

MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT VICTORIA ROOMS, MILVERTON ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2025 at 7:00 pm

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

In attendance: Mr T Payne, Clerk to the Council
7 members of the public

	Public Questions Comment was made on the following: Alleged breach of planning permission (<i>Cllr G Wren reported that SC Planning Dept had investigated the position and reported back that the development is being completed in accordance with the planning permission</i>); Representatives of Milverton Traffic Action Group raised the contradictory signage re HGVs (<i>The PC has written to SC Highways on this</i>) and offered help in respect of a village survey on a one-way system. The recent incident when two fire engines were blocked from attending the van fire in North Street was highlighted as demonstrating the need to improve traffic flow as the situation could have been a lot worse (<i>Matter to be discussed in the meeting</i>); The potential repair to Fore Street cobbles was raised (<i>the matter remains in hand</i>); Questions on monitoring of HGVs (<i>Spec to be reviewed</i>) Reports from County Councillors SC Cllr G Wren reported on a response from K Brown on traffic measures such as parking restrictions and one-way system which would both need to be funded and take time. The police would need to support as well as the community following consultation. The plans must show a demonstrable reason for the change and evidence of benefits. There had been no update on the car park charges, though the proposal is now likely to come before a Scrutiny Committee which will mean additional information being provided as regards the the background/costing etc; The new financial year has started with a notional deficit of £100million and a change from 6 Directorates to 4 which will take time to settle. It was also noted that any highways problems will now have to be reported online, Councillors can chase up a reported issue by email, though SC will now no longer respond to members of the public.
1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from SC Cllr D Mansell
2.	Declarations of Interest None declared
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2025 The minutes were approved as circulated.
4.	Actions from previous meeting - It was noted that the problems with Fore Street and North Street lighting have been resolved - A response is still awaited re Delegated Planning Powers: - Innova has confirmed that the Community Benefit Agreement has been signed and that the compound site has been moved away from nearby houses, up to the actual site of the solar farm - Lest We Forget statues had been erected just before VE Day - The protruding tree Roots at Preston Bowyer have been dealt with

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

8	Parking issues in Milverton (<i>Item brought forward</i>) Chair noted no response from SC re queries on parking. Apparently resources at SC to deal with consultations should be in place in May. It was noted that the sign to the main Creedwell car park implies it is for general use ie not being restricted to Creedwell residents. A letter has been drafted and it was agreed this be delivered to a wider area of affected residents (Silver St/Fore St/all of Creedwell) as well as being advertising in the magazine and at the entrances to car parks.
9.5	Traffic Issue Working Party (<i>Item brought forward</i>) The Working Group is to meet to consider current policy in the light of the recent van fire incident (inviting representatives of the Traffic Management Group), consider how best to consult with the parish and identify whether vehicles are legitimately working within the parish with the aim to report back to the June meeting.
5.	Planning 5.1 Consideration of Planning Applications for comments to SC - 23/25/0009/T Fell one beech tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Milverton No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at Milverton Primary School, Burn Hill, Milverton (TD722) After discussion the PC resolved to support the application - 23/25/0017/T Fell one apple tree and to carry out management works to one Magnolia within Milverton Conservation Area at St. Mildreds, North Street, Milverton After discussion the PC resolved to support the application 5.2 Report on Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters Clerk reported that no decisions had been made on any outstanding planning applications. Chair noted that the drainage proposal re Creedwell development would not qualify as a non material amendment and so would need planning permission. Cllr G Wren understood that the Planning Officer was proposing approval of the application for advertising on the roundabout but this would be going before the Planning Committee
6.	Co-option Process Chair noted the resignation of A Dakowski and recorded thanks for her many years of service as a Councillor particularly as Chair of the Allotment Committee as well as being the Footpath Officer. Clerk reported that a formal notice of the vacancy will be advertised later that week and that co-option for the two vacancies will be considered at the June meeting. Three applications have been received to date.
7.	Bus Service in Milverton and related issues Cllr J Townsend reported that the new service between Wellington & Wiveliscombe (#27) has commenced and feedback is that it is being well supported. The #25 service is now running on the amended timetable, which includes only going past Wiveliscomber on the first/last runs of the day, a new smaller bus does the run to Dulverton from Wiveliscombe.
8	Parking issues in Milverton (<i>See above</i>)
9.	Committee Reports 9.1 Amenity Committee Chair had previously circulated a report. It was suggested that an ‘opening ceremony’ be organised in due course, once the second phase of work had been completed. 9.2 Emergency Planning Committee Cllr I Partridge reported that he is still working to update the Milverton Emergency Plan. 9.3 Allotment Committee A Dakowski had previously circulated a report. There were no additional comments

	9.4 Parish Plan Working Party Cllr J Townend had previously circulated a report. '20 is Plenty' signs have been completed, places where these are to be sited are to be confirmed. Funding sources for the Rec Play Area being looked into; A questionnaire has been put together and has now gone live. A new street light on Houndsmoor Lane to be requested online 9.5 Traffic Issues Working Party In addition to the points noted earlier, Chair reported on the proposed highway repairs to North Street following the recent fire. SC have advised they will take no action on a nearby damaged tree as the ownership of the land is not certain but a nearby resident has apparently intimated it is on her land so its removal will be dealt with.
10.	Local Community Networks Updates Chair reported on a Highways Group meeting on 15th April and a full LCN meeting on 24th April, which included discussions on blocked drains in Butts Way/Burn Hill and the flooding in Jubilee Gardens, where SC is meeting with Wessex Water to discuss connecting to the manhole. A letter is expected within days from SC re volunteer groups and parishes paying for Highway services. The proposal for charges for car parks was also raised and this has also been discussed with Rachel Gilmour MP. Cllr J Townend reported on a Transport LCN Group meeting on 17th April, which included lobbying for better bus timetables on routes #25 and #27. There is to be a push to raise the profile of the Slinky bus service and reducing rules as to who can use it
11.	Roads and Footpaths 11.1 Footpaths Monthly Report A Dakowski had previously circulated a report. Clerk to write to SC asking for an update for all of the outstanding matters which will be passed on to the Footpath Officer. Quotes are to be obtained for grass-cutting works on footpaths and a letter written to a resident advising that SC could seek the cost of cutting back a hedge impacting on a footpath if the resident did not undertake the works. 11.2 Roads Monthly Report 11.2.1 Monthly Report (GM) Nothing to add to topics covered above 11.2.2 Roundabout Maintenance Cllr M Pine reported on a meeting with Gwyn Hughes regarding the tidying up and he agreed in principle to the works proposed by the PC. Details to be sent to GH when works are scheduled
12.	Finance 16.1 Schedule of Payments and Bank transfers The following contractual payments were noted as having been paid at the month end: T Payne April Clerk's fee £1080.77 Claire's Cleaning April £370.00 Kevin Fancy - Parsonage Lane steps work £4,320.00 (£3,600 net of VAT) Richard Branfield Maintenance £156.00 Payments for authorisation: T Payne - Reimbursement re (Lest We Forget Figures, SID battery charger, Laminating pouches) £411.30 A Mather - Reimbursement re Toilet - Grab Rails £47.96 and seat c£12 (exact amount to be confirmed) Wivey Bus User Group expenses £18.20 Richard Branfield Maintenance £102.00 SALC Courses £90.00 The payments were approved

	DDs in April Google re website £24.00 yu Toilet electricity £11.74 12.2 Unity Bank Signatories It was resolved that Cllr M Pine be added as a signatory to Unity Bank
13.	13.1 Crime Report The Crime Report received was noted without comment, other than approval of the new format.
14.	Matters of Report 14.1 10 Radio Cllr G May advised of the possibility of a regular PC slot and interested Councillors to contact her for details 14.2 Somerset Council response times to correspondence The poor level of responses to communication with SC was noted. 14.3 Tree Planting Cllr J Townsend reported on a tree planting programme with grants through The Woodland Trust and potential sites in Milverton are to be investigated 14.4 Recreation Ground toilets Clerk reported that the Rec toilets were open for a recent function and copy sent to the Magazine for June, confirming the PC Grants received 14.5 Annual Parish Meeting - 13th May The various group representatives speaking the the meeting were noted 14.6 Parish Council Domains The formal requirement for PCs to have their owned domains for 2025/26 was noted, though the PC is currently compliant 14.7 Oake Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Note was made of the consultation period on its Plan
15.	Date of next meeting The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 2nd June 2025, at the Victoria Rooms.
	The meeting closed at 8.50pm