

# MILTON ABBOT GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

(Parishes of Milton Abbot, Chillaton, Dunterton and Bradstone)

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To all Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, 7.30pm, at Milton Abbot Village Hall** for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

*E James*

Emma James, Clerk to the Council  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Confirmation of the Minutes meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016**
- 4. Open Session – Members of the Public may speak regarding parish matters**
- 5. Planning**

### Applications for consideration:

3267/16/TCA The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot  
Works to trees in a conservation area

<http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/planningdetails?RefType=APPPlanCase&KeyNo=0&KeyText=163302>

3228/16/FUL Land at SX404795, Edgecumbe Road, Milton Abbot, PL16 0BE

Application for the erection of a cattle shed

<http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/planningdetails?RefType=APPPlanCase&KeyNo=0&KeyText=163265>

### Decisions

2385/16/NMM 25a Fore Street Milton Abbot

Application for non-material amendment following grant of planning consent 0016/15/FUL to substitute side hung casement window to rear elevation in lieu of roof light.

Conditional Approval

<http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/planningdetails?RefType=APPPlanCase&KeyNo=0&KeyText=162438>

3012/16/ARC 25a Fore Street Milton Abbot Devon PL19 0PA

Approval of details reserved by condition 3&4 following grant of planning consent 16/15/FUL  
Discharge of conditions approved

<http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/planningdetails?RefType=APPPlanCase&KeyNo=0&KeyText=162438>

## 6. Urgent Action

To report that the Clerk has taken the following action in accordance with the Council's urgency procedure and with the concurrence of the Chair, because of the closing date for comments:

Re-submission of previous representation to the Planning Department, regarding planning application 1115/16/FUL for the development of a number of properties at Longcross Barn.

## 7. Progress Reports

To review and consider updates since the last meeting;

### Felldownhead Road

The Council's agreement at Min No 60:16/17 to accept that the current arrangements for the road were appropriate was communicated to Highways. Additionally a request was to be made for 'narrow road' signs to be considered at either end of a 125m narrow stretch of road from Felldownhead Farm to the 30mph signs west of The Old Forge and Pevans Cottage. After the meeting it was discovered that 'narrow road' signs were already in place. It was therefore requested that the width of the road be added to the signs. Replacement of a missing 'beware of horses' sign was also requested to be replaced along with other road markings that were not reinstated following road resurfacing work.

Highways have agreed to reinstate the road surface 'slow' signs adjacent to the triangular warning signs only. The number of horses within the parish of Bradstone and in close proximity to Felldownhead Road number approximately sixty-six in seven locations. This number had been highlighted to Highways to establish if this would fall within their criteria for erecting such signs. The response being;

*'In theory the number of horses using the road wouldn't make any difference as it has to be a specific point where horses cross the road, i.e. if there were a bridleway either side of the road that crossed the road or a riding stables etc. where a significant number of horses crossed the road at a specific point. The problem with having warning signs that cover a long stretch of road is that if the hazard isn't immediately after the sign, drivers tend not to take any notice of it. That is the reason why most hazard warning signs (bend, junction, crossroads, roundabout etc.) are immediately prior to the hazard they relate to. That said though we will have a look to see if we have an existing sign anywhere in one of our depots that we can put up and if one can be found we will do our best to reinstate it.'*

The **Council is requested** to consider any further response it wishes to make.

### Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - Boundary Variation

MABRAKE have provided further information about the proposal as requested at the last meeting of the Council, their response is attached at Appendix A. The Tamar Valley AONB has its own website on which can be found its management plan <http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/care/aonb-management-plan/>

The Council's main concerns at the last meeting were to understand what the negative impacts and practical implications of such a proposal are so that an informed decision could be made.

Whilst an AONB provides additional protection to the landscape, buildings, habitat, flora and fauna within its area, there are additional planning constraints that would be imposed and would impact farming, commercial and domestic ventures. It is stated by MABRAKE that

these additional constraints aim to protect against unsympathetic development and rather than impeding development could enhance them.

Ben Dancer from Tamar Valley AONB has responded with some information and advised that they have yet to be consulted about the proposal which will be carefully considered to ensure that it fits with the ethos of their particular AONB. Once they have submitted their views on the consultation, the decision will be made by Natural England and is likely to take some time.

An AONB does restrict planning and permitted development. Planning applications are still decided by the Planning Department but the AONB Management Plan has to be taken into consideration as it is a statutory document and has to be complied with. It is unfortunate that there is no list of the restrictions to businesses or householders. Restrictions for domestic applications can be found on the Planning Portal through the 'interactive house' <https://interactive.planningportal.co.uk/detached-house>. Cllr Asbridge has carried out an analysis of the guidance which is attached at Appendix B.

Three Parish Councils already within the AONB have been contacted for their views and thoughts about the implications but only one, Calstock, has responded; the negative being the possible restrictions to planning but this was not seen as having a great impact. There were also positives, including the visual impact and increase in tourists visiting the area.

The Council has previously supported the idea of additional protection for the landscape and i) objected to *Our Plan* and ii) consulted other PCs about trying to revive the AGLV or do something similar.

The **Council is requested** to consider its response to the consultation.

#### Milton Abbot Play Area

Update to be provided by Cllr Cox regarding the play area inspections carried out by Milton Abbot Community Group.

#### Chillaton Traffic Issues

Following liaison with DCC Highways (Mike Jones) regarding the repainting of the white lining in the square at Chillaton, in addition to the refreshing of the lining, there is now have a modified road layout which should improve pedestrian safety in the village. It is proposed by Cllr Beighton that the Council writes to thank Mr Jones for his support in reaching this outcome.

## **8. Financial Matters**

#### Bank Reconciliation and 2016/17 Budget Review

Attached at Appendix C is a bank reconciliation dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

The **Council is requested** to approve the revised budget for this financial year as set out in Appendix D and note the reasons as set out below for the anticipated expenditure of £516.25 more than this year's income. An additional budget line has been added for the monitoring of the retaining wall in Milton Abbot.

- Milton Abbot retaining wall monitoring, initial and subsequent visits at a total cost of £700, approximately £400 of which will be spent in this financial year
- DALC Registration fee being £1.69 more than budgeted
- External audit fee for 2015/16 of £100, purchase of the speed signs causing expenditure to exceed the £10,000 limit
- Website domain additions amounting to an additional £51.44

- Increase to Clerks salary £28.42
- MACKPlan website domain annual cost not budgeted for £11.99

Some of the over-spend costs have been offset by underspent budgets.

#### Payments

To note Clerk's pay on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, paid by BACS:

- Mrs E James - £144.58
- HMRC – £20.40

#### Asset Condition Review

Condition reviews of the Council's assets have been undertaken by Milton Abbot and Chillaton Cllrs who report that:

##### Chillaton:

TAS Speed Signs x 2	Good condition
Galaxy Tablet	Good condition
Noticeboard	Poor – in need of replacement/refurbishment

##### Milton Abbot:

Retaining Wall	
Noticeboard	Poor – in need of replacement/refurbishment

#### 2017/18 Draft Budget and Precept

A draft budget for 2017/18 is contained in Appendix E and the **Council is requested** to determine whether or not this would meet their requirements for the coming financial year. The amount of Council Tax Support Grant the Parish Council will be allocated has been confirmed for the next three years, a reduction of 8.6% year on year.

A review of the condition of the Council's assets has been undertaken, as reported upon above. The Council will note that the noticeboards in Milton Abbot and Chillaton are both in a poor state of repair. Grass cutting quotations for the 2017/18 financial year are also unknown at this time with returns expected in time for review at the December meeting.

Although inflation continues to be at a very low level, provision has been made for increases in expenditure where it is considered this may occur in 2017/18. Taking this and several other additional items of proposed expenditure into account, especially in light of the concerns surrounding the retaining wall in Milton Abbot the current level of precept would be insufficient next year.

Earmarked Funds have been amended to include a line for Milton Abbot Retaining Wall Repairs and for carried forward funds for Clerks training. The draft budget does not include funds for the replacement or repair of the noticeboards or for an increase to the funds available for the possible Milton Abbot retaining wall repairs.

The **Council is requested** to consider the draft budget. Final agreement of the budget and whether it wishes to meet the anticipated shortfall of £403 from reserves or if it wishes to increase the level of precept and, if so, by how much will be required, by no later than the January 2017 meeting.

#### Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2016/17 financial year

Following the last internal audit Mr Jamie Rutherford agreed to undertake the 2016/17 internal audit for MAGPC again and **it is recommended that the Council** approve this appointment.

### Bank Signatory Form

Cllr Hough to return completed Bank Signatory form and the authorisation form to be completed by Cllrs.

## **9. BT Payphone Kiosk Removal Consultation**

A proposal has been made by BT to remove the telephone kiosk from The Green in Milton Abbot and the **Council is requested** to consider whether or not it wishes to respond to the consultation, one of the options being to adopt the kiosk at the cost of £1, and for what purpose. Only one telephone call has been made from this kiosk within the last twelve months.

Purchase of the kiosk would increase the Council's insurance policy cost by approximately £10 p/a.

The kiosk in Chillaton is not on the consultation list but enquiries have previously established that even if it were, it would not be possible for the Council to adopt it as it is sited on privately owned land.

## **10. Your Future Care Consultation on Community Services**

A consultation has begun over proposals to improve the way elderly and frail people are cared for in the Eastern locality of Devon. The Eastern locality includes Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon and parts of West Devon including Okehampton. The consultation document can be found at <http://www.newdevonccg.nhs.uk/about-us/your-future-care/102019>

Your Future Care is proposing changes which will, if adopted, provide care and support in people's homes and in the community, rather than admissions to hospital. The consultation is about how they decide the location of fewer community hospital inpatient beds in Eastern Devon and runs until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Within the area covered by the consultation there are currently community hospitals at;

<u>Hospital</u>	<u>No. of Beds</u>
Tiverton	32
Honiton	18
Seaton	18
Sidmouth	18
Exmouth	18
Exeter	20
Okehampton	16

It is proposed that beds in this area be reduced by 54%, from 143 to 72, in line with the rest Devon. The proposed options with numbers of beds are;

<b>Option A</b>		<b>Option B</b>		<b>Option C</b>		<b>Option D</b>	
Tiverton	32	Tiverton	32	Tiverton	32	Tiverton	32
Seaton	24	Sidmouth	24	Seaton	24	Sidmouth	24
Exmouth	16	Exmouth	16	Exeter	16	Exeter	16

Under these proposals there will be no beds at Honiton or Okehampton and, depending on the option chosen, possibly no beds at Seaton, Sidmouth Exeter or Exmouth.

The consultation survey can be found in the same location as the document and is open to everyone as an individual to respond to.

## 11. Frequency of Meetings

The Parish Council has previously given consideration to and increased the frequency of its meetings, from bi-monthly to monthly, plus an AGM on a six month trial basis. This period of time has now lapsed and the **Council is requested** to consider whether or not to permanently make this change.

There are several factors that the Council should review as follows:

The current length of meetings: Meetings used to last between 2 and 2½ hours. Switching to monthly meetings has reduced these times to between 1½ and 2 hours. Longer meeting times may not be considered conducive to the proper determination of items placed towards the end of the agenda.

The length of time between meetings: A monthly cycle allows for a speedy response to new issues or the prompt follow up of developments in on-going matters and prompt payment of invoices.

The determination of the Council's views on planning applications: Monthly meetings allow for all planning application responses to be determined at a meeting of the Council. This has formalised the process, meaning that members of the public always have the opportunity to attend the meeting and make their thoughts known.

The previous system of advisory panels did not allow for public attendance and left the Council open to risk in that, unknown to the Council, an application may have been contentious and residents may subsequently have considered that an application should not have been dealt with in this way and should have been referred to the Council.

It is the case that the Council is given three weeks in which to review a planning application, however to date any an extension of time for applications which would have fallen outside of the meeting schedule have been allowed by the Planning Department.

## 12. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

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.

## 13. Dates of future meetings

7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016*	Marystowe Church Hall
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Marystowe Church Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2017*	Milton Abbot Village Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Milton Abbot Village Hall
5 <sup>th</sup> April 2017*	Marystowe Church Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017	Annual Parish Meeting for Chillaton - Marystowe Church Hall
4 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Thursday)	Annual Parish Meeting for Milton Abbot, Dunterton and Bradstone in Milton Abbot Village Hall followed by the Parish Council Annual and Ordinary meetings

*Note: Meetings dates followed by "\*" are additional meetings which may be cancelled if not required.  
All meetings are on Wednesdays at 7.30pm unless otherwise specified*