

MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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7th December 2011

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a Maintenance Committee meeting of Milton Parish Council in the Bowls Pavilion on Monday 12 December 2011 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak**
- 4 Approval of minutes of 26 September 2011**
 - Winter gritting (M4/09-11) (Min PC6/11-11 refers) –
from Michael Oakman Area Manager Maintenance
“I have discussed the frequency of salting the two cycle over bridges at Milton with the operations team. We have agreed to increase the frequency due to the more rural exposed nature of these bridges. We will monitor the forecast each day. Last year the bridges were salted 15 times. If similar conditions prevail this winter we will increase the number of runs to around 30.”
– one volunteer only has come forward
- 5 Cemetery**
 - Policy (M5/09-11) including fees (pages 3-6)
 - Update from Command Report – rabbits very active, all hedges etc have been treated. Mole activity near entrance. Two traps set.
- 6 Allotments – update**
 - One spare allotment
 - Review of fees for allotments and horse grazing land
- 7 Play – update**
 - Council is considering outdoor fitness equipment on Sycamores Rec – David is investigating grant funding for this project. JEC has submitted a scheme approx cost £12,715. (Min PC 6/12-11)
 - I have asked Fenland Leisure Products to do 6 monthly play inspections.
- 8 Budget 2012**
 - The clerk will submit the usual:

grass cutting	£25,000 (inc allotments, cemetery)
highways	£4,800
play	£3,000
- 9 Correspondence - none**
- 10 Date of Next Meeting – 26 March 2012**

Jim Daniels

Jim Daniels
Clerk



Minutes of the Maintenance Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 26 September 2011 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: M Ellwood (chairman) DJ Chamberlin TA Drummond IF May J Mowatt RT Summerfield
WD Booth E Spong
In attendance HM Smith
The clerk

1 Apologies for absence - none.

2 Public Participation – no members of the public were present.

3 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial – none.

4 Minutes of 27 June 2011 – were approved and signed as a true record.

Winter gritting (M6/06-11) – Min PC5/09-11 also refers. Awaiting responses from article in Village View for volunteers and response from M Oakman.

5 Cemetery

Minute M7/06-11 - noted that the alignment of graves had been reported to the July Council meeting (Min PC9/07-11) namely that the graves were 20⁰ out of alignment towards East South East – West North West and that it was generally agreed that all burials should be kept together.

Philip is now clearing bins weekly (see min PC5/09-11).

Command Pest Control report August – rabbits very active, all workings have been treated. No mole activity found.

It was felt that the cemetery regulations could put the clerk and/or chairman in a difficult position especially the section referring to non-residents: “Non-residents.....must demonstrate a Milton connection to be determined at the discretion of the Chairman and Clerk.”

AGREED that committee would review Cemetery Policy. (December meeting)

6 Allotments – update

Untidy allotments -No feedback received from allotment holders (M8/06-11).

The chairman explained that Council had been waiting for positive information before contacting allotment holders about the proposed move. The clerk would be in a position to update allotment holders during the following week

7 Play – update

Play repairs completed 1st August. The chairman and clerk discussed outstanding issues and asked Fenland Leisure Products to complete these repairs during next inspection.

AGREED to recommend that Council accept the following quotation:

Play inspection quotation received – 3 sites Froment, Humphries Way and The Rowans – 2 sites for MCC: 6 monthly £75 per site x 5 x 2 = £750 per year (MPC £450 MCC £300).

The clerk would ask FLP to do minor repairs during the inspections. *Action: the clerk*

AGREED that the clerk clarify the wording and report back to Council: Quotation for replacing bark at Froment and Humphries Way - £1010 + VAT

8 Tomkins Mead

AGREED to ask M Woolhouse to proceed with carved wooden signs with contribution from him towards the cost. Action: the clerk

9 Grass Cutting and General Maintenance Contract 2012

Quotation received from Buchans Landscapes. The chairman and clerk would meet with Mr Buchan to negotiate amendments to the contract and report back to the November Council meeting.

Action: the clerk

10 Correspondence - none.

11 Date of Next Meeting – 12 December 2011

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

CEMETERY

The village cemetery is on Landbeach Road just beyond the bypass. The original cemetery was created by All Saints' church in around 1900 when their churchyard started to run out of space.



In 1984 the parish council^[1] extended it to provide considerably more space and new interments now take place in this part of the cemetery.

If, when you visit, the new burial ground looks rather different from how you are used to see it this is because Milton Parish Council is experimenting with a new way of management.



Wild flower meadow

The plan is to reserve the area to the left of the path for burials and interment of ashes; an area large enough to meet the needs of the village for many years to come. The area to the right of the path will be managed as a meadow where the wild grasses and flowers will be allowed to bloom and seed before mowing. The period of future time available should allow the development of a diverse community of plants and the re-creation of a type of meadow rarely seen nowadays.

It is also intended to complete the enclosure of the area with hedges similar to the one on the south side - mainly hawthorn mixed with other suitable species. This will be a protection from the coldest winds for people and plants alike.

Allowing the plants to grow for several weeks has revealed quite a variety of grasses and flowers already present. It is planned to increase this diversity by adding seeds of locally prevalent plants and to discourage some of the less desirable species. It will take 2-3 years to achieve the desired effect.

Allowing the meadow and hedges to flower, seed and fruit will encourage insects and birds to move into the area and create a sanctuary for many small creatures. The grass around the graves will be kept neat as at present to allow ease of access. It is hoped that the contrast of order and controlled wildness will create a setting of rural simplicity and human solicitude which will be attractive and consoling.

The cemetery currently costs the village £4,200 a year to maintain, not including one off charges such as tree surgery, maintenance to the fence and gate and the path the council recently had laid in the new part of the cemetery.

The following fees apply for interments in the cemetery.

Interment of an adult	£200
Interment of a child up to 7 years	No charge
Interment of a child from 8 years to 18 years	£80
Interment of ashes (£50.00) and tablet (£35.00)	£85
Headstone not exceeding 76cms x 60cms	£90
Double headstone not exceeding 90cms x 150cms	£200
Headstone for a child up to 7 years	£15
Headstone for a child from 8 years to 18 years	£45
Inscription on any monument added on a later occasion	£25

All fees are x4 for non residents, who must demonstrate a Milton connection (to be determined at the **Parish Council Chairman** and Clerk's discretion).

Note: At the **Chairman** and Clerk's discretion the x4 fee may be waived for people previously resident in the village.

Purchase of exclusive rights of burial includes the fee for interment.



Shrubs Policy

Any separate container for flowers must be level with, or below, the surface of the ground so that it will not obstruct the passage of a mower. Wreaths and cut flowers must be removed as soon as they appear to be withered or untidy.

No trees and shrubs may be planted on or around a grave. Existing shrubs to be kept within the boundaries of the grave and no higher than the headstone.

Adopted 9 July 2007



Regulations

Anything placed and planted on any grave other than a headstone/tablet becomes the property of the Council and may be removed and disposed of at the Council's discretion without the Council being liable to account for any proceeds of disposal.

No memorial shall be erected in the cemetery without the prior approval of the details by the Council. (This function to be delegated to the clerk). All applications should be made by a Council approved memorial mason and submitted to the Council together with a drawing showing dimensions, method of construction, proposed inscriptions, method of fixing and description of the type of materials to be used and shall be in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons specification for the construction and fixing of memorials.

Vehicles must keep to the hard track.

Double plot headstones to be no taller than 90 cms and no wider than 150 cm.

Adopted July 2008

Footnote:

We need to clarify which chairman – PC or Maintenance?

Cambridge Funeral Service have asked would we allow bricked graves a with a concrete slab on top in other words a vault (rather like European cemeteries). I would recommend no.