

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

4 May 2011

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

You are summoned to the Annual meeting of Milton Parish Council to be held in the Bowls Pavilion on **Monday 09 May 2011 at 7.30pm**

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome to new members, introduction by all members and signing of declaration of acceptance of office
- 2 Election of chairman and signing of declaration of acceptance of office
- 3 Election of vice chairman
- 4 Presentation to Council of Quality Status certificate by representatives from CPALC
- 5 Apologies for absence
- 6 Bank signatories including Community Care Account
- 7 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial
- 8 Public participation - members of the public are invited to speak
- 9 Vacancies: To consider co-option to fill vacancy
Notice of casual vacancy (details attached – beige)
- 10 To confirm the following committees:
**Community Care Community Minibus Finance & Administration Land (Working Group)
Maintenance (incorporating Allotments, Cemetery & Play) Planning Staffing Youth (Working Group)**
In 2010 the following committees and members were confirmed:
Community Care TAD ME IFM HMS
Community Minibus GAC RJF RTS C Nunn B Pain G Sheen
Finance and Administration AJC JEC GAC SCH IFM HMS RTS
Land Working Group JEC IFM HMS RTS.
Maintenance JEC GAC ME IFM SCH
(inc Allotments, Cemetery WD Booth E Spong allotments' representatives
Highways and Play) Cemetery All Saints' Church representative
Planning JEC GAC RJF HMS RTS
Staffing AJC TAD
Youth Working Group GAC HMS L Henderson
- 11 To confirm the following representatives:
**Archaeological Warden AWA Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust Child Protection Officer CPALC &
SCDC Liaison Day Centre Footpaths Officer JAG Landfill Liaison MCC Milton Charities
Parish Plan Police Liaison Panel Press Officer Tomkins Mead Tree & Deputy Warden Trolley Bus
Village View (by invitation) Website and IT**
In 2010 the following representatives were elected:
Archaeological Warden WD Booth
AWA [sewage works] JEC [HMS and MH would attend meetings as district councillors]
Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust ME HMS
Child Protection Officer L Henderson
CPALC & SCDC Liaison JEC and the clerk would endeavour to attend CPALC & SCDC Liaison meetings
Day Centre
Footpaths Officer
JAG ME
Landfill Liaison JEC HMS
MCC
Milton Charities IFM R Day P Harrold BC Waterson
Parish Plan JEC
Police Liaison Panel JEC
Press Officer JEC
Tomkins Mead / Tree Warden (& Deputies)
Trolley Bus JEC
Village View (by invitation) JEC
Website and IT JEC, clerk and assistant clerk.

Note: Northern Fringe ad hoc group would be elected as and when necessary. Are Parish Plan and Village View reps necessary?

- 12 To consider appointing a Patient Participation Group (PPG) representative at Milton Surgery (page 3)
- 13 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 4 April 2011(pages 3-8)
- 14 Clerk's/Chairman's report (page 9)
Tomkins Mead, Litter, Drainage, Golf course (meeting 6 May)
- 15 Planning - to receive the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 18 April 2011 (page9)
Appeal: (PC6/04-11) Mr Philip Jackson 21 The Sycamores – against refusal of permission for a side single story conservatory - **dismissed. Proposed conservatory would be harmful to the character and appearance of the area.**

Decisions received:
Dr Tom Matthams 66 Fen Road replacement of single storey detached garage (PC6/04-11) – **approved.**

New applications:
S/0570/11 Mr D Taylor 4 Coles Road – construction of dormer window
- 16 Staffing – to receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 April 2011 and to accept the recommendation therein (page 10)
- 17 Minibus – to receive the minutes of the minibus committee meeting held on 13 April 2011 (page 11)
- 18 Finance – to receive the minutes of the Finance & Administration meeting held on 28 April 2011 and to accept recommendations: (page 12)
to confirm responses on Annual Governance Statement
to approve accounts 2010/11 (attached yellow)
to appoint S Wilson, Canalbs Ltd as Independent Internal Auditor for 2011/12
- 19 Youth provision - to approve SLA with Cambridge North Locality (page 13)
- 20 Annual Parish Meeting – to receive the minutes of the APM held on 18 April (pages 14-19)
- 21 MCC update (page 19)
- 22 County Councillor's report
- 23 District Councillors' reports
- 24 Land Group update and request to rent paddock for horse grazing (attached)
- 25 Bills for Payment and Money Received (to be circulated)
- 26 Correspondence
- 27 Dates of Next Meetings – 6 June 7pm
- 28 Items and Reports for June agenda (to be received by Tuesday 31 May)
Lawrence Green – Emergency Plan
Christmas tree lights

Jim Daniels

Jim Daniels
Clerk



The full agenda papers are available on the website www.miltonvillage.org.uk
and at the Parish Council office

FULL AGENDA PAPERS – 09th MAY 2011

1-11 See page 1

12 To consider appointing a Patient Participation Group (PPG) representative at Milton Surgery

From the surgery:

“We are planning to set up a Patient Participation Group (PPG) at Milton Surgery.

PPGs are groups of patients, usually operating within GP surgeries and health centres, who take an active interest in their health care. Their priorities are developed and agreed locally in order to meet local needs and to reflect the interest and energies of the participants. Some groups also look beyond their surgery to decisions made within the NHS that directly affect their community.

With this in mind we wondered if the Parish Council would like to have a representative within the group.

We are in the process of setting up the group and would be grateful of your response.”

13 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 4 April 2011

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 04 April 2011 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) PS Badley JE Coston GA Covell R Day M Ellwood RJ Farrington
M Hersom SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May HM Smith RLE Waters
P Bone, representative cricket club, two members of the public, the clerk and assistant clerk
Cllr M Williamson

1 Apologies for absence - AJ Campbell TA Drummond.

2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

Personal:

HMS – Planning agenda 6 - a member of SCDC's planning committee.

JEC - Request from cricket club agenda 7 - husband a member of cricket club

RD and RLEW - Request from cricket club agenda 7 - both vice presidents of cricket club

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 07 March 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Public Participation – no member of the public wished to speak.

5 Clerk's/Chairman's report

Double yellow lines Cambridge Road Industrial Estate (PC5/07-10) – the lines were now in place.

Winship Road junction (PC12/12-10) – works to make improvements for pedestrians and cyclists at Winship Road had started.

SCDC Liaison meeting 29 March (PC5/02-11) – the Code of Conduct was discussed. The Localism Bill was expected to become law in 2012. “In its current form the bill includes the following:

- **Code of Conduct will be revoked**
- **Standards for England will be abolished**
- **Statutory requirement for district and county councils to have a standards committee will be removed.**

Parish Councils will be expected to adopt a voluntary code of conduct.

All councillors will be considered to have committed a criminal offence if they wilfully fail to register or withdraw for a personal interest or if they use their position improperly for personal gain.”

Questions from the Standards Committee Working Group:

- **does your parish council plan to adopt a voluntary code of conduct? Yes.**
- **if so, does your parish council plan to adopt a framework for dealing with allegations relating to your voluntary code? See next answer.**
- **if the District Council adopts a voluntary code and framework, would your parish council consider signing up to it? Yes in principle. If so, what would do you think would be an appropriate annual fee? * The more villages that signed up to this the lower should be the fee.**
- **does your parish council plan to appoint an independent monitoring officer or to ask the District Council's Monitoring Officer to continue to have responsibility for the registration of members' interests? Ask the District Council**

- do you want the District Council to continue to have responsibility for parish council guidance, advice and training in matters relating to member conduct? **Yes in principle. Much depended on the legislation, additional information and charges*.**

Andrew Stunnell MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government, responded to the Standards Committee's representations of January 2011 about the future of standards and the Localism Bill thus:

- **The Government expects that councils will decide to adopt a code of conduct in the absence of a legal requirement to do so; and**
- **Under the Localism Bill, district councils will no longer be responsible for dealing with complaints about the conduct of parish council members in their area**

Note that until the full terms of the Localism Bill were known councillors would still have to fill in the Register of Interests in 2011. "All councillors.....will have to register certain personal interests in a publicly available register; this could include anything that could reasonably be regarded as likely to influence or affect their actions, conduct when on business for the authority, or voting....."

Further detail on the nature and scope of the new requirements for declaring interests will be contained in subsequent Regulations."

The meeting also covered level of S106 monies that the parish could expect from new developments, travellers sites, the Local Development Framework and Neighbourhood Development Plans (to be part of Localism Bill) and consultation on the Draft Charter for South Cambridgeshire Councils. The Charter would give details of the type of service provision that SCDC and CCC could hand down to Parish Councils.

Parish Council (PC5/03-11) - noted that 14 nominations had been received for Council.

Golf Course (PC5/03-11) - confidential notes of meeting with officers of CCC held on 1 April were received and noted.

Tomkins Mead (PC7/03-11) - Tomkins Mead was made a nature reserve in the 1970's by the (now defunct) Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely Naturalist Trust. As the present status therefore was unclear the clerk had asked Philip Clark CCC to for information about designating/confirming Tomkins Mead a Local Nature Reserve.

In order for it to be made a nature reserve it must have educational and wildlife potential, must be owned by the Parish Council and be accessible to local residents.

Telephone box Coles Road (PC12/03-11) - email from BT received 10 March 2011:

"I will raise a job this evening to repair the Coles Road telephone kiosk. It's a costly repair involving a new power chamber surround and a new backboard so it will not happen overnight. I would be hopeful of the work being undertaken in the next 3 to 4 weeks once the necessary stores items have been ordered. There will be no cost to the Parish Council."

Derek Seaton - Commercial Field Officer for BT Payphones.

Thanks to RJF for pointing out that BT had an obligation to provide a telephone box.

Chesterton Fen (PC17/03-11) - from W Tipper Environment Agency: "Thank you for your e-mail, which I will take into account in determining the dispute [whether AWA have a duty to provide a sewage connection] regarding Chesterton Fen. I will also write to you directly to confirm the outcome of the dispute when we issue our determination. If you, or any of the members of the Parish Council, have any questions in the meantime do please contact me." District councillors' report below refers.

HCV Strategy - documents from the HCV strategy meeting on Wednesday 2nd March received and previously circulated by email. Council had no comments to make.

Library Service Review - consultation meeting scheduled for Monday 23rd May 2011 at Orchard Park Community Centre, from 7:30-9:30pm.

Notice of audit received - accounts to be sent to auditor by 6 June.

Timeline: F&A to review accounts 28 April, Council to approve 9 May.

Trolley Bus - there would be no increase in Dial-a-Ride's minimum hire charge of £48.

Posting notices - there had been a marked increase in the number posters and flyers throughout the village in recent weeks. Council's Policy was to allow no posters on the bus shelters. General feeling was that commercial notices should not be allowed.

Posters advertising village events after the date of the event should be removed.

Noted that Flyposting is defined as "the display of advertising material on buildings and street furniture without the consent of the owner" and it is illegal under the Town and Country Planning Act and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

The Clerk's Office would provide guidance in the Village View. **Action: Clerk's office**

Youth – new SLA – youth committee to discuss and to bring back to next meeting. **Action: Youth Working Group**

Quality Status (PC5/01-11) – the clerk reported that CPALC's re-accreditation panel had confirmed Council's renewal of Quality Status and that CPALC's representatives would attend the next Council meeting to present the certificate.

6 Planning

Appeal: (PC6/01-11) Mr Philip Jackson 21 The Sycamores – against refusal of permission for a side single story conservatory.

Decisions received:

S/2217/10 Mr Ben Moore – land to the rear of the Barn Chesterton Fen Road – erection of stable building and use of land for stabling of horses (PC6/02-11) - **approved. For the purposes of stabling of horses or for agriculture use. Hard and soft landscape works to be approved. Scheme for surface water drainage to be approved.**

S/0088/11 Milton Primary School Humphries Way – roof alterations (PC6/02-11) – **approved.**

S/2139/10 South Cambridgeshire District Council Blackwells Caravan Site Kings Hedges Road – additional caravan plot; extensions to day blocks including provision of air source heat pumps; erection of metal palisade on site boundaries (PC6/03-11) – **approved. Hard and soft landscape works to be approved. Palisade fencing to be dark green.**

S/01556/10/CW Long Acre Farm, Chesterton Fen Road (P6/03-11) – extension to waste transfer station including: rear stockyard and screening area; change of use of stables to office, toilet, rest room and store; plastic and cardboard storage area within existing building; tree planting at rear paddock – **approved by CCC development Control committee subject to 20 conditions: hours of operation, noise limits, white noise alarms on vehicle / mobile plant, surfacing of site, construction of stockpile bays, stockpile heights, limiting impact of skips, containers, surface and foul water drainage, ground contamination, fire, vehicle movements, sheeting of waste vehicles, vehicle parking, landscaping, fencing, cessation of waste operations and litter control.**

S/0246/10/F Mr L Saunders 27 & 28 Newfields – erection of utility/dayroom following demolition of side (east) wing (part retrospective) – **refused. Inappropriate development in the Green Belt.**

S/0202/11 Mrs Fiona Roberts 48 Fen Road – **approved. Conditions: "living" roof, hard and soft landscape works, external materials, vehicular access, times for operation of power machinery, scheme for contribution towards provision of public open space.**

New applications:

S/1472/10 Milton Parish Council - land to the east of the College of West Anglia - **approved.**

S/0400/11 Dr Tom Matthams 66 Fen Road replacement of single storey detached garage – **no recommendation.**

7 To consider grant to cricket club (PC8/03-11)

Phil Bone, cricket club representative, gave a review of the club's finances and the costs of staging the third team's "home" games away from Milton (usually at Fenstanton). The club had three senior teams playing on Saturday, one friendly team on Sunday and three colts teams midweek.

Age range of the third team was 15-65 years. This team bridged the gap between colts cricket and the first and second teams and was an essential part of the club. Approximately twenty of the adult teams progressed from the colts.

Income came from subscriptions, match fees, vice presidents and fund raising.

During the previous year resurfacing the nets had cost £2400. The nets were viewed by the cricket club as a community asset and were used by youngsters in the village.

AGREED to make a one-off payment of £500 towards the third team's costs of playing home games away. 6 votes in favour, 6 abstentions. (JEC, RD and RLEW each having declared an interest abstained).

P Bone thanked Council on behalf of the cricket club.

8 Community Care

a) **Minutes** - the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March (including a summary of Small Grants workshop held on 15 March) were received. IFM emphasised this sentence from minute 4/03-11: "The chairman reminded committee that as grant-aid funding was changing it was essential to monitor costs closely."

b) **Donation** - the clerk and assistant had spoken with the resident who was happy that the money should go towards the young people of the village. The resident gave another donation making a total of £1100 and had made her intentions clear in writing.

AGREED to accept the recommendation that Council set up a 'youth fund' and invite bids from youth groups (min CC3.2/03-11).

This fund would be advertised in the Village View and on the web. *Action: assistant clerk*

9 Maintenance - the minutes of the Maintenance Committee held on 28 March were received. Cemetery (M5/03-11) - seat had been installed. The family were very pleased. Most of the flowers from the recent traveller's funeral had been removed.

Manure (M6/03-11) - WDB had ordered the manure from the College of West Anglia.

Fitness equipment (M7/03-11) - the clerk and ME were meeting a representative from Sovereign (play company) on 7 April to discuss.

Play inspections (F&A10/01-11) - the City Services were no longer conducting inspections. The clerk and JEC would seek the services of another company. *Action: JEC and the clerk*

10 Donation to Archives County Council

Minutes from 1953-December 1999 had been deposited at the archives office (photocopies in Council safe).

AGREED to make a donation of £30 for safe storage of these documents.

JEC reported that she was scanning in the village photos that she had collected from Ireland (PC8/12-09) and hoped to lodge copies with the Cambridgeshire Collection.

It was felt that copies should be kept at the Council office. JEC would ask the family that owned the photos if they would agree to making copies available at the office.

11 Bus service changes - the notes of the public meeting held on 17 March were received.

The chairman apologised to RD for not informing him of the public meeting. (RD found out about the meeting after the event).

Two suggestions (not pursued):

1 ask Stagecoach the cost of extending say two citi2 buses each evening into Milton.

2 conduct a survey over the next two Friday/weekend evenings of numbers using the citi2 bus.

Other ideas:

Discuss with Glenn Edge, CCC how best to develop a service for those who want/need to use a bus in the evenings eg community transport.

JEC and MW agreed to work together to come forward with ideas at the next meeting.

Action: JEC and MW

12 Annual Parish Meeting - format.

The agenda for the meeting was agreed.

13 MCC update - no report.

14 County Councillor's report

Park & Ride lighting - an article was published in the Cambridge News 21 March. From Mr Ross-Bain: "The majority of the lights at Milton have Suntracker solar electronic time switches on the light columns. These should have been programmed to switch off after a certain time at night.

We cannot ascertain whether these were originally programmed or not. Therefore we have started to undertake this exercise ourselves. The lights around the main building will remain untouched due to security reasons..... Two out of every three of the other car park columns will be adjusted to come on when it gets dark as per now but to go off after 11.30 p.m. then back on at 5.45 a.m.(if it is dark)."

Mr Ross-Bain was looking at ways to save energy.

MW would ask Mr R-B for his timescales. *Action: MW*

A14 bridge - CCTV - the quality of the photos was poor (PC7/09-10). MW would investigate.

Action: MW

15 District Councillors' reports

"Chesterton Fen sewage connection appeal

I now have the costing details that Anglian Water have submitted. To connect the 'duty properties' to a mains connection to Milton Treatment Works would cost £2.03m while the alternative option of a new Package Treatment Plant operated by Anglian Water for the same properties would cost £2.325m. This is good news as the sewage main option is the only one that will deliver real environmental improvements in the area. However the information was a long time coming, and the decision is now not likely before May or June.

Rubbish on Chesterton Fen

There was an article in the Cambridge News about the massive rubbish collection by the Probation Service we talked about last month.

I am in contact with Cllr Ian Manning (County Councillor for Chesterton), who has a plan to get money from WREN to pay for a professional clearance of the ditches at Grassy Corner. He requires the EA to confirm that they do not have a duty to clean up the mess, and if they will give that assurance, WREN are prepared to fund it.

Traveller planning permissions

The 3-year permissions for Sandy Park and West View (which was formerly called 1,3,5 Sandy Park or 'Land R/O 2 Grange Park', and is the rental site owned by Nelson O'Connor), are all expiring at the end of April. I understand that the Travellers at Sandy Park have engaged an agent to put in a request for full planning permission there.

These sites are proposed as suitable in the draft Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document, which is still (many years later) in the process of being finalised. South Cambs has now agreed to recruit 2 more planning policy officers to progress the Development Plan documents that have been dormant for a while. The Cabinet is more worried about the many plots in Willingham and elsewhere that are not in suitable places, and which have 3-year temporary permissions. Without an adopted plan it is difficult to argue that the Travellers concerned have other places to move to.

Bus cuts

Last Friday I was phoned by Look East, who later came out and interviewed Anna Bradnam by a bus stop in the village - to be shown Monday 4th at around 6:30pm. This was concerning the story in the Cambridge News on Friday about the money spent on intelligent bus stops with real-time information, at a time when the bus services themselves are being cut.

Tesco

I am planning to visit the Tesco manager in the next few weeks. Are there any issues you would like me to take up?" Potholes in road.

16 Land Group

Savills have prepared a revised ProMap of the College of West Anglia (CWA) land on offer, which the parish has passed on to CWA. CWA are preparing an in-house detailed survey of land (at no cost to the parish). CWA was reminded that the parish will not pay any of the college's costs unless the deal goes through. IFM noted that, according to the Football Association (FA), moving electricity cables the length of a standard football pitch could cost as much as £100,000. RJF stated that the cables over the CWA land were live and carry 11,000 volts. RTS assured council that issues such as suitability of the land for football pitches would be addressed before any purchase of the land.

17 Bills for Payment and Money Received

CONFIRMED Payment of cheques 100434 - 100441

AGREED Payment of cheques 100442 - 100453

Noted that the Jean Gallagher Trust had granted the trolley bus scheme £700. Thanks to be sent to the clerk to the Trustees. **Action: the clerk**

18 Correspondence

CCC - Guided Busway update

NHS - Keeping in Touch (newsletter)

19 Dates of Next Meetings

Minibus 13 April; APM 18 April (& Planning if necessary);

F&A Thursday 28 April 7pm;

Annual Parish Council 9 May.

20 Items and Reports for May agenda (to be received by Tuesday 3rd May)

The chairman reflected that the present Council had now come to the end of its four year term. He paid tribute to and thanked those councillors who were not standing for re-election, Phil Badley (2005), Roger Day (1979), Barry Jefferson (2000) and Bob Waters (1993) for their contribution over the years.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

BILLS & RECEIPTS MARCH - APRIL 2011 Min PC17/04-11

01/04/2011	Interest		229.26
11/03/2011	Community Care Fees	C Care fees	260.00
16/03/2011	Community Care Fees	C Care fees	416.00
18/03/2011	Community Care Fees	C Care fee	52.00
23/03/2011	Community Care Fees	C Care fee	52.00
24/03/2011	Community Care Fees	C Care fees	104.00
28/03/2011	Community Care Fees	C Care fee	52.00
11/03/2011	Cambridge Funeral Services	Cemetery fees	400.00
11/03/2011	Grantchester Construction	Valuation 5	-19586.14
11/03/2011	Cambridge City Council	MCC play repairs	-1552.18
11/03/2011	Receipts	Allotment/bank charge receipt	26.00
16/03/2011	Eclipse Internet	Broadband March	-17.94
17/03/2011	P Capitain	Installing cemetery seat	-36.00
17/03/2011	Ridgeons	Concrete for cemetery seat	-44.35
18/03/2011	Receipts	Cemetery seat	692.96
22/03/2011	Command Pest Control Ltd	Cemetery quarterly inspection	-72.00
31/03/2011	Cemetery Fees	Headstones	180.00
04/04/2011	Buchans Landscapes	Contract month 12	-2316.90
		MCC - Barnabas Court	-360.00
04/04/2011	Prime Plumbing	MCC - meters	-1956.00
04/04/2011	J Daniels	Stamps	-74.20
04/04/2011	Cambs County Council	Donation - archives	-30.00
04/04/2011	Hug Solutions Ltd	Web 2011/12	-140.00
04/04/2011	SCDC	Rates 2001/12	-330.15
04/04/2011	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	-1437.40
		NI	-808.86
04/04/2011	Minibus A/C	VAT transfer 2010/11	-325.88
04/04/2011	Suffolk ACRE	2011 premium	-988.83
04/04/2011	Milton Charities	Trolley bus grant 2011/12	700.00
04/04/2011	Community Care Fees	1client	52.00
04/04/2011	Milton Cricket Club	Grant 2011/12	-500.00
08/03/2011	Interest	Interest	1.28
08/03/2011	CF Nunn	Cleaning minibus	-10.00
08/03/2011	Receipts	Hire fees	32.00
08/03/2011	Receipts	Hire fees	8.00
15/03/2011	FuelGenie	Minibus fuel	-84.21
23/03/2011	Receipts	Hire fees	740.05
25/03/2011	Receipts	Hire fees	32.00
30/03/2011	B Abbott (Moto)	Fuel	-83.27
31/03/2011	Minibus A/C	VAT transfer 2010/11	325.88
04/04/2011	Salaries		-2858.25

	TOTAL 08/03/11 - 04/04/11		-29,257.13
	TOTAL INFLOWS		4,355.43
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS		-33,612.56

	NET TOTAL		-29,257.13

14 Clerk's/Chairman's report

Tomkins Mead – the clerk's office is investigating with Natural England, County Council and Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust about designating as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) [or even a site of scientific interest] (SSI) either Tomkins Mead alone or together with the Country Park. Should we continue? Views please.

Litter – a resident witnessed litter being discarded from a car at The Sycamores recreation ground. I have passed the details to the Enforcement Officer.

The Enforcement Officer is taking action against the resident of Woodman Way who has not removed litter from the front of his residence (this person has been prosecuted before).

Drainage – phone call Pat Matthews SCDC: flooding on CWA land caused by badger scratchings – have been dug out – now all right. No 2 award drain alongside allotments does flow “both” ways. Pat has partly cleared drain and will finish in the Autumn as hedges/trees will be disturbed and it is now bird nesting season. He cannot find evidence that the culvert has been piped. CWA are happy to keep the ditch clear.

Golf course - meeting 6 May.

15 Planning – to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 April 2011

Minutes of the Planning Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 18 April 2011 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RJ Farrington (chair) GA Covell R Day HM Smith RT Summerfield RLE Waters
IF May
The clerk and assistant clerk

1 Apologies for absence – B Jefferson.

2 Declarations of Interest – HM Smith personal – a member of SCDC Planning Committee.

3 Minutes – the minutes of the planning meeting held on 13 December 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Decisions received

None

5 New applications

S/0627/11 Mr Nelson O'Connor Unit 1 Sandy Park Chesterton Fen Road – retention of existing wood-fired boiler enclosure. Permission was granted in 2010 (PC7/06-10). No recommendation. Committee felt that this application should be considered by SCDC Officers together with the application for the whole site.

S/0734/11 Napp Pharmaceutical Ltd Cambridge Science Park – Extension & alterations to building 191 to provide new ancillary restaurant, plant room with new landscaped area, outdoor terrace and CCTV pole camera - no recommendation.

S/0735/11 Napp Pharmaceutical Ltd Cambridge Science Park – Erection of temporary restaurant/ catering facility building and office reception building for a period of up to three years - no recommendation.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.

Appeal: (PC6/04-11) Mr Philip Jackson 21 The Sycamores – against refusal of permission for a side single story conservatory - **dismissed. Proposed conservatory would be harmful to the character and appearance of the area.**

Decisions received:

Dr Tom Matthams 66 Fen Road replacement of single storey detached garage (PC6/04-11) – **approved.**

New application:

S/0570/11 Mr D Taylor 4 Coles Road – construction of dormer window

16 Staffing – to receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 April 2011 and to accept the recommendation that Council accept the following Policy:

“Staff to accept only small tokens of appreciation such as flowers or chocolates to be recorded in a gift book. Small monetary gifts from any one client must not exceed more than £10 in a year also to be logged in the gift book.

If any conflict of interest is highlighted, this is noted on a risk register.”

Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on 11 April 2011 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RLE Waters (chair) AJ Campbell TA Drummond RT Summerfield
IF May
The Clerk

1 Apologies for absence – none.

2 Minutes – the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

Salaries (S4/01-11) – noted that the clerk and assistant received an automatic incremental increase while the other members of staff were on fixed Spinal Column Points. (Min F&A13/01-11 also refers).

3 Policy on accepting gifts and ‘conflict of interest’ (CC4/03-11) – from Age UK:

“We allow staff to accept only small tokens of appreciation such as flowers or chocolates. These must be recorded in our gift book. Small monetary gifts from any one client must not exceed more than £10 in a year. Again, this would need logging in our gift book.

If any conflict of interest is highlighted, this is noted on a risk register.”

AGREED to recommend that Council accept this as a Policy. To be kept under review.

4 Procedure for recruiting the clerk’s successor (S3/01-11)

- Job description and person specification to be drawn up. **Action: the clerk** To include qualifications desirable or willingness to be trained.
- Full or part-time clerk? Better with 2 part timers (as one could cover during the absence of the other).
- Discussion whether to advertise 20 hours per week for the clerk and 15 per week for the assistant or 25/10 hours per week. 20/15 seemed to be the preferred split.
- Council should consider using a company to prepare the payroll and accounts.
- Timescale – new clerk to start 1st April 2012. Staffing meetings in July and September. Council to discuss in October. Post to be advertised in November. Closing date 15 December. Interview to be held in January. The clerk to send letters to unsuccessful candidates – including those who do not reach the interview stage.
- Employment solicitor to be consulted at the appropriate time.

5 Staff appraisals (S4/01-11)

AGREED [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item by reason of the confidential nature of the business at 8.20pm.

The meeting re-opened at 8.35pm

6 Any other business – none.

7 Date of next meeting – Wednesday 6 July 10.00am

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

17 Minibus – to receive the minutes of the minibus committee meeting held on 13 April 2011

Minutes of the Community Minibus Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 13 April 2011 at 7.30pm in the Council office

Present: RJ Farrington (chair) R Pain G Sheen RT Summerfield The clerk

1 Apologies for absence - CF Nunn.

2 Declarations of Interest

R Farrington R Pain - Scouts; G Sheen - Day Centre.

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 03 November 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Review of tariffs for 2011/12 (CM5/11-10)

RP gave a breakdown of costs 2010/11.

Average fuel price (Tesco): up 14.75% since April 2010

Breakdown of all costs per mile including all costs (fuel, servicing, insurance etc):

c 36-38 pence per mile

Service £452.

Insurance cost not yet known.

Using April 2010 as a base RP suggested that to “stand still” committee increase the charge by 2 pence per mile.

AGREED to increase charge by 3 pence per mile for all users for new bookings.

(Min PC10/11-08 gives committee permission to make this decision).

Committee discussed whether the minimum charge should be increased.

AGREED to leave it at £8 and all other charges to remain the same.

To be reviewed in six months.

Thanks to RP for providing the background on this item.

5 Replacement of vehicle (CM6/11-10)

RP had researched different types of vehicle both new and second hand and grant funding.

Grants - very few available.

Lottery - Awards for All (AFA) maximum of £10,000 was a possibility. (AFA Grants would be for new vehicles).

Committee discussed merits of different vehicles - eg 15 seater or a 17 seater.

AGREED to ask Council to approve an application for an Awards for All grant.

RP to put application together to submit to next Council meeting - 9 May.

Action: RP

Thanks again to RP for his efforts in preparation for this item.

It was suggested that a brief meeting could be held to finalise the application within the timescale above.

6 AOB - driver updates still to be done (CM4/04-11). Although this was not law it was considered “good practice”. Action RJJ and the clerk

7 Date of next meeting - to be agreed before next Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

From the treasurer:

“The tariff has not been increased since 27th July 2008.

As you will all be very aware, the fuel price has increased significantly since that time.

The tariff will be increased for all **booking received** after 13th April 2011. Existing agreed bookings will be honoured at the old rate.

For **bookings** accepted on or after Wednesday 13th April 2011

First 50 miles Thereafter

Milton Youth Groups 65p per mile 60p per mile Minimum charge - see below

All Other Groups 75p per mile 65p per mile Minimum charge - see below

All other charges remain unchanged.”

18 Finance – to receive the minutes of the Finance & Administration meeting held on 28 April 2011 and to accept recommendations:

to confirm responses on Annual Governance Statement

to approve accounts 2010/11 (attached yellow)

to appoint S Wilson, Canalbs Ltd as Independent Internal Auditor for 2011/12

Minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting held on Thursday 28 April 2011 at 7.00pm in the Parish Council Office

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) GA Covell SC Humphreys HM Smith RLE Waters
The clerk

- 1 Apologies for absence – AJ Campbell JE Coston.**
- 2 Declarations of interest - none.**
- 3 Minutes – the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2011 were approved and signed a true record.**
- 4 Matters Arising**
 - Insurances (F&A7/01-11) – see footnote to January minutes.
 - Indemnity from MCC (F&A9/01-11) - undertaking received.
 - Play inspections(F&A10/01-11) - A Gray and the clerk were investigating other companies to provide the service.
- 5 Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements**
 - The bank statements were reconciled as at 31 March 2011.
- 6 Review of Debtors and creditors at year end –**
 - Reviewed and noted.
 - One creditor dated 31/03/04 was written off at year end.
- 7 Minibus Accounts 2010/11**
 - Reviewed and noted.
- 8 Notice of Audit**
 - Internal 24 May 2011
 - External 1 June 2011
- 9 Review of Budget and Year End Actuals**
 - Quite a few underspends:
 - Administration – by £2500
 - Capital scheme meeting room – half paid by MCC
 - Office in credit - rates rebate 2007-11
 - Play by £2800. Play equipment at Hawthorn Hedge and fitness equipment to be considered.
 - Youth club by £3880 – one youth club evening was closed after the summer term although Council was prepared to pay for the year.
 - MCC grant – balance rolled over
- 10 Recommendation that Council approve Accounts 2010/11**
 - The chairman took committee through the accounts: Annual Return; Significant Variations; Balance Sheet; Reserves. Noted that the General Reserves now stood at £43,950 an increase from £20,879.
 - Committee answered “yes” to questions 1-8 in the Annual Governance Statement.
 - AGREED to recommend that Council approve accounts for 2010/11**
- 11 Recommendation that Council appoint S Wilson, Canalbs Ltd as Independent Internal Auditor 2011/12**
 - AGREED to recommend that Council appoint S Wilson, Canalbs Ltd as Independent Internal Auditor 2011/12**
- 12 Date of next meeting – 18 July 2011.**

The chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

19 To approve SLA with Cambridgeshire County Council North City Locality Team for Youth Work in Milton (PC5/04-11)

DRAFT2 – DRAFT2 – DRAFT2
Service Level Agreement
for Youth Work in Milton
Between Milton Parish Council and

Cambridgeshire County Council North City Locality Team
April 2011- March 2012

The Parish Council will:

1. Provide £5,717 for the equivalent of one evening of Youth work provision for 39 weeks of the year (funding to include planning sessions at the start of each term and staff meetings as the need arises).
2. This funding to be provided termly on receipt of invoice (i.e. in three payments). £150 of this to be made available as petty cash should it be required.
3. Consider bids for funding additional projects, holiday provision and specific equipment as needed.
4. Provide financial support to Milton Community Centre (MCC) in order to enable the youth work session to run free of charge. MCC will have responsibility for Health and Safety of the building including any issues relating to insurance of the building. Milton P C insures the contents.
5. Nominate a representative to act as a key link between the Parish Council and the Locality. The representative will be the first point of contact for any issues relating to this agreement.
6. Help to liaise with the local community in order to raise awareness and advertise youth provision.

The Locality will:

1. Provide appropriate levels of staffing to run each session.
2. Ensure all administration is carried out to meet legal requirements around Health and Safety and Child Protection, as well as Youth Work quality development standards. This will include ensuring that all youth work staff and volunteers delivering this service have had Enhanced Disclosure Checks.
3. Provide supervision and support to all youth work staff and volunteers ensuring they are appropriately skilled and can access the training they need provided by the County Council.
4. Ensure that the youth work meets appropriate quality standards and any aims and objectives agreed between the Youth Working Group, Milton Action for Youth and other partners.
5. Develop a needs based programme to be delivered throughout the year.
6. Encourage the young people to recognise the outcomes they are achieving or working towards through attending the youth club/project.
7. Invoice the Parish Council on a termly basis
8. Advise Milton Community Centre of any loss or damage to the building or its contents.
9. Make arrangements for staff sickness and organise cover where possible.
10. Inform the Parish Council representative if for any reason it is decided to close for the night or remove any provision.
11. Provide termly written reports
12. Work closely with Parish Council representatives and Milton Action for Youth to develop youth work in the area, making best use of available resources and build on community capacity to both support and deliver local provision.

20 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 18 April 2011 at 8.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) 7 members of the public and the following Parish Councillors: GA Covell JE Coston R Day RJ Farrington SC Humphreys IF May HM Smith RLE Waters including the newly elected Michael Perkins
County Councillor M Williamson, the clerk and assistant clerk

- 1 Introduction by Chairman** - the chairman extended a warm welcome to the meeting.
Apologies for absence - TA Drummond M Ellwood M Hersom.
- 2 Introduction of Parish Councillors** - the Parish councillors introduced themselves.
Roger Day (1979) and Bob Waters (1993), both retiring councillors told the meeting how much they had enjoyed their time on the council.
Roger especially thanked those members of the community who had worked with him on the following projects over 32 years: Tomkins Mead, Milton Community Centre, sports facilities, tree planting and more recently tree maintenance. He also thanked the clerk's office.
The chairman thanked both for their valuable contribution and said that they would be sorely missed. He also warmly welcomed Michael Perkins, Council's first ever representative from Chesterton Fen.
- 3 Minutes** - the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 4 Chairman's Annual Report** - attached to the minutes.
The chairman included the following additional points:
Committees - The chairman highlighted the work done by the various committees and thanked them and their chairmen.
Telephone box - BT had hoped that the Council would adopt the telephone box but after R Farrington pointed out the BT had an obligation to provide a service the box was repaired.
Cycle route Milton to Impington - the completion of this route was the responsibility of the company developing the Mereway Farm site.
Retirement village - because of the economic climate URV intended to withdraw its application and apply for general housing.
Village View - Tim Hall was in overall charge and was concentrating on the website. Mary-Ann Johnson was the editor.

Draft accounts 2010/11 - general fund decreased as Council had paid £70,000 towards MCC improvements.

- 5 Charities' report**
A total of £2825 was received in rent from tenants who farm on land owned by the Charity.
The Charity administers 13 Lifeline Alarms for Milton residents and the holders of these alarms provided a total of £465 towards the cost of this facility.
Donations for the year were as follows:
 - Community Care Scheme administered by the Parish Council - £2000 (2009) and £2000 (2010)
 - Replacement seat at the Cemetery - £350
Milton Parochial Charities is associated to The Jean Gallagher Trust, who provided the following donations:
 - Over 60's £200
 - Senior Citizens £500
 - Day Centre £700
 - Trolley Bus £600A summary of the accounts was received.

- 6 Milton Action for Youth report**
"Milton Action for Youth is a charitable organisation (not currently a charity), set up in March 2009 by a group from the Milton Youth and others, to be independent of the Parish Council. It supports additional provision of youth work in the parish, working with the County Council officers and youth team.
In 2009-10 we received a grant from Awards for All of up to £9011 to support an extra session of youth work each week, specially for a girls club and some targeted courses to encourage teenage girls to attend. In the event the youth work team could not spend all this money on the objectives within the timescale required, and some was returned to Awards for All as you can see below.
Milton Action for Youth has had 4 meetings through the year and has pursued the idea of joint working with the churches (All Saints', Cambridge Calvary Chapel and Cambridge Methodist Church) in the village to find people and funding to support work with young people in the village more generally from this Summer. Jim Davis from the Children's Society led a Good Childhood Conversation at the youth centre, focusing on teenagers, and there have been some positive ideas from that."
A summary of the accounts was received.

- 7 Milton Community Centre (MCC) Manager's report**
"Refurbishment
After many years of planning, the refurbishment finally started in August 2010 and the builders were on site for a total 6 months. The Community Centre was able to function as normal during this time, with minimal disruption to our users and although the work took longer than expected, the end result has been worth the wait, with only positive comments being received from the many people who use the facilities. Thanks must go to the 4 organisations that contributed towards the funding of the refurbishment - Milton Parish Council, WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental), Donarbon and SCDC.

Bookings

These continue very much as in previous years, with the main building being used most of the time during the day and every week day evening. Saturday night bookings continue to be fairly quiet, although it is hoped that these will increase as word spreads about our enhanced facilities.

The Annexe continues to be fully occupied by either Cygnets Pre-School or Kids R Us, Monday to Friday, 7.00am to 6.00pm, with additional groups using the facilities in the evenings and Saturday mornings. Children's birthday parties are held on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, on average 2 or 3 times a month.

The Youth Building hosts the Youth Club on Tuesday evenings and Young Carers use the facilities on Saturday mornings.

Maintenance and Improvements

The following work has been carried out during the last year:

- Annexe kitchen refitted
- Annexe doors and windows outside, re-coated in sadolin
- Pot holes at Sycamores Car Park filled in and the surface levelled with new planning's
- Bowls Club electrics updated and meter relocated

Now that the refurbishment is complete, our attention can be focused on other projects that require some care and attention.

Staff

Besides myself, there are 4 staff members - Linda and Gina who clean and lock up at the Community Centre and Annexe, Ray who keeps Coles Road rec and the Sycamores rec clear of litter and Kevin, who looks after the Youth Building."

RJF commented that users were pleased with the better facilities.

8 County Councillor's report

"County Council Budget

There are to be very substantial cuts in the County Council budget from April 2011 onwards, and some of them have already started to bite. For example, the reduction in funding for youth services and the total removal of bus subsidies have been discussed at length, the latter at a well attended open meeting at which both Andy Campbell of Stagecoach and Glenn Edge of the County Council spoke.

Nevertheless, there are many other issues which are bound to become more obvious as time goes on, and we wait to see how, for example, the substantial cuts to funding for adult social care will affect the services delivered to the more vulnerable members of our communities.

New County Council Leader

The ruling Conservative group on the Council have elected Nick Clarke as the new leader of their group and hence new leader of the Council.

I know Nick quite well, having worked with him on a couple of scrutiny reviews, and he is certainly not afraid of asking incisive questions about how the Council does things. He is the member for the division just across the Cam from Milton that includes Horningsea and Fen Ditton. In terms of policy he is a bit of an unknown quantity.

Maybe a clue comes from his former Chairmanship of the local Federation of Small Businesses. He certainly looks at many Council issues from a business perspective and this causes some of the officers concern! It will be interesting how he turns out.

Incidentally, the 196 bus service goes through Horningsea and they will be completely cut off when the subsidies go; I wonder if that will colour his view of the removal of bus subsidies!

Milton-Impington Cycleway

You will know that some of this has now been built, although the remaining section is to be built by the developers of the new industrial units; when this will happen is not known, although they do have a planning obligation to build it.

We have been assured that because of certain details of the cycleway, its construction will not lead to the loss of free school transport from Milton to Impington Village College. This will certainly be the case as long as it is incomplete. In the mean time it seems to be quite well used and certainly provides a much safer route for both cyclists and pedestrians along this fast road.

Milton Park and Ride lighting

I received a justifiable complaint from a member of the Parish Council that it was inappropriate in these days of austerity for the lights to continue to blaze all night. I received a number of somewhat unsatisfactory responses from the County Council, but once I got the issue into the Cambridge Evening News, the Council seem to jump into action! If anyone is out and about in the early hours please let me know if you notice any difference; I am assured that the lights will be dimmed during this time.

Other issues

As local member for Milton (with Waterbeach and Landbeach) I get involved in many issues that affect our community. I work closely with both of your District Councillors and with your Parish Council, and I am always ready to look into individual issues raised by Milton residents. Please contact me if you need my help."

Noted that the Park & Ride lighting was still on throughout the night.

Waterbeach Parish Council had been assured that the barracks was not scheduled for development "for the time being". Any development at this site would have an enormous impact on traffic throughout the local area.

9 District Councillors' reports (attached to minutes)

Noted that the recent citiz bus survey showed approximately 150 bus users on a Friday evening. HMS concluded her report by thanking all for their support.

10 Question and Answer Session

Blue bins – the scheme makes some money from selling the recycled materials. The plastic and cans recycling covers some of its costs. Clean paper is getting a very good price. Income goes into a general fund. A cardboard recycling scheme for businesses and schools was now being discussed.

Country Park – M Woolhouse was pleased with the quality and content of the environment and the opportunities afforded to members of the public. He was confident that the Country Park would continue to be in existence for the next 5 years and 10 years after that.

Bus service – could another company take over a route from Stagecoach? One problem – the tickets eg mega rider could not be used 'across the board'.

Guided Bus – the dispute would probably end up in court.

Rowing Lake – M Woolhouse explained that SCDC were drafting the S106 Agreement which when signed would allow the planning process to start. The S106 obligated developers, in this case the Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust, to provide improvements to the infrastructure eg traffic lights at the Slap-Up junction, and a cycle lane from that junction into Waterbeach. MW expected work to start within a year of the legal and planning issues being resolved.

Country Park – M Woolhouse was pleased with the quality and content of the environment and the opportunities afforded to members of the public. He was confident that the Country Park would continue to be in existence for a few years at least.

The chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

A WORD OF THANKS

First of all, I would like to thank our parish councillors for all the time and effort they devote to their duties. I would like to remind you that they do this on a completely voluntary basis. I believe every councillor is concerned for the well-being of the parish and has the best interests of the village at heart. Four of our longest standing councillors will be stepping down this year: Phil Badley, Roger Day, Barry Jefferson and Bob Waters. (Bob and Roger are pictured here with me clearing a ditch in the village.) Together, these four councillors represent a staggering 67 years of service to Milton. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedicated service on behalf of the village. I am happy to report that other volunteers have stepped forward to join the council, and I look forward to working with them in the coming year. I would also like to thank previous chairman Rob Chapman, who was a parish councillor for over seven years and chairman for 18 months. Thanks as well to the Charities and the Community Centre Management Committee and staff for all their support during the year, and to our local bobby PC Phil Shulver and Community Support Officer PCSO John Mason. Finally, I would like to thank Jane Coston for all her work on the Village View magazine over the last nearly twenty years. Jane has stepped down as editor and Tim Hall, a village resident with 23 years of publishing experience, has taken over the reins of the village magazine and set up a terrific new website (www.mvv.org.uk) with up-to-date news and information about Milton. I encourage you all to visit it.

RENEWAL OF QUALITY STATUS

I am happy to report that Milton Parish Council has been re-accredited as a Quality Parish Council. To be recognised as quality the parish council had to pass tests to show it went above and beyond the service offered by a standard parish council. The standard of the council's annual reports, communication with the public, accounts and ethical framework were among the categories assessed.

ANNUAL PRECEPT

We have set our parish precept this year at £125,000. The actual increase for a Band D house is £2 per year (from £70 to £72), an increase of 2.85%. In the current economic climate, we believe this represents great value for money as Milton is an extremely active parish and provides a number of vital services for village residents.

MILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (MCC)

Refurbishment of the Community Centre is now complete and I think you will agree that it is a much needed improvement to the site. Many thanks to all who had a hand in the successful refurbishment, including Chairman Rob Farrington, Committee Member Colin Nunn and Manager Andy Gray. Why not make the most of this valuable resource which is right on our front doorstep by taking a class, joining a club or deciding to work off some extra pounds with the many sports activities available. You can also hire out the hall for special events. Remember, it is YOUR Community Centre, so why not use it? You can call Andy on 862763 or view a timetable of activities on the parish council website (www.miltonvillage.org.uk).

COMMUNITY CARE

Our Community Care scheme remains very active. This year, we received grants from Milton Charities as well as South Cambs District and Cambridgeshire County Councils. The scheme provides vital services for Milton residents. Our clerk, Jim Daniels, is very proud of this scheme and believes it is one of the largest in South Cambridgeshire. Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon and her assistant Linda Harding are doing excellent work and I commend them on their service and dedication.

We have registered the scheme with Localgiving.com, which enables philanthropic giving to local charities and community groups in the UK. You can read more about the scheme and make a donation if you wish to at: www.LocalGiving.com/MiltonCommunityCareScheme

YOUTH

The parish council continues to provide financial support to the youth club. Milton Action for Youth, a charitable organisation which was set up in March 2009, supports additional provision of youth work in the parish, working with the County Council officers and youth team. It helps oversee the youth work in the village and activities which are held in the Milton Youth Centre adjacent to The Sycamores Recreation ground. Thanks to all for their valuable work with the youth of the village.

RECREATION LAND

Your parish council has been very active pursuing our longer term goal of securing additional recreation land for the village. We continue negotiations to purchase College of West Anglia land adjacent to Ely Road opposite the college campus. As Milton's sports clubs are very active and are expanding all the time, the acquisition of more recreation land is a high priority. It is important to keep in mind that all land deals involve quite sensitive negotiations and the end results are often unpredictable, particularly considering the current economic climate.

PARISH CLERK'S OFFICE & WELCOME PACKS

I would like to thank our parish clerk, Jim Daniels, and his assistant, David Geasor, for all their hard work throughout the year. Thanks as well to our village cleaner, Philip Adams. As a reminder, the Clerk's Office has produced Welcome Packs for new residents, so if you know of anyone who has moved into the village recently please send them along to the Parish Office to pick one up. I also recommend that residents visit our parish council website (www.miltonvillage.org.uk) for more information about the village, including a virtual parish notice board with up-to-date local events.

BUS CUTS

The recently proposed changes to both the Citiz and No 9 bus services are of major concern for the village. Your parish council hosted a public meeting where residents expressed their views to both Stagecoach and Cambridgeshire County Council officials. As a result of the meeting, Stagecoach has agreed to run one late night bus service, but cuts to the other evening and Sunday services will still have a large impact on many village residents. A petition organised by District Councillor Hazel Smith has been signed by 320 people. It is clear from your reaction that residents care greatly about this issue and we will continue to emphasise the need for our buses.

OTHER ISSUES

I am happy to report that the improvements have been completed on the Winship Road/Cambridge Road junction (pictured here), a project which your parish council successfully lobbied for after it had been cancelled by the County Council. Following representations by your parish council, Milton Country Park and local business owners, double yellow lines have been installed on the Crane Industrial Estate. Work has also started on the Milton to Impington cycle route. I would like to remind you that the Environmental Group, led by Hazel Smith, organises numerous litter picks throughout the year. They are usually held on a Sunday and are advertised on the parish notice boards. I encourage all residents to lend a hand to help keep our village looking its best. Hazel also continues to dialogue with the Tesco store manager to deal with litter and other issues that come up throughout the year.

CONCLUSION

Finally, I would like to say something about the current economic climate. Due to the financial challenges facing local government, we are experiencing an ever-expanding work-load in the parish office due to increased requests from both district and county councils. I believe this is a trend which will continue in the future. However, on the bright side, these challenging times have also sparked at least one positive response: a local resident from Butt Lane has donated a sum of money to be used for the benefit of the youth in the village. In coming weeks we will advertise for youth-related clubs in the village to submit bids for a share of this generous gift. I believe this shows the true spirit of Milton at its best.

Richard Summerfield, Chairman Milton Parish Council

District Councillors Report – April 2011 – Hazel Smith

Environmental Health

This year I have been shadowing the Environmental Health portfolio, which has continued to be interesting.

The introduction of the new blue bins for recycling went well in October and residents are now recycling more than before, with more people participating. Most areas of South Cambs have blue bins – it is reported as 100% but Traveller areas like Chesterton Fen (in our patch just south of the A14) are left out. We are promised that they will be encouraged to recycle through some small bring banks being set up on Chesterton Fen Road in the next few months.

The next step is to remove the recycling bring banks for those materials like glass, cans and tetrapaks, that are now collected at the kerbside. In their place at the Tesco Recycling Centre we are expecting to have a 'media' recycling bank for CDs, DVDs old videos, tapes and books. These South Cambs bring banks will also be taken away from the Milton Country Park car park.

There are problems with shredded paper littering the streets after blue bins are collected, and people are now told to put the shreds into an old envelope to stop them blowing about in the wind.

The work to clean up the Hauxton agrochemical works site seems to be going well, with much less odour over the winter months. They expect to complete the clean-up in the autumn this year, and the whole site will be monitored for 6 months before being assessed to judge if it is fit for developing as a housing area.

Gypsy and Traveller planning

Chesterton Fen is the largest area of Traveller plots in South Cambs. Most pitches have full planning permission, and there are just 2 areas with 3-year temporary planning permission at Sandy Park and West View. These comprise around 28 and 17 individual pitches respectively. Their planning permissions both come to an end at the end of April 2011. They are both on the list of sites suggested for Travellers to live in in the South Cambs Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document which has been through 2 rounds of consultations but has now been stalled for about 18 months.

The lack of a completed Plan Document does leave the Council area vulnerable to unauthorised encampments, as the Council needs to show that it has a strategy to provide enough legal plots for local Traveller families when it turns down planning applications for more. The Council has just agreed to 2 new temporary planning staff to get this document under way again.

Other work on Chesterton Fen

There are quite a few different council departments doing targeted work on Chesterton Fen, many of them parts of the City Council or County, and we have started having a liaison meeting to keep everyone informed. We now have a new Parish Councillor who lives there.

4 years ago, I organised a petition to Anglian Water for a mains sewage connection to the Travellers area of Chesterton Fen Road, as outflows have caused lots of environmental problems down there beside the River Cam. In January 2010 the request was turned down and I submitted an appeal to the Environment Agency. The appeal for a sewage connection to Fen Road, Chesterton is due to be decided in late April or early May. Even if the decision is favourable the work will still not be done until at least 2015. In the meantime, the environmental problems continue: the ditch at Grassy Corner is extremely smelly, and neither the District Council nor the Environment Agency has found an answer to this. There was a meeting at Cambourne this morning with all the interested parties. [late news?]

The litter problem from fly-tipping at the transformer site near the A14 has been improved recently. About a dozen young people serving community service sentences worked there for a week, and cleared up a lot of the mess right along the road.

Back to the village of Milton:

Planning

The Section 106 legal agreement that needs to be agreed and signed before the Rowing Lake planning permission can be issued, is awaiting attention at the SCDC legal dept, but should soon be agreed.

There have been 2 applications to build a house between the first semi-detached house, and the flats (Lea Court) near the Post Office in Coles Road. I opposed both of these and they have been turned down by South Cambs and also by an inspector at appeal.

The other application of note is the Retirement Village behind Milton Hall. This site has permission for 101 houses (including North Lodge) but we now expect an application for general needs housing on the site, which we expect to include 40% or 32 affordable houses. The existing permission also includes recreation land to be used by village clubs, or a cash alternative to put towards sports pitches elsewhere.

The concrete batching plant at Cambridge Road beside the cycle bridge is causing a nuisance: planning conditions are being breached and planning enforcement officers are in contact with the operators of the site.

North Lodge

This listed building beside Milton Hall was to be brought back from near-dereliction as part of the retirement village plans. After an order from the SCDC conservation department, some necessary repairs have been carried out to stop it deteriorating more.

Milton Country Park

The Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust is running the park on a long lease from South Cambs, and now that the Visitor Centre has plenty of space for Café Diem and some offices, it is beginning to stand on its own feet financially. I was pleased to be able to take a part in opening the 'My Big Fat Gypsy Festival' at the Park last year. There were some misgivings about this becoming an annual event as it could easily grow too big for the limited space available on the Park, especially if lots of Travellers incorporated it into their journey home from the Appleby horse fair the previous weekend, as some did last year. It may be staged again as an occasional event at the Park, but not this year. The programme for summer events in the Park is now available.

SCDC budget

The budget-setting meeting at Cambourne was nothing like the ones at the City Council and County Council, both of which were the subject of large and vociferous protests at the cuts being introduced. We had just 2 people in the public gallery. South Cambs had to cut so much 7 years ago when we were first capped by the government, that there is little left to cut into. The council is good at holding back on recruitment when cuts need to be made, but of course this leads to officers covering for absent colleagues, and poorer service in some departments. The planning service has really suffered in the last year. There are far fewer and smaller grants available for village needs now, and the Community department has ceased to exist, rolled into the New Communities department, which spends developer contributions from major housing developments on community infrastructure. The specialist Climate Change officer has had to take on general duties in New Communities, and his part-time assistant left at Christmas and has only just now been replaced.

Environmental Group

This group was formed as part of the follow-up to the Milton Parish Plan. We organise litter picks and have done specific projects with the help of the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership, an initiative from the South Cambs Climate Change officers. We acquired 15 energy monitors, which have now been lent out to pupils through Milton School. The teacher in charge wrote, "The energy monitors have been very well received. The School Council have been returning permission slips from their parents and collecting them. Those who have set them up and are gathering information are very excited about what they are discovering."

Housing

You may have read that the Council has to give up over half of the rents from its Council Houses to central government. This is due to a notional 'Housing Debt' owed to the government for historic funding of council houses by councils who have retained ownership of their own Council Housing. At the moment, South Cambs is a debt free council but this 'notional debt' means that the Government is insisting that we take on £205.5m of this housing debt in April 2012 - South Cambs will take on the most debt per house of any council in the UK.

Currently the government takes over 55% - £11m - of council house rents each year. When we take on the debt we get to keep not only this rent but also 100% of the sale price of council houses (should anyone ever buy one again!) where currently the Government takes 75%. We also would use the rent that currently goes to the Government to fund the debt loan, over about 30 years. There is a big risk that interest rates might rise during that period, so a fixed rate would be preferred.

Bus cuts

My petition against the bus cuts now has over 334 signatures on it. When I presented it to the County Council cabinet in March, I argued there that the cut to the number 9 bus to Milton in the evening should be postponed at least for a year so that the impact of completely removing Milton's Citi 2 could be taken into account. The number 9 to Milton might not need a subsidy if it were the only bus in the evening. But the County Council were not prepared to change their plans.

I have been helping Anna Bradnam, who has been organising a survey on a couple of evenings to look at the usage of the buses which have been cut by both Stagecoach and the County Council.

On Friday 8th April there were 154 people using buses within Milton which would not be running 2 weeks later. We talked to many people waiting at the Tesco bus stops, and there were a lot of interesting stories of journeys to work which will now not be possible. It is just not true that the cut to the evening services will impact on leisure travel only, as Andy Campbell stated at the public meeting. We will write up what we have found and submit a report to the County and Stagecoach, and to Tesco's who are very much affected by the cuts.

I have learnt that some other parish councils are considering whether to pay a subsidy for the buses to continue, out of their own funds.

Tesco meeting - Tesco: there is a new manager now in place. I plan to meet with him in the next few weeks.

21 MCC update

Refurbishment: Final invoice still awaited from Grantchester Developments and there are a couple of minor 'snagging' items still to be rectified.

Maintenance and Improvements: New roller blinds have been fitted in the Annexe. The wooden floors in the main hall and lounge will be scrubbed and re-sealed at the end of April.

Bookings: Very little to report, all our regular groups continue as normal, although understandably a number of groups cancelled their sessions during the Easter Holidays. There have been 2 Saturday night events during April, a wedding and a joint 50th/60th birthday party. Terry Tinkler, who has run the bar for the last 10 years, has decided to retire and his role will be filled by Sally and Lawrence from the Lion and Lamb.

Youth Building: The building continues to be used by the Youth Club on a Tuesday evening and Young Carers on a Saturday morning.

Vandalism: Nothing to report, which is obviously very pleasing.

Andy Gray
Community Centre Manager
26/04/2011

22 County Councillor's report

23 District Councillors' reports

24 Land Group update and request to rent paddock for horse grazing

A resident has asked if she could rent the field adjacent the allotments. I attach the agreement that we had with the previous tenant.

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

26 Correspondence

CCC – contractors BAM Nuttall have handed over The Busway to Cambridgeshire County Council.

27 Dates of Next Meetings – 6 June 7pm

28 Items and Reports for June agenda (to be received by Tuesday 31 May)

Lawrence Green – Emergency Plan
Christmas tree lights