

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILTON ABBOT GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2017, 7.30PM AT MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE HALL
(also available at www.magpc.co.uk)

PRESENT: Cllrs, P Hough (MA) (Chair), R Brewer (C), A Westcott (C), A Cox (MA), Anderson (MA), R Tucker (MA), J Holland (D)
(Cllr Representation: C – Chillaton, MA – Milton Abbot, D – Dunterton, B – Bradstone)

Ms S Honey (Clerk), Cllr Edmonds (WDBC), Cllr Baldwin (WDBC)

063:17/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Magnus Pahlsson (B), Howard Asbridge (C)

064:17/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

065:17/18 APPOINTMENT OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Under Rule 8 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rule 1986, the Council was able to fill the casual vacancy by co-option.

The only person seeking co-option to the Council, by the closing date of 4th September, was Ms Julie Barkwill, who has satisfied the statutory requirements of anyone seeking to become a parish councillor by co-option. Cllr A Westcott proposed, and Cllr R Brewer seconded the appointment.

The Council formally **ratified** the appointment of Ms Julie Barkwill as Parish Councillor.

066:17/18 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2017 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chair.

067:17/18 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

None.

068:17/18 PLANNING

Decisions to note:

1921/17/ARM Beeches Barn Milton Abbot Devon - Conditional Approval
Reserved matters application for provision of a permanent farm house to accommodate an agricultural worker, following grant of outline permission

The Council **resolved** to make no comment on this application.

2551/17/ARC Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge) Approval of details reserved by condition number 5 (schedule of works for outbuilding) of planning consent 0957/17/HHO Elderberry Cottage, The Parade, Tavistock PL19 0NZ

The Council **resolved** to make no comment on this application.

2847/17/VAR Application for variation of removal of condition 4 of planning consent 0254/17/FUL Land at Edgecombe Road Milton Abbot (Bennett's barn)

Following consideration of the application, the Council **resolved** to make an **objection** to this application.

3287/16/HHO

Householder application for demolition of existing outbuildings/extensions/work-shed and rebuild adjacent to house, a single storey conservatory to rear of house, single storey side extension, and new work-shed to be constructed within garden. Haye Park House, Chillaton.

The Council **resolved** to make no comment on this application.

069:17/18 PROGRESS REPORTS

Car Parking Chillaton

Cllr Westcott met with the resident and after discussing the safety issues involved, suggested they park closer to their own house. However, the resident is adamant that there is no restriction toward him parking on the hatched safety markings near the bridge in the Square.

The school bus driver and parents have been consulted; they offered no objections.

After having contacted the PCSO, but to no avail, Cllr Wescott suggested the road safety markings could be redone and to monitor the situation.

070:17/18 PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF WEST DEVON AND SOUTH HAMS COUNCILS

Cllrs Edmonds and Baldwin explained, in more detail, the formation of a single second-tier council for the West Devon and South Hams districts. Information provided by West Devon on the implications of this proposed merger had already been circulated to Cllrs.

The amalgamation of the two councils has the potential to save half a million pounds a year by cutting duplication. It would only require one set of accounts and software licences and existing policies would not need to be harmonised. However, the South Hams has a lower Council Tax than West Devon. A system would be phased in over a number of years in order to align each Council Tax to the same level.

Cllr Edmonds suggested the new council could be in effect by April 2020. Although not definite, there could be a reduction of ward members and a loss of up to 11 of the existing 31 councillors. Residents will need to consider if they have enough representation should there be a reduction. The new council will decide what happens to the existing council buildings and where the new offices will be. Cllr Baldwin stated natural wastage or temporary contracts would replace any possible job losses.

Both Cllrs stated they were in support of the amalgamation and confirmed their faith that the suggested savings will be delivered but they stressed that the Public Consultation process was important. They hope that Devon County Council, and the area's four MP's, will support the merger. Although 31 October 2017 is the decision date, the Government may not support the move and both councils have yet to agree. The merger would make it the largest district council and Torridge may join in the future.

Both councillors were asked if there would be any effect to the Boundary review; would there be sufficient councillors per boundary? Cllr Baldwin stated the main difference would be to refuse collections; there could be a challenge in harmonising services.

Both councillors stated that they would support the interests of West Devon. Having received 1500 responses from the survey to date, they asked the Parish Council to put forward its views by the 8th October 2017.

It was **agreed** that Councillors should put together their thoughts on the issue and report at the next meeting.

071:17/18 MILTON ABBOT WAR MEMORIAL

As part of a national programme to protect and preserve war memorials, Historic England is currently considering whether our war memorial has special architectural or historic interest or is in need of conservation or protection in some way and had asked the Council for its views.

The Council **resolved** to make no comment on the condition of the war memorial.

072:17/18 MILTON ABBOT RETAINING WALL

At its meeting on 5th October, the Link Committee will give consideration to the Council's request for TAP funding for half the cost of repairing the wall alongside Milton Abbot Church. The Council was requested to consider who should attend that meeting to support this request as the Chair will be unable to attend.

Cllr Brewer offered to attend but requested he be accompanied by a councillor who has more knowledge of the Milton Abbot area. Cllr Hough offered to attend and submit a presentation.

073:17/18 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE HALL BOOKING PROCEDURE

The Management Committee have found it necessary to amend their Hiring Procedure and the Hire Agreement for insurance purposes. The Standard Conditions of Hire have also been updated. The Hirer must confirm that they have read and understood the Standard Conditions and complete the Hire Agreement.

The Council **agreed** the changes were acceptable and gave authorisation for the Clerk to sign the agreement on its behalf.

074:17/18 NEW CLERKS TRAINING COURSE FOR NEW CLERK

A "New Clerks" course, run by *Devon Communities Together* in Exeter; it is being held on Monday 13 November 2017 and costs £25 + VAT per person, plus travelling expenses.

The new Clerk sought permission to attend as there is a provision in the budget. The Council **agreed** and gave authorisation for the Clerk to attend the course.

075:17/18 THE PENSIONS REGULATOR

Under the Pensions Act 2008 all employers are required to automatically enrol certain members of staff into a pension scheme; the Parish Council, however, having only one employee, normally earning less than £192 per week, does not have to provide a pension but still has to comply by informing the Clerk (in writing) and by completing an online

declaration of compliance by 28th February 2018. The staging (commencement) date for notifying the Clerk is 1st October 2017.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk could make the online declaration of compliance and the Chair authorised to issue any formal notification to the Clerk, as required by the Pensions Act.

076:17/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitor

The bank reconciliation and budget monitor, dated 04 August 2017, were reviewed and **approved**.

Payments

Mrs E James - MACKPlan expenses - £2.00
Cllr Asbridge – MACKPlan expenses - £16.80
Clerks expenses – postage charges – £8.78

Clerk's pay for August 2017, paid by BACS, was noted.

- Ms S Honey - £141.97

077:17/18 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Cllr Anderson noted that a Milton Abbot resident has neglected to cut their garden hedge which has resulted in difficulties for the refuse lorry on collection day. It was therefore **agreed** that Cllr Anderson would speak to the resident and contact the highways department if unsuccessful.
- Cllr Tucker asked the procedure for the collection of cardboard now the garden waste collection has ceased. Cllr Baldwin offered to investigate.

078:17/18 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

4th October 2017 Marystowe Church Hall

1st November 2017 Milton Abbot Village Hall

6th December 2017 Marystowe Church Hall

3rd January 2018 Milton Abbot Village Hall

7th February 2018 Marystowe Church Hall

7th March 2018 Milton Abbot Village Hall

4th April 2018 Marystowe Church Hall

2nd May 2018 (7pm) Annual Parish Meeting for Milton Abbot Dunterton and Bradstone in Milton Abbot Village Hall

3rd May 2018 (Thu) (7pm) Annual Parish Meeting for Chillaton - Marystowe Church Hall followed by the Parish Council Annual and Ordinary meetings

Note: All meetings are on Wednesdays at 7.30pm unless otherwise specified

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:

Date:

Cllr Hough, Chair