

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 4 February 2008 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: JE Coston (chair) RH Chapman PS Badley AJ Campbell G Covell R Day TA Drummond
M Ellwood RJ Farrington SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May HM Smith RT Summerfield RLE Waters
The clerk, Councillor M Williamson (part) and 3 members of the public (part)

1/2-08 **1 Mick Woolhouse Cambridge Sport Lakes (CSL)**

(13&14/1-08) Rowing Lake - The chairman welcomed M Woolhouse from CSL. CSL were not yet in a position to start to develop the rowing lake site. Flood risk assessment, Highways consultation, archaeology and S106 Agreement issues were still to be addressed. The project was not yet fully funded. MW did not expect any activity on site for 18 months.

MW would let Council know how much CSL were paying per acre for the CCC land.

The water level of the lake would be the same as the river above Baits Bite Lock. Because of electrification raising the railway would prove to be expensive and was not in the costings at present. Boats, therefore, would not be able to row under the railway. More detailed plans would be drawn up.

Country Park – CSL were negotiating to incorporate the three existing leases with CCC, SCDC and the Stokes Family Trust into one 99 year lease. SCDC and CSL were working towards completion of hand over by 29 February 2008. An official opening would be arranged for later in the year. CSL had bid to the Community Assets Lottery Fund for a grant towards extending and refurbishing the visitors' centre.

Ownership of the turning area in front of the main entrance was being investigated. MPC would have no objection to double yellow lines being painted along the full length of road from the Jane Coston bridge to the Country Park entrance.

Tomkins Mead – the Trustees had agreed to manage Tomkins Mead in the same way that SCDC had looked after this area. A simple Letter of Agreement with MPC would be drawn up.

Thanks to MW for attending and helping to keep links open with MPC.

2/2-08 **2 Public Participation** – 3 members of the public expressed concern about possible parking problems at the end of Butt Lane and Coulson Close and the impact on residents after completion of the Park & Ride. The clerk had already contacted Alistair Frost for his comments.

“No Through Road” sign at entrance to Butt Lane could be re-positioned.

3/2-08 **3 Apologies for absence** – none. The chairman reminded members that if they were not able to attend meetings it was essential to send apologies. This was important to ensure re-accreditation of Quality Status.

4/2-08 **4 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial**

HMS – agenda 7 personal – member of SCDC Planning Committee. RHC agenda 6 min8/2-08 – personal – customers of RHC. TAD and IFM agenda 8 min 22/2-08 personal – members of Colts Football Club.

5/2-08 **5 Minutes** – the minutes of the meeting of 7 January 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

6/2-08 **15 County Councillor's report** (taken early)

(7/1-08) CCTV Foot /cycle bridge – no further information. MW would speak to A Frost again.

Waterbeach Eco-Town – proposal to build on Waterbeach barracks. Little information was yet known.

(454/11-07) Double Yellow Lines Cambridge Road Industrial Estate - MW would find out the latest position.

[Footnote as at 05/02/08: Double yellow lines are to be painted at the bottom of the Jane Coston bridge to prevent people from parking there and obscuring the view for cyclists coming off the bridge. These are to be financed by the CCC through Richard Preston. Secondly, some white lines are to be painted in the side road near the printing park to encourage people not to park there because parked cars were obstructing lorries coming out of the businesses there. These are to be paid for by the businesses on the printing park as agreed with Steve Thulborn.] - Email from MW].

Park & Ride – MW would discuss with A Frost the Butt Lane parking situation and lorries trying to get through to the other side of the A10 via Butt Lane. (See min 16/2-08 below).

6 Clerk's / Chairman's report

- 7/2-08
(527/12-07) Horse grazing rights – no response to advert received. Advert now in February Village View.
- 8/2-08
(541/12-07) Cemetery (headstone request) – the family of the late Sam Smith thanked Council for the letter of appreciation. In addition the family had asked if Council would approve a larger than normal headstone for a double plot. Agreed to the request. Maintenance Committee to discuss regulations for size of double plot headstones at March meeting.
- 9/2-08
(546/12-07) Risk assessments – all risk assessments had been checked and signed by the chairmen of committees where applicable and the clerk.
- 10/2-08
(1/1-08) Community stadium – the clerk would ask Cambridge Horizons for a copy of their report (if in the public domain).
- 11/2-08
(6/1-08) Citi 2 route – no further information.
- 12/208
(8/1-08) Urban Retirement Village – 3 councillors visited a village at Rugby. The same architects and company would design and build the proposed village at Milton. There was a good mixture of designs. Prices in Rugby varied from £150,000 for a two bed apartment to £350,000 for a three bed house. There was 24 hour nursing care on site and alarms in every room. Crime was non-existent. The village was not necessarily for life as severe disabilities could not be catered for. All clubs at Rugby were for exclusive use for residents living within the community.
- 13/2-08
(11/1-08) Parish Plan – the steering group had now prepared draft 9 of the questionnaire. Volunteers were needed to deliver and collect during the week starting Saturday 1st March. ACRE had no “Parish Plan” funding in the present financial year. PSB would investigate other funding sources.
- 14/2-08 Tree Preservation Order – noted that a resident had asked permission to remove a lime tree in her rear garden in Ken's Way.
Council's deputy tree warden agreed that the tree was inappropriate in a back garden.
SCDC Trees Officer's response:
“I have received a copy of your letter sent to Milton Parish Council. The Lime tree is afforded statutory protection in the form of a Tree Preservation Order and unless the trees structural integrity is in question generally consent for removal will not be granted. I have enclosed government guidance on the procedures of TPOs.
An application to either reduce or thin the canopy of the tree can be made to South Cambridgeshire District Council but it would need to be comprehensive in detail and I would advise that you contact local tree surgery companies to discuss works. If it is felt that the works are not appropriate then a refusal may be issued.
If you wish to contact me to discuss this matter further please contact me. I am happy to arrange a site visit to discuss.”
- 15/2-08 Tree Knights Way – a resident had asked if he could remove a Turkey Oak which was apparently causing structural damage to his house. The clerk would inform him that the tree did not have a Tree Preservation Order, that it was not in the Conservation Area and that MPC did not own the tree. MPC therefore were not in a position to agree or otherwise to the request. MPC's Trees Officer, although sympathetic, was opposed to the removal of such a large and old tree.
It was not clear whether the tree was on County Council land or the resident's land. The clerk would advise the resident accordingly and suggest that he contact the County Council. **Action: the clerk**
- 16/2-08 Parking restrictions Butt Lane – the clerk had forwarded emails from residents to Alistair Frost (see min 2/2-08) above. To be discussed at March meeting. The clerk would ask if a more prominent “No Through Road” sign could be erected at the entrance to Butt Lane. **Action: the clerk**
- 17/2-08 SCDC – Audit Commission inspection - the clerk received a letter from G Harlock explaining that SCDC were being inspected. The clerk had sent comments to the Audit Commission team inspecting SCDC. Council endorsed these comments but expressed disappointment that the time scale did not allow Council to make an official reply – agreed 13 votes 2 abstentions.

- 18/2-08 **7 Planning** - the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 21 January 2008 were received and noted.
- 19/2-08 Appeal: The Old Coal Yard Fen Road Chesterton by Mr Joseph Upton against an enforcement notice issued by
(465/11-07) South Cambridgeshire District Council for breach of planning control:
change of use of the land to use for the stationing of a residential caravan, a mobile home and carrying out of development by the erection of a shed and ancillary laying of hard surfacing on the land, all not required for agriculture. Appeal Decision:
Appeal allowed subject to various corrections and variations – enforcement notice to be quashed.
HMS believed that the decision was not correct and that may be subject to a further appeal.
Decisions received: none.
- 20/2-08 New applications:
C/6/9/1A Cambridgeshire Guided Busway – discharge of planning condition 3(a)(i) – design and external appearance of Oakington, Histon & Impington and Cambridge Regional College bus stops.
No recommendation.
- 21/2-08 S/0149/08 Barry Jefferson The Phoenix Trust Unit 8 Milton Trading Estate Cambridge Road – shed (retrospective application). BJ declared a prejudicial interest and left the room. **No recommendation.**
- 22/2-08 **8 Finance** – the minutes of the Finance & Staffing committee meeting held on 21 January 2008 were received. Noted that Committee approved the budget for youth and the new Service Level Agreement (min 24/1-08) **AGREED** by all
 - to approve budget including grant to MCC of £29,000** (min 57/1-08);
 - to request a precept for £101,000 for the year 2008-09** (min 58/1-08);
 - to form a working group of BJ, IFM and HMS to look at Disability access Policy** (min 51/1-08);
 - that a meeting should be arranged between MPC and MCC** (min 57/1-08)**and**
in response to a written request to pay £1000 to the Colts Football Club to help offset expenses for playing home games outside the village (13 in favour 2 abstentions)
- 23/2-08 **9 Community Care** – the minutes of the Community Care committee meeting held on 17 January 2008 were received. Noted that as it was necessary to pay by credit card to buy a contract phone the clerk had bought a “Pay as you Go” phone (min 34/1-08). A contract phone could be reviewed at a later stage.
- 24/2-08 **10 Joint Action Group [JAG] update**
ME reported that the aim of the JAG was greater participation in the development plan process. Ten villages formed the group. The main issue at present was the development of Northstowe and its consequences such as flooding and traffic. Thanks to ME for attending the meetings.
- 25/2-08 **11 Trees – SCDC Complaints Procedure**
(9/1-08) Response received from Gareth Jones, Corporate Manager of Planning and Sustainable Communities at SCDC in which a letter dated 13 November was referred to.
The clerk had not received this letter. Mr Jones referred to “budget constraints and on-going maintenance costs. There is no requirement for Housing to report to Parish Councils on decisions on SCDC tree works. In this case I accept that, given your comments, that as a matter of courtesy, you should have been advised of the decision and the reasons for it, and I apologise for that oversight.
The main reason for approving the [yew tree] works was that of safety to the public entering what is a public place. In dealing with tree applications in public open spaces (a church is so classed as its grounds are open to the public), and where works are needed for safety reasons, we only inform the Parish Council via copying relevant correspondence,
To conclude, there is a balance to be struck between competing issues, and there are occasions where trees are felled or altered on safety grounds and this is one of those occasions. Budget constraints do not allow for maintenance works which otherwise could be an alternative.”
The overall feeling of the meeting was disappointment that Council’s original concerns had still not been addressed. The clerk would reply and ask for an answer to the original request about the poplar tree that was posed in September 2007 and how the lack of consultation about the yew tree fits in with the Government proposals that Councils should be working in partnership. Copies to G Harlock and S Hampson. In addition the clerk would complete SCDC ‘Complaints Survey’ responding “very dissatisfied” to every question.
Action: the clerk

- 26/2-08 **12 MCC update**
 The original consultant engineers had agreed that the lower part of the Community Centre could be bricked up. The 5-a-side court surface was slippery and unsafe and MCC had agreed therefore to have a new artificial surface laid at a cost of approximately £12,000 – thus using up all of the courts restricted fund.
 RJF, HMS, L Henderson, J Gray and the two youth building workers had met to ensure the smooth running of the building.
 At present there was no need for the *ad hoc* group (min 23/1-08) to meet.
 Ian Kendall had not yet responded about the boiler valves (min 23/1-08).
- 27/2-08 **13 Land update** – nothing to report.
 (26/1-08)
- 28/2-08 **14 Crime**
 (25/1-08) RTS had been unable to raise Neighbourhood Watch at the recent panel meeting because of other urgent issues but had written to John Fuller Cambridgeshire Police. In his response John Fuller comments “The role of NW fits in very well with Neighbourhood Policing [NP] and Panels.....I think this all should start with a meeting with the parish council and/or with existing or interested members. I will happily become involved to support the local NP team.”
- RTS would reply to John Fuller. **Acton: RTS**
- 29/2-08 **16 District Councillors’ reports**
 (1/2-08) Country Park – Councillor V Ford and S McIntosh were pressing for a handover to CSL on 29/02/08.
TPO’s – Tree Preservation Orders had been imposed on a group of trees in the grounds of Silver Acre.
Proposed development behind 6-10 High Street - R Boyd had advised RTS about his latest proposals to build 5 dwellings on land behind 6-10 High Street.
Council Housing - Council had voted for the next stage to transfer council housing stock to a Housing Association. There were approximately 40 Council houses in Milton.
 (17/2-08) SCDC Inspection – the report would be received in mid March.
Recycling – SCDC were looking at kerbside plastic collections – but this was expensive to provide. Tetra Pak Recycling was to be extended. More schools were being offered recycling facilities.
Christmas waste collection – this was being reviewed.
- 30/2-08 **17 Bills for Payment and Money Received**
CONFIRMED payment of cheques 3676 - 3684
AGREED payment of cheques 3685 – 3696 [JEC, IFM and RLEW abstained].
- 31/2-08 **18 Correspondence**
- Atkins** - Information about resurfacing A14 Milton to Fen Ditton
- Cambridge CVS** - Information concerning forthcoming events including
“What a Parish Council can do and how it relates to other local democratic structures – what are the benefits for the voluntary sector? A presentation by CPALC. Tuesday 12th February, 7-9pm, Hildersham Village Hall.
 “The event on 12th February will be of particular interest to Parish Councils as CPALC will be delivering a presentation on the role of the Parish Council and how it links with the voluntary sector and other democratic structures.”
- Department for Communities and Local Government** - Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the conduct of Local Authority members in England – ends 15 February.
- CCC** - Northstowe Rights of Way Project
- Cambridgeshire Trading Standards magazine
- CPALC** - Bulletin and details of courses including a seminar on allotments. The clerk reported that most of the allotments had now been let.
- 19 Dates of Next Meetings**
Planning - 18 February Council - 3 March

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....