

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25 April 2005 at 8pm in the Community Centre**

Present: JE Coston (chair) RH Chapman R Day RJ Farrington CJ Lock IF May  
B Jefferson PK Oldham HM Smith RT Summerfield RLE Waters  
The clerk SJ Daniels and 5 members of the public

**Minute 173/05**

**1 Apologies for Absence** - EH Baker AJ Campbell M Ellwood

**2 Introduction**

JEC welcomed all to the meeting. The Parish Councillors introduced themselves.

**3 Minutes** – the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2004 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**4 Chairman's report**

The chairman gave a quick overview of the sorts of things the Parish Council had dealt with during the previous 12 months:

Play equipment repairs and maintenance; new play equipment; new street light in the Rowans; Vandalism and anti social behaviour; risk assessments; travellers issues; moles in the cemetery; the Freedom of Information Act; planning applications and recommendations; pressing for the cycle bridge to be gritted; community minibus; planting blackberries along the boundary of the allotments to deter A10 travellers from entering the site; agreeing pay scales for employees; trolley bus to Tesco - shopping trips for elderly; mud on the road near the landfill site; new seats in the village; dog fouling issues; repair to the bus shelters; Parish office for the clerk and parish council archive; more recreation ground for the ever growing football groups - adults and children; guided bus consultation; repairing the allotment pump; missing road signs, redundant ones and new ones; resurfacing of the High Street and reinstatement of the speed humps; getting the advertising signs removed from the Tesco roundabout; meetings with Tesco about footways, crossings, policing issues and litter; flies from the closed chicken farm in Butt Lane; stall at the village fayre; travellers on Landbeach Road and work to stop access; arranging for trees and hedges to be cut back; Rowing Lake planning issues; Anglian Water (Milton pong) Liaison meetings; red telephone box retention; Clerk and Councillors attending training; Remembrance day poppies and organisation of ceremony; Christmas tree lights; youth work; community care for the elderly; grass cutting and maintenance in the village – a new company was now doing this; cemetery care; Country Park issues and tree lopping concerns; Northern Fringe development - Cowley Road area; lack of CCTV which was promised for the bridge.

The Parish Council also contributed towards the cost of improvements at the Butt Lane junction and the pedestrian crossing near Tesco - being installed at this time.

Asian Disaster Appeal – a special fund was opened for this appeal which raised an amazing £15,591.13 and paid for almost 32 shelter boxes to be sent to the disaster area. Each box cost £490 and contained a tent and enough equipment for 10 people to survive for up to 6 months. Milton is listed on the shelter box site under M as the people of Milton Village, Cambridgeshire, UK.

Youth Building – Hazel Smith continued to work on behalf of the Parish Council to get a dedicated building on the Sycamores Recreation Ground

The Parish Council employs the clerk, youth workers, village cleaners, and a community care warden who works with the elderly.

Lack of policing – the Parish Council had met with the police and had been successful in persuading them to increase policing in the area, now achieved with the arrival of PCSO Ellie Hains. PC Shulver had the villages that he covered reduced from 8 to 4 so generally there would be more visible policing. Council had also discussed during the year the cost of possibly paying for Milton's own PCSO.

One of the nice things that the chairman was able to do as in 2004 was present Mrs Day with flowers for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Two councillors had resigned during the last year. Ian Cowley, who was involved in the youth club, moved away and Lynn Twinn who also had been on the Council for many years and had a special interest in helping with the youth.

Milton's councillors work hard for the people of Milton. They attend meetings, as well as getting involved with their sleeves rolled up to save the village money. One Councillor has been particularly successful in obtaining funding for a youth shelter and youth building.

There are numerous committees and working parties such as Community Care and Youth which report to the Council. The councillors are a friendly hard working group who work together for the benefit of the village and the chairman thanked all of them for their tireless efforts.

In addition the chairman thanked the clerk for all his work and support.

## **5 Draft Accounts 2004/05**

The un-audited draft accounts were presented to the meeting. Income £105,737, expenditure £103,527. The Balance Sheet showed an increase in net assets of approximately £2200.

Noted that the loan for the Community Centre was due to be paid off in October 2005.

## **6 Charities Report**

Barry Jefferson gave a detailed report. During the year ended 31 December 2004 the Charity had supported individuals, groups and village projects. Income for the year £2,603, expenditure £1,868.

Projects supported included lifeline alarms – 12 in use plus one held for emergencies. The Charity continued to work closely with the Community Care Warden.

In 2005 the Charity had donated £500 to CAMTAD (Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness) to enable them to set up at the doctors' surgery.

## **7 County Councillor's Report**

The Waterbeach ward includes Milton, Landbeach, Waterbeach, and Chittering.

It had been another busy year with many local projects:

Sewage Works – JEC had worked with South Cambs Environmental Health and had local meetings with Anglian Water. As a result very few complaints about smells were being received now.

Cycle / footbridge - The bridge opened at last on the 18th May. It was being very well used with thousands of people crossing it each week. Thanks to all, especially the Parish Council and District Councillors, who supported this project. Thanks also to those who made the opening day a village event that JEC would never forget. A special thanks also to the WI who laid on a wonderful spread afterwards.

The CCTV was not installed as all involved expected it to be. The Highways Agency and the County Council had now agreed to put funding into a scheme and were awaiting approval of the proposed system from the police.

Other issues: plans for the rowing lake, landfill issues, the northern fringe development and the Milton Interchange alterations. JEC was concerned about Milton no longer having a dedicated phase on the lights to exit Milton and had raised this point on many occasions and would continue to do so.

Traffic lights were due to be installed in September at the busy Denny End junction on the A10 at Waterbeach. The Highways department were now resurfacing the High Street and installing a zebra crossing where the parish council wanted it.

JEC was also involved in Fred Moss' (traveller) funeral and worked with police to make sure everything went off smoothly.

There had been regular meetings with Area Road Engineers in the villages to discuss local issues and problem areas and chase up any issues raised by the Parish Council.

JEC was a member of the Police Authority and the Fire Authority, chairman on the police consultation panel and was also appointed member for diversity. Recently the Police Authority agreed to put more money into front line policing and 10 more PCSO's giving a total of over 100 PCSO's employed in the county.

Many local issues involved working with the local Parish Councils. In Milton JEC had worked with District Councillors, Richard Summerfield and Hazel Smith. It was this supportive working together relationship that had enabled them to achieve much more for the village. Thanks to Richard, Hazel and the Parish Council for this.

JEC had been happy to work for the area over the years but sadly had decided after much thought to stand down as County Councillor as she was tired and disgusted with some of the politics creeping in at this level where some claim credit for things that they clearly had not been involved in for political purposes. It was her hope that whoever was elected on the 5<sup>th</sup> May would work with everyone for the benefit of the community and not put politics first.

PKO thanked Jane for her sterling work over 12 years not only for Milton but also for Landbeach, Waterbeach and Chittering. Jane was always willing to take on “lots of little things” to help people even if it were not her responsibility to do so. Paul quoted Liz Baker “I think that a key point of Jane's councillorship is that she took ownership of every problem that was ever brought to her. Even if it wasn't her responsibility she would find out where you needed to go next before dropping contact. For those people who are faced with a featureless mass of local government, Jane has been more important than the results of her work show.”

Paul then presented Jane with a basket of flowers – well he would have done if the clerk had remembered to collect them!

**8 District Councillors' Report**

There were now two district councillors for Milton. The District Council was not often polarised or split along party political lines.

Local Plan – the area was due for huge increase in housing. Development was planned for the new town Northstowe, Arbury Camps (likely to start soon), Chesterton Sidings and Cambridge East (Marshalls Airport).

Chesterton Sidings – there was space for 900 houses and a railway station. AWA were considering re-locating the sewage works further north, allowing a total of 2500 houses. A move would be very expensive and AWA would hope for Government aid. Work on improving A10/A14 had already started.

Cambridge East – most of this development was long term if and when Marshalls could move. The area between the city cemetery and the Newmarket Road Park and Ride site would be developed sooner.

Half the houses on the new sites were to be “affordable homes”.

Upgrade of the A14 would be necessary. The Parish Council would press for a sound barrier near the Country Park.

Recycling – South Cambs' recycling scheme was very successful.

Travellers – Milton had its own large settled population at Chesterton Fen. Most of the sites had planning permission.

Country Park – was an asset to the village. An interesting programme of activities was arranged in the park. There were now two computers set up for internet and email use by the public.

Council Housing – SCDC were consulting about how to run council housing in the future.

Issues taken up by HMS:

Drainage improvements, noise and litter at Tesco, Landfill site, planning and licensing queries.

Resurfacing of the haling way from Cambridge to Baits Bite lock was due to be finished soon. The Rowing Trust were likely to submit a planning application soon.

Council Tax – RTS gave a comprehensive explanation of the current position. During previous years SCDC had levied the following Council Tax (Band D):

1993-95	refund of £17
1996-98	£0
1999-2001	£50
2002-2004	£70
2005	£140 (a realistic level)

Between 1992 and 2005 the Government grant had been reduced from £70 per head of population to £47. Cambridge City received £7.7 million in 2005, SCDC (with a similar population) £2.4 million.

If “capped” by Central Government SCDC would need to cut its services by as much as 25%.

It was agreed that there were insufficient members of the public present to consider whether letters should be sent to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office supporting SCDC's position and indeed one member felt that political issues should not be discussed at this forum.

**9 Conclusion**

As there were no further questions the chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Chairman..... Date.....