

MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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30 August 2011

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 05 September 2011 at 7.30pm**

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial
- 3 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 11 July 2011 (pages 3-5)
- 4 Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak
- 5 Clerk's report (pages 5-8)
Litter; Christmas arrangements; Winter gritting; SLCC meeting; Grounds maintenance; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework; Youth club; Standing Orders; Real Time Bus Signs; Living Sport; Cemetery; Criminal damage; Training; Liaison; Parish Training; Queen's Diamond Jubilee (commemorative tree planting); Highway issues;
- 6 Planning (page 9) – meeting scheduled for 15 August 2011 was inquorate - therefore cancelled

Decisions received:

S/0987/11 Mr & Mrs M Newman 7 Willow Crescent – front dormer (P5/07-11) – **approved. Apart from any top hung opening vent first floor windows in the dormer windows front elevation to be fitted with obscure glass.**

S/1032/11 – Mr Webb 25 & 26 Southgate Farm Mobile home, Chesterton Fen Rd – erection of brick wall and gates along the frontage (retrospective application) (PC8/06-11) – **approved. Hard and soft landscaping to be approved.**

S/0984/11 Mr A De Simone land adjacent to Lea Court, Coles Rd – dwelling and garage (P5/06-11) - **approved. Conditions: operating hours of machinery; details of materials of external surfaces and hard and soft landscape works to be approved; off-site public open space infrastructure, community infrastructure, S106 monitoring and refuse bin provision to be approved; 2m x 2m pedestrian visibility splay to be kept clear of obstruction above a height of 600mm; vehicular access to be ungated; positions, design, materials and type of boundary treatment to be approved.**

(Noted that this was approved by 7 votes to 6 following Planning Officer's recommendation).

S/1016/11 Mr & Mrs Witt 17 Pearson Close – extensions and conversion of garage to form bungalow (P5/06-11) including amendment to show replacement kitchen roof light with sun pipe, removal of northern overhang, increase in garden size to 40m and corrected block plan showing footpath to front - **refused** (unanimously). (Noted that the Planning Officer had recommended approval). **The development by virtue of its scale, siting, mass, height and design would significantly detract from the character of housing in the area and appear unduly cramped. Unacceptable visual harm to character of street sign. Contrary to criteria in Policies DP/2 and DP/3 of South Cambs LDF Development control Policies DPD, 2007.**

A number of Pearson Close residents attended the SCDC Planning Committee meeting on 3 August. Thanks received from these residents for Council's support – "... very encouraging to experience how supportive a community can be."

S/1273/11 B Jefferson The Phoenix Trust Cambridge Road Industrial Estate - retention of replacement sign (PC7/07-11) - **approved. Applicant advised to contact County Council Highways Department as it was a breach of the Highways Act 1980 to erect private signs on the adopted public highway.**

New applications:

S/1406/11 Mrs L Leedham 1 Sutton Close rear extension - **no recommendation.**

S/1524/11 Dr A Miede 31 Willow Crescent – ground and first floor rear extension – **no recommendation.**
Overbearing to neighbouring properties? Letter received from neighbour about access. Subsequent letter of objection received from neighbour – forwarded to SCDC.

C/11/40/072 Mr & Mrs Kivlin The Jolly Brewers Fen Road – raising of crown of yew tree and removal of limbs encroaching on property; remove large lower limbs of (ash) tree at rear of property. **No objection so long as work on yew tree is done by a professional tree surgeon** - as recommended by our Trees Officers.

S/1715/11 Executors of Violet Barton deceased 14 Fen Road and land off Coles Road – erection of detached dwelling together with the provision of a dropped kerb and 2 car parking spaces to the front of the existing dwelling

- 7 **To reconsider Urban Renaissance Villages (URV) application for general housing in light of meeting with Iwan Jones on 19 July and their request to withdraw our objection at SCDC as per their email 28/07/11 (page 10)**
- 8 **Minibus – to receive the minutes of the Minibus Committee meetings held on 6 July 2011 and 22 August 2011 and to consider proposal that the minibus be transferred, at a date to be mutually agreed upon, to the Scout Group with a working balance of £1,500 with the balance of the fund to be paid when the minibus is replaced.**
(pages 11-12 report attached [blue] from CF Nunn Chairman of Committee)
- 9 **Finance - to receive the minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting held on 18 July 2011 (page 13)**
- 10 **Staffing - to receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 2 August 2011 (page 14)**
- 11 **Environmental report (page 15 - HMS)**
- 12 **Report of meeting with Tesco (page 15 - HMS)**
- 13 **MCC update**
- 14 **County Councillor's report (pages 16-17)**
- 15 **District Councillors' reports (to be attached)**
- 16 **Land Group update (attached yellow)**
- 17 **Bills for Payment and Money Received (attached)**
- 18 **Correspondence**
- 19 **Dates of Next Meetings –**
Staffing 12 September; Planning 19 September; Maintenance 26 September; Council 3 October
- 20 **Items and Reports for October agenda (to be received by Tuesday 27 September)**

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 05 September 2011

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

3 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 11 July 2011

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 11 July 2011 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) AJ Campbell DJ Chamberlin JE Coston GA Covell M Ellwood
RJ Farrington M Hersom IF May J Mowatt MC Perkins HM Smith A Winnington
One member of the public, the clerk and assistant clerk

1 Lawrence Green SCDC – Emergency Plan

The chairman welcomed Lawrence Green. He explained that there was no legal requirement for Parish Councils to adopt an Emergency Plan although SCDC were obliged to do so. Such a plan would identify local risk assessments, skills and resources, contact points, emergency centres in the event of an emergency. HMS reminded Council that Tesco had acted as a reception centre during the 'big freeze' on the A14.

It was noted that the school had its own Plan. This Plan would be focused on the school rather than the whole community. JEC would ask if Council could have a copy. **Action: JEC**

MCP, MH, JM and HMS agreed to form a working party to consider an Emergency Plan for Milton.

Thanks to Mr Green for attending.

2 Apologies for absence - TA Drummond I Tyes.

3 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

HMS agenda 7 – personal – member of SCDC Planning Committee.

4 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 06 June 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

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

SCDC had not litter picked Chesterton Fen recently (Min M8/03-11).

Action: the clerk, MH and HMS would contact SCDC.

6 Clerk's report

MCC dispensation (PC8/02-11) – the clerk would ask SCDC for dispensation to allow RTS, RJF and HMS to take part in discussions about MCC, especially finance matters.

Seat (PC5/03-11) – P Capitain had now installed the seat. Thanks to him and a band of volunteers who helped with lifting and carrying.

Parish Plan (PC11/05-11) – it was decided to do nothing further at the present time.

Pedestrian / cycle barrier (PC9/06-11) – P Capitain had ordered a "Sheffield" style barrier - to be concreted into the grass. Cost approx £70 + labour.

Christmas lights (PC11/06-11) – R Chapman had not replied to the clerk's request. RJF reported that he had a contact who might be willing to put up the lights.

EDF had submitted a budget figure of £1,000 - £2,500 for supplying power to Pond Green.

It was **AGREED**

to ask if EDF would be prepare to submit a proper quotation to supply power to a secure point without any obligation to do the work and also to submit a separate quotation for lighting up the village sign. Action: assistant clerk

Chesterton Fen visit – (PC14/06-11) – to be arranged.

Village bike tour (PC14/06-11)

Tomkins Mead: No 'Tomkins Mead' sign on the path by the surgery. **Action: Maintenance Committee.** (See min M10/06-11)

Missing drain cover in Coles Road: Now replaced.

State of red phone box on Coles Road: Asst Clerk wrote to BT and phone was now in working order.

Graffiti on side wall of Tesco: For HMS to bring up at her next meeting with Tesco manager.

Concrete slabs on Sycamores Rec paths: Loose slabs sticking up on both paths (especially by trees). **Action: MCC** (Manager Andy Gray had been advised).

No youth club: There was a sign on the youth building that there would be no youth club that night due to staff shortages. However, we were not told about this by the youth workers.

Hawthorn Hedge green: Discussed whether to have play equipment on this green or not. General agreement that, due to proximity of houses and size of green, might be best to leave it as it is. (See min M9/06-11)

Spinning Swing on Froment Way green: Fenland Leisure had found that this piece of equipment was not as bad as they had thought. They tightened the bolts up top and now the swing was fully safe and operational. However, Fenland Leisure recommended that Council upgrade the bolts in the timber to a larger size to give them more gripping power and would come back to us with a price. **Action: Clerk's Office.** (See min M9/06-11).

Cemetery: Noticed there were quite a few kerbs around various graves. Need to consult regulations to see if this is allowed and what, if any, action to take. **Action: Maintenance Committee.** (See min M7/06-11 below).

IVC Academy status – noted that the governors of IVC were consulting about academy status.

Live Bus Times

AGREED to give Paul Oldham permission to put a laminated notice on all the stops detailing how passengers can get live bus times via their mobile phone.

Histon Neighbourhood Panel Meeting – scheduled for Tuesday, July 12th at Waterbeach in the Church Room. MH would attend.

Parish Charter – draft Charter for South Cambridgeshire Councils had been received and circulated.

Comments:

"3.12 *Elections* – we accept that that the parish will have to pay for elections.

4. *All councils undertake to.....*" it needs to be made clear somewhere that engagement with the Parish Councils is through the clerk as some councillors have more access to SCDC and County than others, and it should be formal, and recorded.

6.3? *Maintenance of verges* - add gritting and salt bins, and Litter bins - add dog bins.

SPEP (Page 15) – we do not agree that local councils should pay a membership fee, as this is helping SCDC to fulfill its own targets."

Golf Course (Pc14/05-11) – enforcement notice had become effective on 4 July 2011. No appeal had been received.

- 7 Planning** - the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 27 June 2011 and 04 July 2011 were received and noted
Section 106 Rowing lake (PC8/06-11) – from Gary Duthie: "Agreement requires maintenance of all drainage infrastructure including pump houses (Condition 31). Stage 2 Flood Risk Assessment (Condition 30) will be reported to Planning Committee accompanied by local consultation results. The Planning Authority will require assurances on precisely the sorts of issues raised by MPC."

HMS reported that he stage 2 and 3 Flood Risk assessment would be done after the S106 is signed. MPC would be consulted and a full report given to SCDC's Planning Committee at which HMS would be able to speak. Important planning conditions must be agreed by the Local Planning Authority (SCDC).

Decisions received:

S/0881/11 Mrs Nicola Hawksley Christine Cottage, 27 High Street (P5/06-11) – extended drop kerb – **approved.**

New applications:

S/1260/11 Mr P Overton 363 The Rowans – conversion of garage into antiques shop (A1 use class) –

Refuse on the following grounds:

- **Parking problems:**
 - close to a busy junction**
 - opposite an already established business**
 - adjacent care homes where staff cars are parked**
- **Once change of use to a business is approved a much larger business could at a future date become established.**

Should Planning Officers be minded to approve this application Council requested that it be taken to Planning Committee which JEC address on behalf of Council.

S/1273/11 Mr B Jefferson The Phoenix Trust (Milton) Ltd - land adjacent Jane Coston bridge – replacement sign.

It was proposed but not seconded that Council should object and to ask for a standardised sign for all of the companies on the Cambridge Road Industrial Estate especially as the sign would be on a major approach to the village.

It was then **AGREED to approve the application.** (8 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions).

ME, as a trustee of Phoenix Ltd., declared a prejudicial interest and left the room for the vote.

- 8 Community Care** – the minutes of the Community Care committee meeting held on 9 June 2011 were received. The issue at Barnabas Court (CC6/06-11) had been resolved. Another resident of Milton had been housed there.

- 9 Maintenance** - the minutes of the Maintenance committee meeting held on 27 June 2011 were received.

Winter Maintenance Extension Programme (M6/06-11) – details had been received. If Council agreed to take up the County Council (CCC) offer then volunteers would be needed. Noted that they would be covered by the County Council insurance. A list of sites for gritting would be needed eg A10 bridge, Jane Coston bridge.

It was not known whether the CCC would grit the bridges. It was therefore **AGREED**

to defer any decision until Council receives M Oakman's response.

Action: The assistant clerk to advertise for volunteers on the web, P Oldham's news and the Village View if necessary.

Cemetery (M7/06-11) - the graves should be East – West but were 20^o out of alignment towards East South East – West North West. It was generally agreed that all burials should be kept together.

AGREED to leave the question of any necessary re-alignment of future graves to the clerk and chairman of Maintenance.

The clerk confirmed that the headstones were within the regulations and that Council had no regulations about grave kerbstones.

The (new) cemetery was a Council cemetery and had not been consecrated.

Tomkins Mead (M10/06-11) – ME reported that Phoenix would not be able to make a concrete sign and that he had obtained a quote of £80 per sign from Rickwood.

It was **AGREED that the Maintenance Committee should discuss.**

- 10 Proposal to appoint a Play Representative to advise on all play matters**

It was **AGREED to appoint JEC as 'Play Advisor'.**

The question was raised whether the fitness equipment (M9/06-11) would be used. JEC responded that the equipment would be sited on The Sycamores recreation ground and that sports clubs were keen on using it and that in her experience this type of equipment was proving to be popular in Cambridge City.

Council would seek grants to fund this equipment and in order to obtain grants Council would be expected to prove the need for it.

11 MCC update

The Village Fayre again proved to be very popular and successful.

Action: the clerk to thank the organising committee.

12 County Councillor's report - attached (received in his absence)

Community Transport A10 speed limit review

Council agreed that as the volume of traffic controlled the speed on the A10 alongside Milton any money would be better spent on improving the junctions, especially the Humphries Way/Landbeach Road junction.

13 District Councillors' reports - attached

Councillors Report – July 2011 – Hazel Smith Litter picks

Another litter pick was scheduled for Sunday 17 July at 3pm at Chesterton Fen.

Chesterton Fen sewage connection appeal

SCDC solicitor was looking into this – judicial review?

Noted that any development in South Cambs will have condition relating to foul drainage – cess pits, septic tanks being acceptable to SCDC.

Tesco

Planning and localism

Conservation in SCDC

Industrial estate

Ageing well

Bus cuts

Gemmix (P6/06-11) - HMS had withdrawn Council's objection as it was Cemex that had applied not Gemmix.

14 Land Group update

AGREED at 8.50pm [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 re-opened at 9.10pm.

15 Bills for Payment and Money Received

AGREED and CONFIRMED payments of cheques 100492-100507

16 Correspondence

SCDC - South Cambridgeshire Community Pride and Village Hero Awards – RTS and HMS to discuss.

City Council – consultation on draft Eastern Gate Development Framework

ACRE – Community Action magazine

LCR – Local Council Review magazine

The Clerk and Clerks and Councils Direct - magazines

Guided Busway – due to open 7 August

17 Dates of Next Meetings

F&A 18 July 2011

Staffing 2 August 2011

Planning tba if necessary

Council 5 September 2011

18 Items and Reports for September agenda (to be received by Tuesday 30th August)

The meeting ended at 9.18pm

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

5 Clerk's report

Litter (PC14/05-11) – noted that the resident in Woodman Way had been prosecuted for leaving litter outside his front door. (Cambridge News article attached).

Christmas arrangements (PC7/07-11) – Rob's contact is able to put up the lights on the horse chestnut tree. Little progress made with EDF to date.

Winter gritting (PC9/07-11) – email dated 26 July 11(*and attached separately - grey*) setting out details and asking if any volunteers would be interested in being trained to help grit footpaths (reply to be sent by 31 August).

M Oakman will advise Louise / Richard of our request to treat Jane Coston and A10 over bridges more frequently than the current criteria for City Cycle bridges (M6/06-11).

SLCC meeting 15 July 11

SLCC president's address: all clerks and councillors should be trained within two years. Chief Executive SLCC has suggested that NALC and SLCC should consider merging.

Should the name of "clerk" be changed to reflect the changing role so of the clerk?

Denis Payne GIS Officer - mapping and what it can do for a Parish Council. This was an interesting demonstration on the uses of mapping. For example all land, assets, cemetery and allotments etc can be put on to maps. Perhaps the next clerk (or a parish councillor?) may be keen to take this up. (Some of you will remember we considered and discarded the idea of paying an annual fee for "Parish Online" - £10 per 1000 population).

Grounds maintenance – I have informed SCDC that we would be interested in taking on the SCDC verges as from 2013 ie Walking Way and Recreation Close – provided that SCDC reimburse the Parish.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework – Adoption of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, Proposals Map C Mineral Safeguarding Areas and supporting Supplementary Planning Documents (PC7/06-11)

The Core Strategy sets out the Councils proposed policies which will guide minerals and waste development until 2026. On 19 July 2011 the Councils resolved to adopt the Core Strategy and Proposals Map C Mineral Safeguarding Areas.

Supplementary Planning Documents

The Minerals and Waste Plan is supported by two Supplementary Planning Documents

The Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan will guide long term mineral and waste management development in this area.

The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Guide will improve the design and sustainability of new waste management facilities which are required to meet challenging targets for greater levels of waste recycling and recovery.

The second part of this Plan, the Site Specific Proposals Plan DPD was examined by an independent Planning Inspector. A number of suggested changes were proposed by the Councils.

The Suggested Changes to the Site Specific Proposals Plan are being published for a six week period of public consultation. Representations on the Suggested Changes may be made between **8 August and 19 September 2011**. All representations must be sent to Gloria.alexander@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Youth club – report from Andrea Cramp for Summer term previously circulated 18/07/11 (Below)

**Milton Youth Club Report July 2011
Andrea Cramp – Young People’s Worker**

**Juniors attend from 6.30 – 8pm
Seniors attend from 7 – 8.30pm
Overlap of 1 hour in the middle.**

Date	M	F
10.5.11	14	12
17.5.11	5	13
24.5.11	7	16
7.6.11	4	14
21.6.11	5	13
28.6.11	5	11
5.7.11	2	8

This term has been great fun with a good turn out of young people each week. Activities have included cooking cakes, flapjacks, rice crispie cakes, rounders, football and the usual games of pool etc.

On 5th July I invited Mark Taylor from the Fire Service to visit. He spoke to the group about the dangers of arson, setting fire to aerosol cans, burns, safety in the home and keeping safe. The talk was extremely informative and well received by the ten young people present. Mark Taylor also arranged to speak with two young people in Milton who I informed him of who have shown an interest in fire setting.

On 11th and 18th July Amy Wormald, the local Arts Development Worker and her colleague EI came along to recruit young people to take part in the Park Life event at Milton Country Park. They were able to offer us two free sessions teaching young people how to do poi, using batons created by the Histon and Impington Carnival Club. Learning a dance routine whilst using the batons was great fun and nearly all the young people took part – even the boys. Young people have been invited to take part in the parade at Milton Country Park on Sunday 24th July.

Staff

There will be a few changes to the staffing of Milton Youth Club in September. This is to fit in with my new responsibilities as a Young People’s Worker. The changes will not affect the youth club, its members or the quality of work we do, simply the staffing. Charis Fouracre will become the Lead Youth Worker on a weekly basis, and I will manage the team and take overall responsibility – visiting the club once a month.

We have a very strong staff team made up with Charis Fouracre, Calum Gawthorpe, Niki Henderson and our volunteer Bronwyn. There is also the possibility that another male worker may join them.

Staff will be meeting on Tuesday 6th September to put Club will start back on Tuesday 13th September.

together a programme and plan for the Autumn term. Youth

The Young People

This term I asked some of the young people to contribute to this report and here is what they have written:

I enjoy youth club because we do lots of fun stuff like making cakes and I would like youth club to go on for longer because I am a year 7 and it finishes at 8pm. I would also like to have more variety of food and drinks. I think the prices for the tuck shop are reasonable so we don't have to go to shops (Tesco). I would like youth club to be on more than once a week because I really enjoy it and would be upset if youth club stops. I think the staff are really friendly.

The reason that I come to youth club is we get to cook things. Things to make it better would have been to have a stall at Milton Summer Fair.

I have enjoyed coming to youth club because we have done a range of activities for example: cooking, sports, people coming to talk with us – fire service. The think I most enjoy is relaxing talking to your mates and going on the computers. I would like to do more things as a group like playing on the Wii or sports games.

I have enjoyed coming to youth club because I like coming to see my friends and the leaders. We do a lot of fun activities and you're always doing something.

I enjoy youth club because it's a fun place because we get to do loads of fun stuff. I really enjoy the cooking and going on the computers. I also like coming as I get to hang around with my mates.

We want the club to open on another night as well as Tuesday – one night a week is not enough – I want to get away from brother more often!

I would like to be able to do more activities such as arts and crafts. We haven't been on a trip yet – like to a theme park or theatre.

A few of us are really interested in doing the Bronze Arts Award but there isn't enough time during youth club to do it. It would be good if this could be run as a separate thing.

Can we do a babysitting course?

The youth club walls are a bit boring – it needs to be brighter colours. One idea would be to do lots of bright hand prints on the walls to liven it up a bit.

If anyone would like to reply to any of the above requests, please email me to pass on.

Wishing you all a happy summer!

Standing Orders – we adapted and adopted NALC's Standing orders in December 2010. CPALC have suggested a minor amendment to the following Standing Order:

From

VARIATION, REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Any or every part of the Standing Orders except those printed in bold type may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business.

A resolution permanently to add, vary, or revoke a Standing Order shall when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

To:

A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, not mandatory by law, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least () councillors.

Real Time Bus Signs - the County Council are putting in some real-time signs in Milton, but will not do them all. They want us to put the stops in order of priority. **Suggestions?**

Tesco (southbound) and the Waggon going South as top, followed by College of West Anglia/Humphries Way going South and Edmund Close going South.

Buses to Cambridge stop at the following places through the village: at the junction of Landbeach Road and Humphries Way, opposite the Waggon & Horses, outside the New Apostolic Church/Dillons, near Barnabas Court, and opposite Tesco.

So

1: New Apostolic Church/Dillons

2: opposite Tesco

3: Waggon & Horses

4: Landbeach Road and Humphries Way

5: near Barnabas Court

Living Sport – Ian May and I attended an “Opportunities to Develop Playing Fields and Open Spaces” seminar on 27 July. There are funds available for renovating pitches and purchasing land for new sports facilities. Of interest to the Land Group?

Cemetery (M7/06-11) – Mark and I filled up another twenty bags of rubbish from the bins. Alan from Blackwells Caravan Site took them to the HWRC for us. Philip is now clearing the bins on a weekly basis and this build up of rubbish should not now happen. A large tree to the rear of the cemetery fell on to Rectory Farm land. It has been removed (see cheque 100531).

Criminal damage – the bus shelter at Landbeach Road was damaged on Sunday 7 August and the culprit caught. He has been charged with two counts of criminal damage and one of assault. I am pursuing a claim for recovery of the costs to repair the shelter (£175).

Training

- in view of the uncertainty of the “well being” Power I have decided to postpone the training session scheduled for 12 September. (Well-Being would enable us to spend what we want on whatever we choose. At present we are constrained by law on what we can spend money on. To qualify for Well-Being we must be a Quality Council and 12 councillors must be trained).

I believe that it would be beneficial for new members at least to receive some training and I have contacted CPALC to try to arrange.

- SCDC has invited us to a joint District and Parish Council training event on **Monday 12 September 2011 at 5 pm at South Cambridgeshire District Council offices in Cambourne.**

Everything the District Council does stems from a decision someone has made. Have you ever wanted to find out more about this process? What's the Forward Plan? What are the different roles members can play, and where do the officers, parish councils and the public fit in? Also, is any of this on the website?

This briefing on decision-making and modern.gov will tie together the threads of how decisions are made, from the time someone gets a bright idea (or the government introduces a new policy) to the time it is implemented, how you can get involved, how to identify who to contact for advice or more information, and where to look on the modern.gov website (<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/>) to find this information.

We've had some really good feedback from all those who attended the joint training on s106 agreements, so hope to be able to offer more joint training opportunities. There is no charge for attending this event, but places are limited, so we'd be grateful if you could **please confirm your attendance by noon on Wednesday 7 September 2011.** There will be time for questions and answers, and if you'd like to submit any questions in advance, they can be worked into the presentation and hand-outs.

To confirm your attendance, or for more information please contact Holly.adams@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713030. Anyone interested?

Liaison meeting – we are invited to nominate up to two people to attend the next liaison meeting that the District Council's Cabinet will be hosting to discuss topics of mutual interest. The notes from the last meeting have been previously circulated by email.

As requested by a number of parishes, a substantial part of the next meeting will be set aside for an open forum of questions and answers.

When: 7.00pm - 8.30pm on 28 September 2011 **Where:** South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne
Ian T has offered to attend. **Any other volunteers? Are there any suggestions for topics for discussion?**

Parish training – see attached letter (grey). **Who wishes to attend?**

Queen's Diamond Jubilee - Commemorative tree planting

a) Andrew Grimmer, Trees and Landscape Technician, has asked Parish Councils to consider a suitable location, for example a village green, to plant a Jubilee Oak tree in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year.

Trees are limited and are provided via the Parish Planting Scheme, so applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Site visits will be carried out and Parish Councils will need to take responsibility for the maintenance of the tree, which will be provided free of charge.

For more information and to express an interest, contact Andrew.grimmer@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713057.

b) From CCC: “We have recently received a letter from a Cambridgeshire resident, outlining several sources of funding for tree and fruit hedge planting schemes, with the suggestion that the funding be used to purchase and plant trees to mark the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee next year.

I've included the funding sources in case this is something that you decide to go forward with, and I have copied in the District Council Tree Officers who oversee the Tree Wardens' scheme for the parishes.

We would propose that your public spaces and parks are excellent situations for commemorative planting. Hedge-planting schemes that affect the highway need to be agreed with your local Highways Divisional office. Tree-planting schemes that affect the highway need to be agreed with Wayne Stewart, our Tree Manager. He is available on 0345 045 5212 and is able to advise on suitable species.”

Highways Issues – request from County Council to confirm whether Council still considers direction signs to local facilities in Cambridge Road to be a priority and whether it wishes these to be considered for funding and whether the Parish Council is prepared to contribute £1.00 per person listed on the electoral register for the village, up to a maximum of 25% of the total scheme cost. I cannot remember any outstanding request and have asked for details.

6 Planning

Meeting scheduled for 15 August 2011 was inquorate - therefore cancelled

S/1260/11 Mr P Overton 363 The Rowans – conversion of garage into antiques shop (A1 use class) – (PC7/07-11). Note that this is being discussed at SDCDC Planning Committee on 7 Septemebr .

Decisions received:

S/0987/11 Mr & Mrs M Newman 7 Willow Crescent – front dormer (P5/07-11) – **approved. Apart from any top hung opening vent first floor windows in the dormer windows front elevation to be fitted with obscure glass.**

S/1032/11 – Mr Webb 25 & 26 Southgate Farm Mobile home, Chesterton Fen Rd – erection of brick wall and gates along the frontage (retrospective application) (PC8/06-11) – **approved. Hard and soft landscaping to be approved.**

S/0984/11 Mr A De Simone Land adjacent to Lea Court, Coles Rd – dwelling and garage (P5/06-11) - **approved. Conditions: operating hours of machinery; details of materials of external surfaces and hard and soft landscape works to be approved; off-site public open space infrastructure, community infrastructure, S106 monitoring and refuse bin provision to be approved; 2m x 2m pedestrian visibility splay to be kept clear of obstruction above a height of 600mm; vehicular access to be un gated; positions, design, materials and type of boundary treatment to be approved.**

(Noted that this was approved by 7 votes to 6 following Planning Officer's recommendation).

S/1016/11 Mr & Mrs Witt 17 Pearson Close – extensions and conversion of garage to form bungalow (P5/06-11) including amendment to show replacement kitchen roof light with sun pipe, removal of northern overhang, increase in garden size to 40m and corrected block plan showing footpath to front - **refused** (unanimously). (Noted that the Planning Officer had recommended approval). **The development by virtue of its scale, siting, mass, height and design would significantly detract from the character of housing in the area and appear unduly cramped. Unacceptable visual harm to character of street sign. Contrary to criteria in Policies DP/2 and DP/3 of South Cambs LDF Development control Policies DPD, 2007.**

A number of Pearson Close residents attended the SCDC Planning Committee meeting on 3 August. Thanks received from these residents for Council's support – "... very encouraging to experience how supportive a community can be."

S/1273/11 B Jefferson The Phoenix Trust Cambridge Road Industrial Estate - retention of replacement sign (PC7/07-11) - **approved. Applicant advised to contact County Council Highways Department as it was a breach of the Highways Act 1980 to erect private signs on the adopted public highway.**

New applications:

As we cancelled the meeting on 15 August Rob and I had no choice but to send in our comments for the following three applications:

S/1406/11 Mrs L Leedham 1 Sutton Close rear extension - **no recommendation.**

S/1524/11 Dr A Miede 31 Willow Crescent – ground and first floor rear extension – **no recommendation. Overbearing to neighbouring properties?** Letter received from neighbour about access.

C/11/40/072 Mr & Mrs Kivlin The Jolly Brewers Fen Road – raising of crown of yew tree and removal of limbs encroaching on property; remove large lower limbs of (ash) tree at rear of property. **No objection so long as work on yew tree is done by a professional tree surgeon** – as recommended by our Trees Officers.

S/1715/11 Executors of Violet Barton deceased 14 Fen Road and land off Coles Road – erection of detached dwelling together with the provision of a dropped kerb and 2 car parking spaces to the front of the existing dwelling

7 To reconsider Urban Renaissance Villages (URV) application for general housing in light of meeting with Iwan Jones on 19 July (Notes attached in green) **and their request to withdraw our objection at SCDC as per their email 28/07/11**

Dear Parish Council,

It was good to see you again last week. I know that Lucy Stone of Barton Willmore has responded formally to your consultation response but I want to confirm what we discussed at the meeting and where we're at. I will use your 6 bullet points as a steer.

1. Highways / Traffic - as confirmed at the meeting we can't do any more than comply with the guidance and advice provided by Cambs County Council as the local highway authority which raises no objection to the application;
2. Parking - the proposals are in full compliance with South Cambs parking standards;
3. S106 Agreement - as before, you will be party to the S106 and I intend to engage fully with you in this respect as I did previously. Despite proposing a lower number of units (89 as opposed to 101) we intend to remain loyal to our previously agreed position in respect of the area of land to be leased to you and the cash sum. You will be getting the same deal and this will be passed on to the new S106. What will change is the trigger points, but these will be in your favour and earlier in the development due to the lower number of units.
4. Design - we note your comment here and will be sure to give this due regard when we come to submit the reserved matters planning application. Design is not for consideration as part of this current application;
5. Grass Areas made available for parish recreations use - See 3 above; and
6. Cabling - we agree and this would come as standard.

We have been told by Kate Wood, Case Officer, SCDC, that the application will not be presented at Committee on 3rd August. It will now go to Committee on 7th September. To make positive use of this extra 5 weeks, I intend to instruct our solicitor to draft a new S106 that will accompany this application and to send you this within a week. Subsequently, I would request that the Parish withdraws its objection to the application.

Regards, Iwan Jones, Land & Planning Director, Urban Renaissance Villages Ltd

8 Minibus – to receive the minutes of the Minibus Committee meetings held on 6 July 2011 and 22 August 2011 and to consider proposal that the minibus be transferred, at a date to be mutually agreed upon, to the Scout Group with a working balance of £1,500 with the balance of the fund to be paid when the minibus is replaced.

Minutes of the Community Minibus Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6 July 2011 at 7.30pm in the Council office

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

1 Election of Chairman – CF Nunn elected Chairman unanimously.

2 Declarations of Interest

R Farrington R Pain - Scouts; CF Nunn G Sheen – Day Centre.

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 13 April 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Review of tariffs for 2011/12 (CM4/04-11)

Six monthly review not due yet.

New tariffs have not kicked in yet; pump prices not increased.

RP had no concerns and confirmed that on the website it was stated that fuel was included in hire price.

5 Replacement of vehicle (CM4/04-11)

CFN reported that vehicle had just done nearly 53,000 miles and there was normal wear and tear for a vehicle which has seen nine years of service. Replacement ought to be considered.

Much discussion about the parish council's Disability Access Policy. Were the parish council to replace the minibus, would it be required to provide a lift for wheelchair users and those who have difficulty getting into the vehicle, or would it be required to provide total accessibility, which would entail having a track system for clamping both wheelchairs and wheelchair users to the deck of the vehicle. Different types of lifts (on side or back of vehicle) available, as well as electric step. Cost of both options discussed: track system would be much more expensive. Both options would potentially result in less seats in vehicle and possible loss of tow bar. Other track issues are difficulty of use, particularly if not used regularly; training requirements and lack of standardised wheelchairs. Advice from Community Transport Association (CTA) was that lift should be sufficient to comply with Disability Access Policy.

Background of minibus discussed: Scouts had originally wanted a loan from parish council to replace their minibus; parish council decided on a community minibus for use by all parish clubs/groups. From March 2010-March 2011, minibus was well used by organisations from outside the parish, but as for parish organisations, only the Scouts and Day Centre had used the minibus consistently and it was used only once by two other parish organisations. Discussion as to whether the parish council should continue to run the minibus with only four parish users, or should the running be handed back to the Scouts. Discussion of use of minibus for community transport: RTS pointed out that the Waterbeach Community Transport scheme does not involve a parish minibus but rather relies on private vehicles. As far as Day Centre use, considering the amount of use and number of clients, it might be cheaper for the parish council to pay for taxis.

Discussion as to whether Scouts would be prepared to take over running of minibus. One option discussed was that the parish would hand over initial sum for running costs then full reserves to replace the minibus. Downside is that Scouts would have to pay VAT (unlike parish council). Section 19 permits required by all groups using the minibus for insurance purposes. It was **AGREED**

to ask the Scouts to explore the possibility of taking over the minibus.

6 AOB – 1st Quarter draft figures discussed; minibus is well used, though not by many parish groups

7 Date of next meeting - Monday 22nd August. The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Present: **CF Nunn (chair) RJ Farrington R Pain G Sheen RT Summerfield**
The assistant clerk

1 Apologies for Absence – none.

2 Declarations of Interest

R Farrington R Pain – Scouts (both scout leaders); CF Nunn (chairman) G Sheen (volunteer helper) of Day Centre.

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 6 July 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Replacement of vehicle (CM5/06-11)

Discussion of recommendation for the Parish Council as to whether or not the minibus should be handed over to the Scout Group. The Scouts had met to discuss the proposal and RJF reported that, in principle, the Scouts would agree to take over the minibus, although issues such as insurance and Section 19 permit hires needed to be looked at in closer detail.

CN wondered whether the Scouts taking over the minibus would affect the issue of having to make the minibus fully accessible, i.e. having a lift and clamping device for wheelchair users. CN provided price quotes for adding a (fitted) lift to a typical minibus as follows: £5,000 (new), £1,950 (used) for external lift; £3,000 for internal lift (does not include vehicle modification, e.g. clamped wheelchairs). RP pointed out that the Community Transport Association (CTA) view is that the Scouts, unlike the Parish Council, would not be liable to make the minibus fully accessible. In fact, making it fully accessible could reduce the number of seats and preclude the fitting of a tow bar onto the vehicle.

As far as Section 19 permit hires are concerned, if the Scouts took over the minibus, any organisation wishing to hire the vehicle would be required to have its own Section 19 permit. Such permits are quite readily available, but RJF noted that this requirement may reduce vehicle hires.

Discussion as to whether the Parish Council might want to retain the minibus in light of recent highlights on the need for community transport. It was noted that Waterbeach currently runs a community transport scheme which is available to Milton residents. It was also noted that village organisations, with the exception of the Scouts and the Day Centre, have not used the minibus with any frequency in the past.

RP noted that the Scouts would want to replace the vehicle sooner rather than later to avoid having to put too much money into repairs. However, the minibus is currently running well and there is time to explore all available options, e.g. purchase of new or used vehicle. RTS suggested that, were the Parish Council to agree to hand over the minibus to the Scouts, a float of £1,500 be made available for vehicle upkeep, with the balance of the minibus fund to be handed over to the Scouts upon purchase of a replacement vehicle. RJF voiced concern over whether £1,500 was enough to cover expenses and RTS advised that the Scouts could approach the Parish Council for a top-up of the float should the purchase of a replacement vehicle be delayed.

RJF noted that a changeover period would be required as there are commitments to bookings which will need to be sorted out. If the Parish Council agrees to the proposal, then a date for the transfer would need to be mutually agreed upon.

The following recommendation to the Parish Council was **AGREED**

That the minibus be transferred, at a date to be mutually agreed upon, to the Scout Group with a working balance of £1,500 with the balance of the fund to be paid when the minibus is replaced.

RTS suggested that CN prepare a written report for the Parish Council outlining the background of the issue (e.g. the fact that the previous minibus was the Scout Group's) and attend the Parish Council meeting on 5 September, when the recommendation will be discussed.

5 Date of next meeting - to be determined after outcome of 5 September Parish Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

9 Finance - to receive the minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting held on 18 July 2011

Minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting held on Monday 18 July 2011 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) GA Covell M Hersom HM Smith I Tyes
The clerk

- 1 Election of Chairman** - RTS was elected chairman.
- 2 Apologies for absence** - JE Coston.
- 3 Declarations of interest** -none.
- 4 Minutes** - the minutes of the meeting of 28 April 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 5 Matters Arising** -none.
- 6 Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements** - the bank statements were reconciled as at 30 June 2011.
- 7 Review of Debtors and creditors** - one debtor awaiting probate. Two creditors to be written off - one in 2012 and one in 2013.
- 8 Minibus Accounts** - first quarter income £534 expenditure £1,796 - expenditure in first quarter being higher than income because of insurance and service/MOT bills.
- 9 Audit report** - received from Moore Stephens external auditor. "On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the Annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."
- 10 Review of Budget and year to date actuals**
Income - S106 receipts. Should these be kept in a separate bank account? If not interest would need to be calculated. The clerk was showing these receipts (and in due course expenditure) separately in the Income and Expenditure Account.
Expenditure - admin was £1,150 below budget as Council had changed insurance companies thus saving approximately £1,000.

Income & Expenditure Account - Committee compared the figures with the previous year.

Balance Sheet - apparent anomaly on PAYE and NI. The clerk to correct the figures.
- 11 Date of next meeting 17 October 2011**

The meeting ended at 8.05pm.

10 Staffing - to receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 2 August 2011

Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on 02 August 2011 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office

Present: IF May (chair) JE Coston TA Drummond RT Summerfield
The Clerk

1 Election of Chairman - IF May was elected chairman. He reminded committee that on it was Council's Policy to consult with Smith May Solicitors on employment issues where necessary.

2 Apologies for absence – none.

3 Minutes – the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Policy on accepting gifts and 'conflict of interest' (S3/04-11)

Council added "Community Care" to the Policy (PC16/05-11) and advised that Committee should consider whether a similar policy needs to be applied to the other staff. It was **AGREED** that in conjunction with this Policy Paragraph 8.2 of the Employees' Code of Conduct below should read "Cash and monetary gifts should always, without exception, be refused other than that covered by the approved Policy [above]."

5 To consider adopting "Employees' Code of Conduct" – RTS had found amongst his papers an unadopted Code of Conduct. JEC, IFM and the clerk to review and submit to committee by email before presenting to Council's solicitor for advice.

Action: JEC, IFM and the clerk

6 Pensions – (min S/02-11) noted that Council was required to offer pension provision to all staff if there are more than five employees. "Council must offer employees earning above £7,000 the opportunity to join a pension scheme (S3/11-10)." This is likely to come in during 2012. **AGREED** to wait to see the regulations in 2012. In the meantime the clerk would investigate. **Action: the clerk****

**Note: from SLCC "We have heard of proposals that all employers will be required to make pension provision but so far there is little detail. It is also rumoured that LGPS will be setting up a "lesser" scheme which costs the employers less, but of course, provides less in the way of benefits. May be we will be encouraged to go for stakeholder schemes, but at the moment LGPS is the only scheme to which we may legally contribute.

Be assured, there will be circulars coming along before too long."

7 Procedure for recruiting the clerk's successor (S/04-11)

Discussion points:

Job description and person specification: **TAD and the clerk to review – to circulate to Committee.***

*Note: Has been done 12/08/11

Possible joint working with MCC? Important if Council employs a full-time clerk.

Clerk's post to be advertised 20 hours per week and training time to be paid in addition.

Timescale – as per previous minutes.

Application forms to be drawn up. **Action: the clerk and JEC**

8 Staff updates and contracts

AGREED [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item because of the confidential nature of the business 8.30pm - 8.35pm

9 Date of next meeting – Monday 12 September 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

11 Environmental report

Chesterton Fen – (PC5/07-11) HMS contacted Heidi at the depot (13 July 11), and she said she'd try to get her litter pickers down there more often. She had been down to have a look herself and agreed it was a mess.

Chesterton Fen Visit (PC6/07-11)

Actions from Chesterton Fen visit – Monday 25th July

Hazel, Jim Mowatt, Ian May

Overhanging nettles

I contacted the City Council (land owner) re cutting back the vegetation close to the footpath outside Green Gates Farm – they have asked the County Council to do it.

Speed bumps

Several of the people we spoke to asked for speed bumps on Fen Road, particularly at Newfields/Sunningdale Park junction. The Travellers there would happily put in the speed bumps themselves if they got the go-ahead from the County Council. [7/8/11 – a new speed bump has been put in]

Mechanical road sweeping of kerb edges

I called Heidi Duffet at the depot this morning and she has already gone to look and will be getting the accumulated detritus dug out by hand, then send a sweeper along next week. It was last done in 2007.

Electricity pole flash-across causing damage to shed in Newfields

I called the company and was told the resident should put his request for compensation in writing. [This is progressing]

I've also reported the willow tree at Big T that needs trimming away from the power line ref: 400 960 943

Tyres close to the fence in the scrapyard

I've tried in vain before to get the fire authority's safety people interested in this. Also environmental health. Brian Heffernan is trying to get the H&SE interested.

Dog bin for Grassy Corner area

Can we ask the parish council to consider providing a bin near the road? Heidi says it would cost about £350. SCDC would empty it weekly. Item for decision

Bin provision for residents

I've asked SCDC whether people who get no blue or green bin collection are allowed more black bin capacity as they're sure to have more to put in it over a fortnight. She is finding out whether they make any concession to these people for that reason.

I asked generally about the project to help these 'hard to reach' groups to recycle. There is now an officer in post with this job to do, and they are starting at the smaller Traveller sites, so we have a while to wait yet before they'll turn their attention to Chesterton Fen. We had thought that a couple of the Eurobins adapted to take paper and cans/bottles/plastics might be a good way to start.

I've spoken to the Travellers officer about this and she's following it up.

[Some people now have blue bins on Smithy Fen Traveller sites] Hazel

12 Meeting with Matt Brown, Tesco 8th August 2011 – Hazel Smith

Unofficial path from The Rowans through the columns

This will be blocked off.

Side passage and general outside painting

Matt agrees that the view from The Rowans looks shabby, and is asking whether this painting will be included in the major refit of the store later this year. The graffiti has been reported and removal has been scheduled.

Grounds Maintenance

The grass is a bit long but the contractors are generally keeping up – trimming shrubs back when they can. Matt questioned the exact boundaries of their land by The Rowans.

Litter

The litter in the planting at the front by the bus stop had a deep clean and looked a lot better, but they need to keep up with it. Matt agreed to publicise the next village Environmental Group's litter pick (30th Oct) among his staff, but could not officially pay them to help out.

Zebra crossings

Crossing stripes by the path need to be repainted - due later this year.

Trolleys round the village

These have been a real problem lately. Matt blames villagers. He agreed to get his staff to write an article for the Village View. Villagers can call 548400-3-4 to get them collected, and the store should do this promptly once they are reported. He felt a short regular 'Tesco Update' column in the Village View would be useful. I've emailed Mary-Ann.

Vandalism

There has been a problem of young people climbing on the roofs and breaking tiles. One such person was caught by the police.

Emergency planning

Tesco is anxious to be helpful in any cases of emergency locally. Although the Costa restaurant is in separate ownership Matt anticipated that the same sort of response as before would be possible in any local emergency. He said that Tesco was the one home-delivery grocery company that continued right through the bad weather, and they pride themselves on their resilience.

Refit

Our Tesco is due for a major refit before Christmas, which would involve it being closed for a few days. The whole décor inside will be redone, and the emphasis will be on a more spacious layout with fresh fruit and vegetables at the front.

Energy efficiency

The refit will help with this – more efficient machinery etc. Matt also mentioned the Tesco store at Ramsey that operates as Carbon-neutral. However they have no plans that he knows of to fit solar or PV panels on the roof, or to implement the permission for the wind turbine. He mentioned a plan to move the hand car-wash to the side by the high wall. I explained why it was not there in the first place.

Future meetings

We agreed to meet in 6 months, early February.

13 MCC update

Play Equipment: The Spiders Web at Coles had to be removed as it had become dangerous. However, we were successful with our £10,000 grant application to the Big Lottery Fund and a replacement net should be installed during September.

Maintenance and Improvements: The tarmac on the path leading from Coles Road garage to the Country Park has been extended by 10 metres, which should stop rainwater congregating in front of the seat. The court lights at Coles Road are due to be replaced during the next couple of weeks.

Bookings: Saturday night events have been quiet during the summer, although we have a wedding (with the internal marquee) on 3rd September.

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

Vandalism: Once again, I am very pleased to say that I have nothing of any note to report.

14 County Councillor's report

County Councillor's Report to Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach Parish Councils August 2011

This is a joint report and there will be separate reports specifically for the individual Councils.

Waterbeach Barracks

The announcement that the Barracks is to close came completely out of the blue to me, although I have spoken to others subsequently who said it was not such a huge shock (hindsight?). Here are the precise words actually used by Dr. Liam Fox:

"We also plan in the same timescale [2014-2015] to vacate and dispose of Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire which, subject to the necessary planning consents, will support the Government's broader aim of increasing the supply of new housing."

The local Parish Councils need to decide how to react and I believe there are two issues

- Should the barracks close?
- If it does, then what should the site be used for?

On the first point, I suspect that the closure of the Barracks will happen. It was interesting reading Jim Paice's comments as reported in the Cambridge Evening News. He was not talking anywhere about fighting the closure, but more on helping the local communities after the closure has happened (see <http://bit.ly/qAEJMO>). In particular he said:

"This will be a big time of change for Waterbeach. The important thing is that the MoD and the local community are able to work together to ensure that Waterbeach continues to be a good place to live, and that the vacant site is able to be productively and appropriately used in the future."

I am not criticising him for this (after all he is a government minister and has to support the government's line). However, I do believe that it points us in the direction of not necessarily expending too much energy on opposing the closure but suggests that we must make the strongest case possible against the wrong sort of development of the site.

I was pleased to see Mr. Paice's final paragraph as quoted by the CEN:

"It is important to remember that any question of development of the site will be entirely a matter for the district council and local people."

This is a crucial point and was strongly emphasised by South Cambridgeshire District Council, again as reported in the CEN (see <http://bit.ly/nYxMmk>):

Liberal Democrat group leader Cllr Sebastian Kindersley said: "The decision of where housing allocation goes is down to us and should not be imposed from above."

"It is very unfortunate that ministers' statements make it seem like we are going to flog off Waterbeach for houses."

Independent Cllr Mike Mason, representing Histon and Impington, said: "This is exactly what planning shouldn't be about."

"The Government clearly wants a lot of housing to be built in South Cambridgeshire but we will decide through proper planning process what housing developments will take place."

These comments are very helpful and I very much hope that this really will be the way things are decided.

The first major proposals to develop the Barracks site for housing came back in 2001 when developers proposed it as the site for a new town. This was part of the [Cambridgeshire Structure Plan](#) process. Eventually the site was rejected in favour of what is now known as Northstowe. However, the airfield has remained the subject of attempts to develop it, and some will remember the so-called eco-town of Denny St. Francis that was proposed some years ago. This site was last proposed in 2008 and some details can be found [here](#).

Much of the framework of strategic planning has been changed by the coalition government, and, in particular, Regional Spatial Strategies have now been abolished. It is also the case that the County Council's role in this has been significantly reduced, and the responsibility is now devolved to District Councils. It is thus South Cambridgeshire District Council that needs to be influenced if we do not want to see inappropriate development on the Waterbeach site and the first stage in the process, the *Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment: Call for Sites* has just closed. If Defence Estates have actually submitted Waterbeach for development, we should know pretty soon.

It is really important to understand the magnitude of any proposed development. The Denny St. Francis proposal in 2008 proposed 12,750 houses on 487 ha. This is a town the size of Ely and would totally dominate the surrounding area. It would have three primary schools and also its own secondary school. It would have its own shops and other facilities and would completely dwarf anything Waterbeach can offer. It really worries me that many of the comments

that I have seen from residents show that they do not realise this, and it is vital that these facts are properly communicated. I don't want to be seen as a scare-monger, but we need to realise just what may be proposed.

Back in 2001-2003 when the Structure Plan process was taking place and we were trying to fight proposals to site a new settlement at Waterbeach, the three Parish Councils most closely involved nominated a small group of people to lead the campaign. I was one of them, and we produced lots of material including PowerPoint presentations which we gave to, among others, South Cambridgeshire District Council. I still have these presentations and I don't believe the points they made then are any different now; indeed, some, such as the traffic implications, are much worse now than ten years ago.

The Facebook page that I have created, www.facebook.com/savewaterbeachbarracks, has already received a significant number of hits. A number of people have indicated they would like to help in any campaign, and I would suggest that we need to tap into their enthusiasm. August is not a good time to organise anything, but I have contacted some of those who have shown interest to see if we can get together.

Please let me know how you feel this should be taken forward.

A10 speed limit review

A report has now been produced which recommends reduction of the speed limit along the A10 from Ely to the A14 to 50 mph (except through Stretham where the existing 40 mph limit will be retained).

The report was featured 'exclusively' on Radio Cambridgeshire this morning, with Richard Preston, the County Council head of Road Safety being interviewed just after 8 o'clock. I was on the Andy Harper show at about 9.15.

Much of the reaction to the idea has been negative! Points made by listeners include the fact that it won't make any real difference to speeds and won't necessarily improve road safety, and someone who said that if everyone is going at similar speeds it will be even harder to get out of side roads than it is at present.

My reaction is that I am in favour of anything that improves road safety, and there is no doubt that reduced speeds reduce the severity of accidents. However, the County Council's own statistics show that the average speed of traffic along the A10 is in general less than 50 mph, so I find it hard to see how a limit of 50 mph will help. The most dangerous section of the A10 is that around the Slap Up junction with an accident rate getting on for twice that of any other section. The average speed along that section is 47.5 mph!

My view is that, if there is money available to improve road safety along the A10, the main priority needs to be improvement of the junctions. The installation of the traffic lights at Denny End in Waterbeach, achieved by Jane Coston when she was County Councillor, has clearly made that junction much safer, and work needs to be done at other junctions where there is a proven high accident record.

Local Parish Councils will be consulted on the plans; decisions will need to be made on how to respond.

Michael Williamson, County Councillor www.michaelwilliamson.org.uk

15 District Councillors' reports

16 Land Group update – to receive the confidential Minutes of the Land Group meeting on 18 August (attached yellow)

17 Bills for Payment and Money Received (attached)

18 Correspondence

Cambs Community services NHS Trust – Newsletter; response to consultation about becoming a Foundation Trust; Notice of Annual Public Meeting 21 September

CCC – letter regarding HCV Strategy 18/07/11

NHS Urgent Care Network – information about working together to ensure that people have access to care services they need, when they need them (email 22/07/11)

Cambridgeshire ACRE - Annual General Meeting Tuesday 27 September 5.30pm –8.30pm The Burgess Hall Westwood Road St Ives

- An invitation to give your views on The prevention of ill health and the promotion of good health amongst adults in Cambridgeshire. NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire County Council, district councils and other organisations in Cambridgeshire have asked Cambridgeshire ACRE to run a series of focus groups for them inviting local people to come along and give their views on how ill health might be prevented or on what professionals could do to better promote good health.

This is the first time that these groups have attempted to gain community views from local people so they can be fed into the decision-making process. (Details circulated email 25/08/11).

Anyone interested in volunteering?

Royal Horticultural Society – Britain in Bloom campaign

Guided Busway - notes from the final forum meeting.

19 Dates of Next Meetings

Staffing 12 September; Planning 19 September; Maintenance 26 September; Council 3 October

20 Items and Reports for October agenda (to be received by Tuesday 27 September Remembrance Day ceremony)