

MILTON ABBOT GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL
(Parishes of Milton Abbot, Chillaton, Dunterton and Bradstone)

To all Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council to be held **at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 at Milton Abbot Village Hall, Milton Abbot** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Howard Asbridge, Acting Clerk to the Council

Wednesday 25th June 2014

A G E N D A

- 1. OPEN SESSION – Members of the Public may speak regarding parish matters**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - Meeting held on 8th May 2014**
- 5. DEVELOPING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Brian Moore, who is leading the production of the Lifton Neighbourhood Plan, has kindly agreed to attend this meeting and share Lifton Parish Council's experiences to date.

The Parish Council will then need to consider what further action it wishes to take with regard to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS

To review any developments since the last meeting regarding the following matters:

Proposed Wind Turbine at Beckwell Farm -- appeal re planning application decision.

Lifton Feed Mill – Discussions are on-going with the feed mill and it has been noticed that there has been a considerable drop in the number of feed lorries coming through Chillaton.

Housing Needs Survey -- Cllr Asbridge has continued to work with WDBC on the development of a Housing Needs Survey that covers a wider range of need than the current form. This is nearing completion and it is hoped to circulate it nearer to the meeting.

Playground inspections -- Cllr Westcott has been in touch with the Play Group and will report at the meeting.

7. WDBC – CONSIDERING SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Members have already received information on this issue, which was made public on the 24th June. WDBC has requested an initial response by 15th August and the Parish Council is asked to consider what submission it wishes to make.

8. TAP FUND APPLICATION

To consider making a joint application with Lifton PC, for TAP funding to pay for the clearance of neglected areas of highway and pavements, blocked gullies and drains, etc, so

that they can then be brought back into regular cleaning/maintenance cycles in future. The closing date for applications is 4th September.

9. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK

To consider whether to recruit another Parish Clerk without delay, or to continue with Cllr Asbridge as Acting Clerk until the salary and hours of the post have been reviewed.

Cllr Asbridge has asked WDBC to advise on whether or not it is possible for a parish councillor to also hold office as parish clerk, but was informed that this was a matter on which the Parish Council should approach an organisation like DALC for advice.

The previous post-holder incurred expenses of £3.63 and the Parish Council is requested to approve re-imbusement.

10. MEMBERSHIP OF DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS [DALC]

DALC provides advice and support to Parish Councils in Devon, on payment of an annual subscription, currently £164.97 including VAT.

A Parish Council subscribing to DALC would obtain model standing orders, procedures for letting contracts, any necessary advice on financial returns, etc as well as the ability to keep up to date with new regulations and legislation as they arise. County and district councils subscribe to similar organisations for the same reasons, namely to ensure that they comply with statutory requirements and to avoid having to work out individual solutions to common issues.

Membership runs from the beginning of each municipal year and the Parish Council is asked to decide whether or not to join DALC.

11. OUR PLAN

WDBC has begun the process of creating a new local plan – Our Plan. Members have been sent a copy of the feedback from the first workshop held to gauge the response of PCs.

Further workshops will be held over the coming months to help shape Our Plan, as follows:

- 25th July – Renewable energy
- 26th September – Growth and development options
- 24th October – Health and Wellbeing

Cllr Asbridge will be attending the Renewable Energy Workshop. Do any other Members want to attend any of these events? Are there any specific points that the Parish Council wishes to make to WDBC regarding Our Plan, at this stage?

12. EXPENDITURE 2013/14 AND BUDGET FOR 2014/15

Members have already received details of actual expenditure for 2013/14 and forecast income and expenditure for 2014/15 but this has not been formally acknowledged. The Parish Council is therefore asked to note last year's expenditure and approve this year's budget forecast.

Members should also note that the annual financial return sent to a previous clerk has not been completed. Cllr Asbridge has asked for another copy of the return and will complete it as soon as possible.

13. HIGHWAY VERGES – GRASS CUTTING

At the time of preparing this agenda, no work had been done by DCC contractors to cut down the summer growth on highway verges, leading to many dangerous situations due to restricted visibility at junctions, etc. County Cllr Kevin Ball has been asked to see if this can be rectified and the latest position will be reported at the meeting.

14. LIAISON WITH ADJOINING PARISH COUNCILS

When it was suggested that the Parish Council should liaise with Lifton PC on several specific issues, it was also agreed that we would liaise with all adjoining parish councils.

Cllr Pahlsson has supplied a list of those in Cornwall, as follows:

Werrington, St Stephens by Launceston, Lawhitton and Lezant Parish Councils, Launceston Town Council

Nearby Parish Councils in Devon are:

Brentor, Gulworthy, Lamerton, Lifton, Lydford and Stowford.

The Parish Council needs to consider how it would like to achieve this liaison and what are the issues upon which it would wish to liaise.

15. DRAFT DOG CONTROL ORDERS

Information from WDBC has already been sent to Members. The draft Dog Control Orders appear to be aimed at controlling dogs in areas such as parks, recreation grounds etc. and not, for example, on farmland. Does the Parish Council wish to make any representations about the draft Orders?

16. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.