

Minutes of the Maintenance Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 15 December 2008 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office

Present: RH Chapman (chairman) R Day SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May RLE Waters
WD Booth
Richard Jones and Phil Badley (for the public participation)
The clerk

58/12-08 **Public Participation – Parish Plan**

(8/12-08) Richard Jones gave a summary of the responses in the Parish Plan about the appearance of the village, litter and dog mess, roads and paths, and bushes overhanging pavements. PSB commented that communication and publicity appeared to be major concerns. The clerk offered to write an article for the Village View about maintenance issues.

Thank you to RJ and PSB.

59/12-08 **1 Apologies for absence** – JE Coston D Chamberlin M Ellwood.

60/12-08 **3 Declarations of Interest – Personal / Prejudicial** – RD, RHC and SCH cemetery - personal (relatives buried in the cemetery).

61/12-08 **4 Minutes** – the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

(72/9-08) Tree works – Council had accepted a quotation for the tree works (min 25/12-08 refers). Tree works at Tomkins Mead (min 25/12-08) would be discussed at January meeting.

(72/9-08) Dogwood roots (boundary of Humphries Way open space) – a letter had been received from residents in Ballard Close. It was **AGREED** to forward the letter to the SCDC Trees Officer to advise.

Action: the clerk

(74/9-08) Bus shelter lighting (see also min 28/11-08) – RHC and Colin Nunn (CFN) had replaced the faulty bulbs in both brick built bus shelters. CFN was willing to continue to replace spent bulbs.

The clerk would again ask Stagecoach to instruct their drivers to stop on the concrete area by the bus shelter opposite the Waggon & Horses and whether this stop could be upgraded from a request to a mandatory stop. Reasons: safety and difficulties for passengers standing on the edge of the pavement especially in poor weather in order to see the approaching us. **Action: the clerk**

62/12-08 **5 Cemetery**

(68/9-08) Update: having been unable to make contact with the Smith family by letter the clerk had telephoned Mr Nelson Smith who agreed to discuss with the family the purchase of a double plot and a metal seat.

Noted that the “Exclusive Rights of Burial” form used by the clerk gave exclusive rights to the purchaser and his/her successors.

RHC had cleared rubbish from green bin (min 25/12-08).

Ash trees: RHC reported that the remaining dead boughs would be removed soon.

Yew tree: in hand.

Pest control: Command Pest Control Ltd had visited twice and submitted written reports. RHC reported that the rabbits had now gone.

63/12-08 **6 Allotments – update**

(69/9-08) The signs for the gate had been received (min 25/12-08 refers). Instead of replacing the lock RHC was going to provide a “better fit” chain. Adjustment to gate needed. **Action: RHC**

In view of the financial climate it was **AGREED** to keep the fees at the same rate ie £15 per 10 pole allotment. The clerk would remind allotment holders that the rents would be reviewed again in December 2009. **Action: the clerk**

The clerk had allocated half allotments. A Landbeach resident was next on the waiting list. It was **AGREED** to provide allotments to Milton residents only (as per Agreement). The clerk would inform the Landbeach of the reasons: demand exceeded supply; Milton residents subsidised the allotments through the Council Tax. **Action: the clerk**

Pest control: Command Pest Control Ltd inspected the allotments and advised that it would be unproductive and very expensive to try to control the rabbits here. Most of the allotments were fenced.

AGREED that it was the responsibility of the allotment holders to control rats and mice.

64/12-08 **7 Litter picking – review of work schedule**

(70/9-08)

SCDC rota for the village received:
Weekly - litter pick the High Street, Coles Road to Lion & Lamb pub and empty all litter & dog bins
Fortnightly - litter pick from Tesco roundabout to entrance of Country park
Monthly - litter pick Cambridge Road, Tesco roundabout to Coles Road, High Street, Lion & Lamb pub to Willow Crescent,
Fen Road, High Street to Coles Road including up to no. 6 Church Lane and no. 1 Coles Road.

It was decided not to alter the village litter picker’s duties except to include the litter hotspot adjacent the bus shelter at Landbeach Road.
The clerk would continue to monitor Cambridge Road and High Street.

The recent improvement to the appearance at The Sycamores recreation ground was noted. The clerk was asked to write and thank the employee of MCC who had made such a difference. **Action: the clerk**

Noted that JEC was attempting to arrange a meeting with all the parties involved in maintaining the A10 foot and A14 cycle / foot bridge (see min 16/12-08). A Frost CCC had been invited to the January Council meeting.

65/12-08 **8 Play**

(73/9-08)

RHC and the clerk would replace the sign on Froment Way play area.
It was hoped that the assistant clerk would be able to access grants towards replacement play equipment. Noted that it was MCC’s responsibility to decide whether to put extra play / youth equipment on The Sycamores recreation ground.

66/12-08 **9 Highways**

The clerk would report the sunken manhole in High Street near Lion & Lamb to Keith Fauch, CCC.
Action: the clerk
Noted that the red tarmac was fading. CCC had no money in the budget.

67/12-08 **10 Budget 2009-10**

Estimated expenditure:	
Grass cutting	13246* (+ 4%) [inc allotments and cemetery]
Tree works	3000✘
Play (maintenance)	3000**
Emergency fund	1000
Cemetery-path & moles etc	1700***
Total	21946

Note: * MCC £9468 (to be included in grant to MCC)
✘ Tree works: RD could foresee no major tree works during the next year.
** Capital expenditure if any to be taken from capital reserves and/or grant aided
*** Cemetery path: £1500 allocated to the turning area. RHC proposed that Council ask whether the church would agree to installing a hard drive way in the old part of the cemetery and also whether the church would help with the cost.

AGREED to ask for £21,946 in the budget.

It was suggested that in the financial climate the Precept should not be increased.

RHC commented that the Maintenance Committee were already proactively involved in improving the appearance of the village as highlighted in the Parish Plan.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....