

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MILTON ABBOT GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014 AT MARYSTOW CHURCH HALL AT 7.30 PM**

(also available at [www.chillaton.net](http://www.chillaton.net) and [www.miltonabbot.net](http://www.miltonabbot.net))

**PRESENT:-** Cllrs H Asbridge (C), R Brewer (C), D Gradidge (D), P Hough (MA), M Pahlsson (B), Mrs A Westcott (C), J Anderson (MA), J Spurr (MA), Mrs S Fox (Clerk)

WDBC Cllr Bob Baldwin

**1. Open Session – Members of the Public may speak regarding parish matters.**

None in attendance.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

R Tucker (MA)

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr R Brewer declared a pecuniary interest in item 6.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes – Additional Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

Cllr Gradidge proposed amendments to the minutes to include:

1. Proposal to liaise with all adjoining Parish Councils
2. Discussion over the need for highway repairs to B3362 as a result of road collapsing.

Above amendments were approved and the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February were agreed as a true record subject to the above amendments and signed by the Chair.

**5. Progress Reports**

1. Proposed wind turbine at Beckwell Farm – application refused unanimously by WDBC on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 despite recommendation to accept application by Planning Officer.
2. Proposed wind turbine at Ramsdown, Milton Abbot – noted that an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required by WDBC. The Parish Council would respond with detailed objections once a planning application was submitted.
3. Liaison with Lifton PC – Cllr Asbridge had e-mailed the clerk which resulted in a phone call with the Chairman of Lifton PC to discuss the matters further and they agreed to liaise in the future as required. Following discussion at the meeting, it was confirmed that all adjoining Parish Councils should be contacted with regard to liaising in the future.  
**Action – SF/HA**
4. Affordable housing in Milton Abbot – Cllr Asbridge had responded to the e-mail from Mary Ridgway but had not received a reply. This will be followed up.  
**Action - HA**
5. Housing Needs Survey – Cllr Asbridge had spoken to WDBC housing and was adapting the Buckland Monachorum template to the needs of Chillaton & Milton Abbot. A draft would be brought to next meeting in May but would be circulated prior to meeting.  
**Action - HA**
6. Extension of waste transfer station – application withdrawn.

**7. Kelly Village Hall Grant Aid**

As the donation of £50 was an existing commitment, it was agreed to continue. Payment of £50 will be made by cheque.

**Action –AW/SF**

**8. Grass Cutting 2014/2015**

It had been agreed at the last meeting that tenders would be invited for the coming season, but due to specifications not being held on file, it was not possible to do so in time. However, a tender had been received from the existing contractor, Mr J Murrain. Cllr Asbridge proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to accept the tender from Mr Murrain and this was agreed. Cllr Gradidge raised the issue of grass cutting specifications for future years and it was agreed that they would be available October/November.

**Action – AW/SF**

**9. Neighbourhood Plan**

Having briefly reviewed progress to date on the idea of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed that we should invite those responsible for initiating the Lifton NP to a meeting of the Parish Council to share their experience to date. It was noted that Lifton were aiming to carry out the necessary referendum on their Plan at the same time as the General Election scheduled for May 2015, which seemed a sensible approach for us to consider also.

**Action – HA/SF**

**10. Influencing Services**

Following a discussion on the merits of locally monitoring services provided by WDBC's contractors, councillors were requested to consider any problems in service delivery, for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr Asbridge to provide the WDBC specification for road sweeping and a map of the grass cutting areas at Milton Abbot.

**Action – All Cllrs**

**11. Community Alarm Monitoring Service – “Call 24”**

After discussion it was felt that it should be left to the Company to make its own arrangements to advertise in relevant magazines and websites.

**12. TAP Fund Applications**

The closing date for applications was 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and a list of applications submitted was considered. The applications were felt not to be beneficial to the community when there had been severe cuts to basic services. Cllrs Asbridge and Brewer would advise that the applications were not endorsed by the Parish Council, with the suggestion that the funding should be used for highway maintenance i.e. repairing potholes.

**Action – HA/RB**

**13. Frequency of Meetings**

It was agreed to continue to hold meetings as arranged. There was some confusion over the necessity for Bradstone to hold a parish meeting following combination. This will be investigated by Cllr Pahlsson and findings brought to the next meeting. Cllr Asbridge suggested that WDBC's Monitoring Officer be asked to advise on the need for separate annual parish meetings for any area now subsumed into the Parish Council.

**Action – MP/SF**

**14. Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

The question of future membership of Devon Association of Local Councils will be considered at the next meeting.

A budget report will also be submitted to the next meeting.

**Action – HA/AW/SF**

**15. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

In accordance with Standing Order 44, the press and the public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

**16. Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting**

Following a meeting with Cllrs Asbridge & Westcott, Mrs Sue Fox was appointed as Parish Clerk with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014. This urgent action was taken by the Acting Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, in view of the need to appoint a replacement Parish

Clerk as soon as possible. The contract of employment for Parish Clerk has been amended to read "payments will be made quarterly" in the future.

Cllr Westcott asked for expenses to be kept to a minimum by using e-mail and agreed to deliver any printed information to Cllr Spurr on a weekly basis.

Cllr Westcott will obtain duplicate bank statements, as required, to ensure records are up to date.

All necessary bodies will be advised of new contact details for Parish Clerk which are:

Tel: 01822 860602

Mobile: 07815 828928

E-Mail: [sue.parishclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.parishclerk@btinternet.com)

**Action – AW/HA/SF**

Cllr Anderson thanked Cllr Asbridge for his efforts and hard work as Acting Parish Clerk which was endorsed by all.

**17. Date of Next Meetings**

6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Chillaton Parish Meeting 7:30pm Marystowe Church Hall

8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Milton Abbot Village Hall  
Parish Council AGM  
Milton Abbot Parish Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_