

MILTON ERNEST PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

MILTON ERNEST PARISH COUNCIL meeting held on Thursday, 11th June 2026

1	Meeting started 8.01pm. Cllrs Ross (Chair), Cllr Goldwin (Vice Chair), Cllr Lane, Cllr Sizer and Cllr Robson present. Chair welcomed the 7 residents present No apologies for absence
2	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda Cllr Ross is as a member of Church Parochial Council
3	Public Open Session (15 Minutes) One resident asked about 3 way traffic, one about a barn, one about the late night truck mentioned at the last meeting and one asked when NDP would have public consultation. Cllr Ross mentioned that the plan for public engagement would be around September and that the approval cannot be submitted before the public engagement.
4	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2026 approved
5	Clerk's report on actions <i>For items not included on the agenda.</i> • Speed Watch update - Cllr Goldwin to be Speed Watch coordinator - training confirmed for the 17th July and all those who have volunteered have been sent DBS checks and a training manual for them to review and email back confirming read. Still 2 people to confirm. The training will be done in the Village Hall as easier to manage. • Annual Playground inspection- Play Safety (current provider) instructed to carry out ASAP- £274 was the lowest of 3 quotes, booked and completed post meeting, Cllr Ross asked if it included the zip wire- to avoid higher costs in 26/27, now on annual lower cost auto-renewal.
6	Correspondence received since the last meeting (requiring council attention) • Litter at bus shelter reported to BBC- cleared within an hour • Glass recycling invoice- sent £317.99, (received paid post meeting)- still waiting to hear from BBC, Paul Pace, what compensation if any will be received when/if the glass recycling bin is removed. • Clerk advised Bulky Waste collection will be 1st August 2026- need to advise residents to keep layby clear. • One resident advised Parish Clerk had suffered damage to car and personal injury from a tree- not believed to belong to the PC.

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7	Finance • Payments approved ○ Clerk June salary ○ Litter-picker June payment- £50 ○ Warners 2nd invoice received- £960 ○ Cloudnext- extra £27.20 for email storage capacity until year end. ○ Annual audit status update: Internal and External Audit and AGAR submission- to be submitted by 16th to Julie Bettes- Clerk at Bromham and Internal Auditor ○ Church grant 26/27- discussed to be approved at next meeting at increase from £1250 to £1500- Cllr Ross abstained from discussion as a member of Church Parochial Council ○ Village hall invoices £12- Speed Watch Meeting and up to £36 May (Annual Parish Meeting and PC Meeting) not yet received- approved to be paid ○ Tree invoice supplied for works done £672 to be paid • Reviewed May year to date position Actuals versus Budget, Balance Sheet and bank balances
8	Village welfare • Playground Solicitor - Cllr Goldwin approached someone she knew as being a solicitor in the village and this person has agreed to help us with the Bedfordia lease extension on a pro-bono basis (dependent of her getting approval also from her partners) but didn't think this would be a problem. Cllr Robson is awaiting a response from Bedfordia as to what their costs will be to deal with this extension process, potentially of 25 years to allow MEPC to seek grants. Cllr Ross will talk with PACE and mention about their past offer to contribute to the village and the playground is one option where they could help.
9	Police Matters • Crime stats & any other update-one in village and two incidents at Twinwoods detention centre.
10	Reports by Representatives • To receive feedback from the working groups ○ Update from the Finance Working Group- not met recently, aim to in July ○ Update on the Biodiversity Plan- update at September meeting at 6 month point- will add PACE wild meadow to items (qtrly review in June) ○ Update from Environmental Volunteer Group- thanks to the group for the clearing of leaves down the A6 outside the Care Home's wall. ○ Update from the NDP Working Group meeting- various group members have met to agree scope of updates to propose to PC. Next steps to meet with Chapman Planning once scope of updates agreed by PC. These will be compiled by the planner and draft updates prepared for consultation around September. ○ Update from the Events Committee- all focussed on Village Fete 20th June , discussion around planning for a St Georges Day celebration 2027. ○ Update re Speed Watch- update earlier in Agenda

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11	Parish Events Future events planned update- Village Fete- Cllr Goldwin suggested a possible 'sip & paint' event whereby the company provides easels, paints and a blank canvas to paint from one of their selection. It would cost £20pp minimum of 15 people so we need a few more people, provide a bar & food to make money on it. The Clerk mentioned he knew of another company and will get details.
12	Planning matters - planning applications received since the last meeting- boundary extension. - No planning applications decided by the Borough Council since the last meeting. - Cllr Robson gave an update re The Maltings. New tenants may move in from October- other items like bin store and frosted window still outstanding
13	Borough Councillor Report Borough Councillor Martin Towler, to add to minutes as absent.
14	Parish Council Updates - Highways Issues - post resurfacing Thurleigh Road- gone well one small area of 30mph to be painted- Radwell Road next. - Litter Picker –new contract extended areas and glass at garden centre, new litter picker to be sought at £70 a month Gift Card as thanks to be issued. - Update re Harry Robinson memorial- sign and post stake received, to be installed by Cllr Ross - Tree Care Annual Plan update- to complete the proposed plan by agreeing to pay for the last stage of the tree maintenance amounting to £1536 as no money was spent on trees last year. There is money in budget and some in reserves and makes sense of keep on top of it otherwise it would be more expensive next year. - Cllr post Training- BATPC- Cllr Robson was ill and unable to attend- will circulate materials when received, if not directly. - Playground Riverside View update- bins being emptied once a month.
	Future Agenda- - Approval of £1500 Church grant as discussed under Finance. - PPE for litter picker Date of the next Parish Council meeting 8pm Thursday 9th July 2026 Milton Ernest Village Hall