

MILTON ERNEST PARISH COUNCIL

9th July 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

1	Meeting started 20.01 All Cllrs present- Cllr Ross (Chair), Cllr Goldwin, Cllr Lane, Cllr Sizer, Cllr Robson
2	Declarations of interest in items on the agenda . Cllr Ross on Church PCC so recused from grant approval.
3	Public Open Session- One resident spoke about a RTA on the A6, After the RTA on the A6 , Another resident asked about 2 sensors installed past the Hall on the A6 which are believed to be for traffic and if we knew anything about them and finally someone else asked about the planning for No 4 Arkwright Road. Another resident asked about the 2050 Plan.
4	Minutes confirmed of the Parish Council EGM meeting held on 30 th June 2026
5	Co-option- one resident has applied, Charles Williamson co-opted, Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Goldwin seconded- all in favour.
6	Clerk's report on actions
7	Correspondence received since the last meeting (requiring council attention)- invoice from White Hart for Neighbourhood Watch- Cyber. Neighbourhood watch incorrectly thought they could spend against MEPC budget without seeking approval at a PC meeting. Cllr Robson spoke about Bedfordia playground's new lease which may cost £2-3k in legal costs. Cllr Goldwin spoke about the tree which belongs to both BPHA and Bedfordia. Bedfordia have kindly agreed to arrange a survey as a gesture of goodwill and will be liaising with BPHA the outcome and what to do next. Also the Villager Article draft was approved. Warners invoice was approved against contract and for August.
8	Finance • Following payments approved ○ Clerk July & August salary ○ Litter-picker July & August payment- £70 a month, only 1 week in July. ○ Church grant as previously approved £1500 26/27 grant application was received from Paul Goldwin, Treasurer- Cllr Lane proposed, all agreed- Cllr Ross recused. ○ Village hall invoices 22nd June (Finance Meeting) £30, 30th June (EGM) £12, 9th July (PC Meeting) £18, 27th July (Speedwatch meeting) £12 • June year to date position Actuals versus Budget, Balance Sheet and bank balances – plus 3 month trend were reviewed

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	Annual audit status update was given by the Clerk: Internal and External Audit and AGAR submitted- Notice to Electors had been posted and AGAR 3 had been sent to Mazars for Audit as Revenue over £25k on 30th June 2026
9	Village welfare - Playground update Cllrs Sizer, Ross and Robson. Cllr Robson has met with Bedfordia, need to now follow up to agree a replacement lease of 25-30 years, to replace current 6 month rolling agreement. Next step – Cllr Robson to engage with local solicitor who has offered to draft an agreement for the PC, then follow up with Bedfordia to confirm overall timescales. The zip wire is currently out of commission due to the ROSPA report identifying this as unsafe. We have since received a post repair from Playdale (who originally installed it) for £1800 which was questioned and reduced to £1500. It was agreed that we should accept this quote and propose asking for £500 ward fund from Cllr. Tower. Clerk to write. - To also meet with PACE (BESS) to see how they can support the Playground. - Village gate repair- Two quotes £564 and £475 had been received, and both were reviewed. To revisit in September once it is clarified what is covered repair or full replacement.
10	Police Matters Crime stats & any other update- Cllr Lane spoke about some incidents in her close.
11	Reports by Representatives - To receive feedback from the working groups where they have met - To receive updates from the Finance Working Group- thanks to Cllr Robson for AGAR support, to meet in September - To receive updates on the Biodiversity Plan- update at next PC Meeting 10th September. - To receive updates Environmental Volunteer Group- thanks to group for clearing heavily overgrown alleyway between Radwell Rd and Arkwright Rd. - To receive updates from the NDP Working Group meeting- met individually with all members to update Chapman planning- update after the Summer break with first draft. - To receive updates from the Events Committee- see below. - To receive update re Speed Watch- training to be held 27th July at Village Hall 6.30pm for vetted volunteers
12	Parish Events Update post Village Fete- very successful with many stalls and large attendance. There was net £7k raised- £3.5k funds to be donated to Church and £3.5k PTA and for Village playground replacement. The PC thanks Cllr Goldwin and all those involved.
13	Planning matters

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	4 Arkwright Road, Milton Ernest- extended deadline for comment 10th July 2026 Councillors discussed this and agreed to support the extension but not the wall due to safety and aesthetic concerns. Accuracy of application raised as a concern: Hedge mentioned but actually a wall. Boundary is changed- open plan aspect is lost, and visibility compromised.
14	Borough Councillor Report • To receive a report from Borough Councillor Martin Towler-not in attendance.
15	Parish Council Updates • Highways Issues – all pot-holes done, Radwell Rd, Thurleigh Rd and Church Green. • Litter Picker- discussed earlier agenda item- starts 27th July- new routes adopted- new litter picking items required. • Tree Care Annual Plan update- to progress with Tree Specific using tree maintenance reserves.
16	Meeting closed 21.17