

MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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23 June 2009

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a Maintenance Committee meeting of Milton Parish Council in the Bowls Pavilion on Monday 29 June 2009 at 7.30pm (immediately after Planning meeting)

AGENDA

1 Election of Chairman

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

Request for raised table at junction of The Oaks and The Rowans - that Committee consider requesting joint funding from Minor Highway Improvements Committee for a raised table at highway junction The Oaks / The Rowans similar to that at Church Street / High Street Chesterton

Traffic issues – Landbeach Road / Humphries Way junction and speed limits (attached page 4).

Request to keep bees on allotment – “early next year I hoping to get a bee hive. Is there a policy about keeping bees on the allotment?

If there isn't one at the moment, please take a look at this recent documentary on BBC4 - "Who Killed The Honey Bees?" - the intro is only 10 minutes but pretty much sums up the bee crisis in the UK (over 1/3rd of bees died last year). With bees being essential to our food crops (1 in 3 bites of food we eat is due to bee pollination). It actually very worrying and there is a big push for more beekeepers.

Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NSpOghXkxc>

3 Apologies for absence

4 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

5 Approval of minutes of 30 March 2009 (attached pages 2-3)

Horse grazing

Verge opposite Tesco

6 Cemetery - update

Review regulations concerning interment of non-residents

Path – response from church council

Command Pest Control report – no sign of mole activity - all rabbit workings treated

7 Allotments – update

Waiting list of four at present

Car accident – update (attached page 3)

8 Play – update

9 Tree works and general maintenance – update

Tomkins Mead

10 Meeting room electrical works – update (min 28/3-09)

11 Date of Next Meeting – 28 September 2009

Jim Daniels - Clerk



Minutes of the Maintenance Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 30 March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office

Present: RH Chapman (chairman) JE Coston R Day M Ellwood SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May
RLE Waters
WD Booth E Spong The clerk

- 1 **Public Participation** – no members of the public were present.
- 2 **Apologies for absence** – D Chamberlin.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest** – personal and/or prejudicial – RHC, RD and SCH cemetery - personal (relatives buried in the cemetery). RHC – lock for cemetery gate – personal (M Overall, contractor, does work for RHC).
- 4 **Minutes** – the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

5 Cemetery - update

The clerk and assistant clerk had met the relatives of the late Sam Smith.

They wished to reserve 5 plots and pay for them monthly - £40 for example.

AGREED that they could reserve plots and that they must be paid for in full – not by instalments.

They have taken away the seat and wished to put in a marble seat fixed to the ground.

AGREED to inform them that Council used one style of (metal) seat throughout the village and therefore refused this request.

The clerk would write to the family explaining the reasons behind these decisions. *Action: the clerk*

The clerk had asked them not to drive across the grass and explained that Council intended putting up a notice saying vehicular access for disabled. As the problem was getting worse RHC had arranged for M Overall to fit a lock on the gate to prevent vehicular access. This would cost £30 + VAT. RHC had bought two padlocks £24.50 + VAT. A new sign had been made "Please respect our cemetery. No vehicular access. Milton Parish Council."

All **AGREED** with this action.

Path – committee will discuss adding a turning area for vehicles in 2010-11. Would the church consider contributing towards putting down a hard drive in the old part of the cemetery?

Interment of ashes – request for double depth received. Fee for interment of ashes £50. The clerk would ask D Chamberlin's advice about fee to charge. *Action: the clerk*

Review of fees

AGREED to recommend that the fees for non-residents be quadruple. (8 in favour 1 abstention)

6 Allotments – update

It was not possible to let one piece of land near the A10 because of brambles and poplar suckers. The clerk would ask Stuart Buchan to keep this area clean. *Action: the clerk*

Signs and improvements to chain on gate were in hand. (63/12-08)

Rent review

AGREED to conduct a rent review in September each year.

This would allow the clerk to give allotment holders 12 months notice – October to October.

7 Horse Grazing

Rent review – noted that three horses were grazing the land.

AGREED to increase the rent from £400 to £500 as from October.

This would be increased proportionately if the tenant grazed more than three horses.

The clerk to notify the tenant. *Action: the clerk*

8 Play – update

AGREED that the clerk ask City Services to repair those areas itemised in the latest play inspection as medium and high risk.

The clerk would ask S Buchan to "rotovate" the bark as City Services had highlighted this as "high risk" and to replace top soil in goalmouth at Froment Way.

Action: the clerk

Signs for Froment Way open space were in hand.

Noted that ACRE published a magazine "The Playing Field" which gave details of grants available for play equipment. (65/12-08)

9 Tree works and general maintenance

Stuart Buchan had pollarded hedge / trees between doctors’ surgery and entrance to Tomkins Mead. As he needed to do this work mid March RHC, RD and RLEW had accepted his quote of £290 +VAT. **Action confirmed.** Noted that the doctors had requested that this work be done.

John Holder Queen Anne Lodge had asked that Council cut back the tree between his garden and the post office. RLEW had investigated the ownership of the tree. Further investigations were needed to try to ascertain the ownership. Work on this tree would be scheduled for Autumn 2009.

Firms from the industrial estates Cambridge Road had requested that the adjacent trees and hedge line Road be cut back. This had been put in the programme for Autumn 2009. (29/3-09)

Request to have trees cut back from gardens of Knights Way and Ely Road - RLEW reported that the trees in question were not on public land.

Moles in Ely Road – moles had been causing residents of Knights Way a problem. The County Council had no funds available to deal with moles on the verge of Ely Road.

10 Changes to verge opposite Tesco (6/3-09)

RHC declared a personal interest as he was a customer of the kebab van. Keith Fauch CCC had reported that his budget for 22 villages had been cut. He advised that the simplest solution to dealing with the problem was to move the van off the site. He offered to put in two bollards. M Woolhouse Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust would possibly pay towards some sort of barrier that included a sign “Milton Country Park”. RHC could create a bund using spare top soil from the Park & Ride site. These actions would ensure that the kebab van would use one access point only. The clerk would write to K Fauch and M Woolhouse with these proposals. **Action: the clerk**

11 To consider new dog bin at open space The Elms

A resident had requested that Council consider a dog bin at the open space at The Elms. **AGREED to take no action.** (6 votes in favour 4 abstentions).

12 Date of Next Meeting - 29 June 2009

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Re: Traffic Concerns in Milton

I have two immediate concerns with regard to road traffic conditions in Milton which I hope you can place on the Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting, they are as follows:

(a) **Giveway at the central reservation on the A10 by-pass to traffic emerging from Humphries Way**

This is a peculiar situation to expect traffic turning right off an A road (the A 10) to a minor road (Humphries Way), to give way to traffic emerging from the minor road. This is causing considerable hesitation and confusion at this junction because those coming up the A10 and turning right into Humphries Way do not expect by normal convention of traffic movement, to give way to the Humphries Way traffic, and likewise the traffic from Humphries Way do not expect the traffic at the central reservation on the A10 to give way to them. Furthermore, this unsatisfactory and dangerous situation is being amplified by Milton residents using the new Park & Ride and returning to Milton northwards up the A10 to Humphries Way. My wife, eldest daughter and I, all experienced car drivers are fearful of this junction. The accident which occurred at this junction on 5 June 2009 during the early morning rush hour, may have been related to the junction anomaly as I point out on the enclosed copy of the article published in the Cambridge News.

This junction will never be satisfactory until we have traffic lights installed here which will also make it safer not only for motorized vehicles but also pedestrians and cyclists who want to go to Landbeach or indeed just to the cemetery which is 'cut off' from Milton village by the A10 by-pass. However, in the meantime let us get the give way lines on the central reservation referred to above, removed – I do not think this is the first time the concern has been raised?

(b) **Old Ely Road from the 30 mph sign north to its junction with the A10 by-pass**

This stretch of road nominally has a 60 mph speed limit before the 30 mph sign near the Farm School livestock entrance, as you enter Milton, there is a warning sign for farm traffic before the 30 mph sign. However, the danger on this stretch of road with such a high speed limit is three-fold as follows. First, for allotment holders emerging on to the old Ely Road from the allotments, secondly traffic going in and out of the golf course with its restaurant directly opposite the allotment entrance and thirdly the pedestrian/cycle path along the old Ely Road with traffic passing you at speeds well above 30 mph. At present emerging from the allotments is maximally hazardous due to your vision obscured by the tall plant growth on the verge, particularly looking south to the village, but the plant growth is seasonal and by this time of the year the verges are soon to be cut – I hope. As an allotment holder for 26 years, I have lost count of the number of incidents of excessive speeding on this stretch of road – motor cycles, cars and vans sometimes it seems using this quiet straight stretch of road for testing brakes etc, once a car with young people went into a ditch after leaving the 30 mph area. On another occasion a sports car kept circulating northwards along this road at high speed on to the A10 by-pass back into the village and out again on the old Ely Road, the road had become a 'fun run'.

What I want to propose is that the old Ely Road from the 30 mph sign northwards to where it joins the A10, is 'down speed limited' to 30 mph along its whole length. This can be the first step in relation to the nation wide and county council review which is under way of reducing speed limits on major roads from 60 mph to 50 mph, or less, depending on circumstance as I have illustrated above. In addition, reducing 30 mph roads in built up areas to 20 mph, in Milton such roads should be Fen Road (all the way to the River), High Street, Coles Road, Old School Lane and Butt Lane.

I trust the two main concerns above of unsatisfactory road conditions in Milton will be endorsed by the Parish Council and duly brought to the attention of the Transport Department of the County Council. I also hope that the other speed reductions for the village will be considered without too long a delay.

Yours sincerely,