

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19 April 2010 at 8.00pm in the Community Centre Annexe

Present: RH Chapman (chair) 40 members of the public and the following Parish Councillors:
PS Badley JE Coston R Day TA Drummond RJ Farrington B Jefferson IF May HM Smith
RT Summerfield RLE Waters
County Councillor M Williamson, the clerk and assistant clerk

- 1 Introduction by Chairman** – the chairman extended a warm welcome to the meeting.
apologies for absence - AJ Campbell GA Covell M Ellwood A Gray SC Humphreys.
- 2 Introduction of Parish Councillors** – the Parish councillors introduced themselves.
- 3 Minutes** - the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 April 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 4 Chairman's Annual Report** – the report was circulated with the agenda and is attached to the minutes.
The chairman emphasised that Milton Parish Council was a very active council and he thanked Council on his and the whole village's behalf. He pointed out that the workload for the clerk and assistant clerk had increased considerably.
Report headings: precept, recreation land, other issues, PCSO, clerk's office, Parish Plan, youth and community care.
He concluded by thanking Richard Summerfield for his hard work on behalf of the village as District Councillor for 15 years.
Draft accounts 2009/10 - general fund increased from £185,085 to £204,433, much of which was earmarked to pay towards MCC improvements and recreation land acquisition.
- 5 Retirement village options - recreation land or money**
RTS gave a summary of the negotiations for recreation land that had been ongoing for some years and the various options that Council had and was still pursuing.
Council continued to investigate three sites:
Landbeach Road (24 acres) – expensive; safety concerns crossing the A10. Possible access across A10 bridge and along a new path was suggested. Noted that the A10 bridge is a foot bridge and not designed for cyclists. There was no money available to upgrade the bridge.
Urban Renaissance Village (4 acres) – limited amount of land; lease and possible share of costs to maintain access road through the retirement village.
College of West Anglia (CWA) (16 acres) – probably the best option; also expensive; allotments may need to be moved as part of the deal; room for expansion.
Jim Hill, Cambs Football Association confirmed that Milton was a priority area for investing in grass pitches. Funding would be made available by the Football Foundation which had given c£4 million in recent years to projects in Cambridgeshire. He reported that around £300k is likely to be available depending on the final project submitted.
Council would keep the village informed and would consult before making a decision. Council's main aim was to secure a green open space for the village. It was important to take the right option for the long term benefit of the village as a whole.
- 6 Charities' report** (attached to minutes)
Andy Gray had recently taken over from Barry Jefferson as Clerk for Milton Parochial Charities. His report highlighted the accounts and lifelines for the elderly. The chairman thanked the Charities for their generous support for schemes in the village.
- 6 Parish Plan report** (attached to minutes)
The report detailed the progress made by the Parish Plan, the actions completed and the next steps. Significant progress in completing the Action Plan had been made. Details would be shown on the website. Two main groups had emerged: the Environment Group and Neighbourhood Watch. PSB had been overseeing the Plan for over 4 years and because of work commitments he was now standing down as chairman of the Steering Committee.

The chairman thanked PSB for his hard work in producing a document which Council had been able to use – in such areas as considering planning applications. It was reassuring that Council appeared to be doing what the people of Milton wanted.

7 Neighbourhood Watch report (attached to minutes)

The Neighbourhood Watch (Nhw) scheme had been successfully re-launched. The report also highlighted the way forward. More street co-ordinators were needed. The Nhw was looking at initiatives to follow up eg business partnerships, protecting the elderly. Nhw was represented at quarterly Police Neighbourhood Panel meetings. Number of crimes in Milton had dropped significantly. Big problem at present was theft and vandalism at the allotments.

9 Milton Action for Youth report (attached to minutes)

Awards for All grant of £9,000 + received which was being used to support an extra session of youth work each week, specially for a girls club and some targeted courses to encourage teenage girls to attend. Linda Henderson was chairman and Hazel Smith treasurer. Congratulations on receiving the award.

10 Milton Community Centre (MCC) report (attached to minutes)

MCC committee was responsible for the recreation grounds and all buildings on them. MCC had appointed A Gray full time manager in 2008 and he was running the centre and grounds very effectively. The written report highlighted: Bookings, vandalism, staff and building refurbishment. Noted that grants from WREN (maximum allowed £50,000), SCDC (£8,500) and the Parish Council (up to £70,000) had been approved towards refurbishing the community centre which was the most well used in the South Cambs district. Works were expected to take place during the summer.

11 County Councillor’s report (attached to minutes)

The County Councillor’s patch consisted of Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach (inc Chittering). MW gave a snapshot of some current issues: impact of Marshalls decision on Waterbeach and areas around Cambridge; cycle way Milton to Impington; Park & Ride - road signs at Butt Lane/A10 junction; Parking at Cambridge Road industrial estate; Heavy goods vehicles crossing the raised pedestrian crossing in High Street; mobile libraries.

12 District Councillors’ reports (attached to minutes)

HMS highlighted from the report: housing – 44 council houses in Milton; Rowing Lake – no further forward than in 2009; introduction of blue bins in October (evidence from other councils shows that the overall rate of recycling had increased with the introduction of one bin). HMS thanked RTS for his support and commented that he was well respected at SCDC. RTS thanked HMS for her kind words and commented that it had been a privilege to represent Milton. He also thanked Council for its co-operation, help and companionship.

In response to a question Council reaffirmed its commitment to affordable housing. SCDC Policy ensured that 40% of large developments must now be affordable housing (this was not the case during the expansion of Milton in the 1980’s and 1990’s). Local landowners were not prepared to sell land for affordable housing.

13 Question and Answer Session

Bus service – Stagecoach was a commercial concern and had to run their services at a profit. Any concerns should be addressed to M Williamson who would endeavour to “put pressure” on Stagecoach. Parish Council – elections were scheduled for May 2011. This would be well advertised to try to encourage more candidates. Young candidates should be encouraged.

The chairman concluded that Milton Parish Council was a very active and professional quality council that worked on behalf the village.

He thanked everyone again for attending.

The meeting ended at 10.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....