

MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT VICTORIA ROOMS, MILVERTON ON MONDAY
7th JULY 2025 at 7:00 pm**

Present	R Burton (Chair)	J Hoyle	A Mather	T Phelps	J Townend
	L Heald	C Mann	G May	M Pine	

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

	<p>Public Questions Comment was made on the following: Contradiction of speed limit signs on Huntash Lane between 20mph and 30mph (<i>to be reported to Traffic Management</i>); Recording registration details of farm vehicles coming through the village is not straightforward due to the use of contractors and land ‘swaps’ between food producers/vegetable growers. (<i>This was noted</i>); The Book Nook was noted as being successful and a request was made that the arrangements after the one year trial period be reviewed, taking account of alternative options put forward.</p> <p>Reports from County Councillors SC G Wren noted forthcoming major roadworks re gas main upgrade set for Wiveliscombe in July/August which may lead to traffic seeking alternative routes. Other road closures are on hold whilst the various current large scale closures, M5 Jn 26 and SilkMills, are ongoing. This is affecting proposed surface dressing works and the junction changes next to the Silk Mills roundabout, the latter now not starting before October; An online meeting with the SC Rights of Way team is proposed for September (<i>it was confirmed Milverton PC would be keen to be involved</i>); There was no update available on car park charges.</p>
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence None received</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest None declared</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2025 The minutes of the June meeting were approved as circulated.</p>
4.	<p>Actions from previous meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benches to be refurbished are awaiting contact being made with the families who donated them. - Attempts have been made to contact Openreach re the exchange but there are no obvious details available - Quotes still to be obtained for the siting of a defibrillator in Houndsmoor - Cobblestones - responses from tradesmen asked to quote for repair work are awaited. - Replacement litter bins to be progressed - A response from SC re Delegated planning is awaited and to be chased
	<p>Planning 5.1 Consideration of Planning Applications for comments to SC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23/25/0025 Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of dwelling without compliance of Condition No. 10 (agricultural occupancy) of application 23/02/0027 at Higher Park Farm, Langford Budville Road, Wiveliscombe <p>The meeting agreed that it had no knowledge to enable any comments to be made on the evidence submitted</p>

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<p>5. (cont)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23/25/0027 <i>To carry out management works to one maple tree to the rear of Pencraig House, High Street, Milverton (as amended)</i> After discussion the PC resolved to support the application, noting that any works should have due regard to the bird nesting season. - 23/25/0028 <i>Erection of equipment storage shipping container at Grange Solar Park, Luckham Bridge Road, Nynehead</i> After discussion the PC resolved to support the application. It was noted the original application pre-dated the now common setting up of Community Benefit Agreements and it was agreed to contact the site owners to request they consider paying comparable sums for use within the parish. <p>5.2 Report on Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters Clerk reported that the applications at Chapel House, Pencraig and St Mildreds (all works) had been approved by the planning authority since the last meeting. The applications re the B3227 Roundabout (advertising) and the proposed single dwelling on land in Preston Bowyer (works) had been refused..</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Co-option of new Councillors Three candidates had put themselves forward for the two vacancies. After an election by Councillors, Kate Nutter and Ben Orton were confirmed as being co-opted on to the Parish Council. It was agreed that they sign their Acceptance of Office directly. The remaining vacancy is to be filled by co-option at the August Meeting.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Bus Service in Milverton and related issues Cllr J Townend reported that due to North Street being closed for water works, the bus route has been redirected via St Michael's Hill. It was noted that the #25 has been going in both directions ie turning right from Fore Street as well as coming down St Michael's Hill and turning left. Timetable changes have been agreed for the #25 and #27 services from a date in September. Options for temporary changes to routes due to the gas works in Wiveliscombe are being investigated by SC.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Flood Preventative Works Review Chair reported ownership discussions are taking place between SC Highways and Wessex Water regarding the drain from Parsonage Lane to Jubilee Gardens. Ownership could be transferred to SC if there are no entry points for which WW receives a payment. Once this is confirmed (requiring CCTV) ownership could be transferred to SC, who would then allow a new drain to be connected. This would in effect deal with the Jubilee Gardens spring. CCTV and Groundworks contacts are to be approached for quotes.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Parking issues in Milverton Chair reported that there had been no progress in respect of the consultation process for SC car park charges or departmental ownership of car parks. It has been confirmed car parks which are currently free will not have charges introduced in October. Clerk reported that survey letters on DYLS are to be delivered this week with numbered response slips. Responses to be made either by email or via the slips being put in the new post box by the Book Nook entrance.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Congestion Issues in Milverton It was resolved to request a copy of the Fire Brigade report into the van fire in May, for which there could be a charge of £82. Further information on the associated congestion is to be requested if necessary.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Structure of Village Bodies Chair had prepared a paper, in conjunction with a number of other interested individuals, on the possible benefits of restructuring the various Trusts operating in the parish. It was agreed that further thoughts/details be produced, which would then be passed to the relevant charities/unincorporated bodies for consideration.</p>

12.	<p>IT Update Clerk advised there had been no progress regarding a new website/domain</p>
13.	<p>Allotment Committee It was resolved that Cllr B Orton be appointed to the Allotment Committee</p>
14.	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>11.1 Allotment Committee A meeting is still to be arranged. Following Mr I Partridge’s resignation from the Council, this resulted in only two PC members, though the appointment of Cllr B Orton now allowed a quorate meeting to be set up to complete the administrative formalities.</p> <p>11.2 Emergency Planning Working Party It was resolved that Cllr K Nutter be appointed to the Working Party. The latest draft is awaited from Mr I Partridge, this will be circulated round the WP to look to update as necessary. An assessment of equipment to also be undertaken.</p> <p>11.3 Parish Plan Working Party Cllr J Townsend reported that the recent survey regarding the Recreation Ground Play area was deemed a success with 106 responses, which lead to a wish-list being drawn up for which quotations are being obtained. Conversations are taking place as regards funding, as well as possible sources of grants. The Milverton Trust has been approached for funding towards paint/swing repairs to enable the current play area to be tidied up. The skate park is in a neglected state, with conversations taking place with the Recreation Ground on getting this refurbished.</p> <p>11.4 Traffic Issues Working Party Reports on HGVs have been received and letters sent out to those vehicles identified</p>
15.	<p>Local Community Networks Updates The LCN AGM is on 27 July Highways Committee Meeting was held on 19 June, with a full LCN meeting on 27 July, being the AGM. Highways issues discussed included general road repairs, a dip in the B3227 in Preston Bowyer, (now repaired), Jubilee Gardens drainage, Butts Way blocked gullies and car park charging. Contractors working on works have been told to only use designated HGV routes. The volunteer programme has been finalised and goes live later in July. The Milverton volunteers will need to have downloaded their certificates from the pilot training to be covered. A letter has been received on the enhanced Highways Maintenance Programme but queries remain on how Parish Councils can make efficient use of the scheme.</p>
16.	<p>Roads and Footpaths</p> <p>13.1 Footpaths Monthly Report Cllr C Mann had previously circulated a report. Complaints have been received in a couple of paths and these are to be investigated</p> <p>13.2 Roads Monthly Report Cllr G May had previously circulated a report It was noted that whilst some gullies had been emptied in Butts Way, no notice had been given so parked cars may well have not allowed access. Rosebank gullies are also blocked and are to be reported. Specified gullies which are blocked are to be identified via Parish Online. Burn Hill signage to be clarified to Traffic Management, though as the instruction is not legally enforceable it is not necessarily conflicting. Landscaping quotes for Jubilee Gardens and the roundabout to be chased.</p>

17.	<p>2024/25 Audit</p> <p>17.1 Internal Audit review Clerk had previously circulated a summary of the matters raised by the Internal Auditor, all of which were considered minor administrative observations. Updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to be brought to a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>17.2 Notice of Public Rights Clerk noted that the Notice of Public rights to inspect the books and records in respect of 2024/25 had been advertised from 4 June, with the period for inspection being 5 June to 16 July (It was resolved that the meeting extend beyond 9.00pm as per Standing Orders)</p>
18.	<p>Finance</p> <p>18.1 Schedule of Payments and Bank transfers The following regular payments were noted as being due: T Payne - June Clerk's fee £1,080.77 Claire's Cleaning - re toilet cleaning June £370.00 HMRC - First quarter deductions £295.02 Somerset Council - Dog bins £101.40 <u>Payments for approval</u> Richard Branfield - grass-cutting £142.20 Wivey Bus User Group - contribution for stationery £40.00 B Orton - Reimbursement for Allotment Strimming £75.00 It was resolved that the payments be approved</p> <p>The premium from Clear Council was noted to have increased from £839.48 to £1045. It was resolved that this be approved</p> <p>DDs for July yu - Toilet Electricity approx £11.52 Google - website costs £24.00 Unity Bank - Monthly bank charge £6.00</p> <p>18.2 Quarterly Review of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025 Clerk had circulated a summary noting, as it was early in the financial year, there were no significant cost changes from the original budget</p> <p>18.3 Review of Bank Reconciliation as at 30 June 2025 Clerk had circulated the Bank Reconciliation which was noted without further comment</p>
19.	<p>19.1 Crime Report No Crime Report had been received</p>
20.	<p>Matters of Report</p> <p>20.1 Refurbishment of the Parsonage Lane seating area has been completed. Litter bin to be sited and the bench wood treated</p> <p>20.2 A fire at the Sawmills was noted, which required attendance by the fire brigade</p> <p>20.3 A new street light for Houndsmoor would need to be requested by the Parish Council. The process for getting a new light in North Street for that damaged by the van fire to be ascertained with SC.</p>
8	<p>Date of next meeting The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 4th August 2025, at the Victoria Rooms.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 9 10.pm</p>