

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 2 February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

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

Public Participation – PCSO Claire Whiteman attended and was aware of a group of youngsters riding motor scooters and generally causing problems at and around the Community Centre.

- 1 /2-09
(45/1-09) **1 Confirmation of appointment of and welcome to assistant clerk**
The chairman welcomed David Geasor, assistant clerk. David was considering working Wednesday evenings and / or Saturday mornings (instead of Wednesday afternoons) in addition to Monday and Friday mornings to allow people at work the opportunity to contact the office.
Either the clerk or assistant would attempt to attend the Parish Plan group meetings.
- 2/2-09 **2 Apologies for absence** - AJ Campbell.
- 3/2-09 **3 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.
- 4/2-09 **4 Minutes** – the following amendments (*in italics*) were made to the minutes which were then approved and signed as a true record.
(1/1-09) A10 verge
This would be landscaped within a few weeks. *“He confirmed that the budget was available.”*
CCTV on A14 bridge
There had been various problems in getting this work done. He could not say when the work would be completed. *“AF reported that funds were available for completion of that project and would not be re-allocated.”*
(23/1-09) Micro hydro-electric scheme at Baits Bite Lock
ACRE and the Cam Conservators *“River Manager”* supported the idea.
- 5/2-09 The confidential minutes of the meeting of 5 January 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 5 Clerk's/Chairman's report**
- 6/2-09
(61/12-08) Citi 2 bus – Stagecoach had made drivers aware of the correct procedures for using bus stops and especially for any waiting passengers in bus shelters that may not at first be visible.
- 7/2-09
(1/1-09) Highways – noted from Mark Kemp CCC that “.....the Winter Maintenance Precautionary Salting is being reviewed with a view to implementing any changesfor the 09/10 winter season.”
Winship Road junction - Mike Davies and Patrick Joyce, Cycling Officer CCC, were looking in to what they could do under the CT scheme.
A14 bridge – notes of 5 January meeting had been circulated. Next meeting 9 February 3.30pm.
A10 bridge – according to Robert Mulundika, area bridge engineer CCC, there were no plans to raise the parapets of the A10 foot bridge. In Council's view the parapets were not high enough even for pedestrian use and the clerk would reply to Mr Mulundika. **Action: the clerk**
- 8/2-09
(13/1-09) SLCC – the following SLCC response to a query was noted:
“Members cannot hold a paid office due to section 116 of the 1972 Act, but there is nothing to stop them acting as contractors, provided they register their interest and make the appropriate declaration of prejudicial interest if it is discussed in a meeting. It would be sensible to get alternative quotes to show that the council has not shown any favouritism. The councillor should provide an invoice for his/her services and will be responsible for his/her own tax and insurance matters.”

This confirmed that Council was acting within the law when employing RHC as a contractor. Noted in addition that RHC had not charged for his time but merely for repayment of expenses occurred.
- 9/2-09
(13/1-09) CPALC meeting minutes – had been previously circulated.

- 10/2-09
(22/1-09) Tomkins Mead – quotation for ash tree (£135) accepted (min 53/1-09 F&S refers). RD and RLEW also met with M Woolhouse Cambridge Sport Lakes to express their concerns about the lack of communication regarding bush and tree work and the quality of the work recently done at Tomkins Mead. MW would ensure that Council would be consulted in future before any work is started. A tree damaged during the recent work would be “repaired”.
- 11/2-09
(23/1-09) Environmental Group:
Baits Bite – the Environmental Group had received a quote of £2410 for the feasibility study and had applied for funding from SCDC and the Big Lottery fund. HMS agreed to inform both Horningsea and Fen Ditton Parish Councils about the project as the three parish boundaries meet at Baits Bite Lock.
Action: HMS
Litter pick – organised for 21 February 2pm – area to be litter picked: between A10/A14 interchange and mini roundabout.
Donarbon – interesting visit on 28 January. PSB had written an article for the Village View. Mark Shelton, Donarbon, was also writing an article for the Village View.
- 12/2-09 **6 Planning** - the minutes of the planning meeting held on 19 January 2009 were received and noted
- 13/2-09
(14/10-08) Appeal – R Davey 63 Cambridge Road against decision of SCDC to refuse conversion of double garage to an annex –**appeal dismissed.**
- 14/2-09
(40/1-09) S/2119/08 Mr Ian Jones 32 Fen Road – car port – noted that the application had been withdrawn
- 15/2-09 Minerals and Waste Plan consultation (See County Councillor’s report below).
- Decisions received
- 16/2-09
(53/12-08) Mr L Saunders 27 and 28 Newfields Chesterton Fen Road - proposed 2 utility /day rooms- **refused. Contrary to various Green Belt Policies – inappropriate development in the Green Belt.**
- 17/2-09
(55/12-08) Mr & Mrs Milner 248 The Rowans - two storey side extension - **approved. Permanent space on site to be provided for car parking. SCDC LDF 2007 Policies DP/2 and 3.**
- 18/2-09
(57/12-08) Tree works Queen Anne Lodge - **approved.**
The tree company engaged to do this work had asked permission to access the site across Memorial Green. Although the clerk had suggested to the company that this would be allowed Council refused permission because of possible damage to the green. The clerk would contact Mrs Lockwood.
Action: the clerk
[Note: by the time the clerk had telephoned on Tuesday morning the company had already started work].
- 19/2-09
(23/12-08) Mr L Smith 8 Cambridge Road – conversion of garage into living accommodation - **approved.**
East of England Plan 2008: **SS1 (Achieving Sustainable Development)**
SCDC LDF 2007: **DP/1 (Sustainable Development), DP/2 (Design of New Development), DP/3 (Development Criteria) and TR/2 (Car and Cycle Parking Standards)**
- New applications
- 20/2-09
(35/1-09) S/1601/08/O Helical (Milton) Ltd - Former EDF Depot and Training Centre Ely Road Milton – outline planning application for retirement village. Amended plans received showing layout approved by SCDC on 14 January – **for information only.**
Noted that the S106 Agreement was still to be finalised. HMS would speak to SCDC solicitor about this.
Action: HMS. It was understood that the solicitor’s department would contact JEC.
- 21/2-09 S/0007/09 Mr J Peck Cave Industrial Estate 24 Chesterton Fen Road – erection of office building with associated car parking – **no recommendation.**
- 22/2-09 S/0026/09 Mr & Mrs Karia 136 The Rowans – two storey front extension and first floor extension over garage – **refuse. Over development of the site and therefore contrary to Policies DP/2 and DP/3 of the SCDC LDF 2007; neighbours’ objections supported.**

23/2-09 **7 Finance** – the minutes of the Finance & Staffing meeting held on 19 January 2009 were received. £1500 for cemetery path improvements deferred for 12 months; Tomkins Mead reserve fund to be amalgamated into a trees fund for maintenance of trees throughout the village over the next 2/3 years; underspend of approximately £4,000 in the current financial year would be rolled over to 2009/10; MCC grant increased to £31,000. Noted that the MCC reserves were decreasing and that its reserves were just sufficient after setting aside £50,000 towards the building’s refurbishment.

Reasons for recommended increase in precept: bank interest received would decrease by £5,000; additional costs of employing an assistant clerk; in 2008/09 the precept had not been increased.

It was AGREED to accept recommendations that Council: [13 votes in favour and one abstention]

- a. defer the proposed capital expenditure at the Cemetery for a year
- b. re-designate the Tomkins Mead Reserve Fund as a Trees Fund
- c. carry forward the under spend in 2008/09 of approximately £4000 and use it to reduce the precept for 2009/10
- d. grant MCC £31,000 for 2009/10
- e. approve the budget and
- f. precept £110,000 for 2009/10.

The clerk would serve notice of the precept on SCDC. *Action: the clerk*

The chairman thanked RTS for his hard work in preparation for this item.

24/2-09 **8 Parish Plan**
(14/1-09) Update – about 20 residents attended the meeting on 15 January. The working groups were in place - the Police Liaison Group being the smallest in number. This Group was looking at restoring Neighbourhood Watch and was being trained in using the camera for Speedwatch. The Communication Group was meeting “electronically”. The Environmental Group continued to meet regularly. The Transport/Village Appearance Group was identifying priorities. The Steering Group was taking a “back seat” for a while. Funding for printing and distribution of Parish Plan – entitled “A Plan for Milton”
HMS reported that SCDC had agreed to make a Community Development Grant of £593 towards the printing.

AGREED

to accept Target Print’s estimate of £593 for black and white printing of the Action Plan subject to approval of the document by Council at the March meeting.

PSB would circulate the Action Plan as soon as possible prior to the Council meeting of 2 March.
Action: PSB

Noted that although the Parish Plan was independent of the Parish Council, Council was obliged to consider reports produced by the working parties (min 6/11-08).

25/2-09 **9 Land update and recommendation that Council actively investigate grants and sources of funding for the village**
(24/1-09) **AGREED**

under the [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 to the public at 8.45pm and re-opened at 9.15pm with all 14 members present.

26/2-09 **10 MCC update** – at the AGM held on 21 January a presentation was made to Julie Gray for her 11 years’ service. Three new members were elected on to the committee.
Building revised estimate £205,000. The new buildings committee would look at this shortly.
There were additional bookings 2 hours each day Monday to Friday at the youth building.

27/2-09

11 County Councillor's report

Park and Ride: Following a lot of correspondence on 'Milton Chat' I am trying to fix up a meeting. Hopefully, I'll have progress to report to the Parish Council.

Council expressed concerns about the junctions at Butt Lane / A10 and the confusion caused when turning right from Histon to Cambridge.

Minerals and Waste Plan: The latest round in this long drawn out saga has produced two new proposals from developers that are in Milton and one in Waterbeach that may affect Milton. The two in Milton are: SS1 73 – Clay extraction for the A14 upgrade– quantity 200,000m³. This is at the current landfill site off Butt Lane.

SS4 126 – land at Chesterton Fen for Household Waste recycling centre.

The one in Waterbeach was somewhat of a surprise (SS4 139). It is a proposal by Network Rail to move the aggregates handling sidings from Chesterton to a site north of Waterbeach. Aside from the fact that it is very close to where I live, Milton PC may wish to consider any effect it may have on vehicular traffic. The idea would be to build a new road from the site to the A10 about half way between the two roundabouts at the Research Park and at the Donarbon site.

You can respond in the usual way via the consultation website:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/mwplan or in writing to Ann Barnes, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box ET1011, Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP.

This item would be discussed fully at the March meeting at which Council would formulate its response.

The A10-A14 roundabout: I contacted the traffic light team about this. Here is their reply:

Dear Councillor Williamson

Thank you for your email regarding the traffic lights at Milton Interchange.

The timing of the lights is designed to try to reduce congestion on the heaviest trafficked routes, such as out of Cambridge during the evening rush hour. Unfortunately this has the effect of penalising some of the less heavy routes, such as the right turn from the A10 onto the A14, at other times of the day. The short length of lane available also makes it difficult as any queue for the A14 Westbound quickly blocks the inside lane over the Southbound Bridge.

We may be able to improve the situation by changing the order in which some of the approaches get green, however this is complicated and will have to be done carefully to ensure that it does not cause worse problems elsewhere. I will have the problem investigated further and implement any improvements that are found.

Cambridgeshire Transport Commission: This has now started and is looking for comments from members of the public. The site is at www.cambstransportcommission.co.uk and is a chance for you all to have your say, whether or not you favour congestion charging.

CCTV on the Jane Coston Bridge: I have chased Mark Kemp, Director of Highways and Access at the County Council for a response to an email I sent to him on this topic.

The HA were denying responsibility for maintaining the lights on the A14 bridge. A Frost had now referred this senior officers at CCC.

Michael Williamson www.michaelwilliamson.org.uk

28/2-09

12 District Councillors' reports

Tesco – meeting with Tesco manager arranged for 13 February. BJ and MW to attend.

Issues to be discussed: matters arising from Parish Plan, pedestrian crossings, litter, graffiti.

Housing Transfer - SCDC had agreed to ballot tenants about transfer council housing to a Housing Association.

(28/12-08)

Chesterton Fen – survey about proposed mains sewage was due to be carried out during the week starting 2 February. The EA and SCDC Environmental Health were aware of the pollution of the River Cam.

Emmaus – more trustees were needed.

29/2-09 **13 Bills for Payment and Money Received**
Noted that cheque 3885 (Buchans) replaced cancelled cheque 3879 (incorrect amount).
The office had negotiated a one year contract with E-on which would result in reduced electricity costs.

CONFIRMED payment of cheques 3884 - 3892
AGREED payment of cheques 3893 – 3901

PSB declared an interest (cheque 3893) and abstained from voting.

30/2-09 **14 Correspondence**
Department for Transport - consultation regarding Road Safety Compliance (previously circulated by email)
Link: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/compliance/>
SCDC - South Cambs Community Chest - new small grant scheme
Guided Busway - works on the busway between Orchard Park and King’s Hedges Road are scheduled to start on Monday 26 January and will finish in late summer 2009.
- Update and Press Release.

31/2-09 **15 Dates of Next Meetings**
Planning - 16 February
Minibus - tba
Council - 2 March

32/2-09 **16 Items and Reports for March agenda** (to be received by Friday 21 February)
Quotations from Murfitts for internal alterations to bowls pavilion and office.

The meeting ended at 9.55pm.

Signed.....

Date.....