/JANE'S WOOD None

PLAYPARK/ MILLENNIUM GREEN

Contractors are scheduled for 6th/7th October to get the park ready for winter (quote available at the meeting and circulated by email). Works include crown lift to trees, strimming, restoration of benches.

Waiting for Sovereign Play to assess timbers under warranty request.

The Clerk to distribute JM's report on the condition of the equipment in the park.

TRANSPORT

SG advised that Ms C. Eastment has resigned as Chair of Melcombe Horsey Parish Meeting and therefore relinquished lead of the PlusBus. CE asked whether SG would take over the lead, to include liaison with PlusBus, attending meetings, acting contact for new village participants. It was proposed by SD and unanimously agreed that the service is beneficial and should be supported and SG was encouraged to take up the invitation to lead.

CSW

JJ report sent by email;

JJ recalls Winterborne Whitechurch do not have an active CSW team, but have successfully implemented 20mph zones. The Clerk will follow up with Dorset Council and Winterborne Whitechurch Parish Clerk for more information.

The SID has not been collected over the last two months. JJ has recharged the battery and replaced it. It appears to be working again.

MILTON ABBAS SPORTS CLUB

Following the fire at The View Coffee Shop, insurance technicalities are delaying progress on site.

EMERGENCY PLAN

SG will visit Ms V. Macnamara to find out whether there is anything to hand over.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PC OFFICERS

SG noted that the height restriction sign on the Milton Abbey bridge has been ripped in two. EP has send an email to Dorset Council and will raise with the Highways Officer during his visit.

9. PLANNING

Decisions

P/MPO/2025/01223 Fishmore Hill – Discharge of conditions - Granted

P/FUL/2026/01759 Luccombe Farm & Holiday Cottages – Erect chapel / quiet room - Granted

P/PAAC/2026/02582 Hewish Farm – Change of use & conversion of ag buildings – Withdrawn

P/LBC/2026/02938 The Old Rectory – Enlarge parking area - Granted

P/TRC/2026/03462 Milton Abbey School – Various tree works – Acceptable

P/TRC/2026/03470 Milton Abbey School – Various tree works - consent

P/FUL/2026/03582 Athelstan House – 14No Solar PV Panels - Granted

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P/TRC/2026/04276 23 Milton Abbas – Beech reduce height - Acceptable
Applications
P/FUL/2026/04392 Lower Lodge – New extension – A neighbour has registered an objection regarding parking. It was agreed that the submitted objection covers the concerns adequately and no further comments are necessary.
P/VOC/2026/04438 Little Westwood – Variation of condition 2. IB noted that it was for validation of works already in existence, rather than additional changes.
P/FUL/2026/04427 Long Ash Farm – Convert barn to dwelling. No concerns were raised.
P/TRC/2026/04748 24 Milton Abbas – Hornbeam reduce height and lateral spread
P/HOU/2026/04911 Wyndthorpe - Erect two-storey extension, carry out alterations to roof and associated landscaping works. The application arrived on the day of the meeting. Councillors were requested to review the application and request an emergency meeting if they have any concerns.

10. MIDDLETON ROW SIGNAGE
The Clerk has since heard that a new postcode will be allocated for those that want one. Residents are pleased with this outcome.

11. POLICIES AND ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT
The Clerk reported that no comments or updates have been submitted.

12. HIGHWAYS & RISK REGISTER CONCERNS
SD acknowledged a need to get the risk register matrix distributed, particularly in the light of works in the play park.
SD will update the register to note that whilst we are aware of concerns regarding the bridge at Milton Abbey School, the relevant authorities have been advised of the concerns and there is no more action that the Parish Council can take at this time.

13. PLUSBUS REPLACEMENT LEAD
Covered under officer reports.

14. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPEN MEETING
Following a review of the NP documents and the recent changes in the NPPF, SG and JM will report back. Planning Consultant Ms J. Witherden's rates were circulated by email and available at the meeting. It was proposed by SG, seconded by IB and unanimously agreed that SG and JM should meet with Mrs F. Robinson (previously involved in the NP) and JW to consider how the changes affect our NP and whether an open meeting for parish residents is required.

15. DAPTC AUTUMN CONFERENCE
It was unanimously agreed that the clerk should attend the DAPTC autumn conference at Kingston Maurward on 22/10/2026 at a cost of £60.

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16. 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	£66,935.02
Playpark A/c	£4,589.85

The following cheques were authorised:

Current Account

ICO	DD	£47.00
Hugo Fox Website INV-29827	DD	£11.99
Hugo Fox Emails INV-29978	DD	£20.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary July 2026	1516	£419.48
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses July 2026	1517	£51.81
Lloyds Bank Charges 10062026-09072026	DD	£6.25
Hugo Fox Website INV-31000	DD	£11.99
Hugo Fox Emails INV-31167	DD	£20.99
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Salary August 2026	1518	£419.48
Mrs E Sellen Clerk's Expenses August 2026	1519	£22.49
Lloyds Bank Charges 10072026-09082026	DD	£4.25

Playpark Account

Lloyds Bank Charges 10062026-09072026	DD	£5.75
Lloyds Bank Charges 10072026-09082026	DD	£4.25

17. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

SD reminded the clerk to order a wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting would take place on 11th November 2026 and, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:25pm.

Signed:

(Presiding Chairman)

Date:

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