

MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT VICTORIA ROOMS, MILVERTON ON MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 2024 at 7:00 pm

Present	R Burton (Chair)	A Dakowski	C Mann	I Partridge
	P Chambers	J Hoyle	G May	

In attendance: Mr T Payne, Clerk to the Council
SC Cllr G Wren
Four members of the public

	Public Questions Comment was made regarding the following: The state of the cobblestones in Fore/Silver Street The state of the surface and collapsed railings on the footpath from Parsonage Lane into the churchyard (WG7/40) The planning application for the field shelters at Milverton Meadows and conditions associated with the previous permission given. Reports from County Councillors Cllr G Wren gave details of the new medium-term financial plan for SC which suggests a small under-spend in 2024/25 (assuming a capitalization directive is agreed), though a deficit of £80million in 2025/26 is still predicted. Consultations are ongoing regarding staff reductions, with the 'new streamlined' organisation being ready to function from 1 April 2025. Consideration will also be required on the £20million deficit for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, which central government is allowing local authorities to keep off the books at present (<i>this statutory override will run out in March 2026</i>)
1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs M Dinning, A Mather, T Phelps and J Townend and SC Cllr D Mansell
2.	Declarations of Interest None declared
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2024 The minutes were approved as circulated.
4.	Actions from previous meeting - Clerk confirmed that the switch to Unity Bank has been completed and following a complaint being made due to problems in closing accounts, £250 compensation has been received from Nat West.
5.	Planning 5.1 Consideration of Planning Applications for comments to SC - 23/22/0013 <i>Erection of 24 No. dwellings with associated works including access, parking and landscaping on land to the south of Butts Way, Milverton</i> a) the Council's response to the revisions within the application; Following discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council object to the application, citing: that the highway access has seemingly not been fully explored; The nature of the affordable housing should be clarified; and the inconsistency between statements in the Ecological report and the plans in respect of the loss of hedge by the proposed site entrance. The route that would be used to connect the site's foul drainage to the main sewerage network is unknown but would be engineered by Wessex Water

Signed..... Date..... Minute Book Page Number.....

	b) consideration of Section 106 items that could be sought as conditions if the application was approved It was resolved that a request be made for the following to be conditions of any approval: the creation of the footpath within school grounds, parallel to Butts Way; a supply of water/electricity and the construction of a shed on the allotment site - <i>23/24/0018 Erection of field shelters, formation of access track, erection of boundary fencing and soft landscaping at Milverton Meadows, Station Road, Milverton (retention of part works already undertaken)</i> Following discussion, it was resolved by majority that the Parish Council support the application, though with its preference that the shelters are actually sited at the the Northern end of each paddock so that the existing track can be used for access, accepting that a small section of additional track would be required to serve the westernmost paddock. This would therefore mean that the new track currently proposed is not required; There was also a wish to see a condition specifying that the site has to be run and maintained to best practice standards (Cllrs J Hoyle and G May abstained from the vote) - <i>23/24/0030 Change of use and conversion of pheasant rearing lodge to an annexe at Fardons, Preston Bowyer</i> Following discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council support the application, noting however that whilst the building is proposed for use by a person with limited mobility, the site is not actually ideally suited for disabled access. 5.2 Report on Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters Clerk reported that the recent application at Milverton Sawmills (works) had been approved by SC.
6.	Bus Service in Milverton and related issues Cllr J Townend had previously circulated a report. There was discussion on issues regarding the siting of the bus stop in Fore Street, which had been put on the cobbles by Beacon View, this is to be reviewed. It was also reported that there were instances of damage to vehicles by the bus in Fore Street.
7.	Local Community Networks 7.1 Update Chair had previously circulated an update from the Highway's Group's meeting in September, which now includes Traffic Management as well as Highway Maintenance; Wood Street works are now expected to be completed by the beginning of December; The repair to the wall by Parsonage Lane is scheduled for mid-November; An approach has been made by Highways to Wessex Water to connect the Jubilee Garden spring run-off into their drainage system; A meeting has been requested with Gary Warren, SC Traffic Engineering to discuss a weight limit for HGVs. Transport Working Group Meeting on Wed 9 Oct, Chair to go in place of Cllr J Townend 7.2 Consideration of the Enhanced Highway Maintenance Pilot and Volunteer Training programmes SC have been asked for access to their database showing information on gullies. A list of works is required to be drawn up by groups of Councillors inspecting gullies in the areas known to require emptying, with the location to be identified via What3Words. A quotation for works will then be sought from Kier. Interested Parties are required to volunteer to undertake minor highway works, for which attendance on an SC course would be required. A note is to go in the Parish magazine.
8.	Creedwell Orchard Development Matters to be included in a Construction Management Plan have been sent to Notaro and a meeting between Notaro and the Working Group is to be arranged by early November. It is suggested that at that time there may be a design for the drainage works and news on discussions between Notaro and SC on Non

	Material Amendments. A query was raised regarding a footpath near or on Notaro's land and this is to be investigated. Clerk noted that monthly updates on Creedwell will be posted on the PC website.
9.	Preston Farm Solar Farm Following Innova stipulating a deadline to Milverton and Halse PCs having to agree a split of the Community Benefit Fund by 31 October, it was agreed to write to Halse expressing disappointment in the lack of engagement in the negotiation process and the resultant waste of time by Councillors/Clerk. The solicitors had raised a number of queries following a review of the Agreement which had been received on Friday. These will be clarified, with any suggested changes to the terms then being put to Innova.
10.	IT Review Clerk reported that after seeking a straw poll of Councillors on a number of different website designs, a modest number of responses had been received with no unanimity on the suggestions. Costings on a shortlist of websites are to be prepared for a future meeting.
11.	Communication with the Community Cllr J Hoyle reported on the need for a communication strategy and an increased number of platforms. It was also noted this was an area highlighted as needing improvement in the recent survey for the Community Plan. It was agreed that Cllrs J Hoyle, I Partridge and A Dakowski meet to plan how to go forward.
12.	Committee Reports 12.1 Amenity Committee Chair had previously circulated a report. It was also noted that the handle is broken on the main toilet, as well as there having been instances of blockages. A plumber is being sought to effect repairs 12.2 Emergency Planning Committee No Committee matters to report. 12.3 Allotment Committee Cllr A Dakowski had previously circulated a report. There were no further matters arising. 12.4 Parish Plan Working Party It was noted that the survey report is being worked on and the whole report should be finalised by mid/late November 12.5 Traffic Issues Working Party There was discussion on the best way to press for action over restrictions on HGVs. It is anticipated some answers will become known at the forthcoming meeting with Gary Warren (aas noted above) The situation is to be mentioned at a forthcoming meeting with Rachel Gilmour MP The Traffic Working Party is to meet to further investigate the possibility and consequences of a one-way system
13.	Roads and Footpaths 13.1 Footpaths Monthly Report Cllr A Dakowski reported on new footpath wardens appointed by SC, details of the roles to be clarified. Richard Branfield is to be requested to prune the pyracantha by the path near to Jubilee Gardens 13.2 Roads Monthly Report It was noted that favourable comments had been received following the article on parking in the magazine
14.	Consideration of Grant Applications No grant applications received.

15.	Finance 15.1 Schedule of Payments and Bank transfers The following regular payments were noted as being due for payment: Tim Payne Clerk - Sept fee - £1,389.00 Claire's Cleaning - Sept toilet cleaning - £320.00 HMRC - 2nd qrtr deductions £59.52 The following payments were approved for payment: T Payne Reimbursement/expenses/mileage - £161.20 Victoria Rooms - room hire £126.00 SALC course fee - £30 The cost of extending the warranty on the SIDs was £199 per SID per annum. An estimate of potential costs is to be ascertained to then consider at a future meeting if the warranty is value for money DDs scheduled for September Google Website etc £24.00 Yu - toilet electricity £11.71 Transfers Due to all NatWest accounts having been closed, there were several transfers made in the previous month, giving Unity balances as of today of £1,887.50 (current) and £17,483.67(deposit). 15.2 Bank Reconciliations as at 30 September Clerk had previously circulated bank reconciliations for all accounts. There were no comments arising. 15.3 Review of current Financial Position Clerk had previously circulated a summary receipt and payments summary, showing comparisons to budgeted sums. There were no comments arising
16.	Crime Report No Crime Report had been received and a request for these to be provided is to be made to the PCSO
17.	Matters of Report 17.1 Responding to Planning Application course Cllr J Hoyle reported that the recent SALC course was an excellent presentation and recommended that all Councillors should go on this 17.2 Emergency Resilience Roadshow Cllr A Dakowski reported on the roadshow she had attended which covered Flood Wardens and Community Resilience Support, ideas etc will be reported back to the Emergency Committee. Leaflets on assistance to vulnerable residents have been requested. Information was given on potential grants available from Emergency Volunteer Action Group (a group allied to Rotary) for emergency equipment. The group would come to talk to the PC, potentially to be considered for the Annual Parish Meeting. 17.2 Benches Clerk reported on benches in Jubilee Gardens. The one owned by the Parish Council is to be checked for any repair work necessary. It is intended that family members be contacted in respect of two other benches given in memory of former residents.
18.	Date of next meeting and Invitation to address it The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 4th November 2024, at the Victoria Rooms. It was agreed to extend an invitation to the new Head of the Primary School to the next meeting.
	The meeting closed at 9.13pm