

MILTON ERNEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes 14th May 2026

Started at 8.10pm, following Annual Parish Meeting

1	1	Present Cllr Ross, Cllr Goldwin, Cllr Robson, Cllr Sizer, Cllr Lane- Borough Cllr Towler Apologies for Absence- none
	2	Declarations of interest in items on the agenda- none
	3	Public Open Session- 5 residents A lorry was seen early on the morning of 6 th May – possibly doing drain clearance
	4	To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th April 2026 Election of Chair- Cllr Ross- proposed by Cllr Goldwin and seconded by Cllr Lane Election of Vice-Chair – Cllr Goldwin- proposed by Cllr Ross and seconded by Cllr Lane
	5	Clerk's report on actions <i>For items not included on the agenda.</i> • Speed Watch update- meeting held 13th May 2026- 6 volunteers have come forwards • Annual playground inspection- requested for May- will contact supplier again
	6	Correspondence received since the last meeting (requiring council attention) • Glass recycling possible revenue reduction 26/27 now glass is collected at kerbside- will naturally be a reduction in Glass bins- Cllr Towler to follow up with Council officer. Cllr Ross cited loss of 10% of annual budgeted revenue- 26/27 has been budgeted with a lower figure. • Resurfacing to occur Thurleigh Rd 21/5 to 10/6 9am-3pm, and 8am-6pm
	7	Finance To approve payments and note income and balances ○ Clerk May salary- approved ○ Litter-picker May payment- approved ○ Tree work-£612- near 64 Radwell Rd- invoice received, all approved ○ Warner's 1st invoice received- £960 (two cuts £800 plus VAT)- checked against contract ○ Annual audit status update: Internal and External Audit and AGAR submission, due to submit by end June 26, Internal Auditor approached to pass files before Forvis Mazars. ○ Clerk suggested a new bank account was opened for savings to secure more interest than HSBC- will pursue earlier Metro Bank enquiries. Cllrs reviewed April position Actuals versus Budget, Balance Sheet and bank balances

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8	Village welfare Playground update Cllrs Sizer, Ross and Robson - next steps Current agreement has lapsed- rolling 6 month agreement, therefore need to secure a new lease with Bedfordia before procuring grants and replacing play equipment. (N.B. National Lottery require 15 years minimum term) Cllr Robson has followed up with Bedfordia to discuss how to prepare. Expected legal costs involved to secure an agreement – costs need to be investigated. Clerk to check with BATPC legal to understand if support can be provided.
9	Police Matters • Crime stats & any other update • 2 crimes at Milton Ernest – One assault at Twinwood’s- Yarlswood Removal Centre
10	Reports by Representatives • To receive feedback from the working groups ○ Finance Working Group- no meeting but Cllr Robson was added to bank for payments after a meeting for this purpose. ○ Biodiversity Plan- nothing to update- will be reviewed quarterly ○ Environmental Volunteer Group- nothing to add to reports shared at annual mtg. ○ NDP Working Group- were due to meet 6th May postponed due to Cllr availability, preparing scoping document ○ Events Committee – see below
11	Parish Events • Future events planned update- Village Fete preparations underway • Cllr Goldwin proposed to look into a St Georges Day celebration to for 2027. Cllr Ross to check with the Queen’s Head to see if they are planning/would consider a joint activity
12	Planning matters • To consider any planning applications received since the last meeting – includes any received after the agenda is issued up to the date of the meeting. APPLICATION NO: 26/00714/M73 Major S73 Variation of Condition Application PROPOSAL: Temporary development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with ancillary infrastructure, acoustic and security fencing, access, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements, to provide balancing services to the local electricity grid, and associated development. including variation of approved plans condition 1 and condition 6 attached to 23/01139/MAF, to allow for updated battery specifications and associated internal layout changes; revised perimeter security fencing and gate details; and a consequential updated Noise Impact Assessment. LOCATION : Land Adjacent To Twinwoods Business Park Thurleigh Road Milton Ernest Bedfordshire

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	Deadline 18th May 2026 Council resolved NO COMMENT, Cllr Ross and Robson wondered if CIL money or sponsorship may be possible to support the playground funding from above- PACE Energy. • To note any planning applications decided by the Borough Council since the last meeting. • Any Enforcement Officer update re Maltings, or that of the neighbouring property- Cllr Robson. Rubbish on site, need to email Enforcement and Cllr Towler.
13	Borough Councillor Report • To receive a report from Borough Councillor Martin Towler-ward fund reduced- limit of £250-500 per application suggested
14	Parish Council Updates • Highways Issues - Thurleigh Road resurfacing to start • Litter Picker –new contract prepared with route and pay rate updated • Update re memorial plaque for Harry Robinson. Now ordered with delivery in June • Tree Care Annual Plan update Cllr Goldwin- met with Tree Specific- several recommendations made- agree to pollarding 5 trees for £672- at 9-13 Huntsman’s Way. A further program of work needed to bring up to date, with a quote of £1536 which all agreed to address in a future meeting. A resident raised concern relating to a specific sycamore tree - Cllr Robson asked if we could review the most cost-effective approach for managing the sycamore given it’s quick-growing nature. • Villager report- all approved submission for May • Cllr Training- BATPC- Cllr Robson booked but may not be able to attend having a health procedure. • Amends- to Cllr roles and responsibilities for Cllrs, Cllr Lane will come off finance. Cllr Robson added to Finance and Playing Field • Play Area Riverside View update – Cllr Goldwin advised that the Borough informed there is no budget currently for the play area refurbishment but would inform if such budget becomes available. Regarding the play area bin, emptying has been agreed as Borough Council responsibility following review with Cllr Goldwin – PC to monitor Meeting closed 21.20 Future Agenda item- Church grant