

**Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 10 November 2008 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion**

**Present:** JE Coston (chair) RH Chapman PS Badley G Covell TA Drummond M Ellwood RJ Farrington SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May HM Smith RT Summerfield RLE Waters  
Councillor M Williamson, 6 members of the public and the clerk

- 1/11-08  
(25/10-08) **1 Representative from the Highways Agency – A14**  
Geoff Chatfield Highways Agency and Paul Wilson Atkins explained about the proposed improvements to the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton, including the time scale. More details would be available at the public exhibitions being held in November and December. Milton to Fen Ditton would become six lanes. The Sycamores recreation ground would not be affected. The HA intended to provide two lane in each direction during construction. The provision of noise barriers would be investigated. Any improvements to the Quay junction as a necessity resulting from the proposed development at Cambridge airport would be paid for by the developers. Constraints of space would make the provision of cycle lanes difficult. The amount of compensation to households affected by noise and light pollution, if agreed, would be worked out by the district valuer. Brochures about compensation would be available at the exhibitions. Control of constructors' traffic could be raised at the exhibitions.  
As the Huntingdon fly-over was at the end of its life this scheme was very likely to go ahead.  
  
Thank you to GC and PW.
- 2/11-08 **2 Public Participation** – no member of the public wished to speak.
- 3/11-08 **3 Apologies for absence** - AJ Campbell R Day.
- 4/11-08 **4 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial**  
JEC – land update - personal – husband and son play cricket for Milton Cricket Club.  
HMS – planning - personal – member of SCDC planning committee.  
IFM - land update personal – chairman of colts football club; application by Turnstone Ltd – prejudicial (min 23/11-08 )  
RHC – agenda 12 (Quotation for control of rabbits/moles) – prejudicial.
- 5/11-08 **5 Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting of 6th October 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 6/11-08  
(7/10-08) **6 Parish Plan – report and action points**  
Residents responded. The responses from those under 20 were patchy.  
It was **AGREED** **to set five working parties, under the umbrella of the Parish Council, to look at specific issues and to report back to the Parish Council:**  
**Village Appearance; Environment (already up and running); Communication; Police Liaison and Travel.**  
Each group would need one or two councillors as members.  
Noted that the Environment Group had already met twice and done a litter pick.  
The Steering Group intended to discuss the results of the Parish Plan with all the businesses in the village.  
The results of the survey would be published before Christmas.  
  
Thanks to PSB and other members of the Steering Group for all their hard work.
- 7/11-08  
(41/9-08) **7 Clerk's/Chairman's report**  
Plastic recycling – noted that Chesterton Fen residents did not have a green box collection of any sort.  
The clerk would query this with SCDC. RHC reported that Rectory Farm also did not have a green box collection. **Action: the clerk**
- 8/11-08  
(6/10-08) Telephone box – noted that SCDC had objected to the closure of the box in Coles Road.
- 9/11-08  
(12/10-08) Remembrance Day – noted that the church held a ceremony at the memorial on Sunday which Royal Engineers attended.
- 10/11-08  
(26/10-08) Barnabas Court – admissions policy – HMS reported that the lettings policy had not changed regarding needing a local connection to the village.

- 11/1-08 (28/10-08) Minor Highways Improvement Schemes – bids for 2009/10 – following advice from Keith Fauch the clerk had bid for a footpath on the southern side of the Rowans near Tesco.
- 12/11-08 (32/10-08) Crime update  
**Speedwatch** – Landbeach Parish Council had asked whether Council was planning on being involved with Speedwatch as Landbeach would be prepared to join forces.  
**Action: New Police Liaison Group to discuss.**
- CRDP** - the South Cambridgeshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership recent workshops produced four ideas that stood out:
- improving communications with Parish Councils
  - encouraging respect between different parts of local communities
  - considering an Adopt a Neighbour scheme (to keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours, people on holiday etc to reduce burglary)
  - using Visual Audits to identify areas of concern in a community/village that require further action
- CRDP would follow up these ideas.
- New Neighbourhood Police sergeant** – letter received from Sgt Paul Rogerson introducing himself and the new team including PCSO Claire Whiteman.
- Allotments** – noted that there had been a few break-ins recently at the allotments.
- 13/11-08 (36/10-08) Sluice gates - Pat Matthews SCDC reported that the remaining sluice gates had been stored at their depot for safe keeping.  
 He had been unable to identify the gate owners. This particular section of drain in which they are located is not an award.  
 He had been advised that the “gates serve little purpose as river water will flow over the banks towards the railway and negate any impact they might have and that any 'back surge' will remain within the drain up to the railway bridge.”  
 It was very difficult to justify replacing the gates if they served no purpose.
- 14/11-08 (7/7-08) Park & Ride:  
 Opening ceremony Thursday, 13 November from 11 am.  
 Cycle improvements – after discussing with the clerk Oliver Merrington (Sustrans Cycle Ranger for Waterbeach) had sent a suggested cycle scheme to Alistair Frost. Council proposed some amendments – to be emailed immediately to A Frost. **Action: the clerk**  
 In addition the clerk would ask about responsibility for gritting the A10 bridge and express concerns that the area levelled adjacent junction of Butt Lane and the A10 may become an ideal site for unauthorised access.
- 15/11-08 (38/10-08) IVC Foundation status – from Martin Rigby Chairman of Governors:  
 “..... I can reassure you that the College will remain fully committed to delivering the best possible education for all children in the catchment area, as well as continuing to develop a full community education programme, irrespective of the proposed change of status.  
 ..... the present arrangements for school buses would be unaffected by any change in status.”
- Noted that a public meeting had been arranged in response to requests from parents – to be held in the Gropius Hall of the College at 6.30pm on Wednesday 12 November.
- 8 Planning**
- 16/11-08 SCDC – LDF – consultation on preferred sites for making up housing shortfall of about 1500 houses. Immediate area of Milton was not affected.
- Decisions received
- 17/11-08 (50/6-08) Cambridge Regional College Kings Hedges Road – erection of 20m x 15m canopy – **approved**.  
 Policies: East of England Plan 2008 **SS1**; South Cambs Local Development Framework Development Control Policies 2007 **DP/1 to 3**.

- 18/11-08  
(22/08) Cambridge Consultants Ltd Science Park – proposed 3 storey extension and energy centre following demolition of the banana block with associated landscaping, additional car and cycle parking and alternative access arrangements - **approved**. **Various conditions: landscaping, materials to be used, cycle parking, travel plan, construction phasing plan including working conditions and traffic management scheme, removal of trees, shrubs and hedgerow, protection of watercourse, provision of bird nest and bat boxes, visibility splays, provision of footway link and transport infrastructure.** Following Policies apply:  
East of England Plan 2008: **SS1 (Achieving Sustainable Development)**.  
South Cambs Local Development Framework Development Control Policies 2007: **DP/1 to DP/4 (Development considerations); ET/1,3 and 5 Expansion of Firms); NE/1,2,3,6,9,10,11,14,15 and 16 (Environmental impact); TR/1 to 4 (Travel implications).**
- 19/11-08  
(21/10-08) Mr & Mrs R Holmes 45 High Street - extension – **approved. No windows, doors or openings in side or rear elevations at and above first floor.**  
Policies: East of England Plan 2008 **SS1**; South Cambs Local Development Framework Development Control Policies 2007 **DP/1 to 3** and **CH/5 (Conservation Areas)**.
- New applications:
- 20/11-08  
(170/4-07) S/1884/06 Possfund Custodian Trustee Ltd & Exemplar Property Holding LLP – demolition of existing building and construction of office building (Class B1(b) Research and Development) associated parking with single storey deck parking and landscaping at Building 101 Science Park – **amended vehicle access – for information only.**
- 21/11-08  
(494/11-07) S/1769/07 College of West Anglia – demolition of existing workshop and Leonard buildings, alterations and construction of new teaching and administration building – amendments: alteration to ext wall appearance and position of window in northeast elevation; kitchen door moved and vending machines added in northwest elevation; addition of rooftop plant - **for information only.**
- 22/11-08 S/1669/08 Tesco Stores Ltd Cambridge Road – installation of a combined heat and power unit. – **no recommendation** (delegated)
- 23/11-08 S/1774/08 Mr P Runham 49 Fen Road – 1st floor bedroom extension over part of existing garage – **refuse** – 7 votes in favour, 5 abstentions. **Concerns about over shadowing of neighbouring property. Council supported neighbour’s comments.** Noted that a similar application was refused in 1998. [Clerk would look up reason for refusal].
- 24/11-08 S/1792/08 Turnstone Estates Ltd erection of 120 bed hotel and restaurant together with associated parking and infrastructure on land adjacent A14.  
**“Milton Parish Council strongly objects to this application as the proposed building would have a severe detrimental effect on our village.**  
**Land is in Green Belt.** As we have watched Cambridge creep towards us we have consistently resisted any attempt to take this one remaining piece of rural land at the southern approach to the village out of Green Belt. It is the one parcel of land preventing coalescence with the city. This does not meet the criteria for removal from Green Belt status as admitted by the applicant.  
**Inappropriate.** A hotel is an inappropriate building in our village. The Parish Council and residents of Milton do not accept that this location is urban and have always totally opposed any further urbanisation of our village.  
We strongly refute the comments made in Section 9.2 and 9.6 of the Visual Impact Assessment. We are in great need of additional pitches for colts football and believe if the land were used for recreation/football it would benefit the village much more than the proposed hotel.  
**Traffic.** A 120 bed hotel with car parking spaces for 93 begs the question “Where will all the cars go if the hotel is over ¾ full?” The roads in Milton are already extremely busy. They will not be able to cope with the extra amount of traffic. There would be an inevitable increased congestion on the A14/A10 interchange.  
There would be yet another junction in an area with a number of junctions already.  
**Quality of Life.** This area of Milton has been allowed to grow haphazardly over the years to the mishmash of industrial units that we have now plus a superstore with its own problems of traffic. Another rectangular building will just compound what is an unsightly entrance to the village. Compare this with the northern approach to Milton to see how we have got it wrong previously.  
It is interesting to note that the recently completed Parish Plan survey highlights villagers’ concerns about this approach to the village.  
**Visual impact.** A large building of the type proposed will have an adverse visual impact on our village.”

25/11-08 **9 Finance** - the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on 20 October were received.

It was **AGREED** to accept recommendations:

- **Independent internal audit report : handling of cash – proposal that Council agrees to the clerk writing out a cheque to “Milton Parish Council” for the amount of cash received and then sending that cheque to Council’s bank.** [Note this happens when an allotment holder pays in cash and the clerk is unable to get to the bank to pay this in to Council’s account].
- **Appointment of an assistant clerk – proposal that Council proceed with advertising the post initially in the Village View, the Job Centre, on the web sites of Council, SLCC and CPALC and in the NARPO magazine with a view to appointing an assistant clerk to start work in January.**

Noted that the F&S Committee were recommending that the office opening hours to the public be set at: Monday 10.00-12.00, Wednesday 14.00-16.00 and Friday 10.00-12.00.

Thanks to F&S committee.

26/11-08 **10 Minibus** - the minutes of the Minibus Committee meeting held on 22 October were received.

[As the chairman of the minibus committee had sent his apologies RJF took this item].

Recommendation - **that Council amend the resolution 36/9-08 “.....that the minibus committee be given the authority to implement *increases* as and when necessary without the need to refer back to Council” to “..... that the minibus committee be given the authority to implement *changes* as and when necessary.....”** [Committee may decide to reduce charges].

Concerns were expressed that two councillors only were on this committee and that there could be a possible conflict of interest for those making decisions.

The vice chairman expressed the opinion that the committee was well run and was confident that members would make decisions for the good of the community and not based on personal preferences.

**Recommendation was then AGREED** – 8 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

27/11-08 **11 Cambs and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options 2 Consultation**

(25/10-08)

**Council’s comments:**

- **retention of the aggregates rail terminal at Chesterton junction**

“Whilst we approve of the use of rail to transport aggregates we are concerned about the traffic implications of this.”

- **option to look for a new Local Recycling Centre to replace Butt Lane in Cambridge Northern Fringe East**

“We would support the option to look for a new Local Recycling Centre to replace Butt Lane.”

- **permanent site in CNFE for construction waste handling**

“We would not wish to see this built in this area.”

- **a permanent major waste management site including Energy from Waste on the land off Butt Lane**

“We are opposed to any site close to housing being used to produce Energy from Waste and we are especially concerned about burning of waste and pyrolysis technology.”

- **waste consultation area around the Cambridge Sewage Works**

“We would reiterate our previous comments on this and believe that the Sewage works should be relocated away from housing. If the sewage works are to stay please look at removing some of the old infrastructure and upgrade.”

28/11-08 **12 Maintenance**

**AGREED**

- 1 to approve increase in Grass cutting and general maintenance contract of 4% + £75 for taking on maintenance of extra verge in Old School Lane (min71/9-08)**
- 2 to accept one off quote to control rabbit infestation and moles at cemetery of £240 + VAT and an ongoing quarterly contract of £60 + VAT from Command Pest Control Ltd of Sudbury.** [Having declared a prejudicial interest for this item RHC left the room].

Repairs to bus shelter lighting – not yet done. (Min 28/10-08). Noted that the light in Cambridge Road bus shelter was also not working.

- 29/11-08 **13 Land update including update about land at rear of Milton Hall**  
**AGREED** [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 was closed at 9.55pm.  
  
**To consider appointing a fundraiser** – no action to be taken.  
  
 The meeting re-opened at 10.05pm.
- 30/11-08 **14 Freedom of Information Act Model Scheme and charges for photocopying information**  
**AGREED** to adopt the Model Scheme as circulated by the clerk and to charge 10p per copy photocopying at the clerk's discretion.
- 31/11-08 **15 MCC update** – a new manager, Andy Gray, had been appointed and had already started work.
- 32/11-08 **16 County Councillor's report**  
"Park and Ride (see min 14/11-08 above)  
 The official opening and ribbon cutting is on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The site should open to the public shortly after that.  
Cycle Routes  
 The suggestion in the cycling proposals to upgrade Butt Lane has been picked up by various people. The worry, of course, is that improved cycling facilities may mean Milton will lose its free school transport to IVC although the Oakington to Histon appeal would probably mean that the County would be much more circumspect. Even if the route were improved up to the edge of Impington, there is still the very dangerous stretch of road around the bends by Impington Church, and I would hope that these would preclude the route being judged as safe for school students. That being said, however, improvements along this road would mean that commuters would gain significantly.  
Impington Village College (see min 15/11-08 above).  
 The Governors are intending to go for Foundation status. I have personal reservations about the merits of this but, of course, residents of Milton will be concerned about its effect on their access to the school. There has been some concern expressed locally on the effect on the composition of the governing body and whether parents retain the current representation.  
 I have contacted County education officers and have been advised that none of this should be affected. The school will become its own admissions authority, but the rules now are pretty strict and thus no change should be noticeable. It should also not affect things like free transport.
- (13/5-08) The A10-A14 roundabout  
 I have had a conversation with Alistair Frost about the problems of queues, especially when traffic wants to go west towards Histon. He is going to look at the traffic light timing."  
 MW understood that the proposed CCTV on the cycle bridge cannot be aimed at the A10/A14 interchange.
- 33/11-08 **17 District Councillors' reports**  
Community Care – HMS attended a meeting at Cambourne. Her report would be discussed at next Community Care meeting.  
Cycle / foot bridge over A14 – HMS was investigating whether Highways Agency or County Council were responsible for lighting on the bridge. The clerk would ask the Highways Agency to clarify.  
**Action: the clerk**  
Mere Way Poultry Farm site – SCDC had asked the developers at this site or their comments as industrial / storage units were being built contrary to planning permission.
- (22/10-08) Mrs F Roberts 48 Fen Road – fence (retrospective application). RTS reported that SCDC had refused this application.  
Country Park – there had been vandalism recently. The clerk would invite M Woolhouse to the next meeting for an update. **Action: the clerk**
- 34/11-08 **18 Bills for Payment and Money Received**  
**CONFIRMED** payment of cheques 3840-3847  
**AGREED** payment of cheques 3848-3857  
 (3 abstentions).

