

MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office
Coles Road
Milton
Cambridge
CB24 6BL



Clerk to the Council Jim Daniels
Tel: 01223 861447
Fax: 0871 433 9275
Email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk
Web: www.miltonvillage.org.uk

25 November 2008

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

You are summoned to the next meeting of Milton Parish Council to be held in the Bowls Pavilion on Monday 1st December 2008 at 7.15pm [NOTE TIME]

AGENDA

1 Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak

2 Welcome to PCSO Claire Whiteman

Crime update – vandalism and graffiti Cambridge Road
Rogue traders (page 3)

3 Mick Woolhouse CSLT - update (report sent separately)

4 Apologies for absence

5 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

6 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2008 (pages 3-8)

7 Clerk's/Chairman's report (pages 8-9)

A10 surface; Telephone box Coles Road; Parish Plan inc Environmental Group report; Remembrance Ceremony; Park & Ride; IVC – Foundation status; Christmas arrangements; A14 foot / cycle bridge – lighting and CCTV; A10 surface

8 Planning

S/1774/08/F - First floor side extension, 49 Fen Road, Milton

(23/11-08) Officers Recommendation: **Approval**

Decisions received – none to date

New applications:

(52/4-08) S/0457/08 Mr & Mrs Jefford Greengates Chesterton Fen Road – replacement dwelling and extension to garden – **amended layout in response to the Local Highway Authority's comments – for information only.**

(21/11-08) S/1669/08 Tesco Stores Ltd Cambridge Road – installation of a combined heat and power unit. – noise impact assessment report - **for information only.**

S/1845/08 Mr & Mrs W Gunn 313 The Rowans – first floor side and single storey rear extensions – **no recommendation so long as the proposed extensions will not adversely affect the amenities of the neighbouring properties.** (Delegated).

S/1864/08 Mr R Fairhurst 42 Fen Road – conversion of outbuilding to form annexe to main building. [Proposal: **no recommendation**]

C/11/40/072 Elgood & Sons Ltd removal of sycamore and leylandii hedge at Waggon & Horses conservation area. **No objection – would accept recommendation of Trees Officer.** (Delegated).

Since **approved:** “When a tree is removed within the conservation area, the Parish Council and SCDC encourage a replacement tree being planted (any species, any size) in a more appropriate location within your property, this is to increase the sustainability of tree cover within the South Cambridge District.”

Any other decisions received and urgent applications (at chairman's discretion)

9 External auditor's report for year ended 31 March 2008 received (RFO)

10 Maintenance

- to accept quotation for tree works (attached)
- proposal to lock gates at allotments and cemetery to prevent vehicular access (Pages 9-12)

11 Land update including update about land at rear of Milton Hall (Page 12)

- proposal [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business
- to consider appointing a fundraiser

12 MCC update

13 County Councillor's report - no report to date

14 District Councillors' reports – Home insulation, Chesterton Fen, Climate change action

15 Bills for Payment and Money Received (to be circulated)

16 Correspondence (can be read at 6.45pm or you may request copies)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| SCDC | - | Standards Committee's Autumn newsletter |
| | - | Council Housing in South Cambs newsletter |
| CCC | - | Trading Standards newsletter |
| | - | Information about welfare benefits (Community Care) |
| | - | Parish Paths Partnership – invitation to apply for grant |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | - | information about extra service now being provided and requesting a donation |

17 Dates of Next Meetings

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| Youth | - | 8 December |
| Planning | - | 15 December 7.00pm |
| Maintenance | - | 15 December 7.30pm |

2009 dates attached

18 Items for January agenda (to be received by Tuesday 23 December – agenda will be published on Tuesday 30 December)

Jim Daniels

Jim Daniels - Clerk

The full Parish Council agenda papers are available at:

Parish Council office, Community Centre notice board and

www.miltonvillage.org.uk [Council website]



2 Rogue Traders – The rogue trader has returned. I have had a long conversation with Cathy Inman Trading Standards Officer. She tells me that her department and the police are working together on this case.

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 10 November 2008 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: JE Coston (chair) RH Chapman PS Badley G Covell TA Drummond M Ellwood RJ Farrington SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May HM Smith RT Summerfield RLE Waters
Councillor M Williamson, 6 members of the public and the clerk

1/11-08
(25/10-08) **1 Representative from the Highways Agency – A14**
Geoff Chatfield Highways Agency and Paul Wilson Atkins explained about the proposed improvements to the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton, including the time scale. More details would be available at the public exhibitions being held in November and December. Milton to Fen Ditton would become six lanes. The Sycamores recreation ground would not be affected. The HA intended to provide two lane in each direction during construction. The provision of noise barriers would be investigated. Any improvements to the Quy junction as a necessity resulting from the proposed development at Cambridge airport would be paid for by the developers. Constraints of space would make the provision of cycle lanes difficult. The amount of compensation to households affected by noise and light pollution, if agreed, would be worked out by the district valuer. Brochures about compensation would be available at the exhibitions. Control of constructors' traffic could be raised at the exhibitions.
As the Huntingdon fly-over was at the end of its life this scheme was very likely to go ahead.

Thank you to GC and PW.

2/11-08 **2 Public Participation** – no member of the public wished to speak.

3/11-08 **3 Apologies for absence** - AJ Campbell R Day.

4/11-08 **4 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial**
JEC – land update - personal – husband and son play cricket for Milton Cricket Club.
HMS – planning - personal – member of SCDC planning committee.
IFM - land update personal – chairman of colts football club; application by Turnstone Ltd – prejudicial (min 23/11-08)
RHC – agenda 12 (Quotation for control of rabbits/moles) – prejudicial.

5/11-08 **5 Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting of 6th October 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

6/11-08
(7/10-08) **6 Parish Plan – report and action points**
Residents responded. The responses from those under 20 were patchy.
It was **AGREED to set five working parties, under the umbrella of the Parish Council, to look at specific issues and to report back to the Parish Council: Village Appearance; Environment (already up and running); Communication; Police Liaison and Travel.**
Each group would need one or two councillors as members.
Noted that the Environment Group had already met twice and done a litter pick.
The Steering Group intended to discuss the results of the Parish Plan with all the businesses in the village.
The results of the survey would be published before Christmas.

Thanks to PSB and other members of the Steering Group for all their hard work.

7/11-08
(41/9-08) **7 Clerk's/Chairman's report**
Plastic recycling – noted that Chesterton Fen residents did not have a green box collection of any sort.
The clerk would query this with SCDC. RHC reported that Rectory Farm also did not have a green box collection. **Action: the clerk**

8/11-08
(6/10-08) Telephone box – noted that SCDC had objected to the closure of the box in Coles Road.

9/11-08
(12/10-08) Remembrance Day – noted that the church held a ceremony at the memorial on Sunday which Royal Engineers attended.

10/11-08
(26/10-08) Barnabas Court – admissions policy – HMS reported that the lettings policy had not changed regarding needing a local connection to the village.

- 11/1-08 (28/10-08) Minor Highways Improvement Schemes – bids for 2009/10 – following advice from Keith Fauch the clerk had bid for a footpath on the southern side of the Rowans near Tesco.
- 12/11-08 (32/10-08) Crime update
Speedwatch – Landbeach Parish Council had asked whether Council was planning on being involved with Speedwatch as Landbeach would be prepared to join forces.
Action: New Police Liaison Group to discuss.
- CRDP** - the South Cambridgeshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership recent workshops produced four ideas that stood out:
- improving communications with Parish Councils
 - encouraging respect between different parts of local communities
 - considering an Adopt a Neighbour scheme (to keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours, people on holiday etc to reduce burglary)
 - using Visual Audits to identify areas of concern in a community/village that require further action
- CRDP would follow up these ideas.
- New Neighbourhood Police sergeant** – letter received from Sgt Paul Rogerson introducing himself and the new team including PCSO Claire Whiteman.
- Allotments** – noted that there had been a few break-ins recently at the allotments.
- 13/11-08 (36/10-08) Sluice gates - Pat Matthews SCDC reported that the remaining sluice gates had been stored at their depot for safe keeping.
 He had been unable to identify the gate owners. This particular section of drain in which they are located is not an award.
 He had been advised that the “gates serve little purpose as river water will flow over the banks towards the railway and negate any impact they might have and that any 'back surge' will remain within the drain up to the railway bridge.”
 It was very difficult to justify replacing the gates if they served no purpose.
- 14/11-08 (7/7-08) Park & Ride:
 Opening ceremony Thursday, 13 November from 11 am.
 Cycle improvements – after discussing with the clerk Oliver Merrington (Sustrans Cycle Ranger for Waterbeach) had sent a suggested cycle scheme to Alistair Frost. Council proposed some amendments – to be emailed immediately to A Frost. **Action: the clerk**
 In addition the clerk would ask about responsibility for gritting the A10 bridge and express concerns that the area levelled adjacent junction of Butt Lane and the A10 may become an ideal site for unauthorised access.
- 15/11-08 (38/10-08) IVC Foundation status – from Martin Rigby Chairman of Governors:
 “..... I can reassure you that the College will remain fully committed to delivering the best possible education for all children in the catchment area, as well as continuing to develop a full community education programme, irrespective of the proposed change of status.
 the present arrangements for school buses would be unaffected by any change in status.”
- Noted that a public meeting had been arranged in response to requests from parents – to be held in the Gropius Hall of the College at 6.30pm on Wednesday 12 November.
- 8 Planning**
- 16/11-08 SCDC – LDF – consultation on preferred sites for making up housing shortfall of about 1500 houses. Immediate area of Milton was not affected.
- Decisions received
- 17/11-08 (50/6-08) Cambridge Regional College Kings Hedges Road – erection of 20m x 15m canopy – **approved**.
 Policies: East of England Plan 2008 **SS1**; South Cambs Local Development Framework Development Control Policies 2007 **DP/1 to 3**.

- 18/11-08
(22/08) Cambridge Consultants Ltd Science Park – proposed 3 storey extension and energy centre following demolition of the banana block with associated landscaping, additional car and cycle parking and alternative access arrangements - **approved**. **Various conditions: landscaping, materials to be used, cycle parking, travel plan, construction phasing plan including working conditions and traffic management scheme, removal of trees, shrubs and hedgerow, protection of watercourse, provision of bird nest and bat boxes, visibility splays, provision of footway link and transport infrastructure.** Following Policies apply:
East of England Plan 2008: **SS1 (Achieving Sustainable Development)**.
South Cambs Local Development Framework Development Control Policies 2007:
DP/1 to DP/4 (Development considerations); ET/1,3 and 5 Expansion of Firms); NE/1,2,3,6,9,10,11,14,15 and 16 (Environmental impact); TR/1 to 4 (Travel implications).
- 19/11-08
(21/10-08) Mr & Mrs R Holmes 45 High Street - extension – **approved. No windows, doors or openings in side or rear elevations at and above first floor.**
Policies: East of England Plan 2008 **SS1**; South Cambs Local Development Framework Development Control Policies 2007 **DP/1 to 3** and **CH/5 (Conservation Areas)**.
- New applications:
- 20/11-08
(170/4-07) S/1884/06 Possfund Custodian Trustee Ltd & Exemplar Property Holding LLP – demolition of existing building and construction of office building (Class B1(b) Research and Development) associated parking with single storey deck parking and landscaping at Building 101 Science Park – **amended vehicle access – for information only.**
- 21/11-08
(494/11-07) S/1769/07 College of West Anglia – demolition of existing workshop and Leonard buildings, alterations and construction of new teaching and administration building – amendments: alteration to ext wall appearance and position of window in northeast elevation; kitchen door moved and vending machines added in northwest elevation; addition of rooftop plant - **for information only.**
- 22/11-08 S/1669/08 Tesco Stores Ltd Cambridge Road – installation of a combined heat and power unit. – **no recommendation** (delegated)
- 23/11-08 S/1774/08 Mr P Runham 49 Fen Road – 1st floor bedroom extension over part of existing garage – **refuse** – 7 votes in favour, 5 abstentions. **Concerns about over shadowing of neighbouring property. Council supported neighbour’s comments.** Noted that a similar application was refused in 1998. [Clerk would look up reason for refusal].
- 24/11-08 S/1792/08 Turnstone Estates Ltd erection of 120 bed hotel and restaurant together with associated parking and infrastructure on land adjacent A14.
“Milton Parish Council strongly objects to this application as the proposed building would have a severe detrimental effect on our village.
Land is in Green Belt. As we have watched Cambridge creep towards us we have consistently resisted any attempt to take this one remaining piece of rural land at the southern approach to the village out of Green Belt. It is the one parcel of land preventing coalescence with the city. This does not meet the criteria for removal from Green Belt status as admitted by the applicant.
Inappropriate. A hotel is an inappropriate building in our village. The Parish Council and residents of Milton do not accept that this location is urban and have always totally opposed any further urbanisation of our village.
We strongly refute the comments made in Section 9.2 and 9.6 of the Visual Impact Assessment. We are in great need of additional pitches for colts football and believe if the land were used for recreation/football it would benefit the village much more than the proposed hotel.
Traffic. A 120 bed hotel with car parking spaces for 93 begs the question “Where will all the cars go if the hotel is over ¾ full?” The roads in Milton are already extremely busy. They will not be able to cope with the extra amount of traffic. There would be an inevitable increased congestion on the A14/A10 interchange.
There would be yet another junction in an area with a number of junctions already.
Quality of Life. This area of Milton has been allowed to grow haphazardly over the years to the mishmash of industrial units that we have now plus a superstore with its own problems of traffic. Another rectangular building will just compound what is an unsightly entrance to the village. Compare this with the northern approach to Milton to see how we have got it wrong previously.
It is interesting to note that the recently completed Parish Plan survey highlights villagers’ concerns about this approach to the village.
Visual impact. A large building of the type proposed will have an adverse visual impact on our village.”

25/11-08 **9 Finance** - the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on 20 October were received.

It was **AGREED** to accept recommendations:

- **Independent internal audit report : handling of cash – proposal that Council agrees to the clerk writing out a cheque to “Milton Parish Council” for the amount of cash received and then sending that cheque to Council’s bank.** [Note this happens when an allotment holder pays in cash and the clerk is unable to get to the bank to pay this in to Council’s account].
- **Appointment of an assistant clerk – proposal that Council proceed with advertising the post initially in the Village View, the Job Centre, on the web sites of Council, SLCC and CPALC and in the NARPO magazine with a view to appointing an assistant clerk to start work in January.**

Noted that the F&S Committee were recommending that the office opening hours to the public be set at: Monday 10.00-12.00, Wednesday 14.00-16.00 and Friday 10.00-12.00.

Thanks to F&S committee.

26/11-08 **10 Minibus** - the minutes of the Minibus Committee meeting held on 22 October were received.

[As the chairman of the minibus committee had sent his apologies RJF took this item].

Recommendation - **that Council amend the resolution 36/9-08 “.....that the minibus committee be given the authority to implement *increases* as and when necessary without the need to refer back to Council” to “..... that the minibus committee be given the authority to implement *changes* as and when necessary.....”** [Committee may decide to reduce charges].

Concerns were expressed that two councillors only were on this committee and that there could be a possible conflict of interest for those making decisions.

The vice chairman expressed the opinion that the committee was well run and was confident that members would make decisions for the good of the community and not based on personal preferences.

Recommendation was then AGREED – 8 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

27/11-08 **11 Cambs and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options 2 Consultation**

(25/10-08) **Council’s comments:**

- **retention of the aggregates rail terminal at Chesterton junction**

“Whilst we approve of the use of rail to transport aggregates we are concerned about the traffic implications of this.”

- **option to look for a new Local Recycling Centre to replace Butt Lane in Cambridge Northern Fringe East**

“We would support the option to look for a new Local Recycling Centre to replace Butt Lane.”

- **permanent site in CNFE for construction waste handling**

“We would not wish to see this built in this area.”

- **a permanent major waste management site including Energy from Waste on the land off Butt Lane**

“We are opposed to any site close to housing being used to produce Energy from Waste and we are especially concerned about burning of waste and pyrolysis technology.”

- **waste consultation area around the Cambridge Sewage Works**

“We would reiterate our previous comments on this and believe that the Sewage works should be relocated away from housing. If the sewage works are to stay please look at removing some of the old infrastructure and upgrade.”

28/11-08 **12 Maintenance**

AGREED

- 1 to approve increase in Grass cutting and general maintenance contract of 4% + £75 for taking on maintenance of extra verge in Old School Lane (min71/9-08)**
- 2 to accept one off quote to control rabbit infestation and moles at cemetery of £240 + VAT and an ongoing quarterly contract of £60 + VAT from Command Pest Control Ltd of Sudbury.** [Having declared a prejudicial interest for this item RHC left the room].

Repairs to bus shelter lighting – not yet done. (Min 28/10-08). Noted that the light in Cambridge Road bus shelter was also not working.

- 29/11-08 **13 Land update including update about land at rear of Milton Hall**
AGREED [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.
The meeting was closed at 9.55pm.
- To consider appointing a fundraiser** – no action to be taken.
The meeting re-opened at 10.05pm.
- 30/11-08 **14 Freedom of Information Act Model Scheme and charges for photocopying information**
AGREED to adopt the Model Scheme as circulated by the clerk and to charge 10p per copy photocopying at the clerk's discretion.
- 31/11-08 **15 MCC update** – a new manager, Andy Gray, had been appointed and had already started work.
- 32/11-08 **16 County Councillor's report**
"Park and Ride (see min 14/11-08 above)
The official opening and ribbon cutting is on Thursday, November 13th. The site should open to the public shortly after that.
Cycle Routes
The suggestion in the cycling proposals to upgrade Butt Lane has been picked up by various people. The worry, of course, is that improved cycling facilities may mean Milton will lose its free school transport to IVC although the Oakington to Histon appeal would probably mean that the County would be much more circumspect. Even if the route were improved up to the edge of Impington, there is still the very dangerous stretch of road around the bends by Impington Church, and I would hope that these would preclude the route being judged as safe for school students. That being said, however, improvements along this road would mean that commuters would gain significantly.
Impington Village College (see min 15/11-08 above).
The Governors are intending to go for Foundation status. I have personal reservations about the merits of this but, of course, residents of Milton will be concerned about its effect on their access to the school. There has been some concern expressed locally on the effect on the composition of the governing body and whether parents retain the current representation.
I have contacted County education officers and have been advised that none of this should be affected. The school will become its own admissions authority, but the rules now are pretty strict and thus no change should be noticeable. It should also not affect things like free transport.
- (13/5-08) The A10-A14 roundabout
I have had a conversation with Alistair Frost about the problems of queues, especially when traffic wants to go west towards Histon. He is going to look at the traffic light timing."
MW understood that the proposed CCTV on the cycle bridge cannot be aimed at the A10/A14 interchange.
- 33/11-08 **17 District Councillors' reports**
Community Care – HMS attended a meeting at Cambourne. Her report would be discussed at next Community Care meeting.
Cycle / foot bridge over A14 – HMS was investigating whether Highways Agency or County Council were responsible for lighting on the bridge. The clerk would ask the Highways Agency to clarify.
Action: the clerk
Mere Way Poultry Farm site – SCDC had asked the developers at this site or their comments as industrial / storage units were being built contrary to planning permission.
- (22/10-08) Mrs F Roberts 48 Fen Road – fence (retrospective application). RTS reported that SCDC had refused this application.
Country Park – there had been vandalism recently. The clerk would invite M Woolhouse to the next meeting for an update. **Action: the clerk**
- 34/11-08 **18 Bills for Payment and Money Received**
CONFIRMED payment of cheques 3840-3847
AGREED payment of cheques 3848-3857
(3 abstentions).

- 35/11-08 **19 Correspondence**
- JAG** - Notes from September and the agenda for the meeting on Thursday 16th October, 7pm at Cottenham Village College.
 - CPALC** - Annual General Meeting of CPALC – 6th December 2008
Any motions for consideration by the board for the AGM – to be sent no later than the 11th November.
 - Guided Busway** - Next meeting of the Oakington to Cambridge Forum – Thursday, 13 November from 7 pm at the Meadows Community Centre
 - October update
 - SCDC** - Performance of the Police Service Centre for September 2008.
 - ACRE** - Details of new Cambridgeshire LINK (Local Involvement Network) which was established on 25 September 2008 as part of a new Government initiative to help communities have a stronger voice in their Health and Social Care services.
 - CCC** - Consultation on tenders for contracted bus services - proposed changes
 - Communities and Local Government** – “Communities in control: Real people, real power: Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees – a consultation.”

36/11-08 **20 Dates of Next Meeting**
Council - 1 December

37/11-08 **21 Items for December agenda** - to be received by Friday 21 November.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....

7 Clerk’s / Chairman’s report

(8/10-08) Milton Primary School – time capsule – letter of thanks received for the donation received from the School Council.

(8/11-08) Telephone Box – from BT:
“I am afraid we do not replace our glass kiosks with the "red" kiosks. [Refers to replacing the one in High Street with the red box].
Our planning team is consulting with South Cambridgeshire District Council as to the future of kiosk 01223420439 . You are welcome to apply to Adopt the kiosk ahead of the outcome. If you do not do this please ensure that you stay in touch with the Council so that you are informed of the outcome of the consultation.”

(6/11-08) Parish Plan – this will be published at a “pre-launch” meeting on 11th December. HMS will report on Environmental Group

(9/11-08) Remembrance Ceremony – as usual a moving ceremony was held on 11th November at 11am.

(14/11-08) Park & Ride – land adjacent A10

(15/11-08) IVC – Foundation status nothing further to report.

Christmas arrangements – RJF reports “business as usual”.

(25/11-08) Assistant clerk – advert is being published this week. Suggested interviewing panel: Chairman, vice-chairman, RTS and the clerk.

Assistant Parish Clerk vacancy, Milton Parish Council, Cambridgeshire

Starting Salary: £9.81 per hour Scale SCP 21
(£18,882 per annum full time).

Milton is a village of approximately 4,500 situated close to Cambridge with a thriving social and business community.

The Parish Council of 15 Councillors is friendly, dynamic and forward thinking. There is a Parish Council office in the village and the council has achieved Quality Status.

We are looking for someone who is friendly and enjoys working with the public. Previous local government experience would be an advantage and a knowledge of local government accounting is desirable. The post holder will require a high level of IT competence, be organised, efficient and flexible.

Hours will normally be 10 - 15 per week and this will include initially working Monday and Friday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and some evenings.

Full details and an information pack are available from:

Jim Daniels, Parish Clerk, Parish Council Office, Coles Road, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6BL

Tel: 01223 861447 or email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 22nd December 2008

(32 & 33/11-08) A14 Cycle/foot bridge - I have received the following from a resident:

“The A14 cycle bridge lighting. Who is responsible for the up keep of the lighting, The Parish Council or the District Council?

I was cycling home over the bridge last night and I believe there are 12 light standards on the bridge of which only four were working. This is a very poor ratio when two thirds of the lights are not working.

I can imagine there may well be a few complaints before long as I have noticed a crowd of youths gathering on the business park side of the bridge just lately. Whilst they are not causing any damage as far as I could see they are rather rowdy and can at times be quite intimidating.

This is likely to be an issue for young women and mothers with young children not wanting to use the bridge at night when it is so poorly lit.”

I have explained that we have been pursuing this for some time and that it has been difficult finding out whether The Highways Agency or the County Council have responsibility. Hazel Smith reported to the last meeting that both bodies are separately involved. She is now chasing Chris Sprowston at CCC. He is responsible for looking after bridges.

“There were moves afoot to provide CCTV to the bridge. What is the current position on this?”

I also reported to him that we have been trying unsuccessfully to get somewhere with this since before the opening of the bridge.

A10 surface - I wrote to Alistair Frost:

"I understand that part of the A10 c 200 metres in length just north of the Butt Lane junction was not resurfaced a few months ago as it made sense to do this in conjunction with the Park & Ride improvements.

Will you please confirm that this work is now to be done as soon as possible."

Reply: "Thank you for your e-mail. As you are aware there are considerable pull on resources across all areas of the county council. I have been working with the highways maintenance section to provide the best possible results for the A10. It is my intention to do the remaining surfacing work as soon as is possible. However currently I do not have a firm date in mind nor has funding been allocated.

To avoid confusion I should make it clear that the maintenance section have made a considerable amount of funds available to extend the works on the A10 and Butt Lane which would not have normally been picked up within the P&R scheme.

I appreciate a full resurfacing would have been the ideal solution however the extent of rebuilding required in some areas has limited the amount of overall surfacing which could be completed. The decision as to which section were resurfaced was taken with our maintenance section and based upon tackle the worst areas first.

I am sorry I cannot give you a firm date for the final sections of resurfacing."

10 Maintenance – a) Tree Works (see separate attachment)

b) Allotments Gate

I sent this out to those allotment holders on email:

"Please note that a proposal is being put to the next PC meeting **to lock the gate permanently.**

Unfortunately the gate is being left open and we are worried about fly tipping. (I cycled past last Saturday at 17.00 - already dark - and the gate was open)."

Responses:

Um...How are we going to get in if the gate is locked permanently. I'm not parking on that road with the kids in the car – and a lot of holders have children.

I realise that fly tipping is a problem that you need to avoid but I think that locking the gate permanently should not be the first solution as this will make access for users difficult.

Perhaps in the first instance you could ask users to lock the gate after they pass through it? Alternatively suggest that when people are not sure if other users are on-site when they leave that they should take the prudent approach and lock the gate behind them.

Also, given the number of emails on this subject, is it possible that the culprit(s) are not on the email list?

I have been on the allotments on several occasions and thought I might be the last one there, As I could not see any vehicles about the allotments (although you cannot always be certain that there is not anyone about with their car still there) I adopt a view that the gate should be locked behind me anyway.

If everyone is to enjoy the benefit of being able to park their vehicle on the allotment may I suggest that a policy is adopted that everyone lock the gate after they have entered the allotment and visa versa when they leave. Hopefully this would work, but that only depends upon the co-operation of all allotment holders.

As much as it will be some inconvenience I agree this as the only way forward. It is obvious that the people who continuously leave it open have no concern for other allotment holders property or to the fly tipping issue. I wonder who will complain the loudest about this proposal!!!!

Where are we expected to park if the gate is permanently locked? This seems very harsh on those of us who do always lock the gate after ourselves. I've had on several occasions to unlock the gate again, just after I'd locked it as someone else was arriving, but it doesn't stop me locking the gate each time anyway! I need to use the car to get to the allotment as I have to bring tools etc with me since my "allotment" set were stolen in the summer. Locking the gate may help to discourage fly tipping, but it didn't make much difference to the thefts as the thieves apparently came from the A10.

There is also a "health and safety" issue if access to the site is locked and emergency vehicles can't get in. Last year a friend of ours died on his allotment in Suffolk having suffered a heart attack. How would the PC feel if emergency vehicles could not reach someone to help in that situation?

My proposal is that we change the lock to "Locking Bolt" type since it is easier to lock, especially for the elderly: (web supplied)

The rule should be that having entered the allotment by car, the gate should be locked, i.e. the gate should be locked at ALL TIME. I think it is impractical to lock the gate permanently. It will increase hazards for road users and could be very dangerous if the cars are parked outside the gates.

Does this mean we wouldn't be able to drive onto the site, or does 'permanently' mean that it will be on a swing-shut thing (or some such) to try to ensure it's closed rather more often?

Problem with locking permanently is that those who drive (some from far afield perhaps) will leave cars on the road causing a traffic problem which could cause accident(s).

Just to add my voice to the concerns about having a permanently locked gate. Access for vehicles is required, particularly since it seems leaving tools at the allotment is not safe.

If it were to be permanently locked it would lead to vehicles parked on the road which would be major risk to road safety.

To add my thoughts, I understand the frustration re the gate, you wouldn't think it would be so hard to close it, but locking it permanently effectively denies access to the allotments to anyone who isn't able to cycle or walk. Even for those of us within cycling or walking distance (and who are able to do so) this would be a real challenge if you wanted to take any tools down with you, history has shown that it isn't safe to leave them there as things get stolen.

I think you will also create a big safety problem on the A10 as people will end up driving and will park along the A10 near the gate. This sometimes happens anyway and is a problem as it blocks what is a 60 mile an hour road. It will only be a matter of time before that causes an accident.

I realise that this is so but what are we supposed to do if the tree surgeons are going to give us chippings (I am supposed to be available to give them access) and Brian needs to put manure etc. on site, how do we get round that? Are you thinking of just changing the combination so that we can access if needed?

I haven't been to the allotment for few weeks now. Closing the gate completely is not the solution to the problem. We all have to be more responsible.

This is a no brainer.....The gate should be locked after the site is entered **by any user.**

I went past the site at 9.45pm in the last month and the gate was wide open...I of course locked it

Thank you for your e-mail concerning locking the gate permanently. I appreciate that fly tipping is an issue but I don't think the gate should be locked permanently.

We work on our allotment as a family and I really don't want to park on the busy road with the children. Cars speed down that stretch and it really is an accident waiting to happen.

Due to recent theft we have decided not to have a shed on our plot in order to store our tools. We simply can't afford to replace them if they were stolen. Therefore I need to use the car to bring all the things we use. The children often bring a toy and we pack a picnic. The idea being that it is a fun family day out. I just can't see how I will manage this on bikes.

We have always taken the view that if we can't see anyone on the allotment we lock the gate anyway. Perhaps we should all lock it behind us as we enter and leave the allotments. I find the lock difficult to use and often struggle with it – is this what is causing the problem? Can we have a different locking system on the gate?

I do think health and safety is really important and to be able to get an emergency vehicle on site is a must. I don't think this should be compromised at all.

Re: the issue of permanently closing the allotment gate and responses to this

The concerns of others about having the gate permanently closed I am in agreement with i.e. having to park on the old Ely Road (60mph limit - should be 40mph, I have raised this point with Jane Coston long before the golf course opened), off/on loading children, tools and produce here etc. My view on the problem is that, yes there are unfortunately some allotment holders who are not diligent enough to see whether they are the last on site or just forget! But the gate is not user friendly - relatively easy to open, but not to close, particularly for women. The heavy gate has to be lifted to align the bolt with the post socket, then you have to manoeuvre the two chain links (not covered by protective plastic) together over the pin in the combination lock (not an easy exercise) before pressing the pin home and re-setting the combination numbers. Although I have not looked into a better system, there are initial spring/weight systems to bring a gate or door to its post or frame, then I am sure we can find a more user friendly locking system without a cumbersome chain and difficult lock to negotiate with the chain even if we had a 'take away' key for each allotment holder? To deny essential access to the allotment holders would be a bit of an irony when the gate was first installed to prevent undesirable entry! We must not be equated with them and treated like them.

Finally, a durable reminder notice 'Please close the gate on leaving' fixed to the back of the gate facing the allotment track and another identical notice set back in the allotment facing you as you leave say just after the joining of the track running through the allotment between the two pumps and the main made up track leading to the gate, could only help the situation. This point was made at the last Maintenance meeting.

I find it really helpful to see people's replies and I agree that we should close the gate every time we pass through it. In this way we should be individually responsible. Please may I suggest that if this suggestion is taken up that a notice could be put up on the gate to this effect, to reach those not on the email system.

11 Land update – from Iwan Jones:

“I received your voicemail message on Friday. I haven't been to Milton since the last time that I saw you and Hazel in the Parish Office when I updated you on the latest on the planning application. Since then my planning consultant and heritage specialist have met with Melissa and the Conservation Team of South Cambs to discuss the issues that the new Conservation Officer raised. We have undertaken further work that was required as a result of this meeting and have submitted this today to Melissa. We are now hopeful that Melissa can recommend the application for approval and that it will be presented to Committee on 14th January. We have also submitted further information on highways to the County.

We have also gone out to tender on demolition as we intend to demolish the site as soon as we obtain outline planning with construction of the retirement village hopefully commencing in the summer.

I will continue to update you as soon as matters progress.”
