

MILTON ERNEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes- 12th March 2026

1	Meeting started 8pm Present Cllr Ross (Chair), Cllr Dipple, Cllr Lane and Cllr Sizer Cllr Goldwin (Vice Chair) absence was noted and accepted- Cllr Towler (Borough Cllr) was not present
2	No declarations of interest in items on the agenda
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4	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th February 2026 were accepted
5	Clerk's report on actions <i>For items not included on the agenda.</i> • The grass cutting tender document had been received from three suppliers- one was the incumbent- four were approached - one declined- An update was given re Warners, Lloyds, Brown's and Madisson's- See Item 15 for tender selected • Glass Recycling invoice has been submitted to BBC for £528 for 2025/2026 Financial Year • The damaged brick pillar to Radwell Rd entry to playing fields was repaired 7th March- Cllr Dipple attended- however after an unsatisfactory repair- was redone 12th March- now satisfactory- 1 side has 1 row of bricks (more than the other- 13 versus 12 courses) as initially the case- reinstated same as before.
6	Correspondence received since submitted the last meeting (requiring council attention) • Road Safety Letter received at the meeting highlighting issues on Radwell Rd regarding speeding vehicles.
7	Finance • Payments approved ○ Donation for Every Voice's Charity- had attended the Xmas Tree switch on - £100- already paid ○ Clerk March salary ○ Litter picker payment Finance report to be added to minutes Internal Auditor has been approached and ready to receive 25/26 Accounts once prepared. AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) to be presented in May, to be submitted by 30th June to Mazars Forvis. Will be full Audit as over £25k income in 25/26
8	Village welfare Playground update- Cllr Ross, Cllr Dipple and Cllr Sizer met with candidate supplier- they offer a 20 year warranty. Other suppliers approached only offer 15 years. Preferred supplier will also support and signpost grant applications. Will approach residents and school for design input and feedback

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	A resident had previously suggested we approach Bedfordia to confirm they own the land and on what terms it is leased- also commented at last Surgery. Cllr Ross confirmed this communication was already in-hand.
10	Police Matters Data shared showing 8 x recorded incidences in February.
9	No item 9
11	Reports by Representatives - To receive feedback from the working groups - Update from the Finance Working Group- have not met since December- need to complete annual review of any standing orders or direct debits - Update on the Biodiversity Plan- reviewed and all present agreed to adopt- Minor amend suggested to review periodically- quarterly instead of annually. Thanks to former Cllr Atkinson and Cllr Sizer. - Update from the Environmental Volunteer Group (EVG)- Thanks to EVG for making WI garden look great with the new plant growth now becoming well established. - Also noted and not related to the EVG, a separate action from Volunteer Mr Hilliard to remove litter along the A6 has made it look much better - Update from the NDP Working Group- update post Chapman Planning meeting. A free initial meeting to be held on 27th March. A quote has been received of £3,950 plus VAT to proceed with the NDP update to ensure it remains valid following its 5th Anniversary in November. Recommendation by Cllr Ross that we should proceed with the update - all in attendance agreed. The focus is to be, to minimise additional housing and consider flooding risks. Will be added to April Agenda to share overall plan to update after kick-off discussion with Chapman Planning. Clerk and Cllr Ross to approach Beds RCC/ Cllr Towler to seek any possible funding towards revising NDP. - Update from the Events Committee- post quiz- £900 was raised after costs. Thanks to Anita, Cllr Lane and Cllr Sizer for manning the bar
12	Parish Events No future events discussed
13	Planning matters - APPLICATION NO: 26/00331/FUL Full Planning Application PROPOSAL: Erection of a car parking area consisting of up to 148 spaces, along with column lighting and boundary fencing. LOCATION : Yarls Wood Immigration Removal Centre Twinwood Road Clapham Bedford Bedfordshire MK41 6AE No objection - Builders Yard B2- no objection

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	Update re Maltings, or that of the neighbouring property- Cllr Dipple. Bin store still there, to follow up with Enforcement Officer.
14	Borough Councillor Report - Report from Borough Councillor Martin Towler circulated - Budget £55m shortfall- £80m to be received from Central Government for 2025-2027 - Green bins started again for Spring - Food Waste collection to start from end March - Unanimous BBC Cllr objection to East Park Energy- proposed solar farm
15	Parish Council Updates - Highway Issue - A willow tree with roots blocking drains has now been removed in Marsh Lane- Bedfordia funded as the tree was located on their property - Various pot holes identified and to be fixed - Speeding- Clerk to write to Sharnbrook School asking if bus can avoid going through village and use New Rd instead. - Seek funding for replacement SID in Radwell Road near Huntsmans Way- costs TBC but understood to be circa. £5k - Revised Litter Picker contract- route updated- intention is for the whole village to be covered in rotation over a month in the future - Update on Parish Councillor Recruitment- one enquiry form sent (post meeting co-option form received back from resident) - Discussion of Tender for grass cutting and selection- Three quotes received £9,500- £5,500, two similar in value- after much discussion and debate Cllrs agreed to stay with Warners as a known supplier and known quality, with cost remaining competitive - Proposal for Harry Robson memorial- plaque and possible sites were shown- location to be agreed with his widow- delegated to Cllr Ross. - PC Surgery update held 25/2/26- Topics covered Site 518 opposition and possible replacement sites, NDP renewal and question as to who owns the Playing Field – notes attached
16	To adopt Model NALC 2025 Standing Orders and Financial regulations-circulated. To be considered in April after detailed review by Cllrs, Financial regs to be reviewed by Finance Working Group with Standing Orders to be compared to current ones.
	Public Open Session- Speeding in Radwell Road was raised- 20 mph limits was raised as an option. Cllrs discuss potential to initiate a local Speed Watch group. A resident indicated an appetite to support such a venture. Clerk to enquire Meeting closed 9.45pm
	Closed Session- HR matters

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	• Clerk Pension & Probation period -post review update shared with Cllrs by HR Working Group- Clerk not present.
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