

MILTON ERNEST PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes 9th April 2026 started at 8pm

1	Meeting Opening Chair Cllr Ross, Vice Chair Cllr Goldwin, Cllr Lane, Cllr Sizer & Cllr Robson (co-opted later at meeting) were present. Borough Cllr Towler present also. Chair announced Cllr Dipple had resigned with immediate effect- vote of thanks for his service, dedication and special skills with regards to Finance and Planning.
2	No declarations of interest in the agenda
3	Co-option Rob Robson co-opted- proposed by Cllr Sizer and seconded by Cllr Goldwin- all in favour
	Public session held after co-option to allow Cllr Goldwin to leave if necessary. 8 residents present. Following questions asked: One resident questioned why they had not received a reply to email of 27th March sent to Clerk (Later understood post-meeting that e-mail sent to School in error) One resident spoke about misuse of Thurleigh Rd by lorries and request to add 20mph around village. Cllr Ross advised MEPC has no current plan to seek a 20mph limit. A resident asked for more detail on the police incidents noted on the Feb minutes. It was discussed that the PC would share a link that will be added to the minutes which gives access to the police data (see item 6 below) A resident explained the footpaths by 5 & 7 on Radwell Road (the cottages) are in a terrible state as well as the one by Bunty's Bakes. Cllr Lane explained that they needed to be a certain measurement before they are fixed and are being monitored. A resident asked will the biodiversity plan be added to the website. The PC confirmed it will be added One resident said she could not see draft minutes although added to PC website.
4	Minutes from prior meeting, 12th March 2026 approved
5	Clerk's report on Actions Speed Watch update- meeting to be set up for Parishioners- Speedwatch representative could not make this evening's meeting Speed Indication Device update- Morelock main BBC supplier have folded- Cllr Ross spoke about another supplier that had also been recommended by a neighbouring parish - Elan City: Cost of speed indicator device = £2.5k. Current reserves insufficient with planned NDP update

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	Alternative is to reinforce basic speed limit signs: Additional 30 mph sign cost £60. Clerk advised this may require planning. Cllrs agreed not to pursue this option, but instead look at options for local funding to support Speed Indicator – Cllr Ross to explore with Cllr Towler Update form BBC Town & Parish meeting- 29th March 2026- advised Ward Funds and Rural Fund to come back at a lower level – no further details available at this stage
6	Correspondence received Bedfordia re rolling 6 month lease, since expiry of initial 5 year term on playground. They have advised they have no immediate plans to take back the site/MEPC has obligation to restore site. Cllr Ross to follow-up with Bedfordia to arrange for a more robust arrangement to secure the site for the longer term (subsequently picked up by Cllr Robson) Need to contact BATPC for legal advice what to do- important to resolve before embarking on play ground project. To add link into minutes for police website of crime statistics. Riseley, Wyboston Your area Bedfordshire Bedfordshire Police Email request- to add Bio-diversity plan onto PC website.
7	Finance- review of 25/26 finances- full year out turn- achieved a surplus of £656 (net of Village Fete income) despite two lots of Xmas tree and increased costs on Clerk cover and mowing. Approval of payments completed Clerks salary Litter picker salary Approval sought Tree works £612- near 64 Radwell Rd HMRC 25/26 payment Discussion re glass recycling revenue reduction presents a risk for FY26 Budget - Cllr Towler uncertain of 26/27 position and will investigate and feedback
8	Village welfare Playground update Cllr Sizer & Ross- to plan next steps including possible grant applications, discussion with Bedfordia re lease extension and pepper corn rent.
9	Police Matters Riseley, Wyboston Your area Bedfordshire Bedfordshire Police link to Village Crime Stats
10	Reports by representatives

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	○ Update from the Finance Working Group- met to review Budget outturn and proposed 2025NALC Financial Regs – WG agreed to propose both to PC for approval ○ Update on the Biodiversity Plan- no further update- to add to website and Cllr Sizer to monitor every quarter to identify opportunities to implement ○ Update Environmental Volunteer Group- main activities for March: Strimming around the Meadow and helping with Churchyard tidy up. The PC noted it's thanks to everyone involved. ○ NDP Working Group- update post Chapman Planning meeting 27th March 2026 – agree £3,950 plus VAT spend on NDP refresh. Approved, all agreed to move forwards. ○ Update from the Events Committee – no further update. Additional events may be planned following this year's Fete
11	Parish events • No future events planned other than Village Fete
12	Planning matters • APPLICATION NO: 26/00454/FUL Full Planning Application PROPOSAL: Subdivision of existing single bungalow to form 2 bungalows with new entrance extension to dwelling 1 and part conversion of garage and link to main building to form bedroom for dwelling 2, subdivision of garden space and creation of parking for dwelling 1. LOCATION : 2 London End Milton Ernest Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1SD Deadline 13th April 2026 Milton Ernest Parish Council have resolved to comment only for this planning application regarding the building work: Since there is limited access at London End and River Lane junction -building works they must ensure the skips are kept off the road, and that building trucks do not block access for residents of London End, River Lane, nor emergency vehicles or refuse trucks. To note any planning applications decided by the Borough Council since the last meeting.- None • Any Enforcement Officer update re Maltings, or that of the neighbouring property - no further update – Cllr Robson to follow-up
13	Borough Cllr Report • To receive a report from Borough Councillor Martin Towler- received evening of PC meeting- some updates given by Cllr Towler.
14	Parish Council updates • Highway Issues- potholes requested to be covered in 2026/27 Financial Year • Litter Picker –to discuss next step in future weeks- proposed route update covers most of village on a 2-week rota.

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	• Tender for grass cutting now live – Warners started cuts 1st week April • Update re Harry Robinson memorial- siting of plaque identified. Cllr Ross confirmed Mrs Robinson will fund the Plaque, so PC will proceed to place and arrange installation – Cllr Ross to arrange
15	Adoption of 2025 NALC Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations • Following review and proposed amends by the Financial Working Group, and approval by full council of both documents- these were adopted. Clerk had circulated differences between old and new documents. To add to the website.
	Short Public session One resident spoke again about Site 518 and S106 commitment- they felt planning not yet granted- as outline only. One resident described how all villages along A6 bypassed except Milton Ernest. Next PC surgery planned 27th May 2026 Meeting closed at 9.35 pm