

Milton Parish Council

Annual Report 2006/07



Chairman's Report

I am very pleased to announce that we were awarded Quality Status on the 13th April this year. This may not sound as if we have achieved much but there are very few councils in the country that have been awarded Quality Status and we are very pleased to be one of them. The panel looked in depth at how we work on your behalf and also trawled through a whole range of documentation from how we run our meetings, what we achieve for the village to how we keep our accounts – it was very thorough. Having Quality Status will help us in many ways for example, any village group who apply for a grant that is supported by ourselves are likely to get it viewed in a more favourable way. We are now entitled to put the Quality Status logo on all our letterheads etc.

Our Clerk has now been in the new office for a year and I know how busy it has been as now people feel able to drop in to talk to Jim on a range of issues from bus passes and how to get one to planning applications and how to comment them. The office is a very busy place and we are pleased that it seems to be working well. It has become a central information point for all Parish Council issues.

Our work as parish councillors has covered a wide spectrum of issues over the past 12 months.

We are in an area where there are many pressures and these include:

The Country Park that may close in August; a sewage works that may be relocated; the Park and Ride which is going to relocate to Butt Lane; the Northern Fringe development planned for the area to be left vacant by the sewage works and Cowley Road Park & Ride; Guided Bus (the county are keeping us informed on their progress with this); Milton Landfill - talking about its plans for filling the site; The Cambridge Sport Lakes – planning application (we have spent many hours writing detailed comments on this application); the Milton Interchange and the traffic problem we faced in the village; meeting with a major developer who has purchased a large piece of land within the village; meeting with a developer who is hoping to build a new development near Wilburton and wishes to change our new cycle footbridge into a bus bridge.

As a Parish Council we have been working on some major projects of our own which include:

Finding additional land for our Colts football teams to play on; building a new Youth Building which opened in January this year; planning financial support for a major refurbishment of Milton Community Centre; setting up our new Parish Office which opened in April 2006

We have also been complaining on a regular basis to try to get the field next to the A14 near Tescos, cleared. South Cambs took an enforcement order out on the company using the site and we have been assured that the site will be cleared by the end of April and returned to grass as soon as possible.

We now have a new PCSO – Scott Evans – we hope he will enjoy working in the Milton area.

This year we arranged for the war memorial to be cleaned in Coles Road and we are very pleased with the results.

Unfortunately we have suffered recently from a spate of graffiti attacks and where possible we try to arrange for the removal of graffiti immediately but some cleaning has to be arranged through specialist teams.

During the year we have followed up a range of traffic related issues and this year again we have been pressing for the promised CCTV to be installed on the bridge and double yellow lines to be installed at the Milton end which we have now budgeted for and may pay for ourselves.

We have been involved in discussions about the future of Milton Country Park and have been represented at meetings at South Cambs Hall.

The Parish Council owns the recreation ground and continues to subsidise the Community Centre to help with the running costs of the two recreation grounds and ancillary facilities and buildings that are well used by many villagers.

We have a set of committees working on different projects and reporting back to the Parish Council each month. We also appoint representatives for various duties such as Country Park, Landfill liaison, Milton Charities etc.

The Maintenance Committee oversees the work of our village cleaners, the allotments on Ely Road and Cemetery in Landbeach Road as well as grass cutting and maintenance of open space and play areas. The Parish Council pays for all the work to be carried out and we are pleased with the standard of work of our contractors.

We also have a Community Care Committee which oversees the care of the elderly and employ Tracy Ebbon and a relief warden. We have a Community Minibus group who are responsible for the smooth running of the scheme which allows local people and groups to hire the mini bus. In addition we pay towards a Tesco shopping trip for the elderly once a fortnight.

The Youth Committee have had another busy year as the new Youth Centre took shape. The new building finally opened in January and the youth of the village are already using it and all thanks to the hard work of the Youth Committee.

Under Planning we have covered a whole range of work from houses in the village to Science Park plans and more recently the rowing lake plans.

- We were represented at South Cambs District Council and raised concerns about the planning application for Milton Sport Lakes.
- There will also be a very large commercial development on the boundary of Milton in Butt Lane replacing the old poultry farm buildings which are to be redeveloped for warehousing.

We have been trying to negotiate with various landowners to try to secure additional recreation land for the colts football – they have over 17 teams.

We recently applied for planning permission for changing an area of land we hope to purchase from the County Council into recreation ground. When planning was turned down we set out our case for an appeal – and won. Over the next year we will be trying to get the funds together to hopefully buy this land.

We are looking at producing a parish plan and one of our councillors has been looking into this and hopes to get enough people interested to be able to produce one.

We have tried to keep you informed about our day to day work through the pages of the village magazine the Milton Village View and our web site. We also organised a display of the Sports Lake Trust plans and listened to your comments.

I would like to thank the Village View team of volunteers and our web master – Paul Oldham for all his voluntary work running our web site.

As I said last year - if the Parish Council disappeared tomorrow there would be a whole range of things that would not happen or be locally managed.

It is difficult to cover everything we do as a Parish Council in a few minutes of a report but I would like you to know that you have had a dedicated team of people who have been your Parish Council over the last 4 years working on your behalf trying to do nothing else but the best for our village. We are sorry Paul Oldham, Jenny Payne and Ian Davis are not standing for re-election and thank them for all their work on the council and we will be welcoming Gerda Covell and Sue Humphreys at our May meeting when we will be able to co-opt another councillor to make up our numbers.

Lastly I would like to thank our clerk who has the unenviable task of managing all these issues, supporting our members and keeping them informed.

Jane Coston

Chairman, Milton Parish Council

How to contact us

Tel: 01223 861447

Email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Fax: 0871 433 9275 (Calls cost 10p/minute)

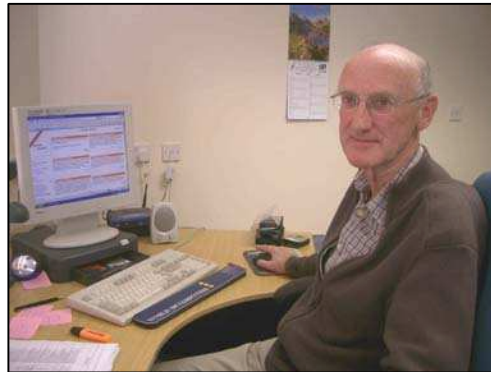
Write to: Jim Daniels Clerk to Milton Parish Council

Parish Council Office Coles Road Milton Cambridge CB24 6BL

When Does the Council Meet?

The full council normally meets on the first Monday of every month in the Bowls Pavilion (except in August). The Planning Committee normally meets on the third Monday of every month, if there is any planning business to consider. Other committees meet throughout the year as necessary. Notice of all meetings is given on the Parish notice boards, located behind the war memorial and outside the office, and they are also published on the village web site.

All meetings are open to the general public. You have no right to speak, but the chair may, at their discretion, let you address the Council if the matter being discussed is of particular interest to you.



Parish Clerk: Jim Daniels



The Parish Council office is in the car park of the Community Centre on Coles Road. There is cycle parking outside the door and the car park is free.

DRAFT I&E ACCOUNT AT 31st MARCH 2007

INCOME	2006-07	2005-06
Agency Received (County Council)	1,049	1,266
Allotment Rents / Cemetery Fees	1,437	1,756
Community Care Fees / Grants	6,502	5,221
Insurance claim	21,335	1,515
Interest	7,234	6,719
Minibus & Trolley Bus Hire / Grant	3,850	4,014
Precept	84,000	80,000
Receipts	1,488	2,272
Youth Building (& shelter) Grants	96,125	6,156
TOTAL INCOME	<u>223,020</u>	<u>108,919</u>
EXPENSES		
Admin inc office expenses	23,829	18,591
Agency Services (Verges for CCC)	1,049	1,266
Allotments / Cemetery	3,904	2,705
Capital Schemes	116,388	31,998
Minibus / Trolley Bus	3,073	3,196
Grass cutting / Highways / Trees	11,866	14,704
Long Term Debt	0	17,215
MCC Grant	26,000	25,000
Play Areas	3,648	1,995
S 137 Community Care	10,543	9,443
Youth	6,155	3,474
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>206,455</u>	<u>129,587</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	16,844	-20,668

Your Parish Councillors:

Jane Coston, Chairman, 67 Coles Road
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Phil Badley 10 Old School Lane
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Alex Campbell 10 Ballard Close
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Rob Chapman Rectory Farm
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Roger Day 11 Pryor Close
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Mark Ellwood 52 Fen Road
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Rob Farrington 8 Pryor Close
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Barry Jefferson 69 The Sycamores
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Ian May 34 Butcher Close
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Paul Oldham (standing down)

Jenny Payne (standing down)

Hazel Smith 7 Hall End
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Richard Summerfield 1 Willow Crescent
Tel: 860715
email: richard@tsummerfield.freeserve.co.uk

Bob Waters 3 Lyndhurst Close
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Milton Parish Council Web Site: www.miltonvillage.org.uk

What do we do?



Village sign and daffodil planting around the village



Manage and maintain the cemetery



Maintain and replace play areas and play equipment



Provided the new youth building



Organise litter picking and street cleaning

Where we spend your money

- Admin in office expenses
- Agency Services (verges for CCC)
- Capital Schemes
- Minibus / Trolley Bus
- Grass cutting / Highways / Trees
- Allotments / Cemetery
- MCC Grant
- Play Areas
- S 137 Community Care
- Youth



Provide allotments



Install and maintain seats



Milton Trolley Bus
Tesco shopping trips for the elderly who need this help



Shelter for the youth



Provide and maintain bus shelters, litter bins and dog bins



Support financially Milton Community Centre complex



We own a community minibus which is used by several organisations in the village



Double yellow lines have been budgeted for for the bottom of the bridge



The mile stones were cleaned and painted by volunteers from the Milestone Society



Organise the Remembrance Day ceremony and recently arranged for the memorial to be restored



Parish Notice boards and web site - www.miltonvillage.org.uk



Keep in touch with our local police on village matters



We employ a mobile warden who helps our elderly maintain their independence



We organise the Christmas lights



Planting trees and maintaining them, grass cutting, and village maintenance of all our green areas



Parish Council meetings and office administration

We take the lead in getting things done in the village such as sheltered housing or new sports facilities. We comment on planning applications and generally act on behalf of the village in many other ways.