

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22 April 2013 at 7.30pm in Milton Community Centre

**Present:** RT Summerfield (chair) 13 members of the public (2 arrived at 7:35pm, 1 left at 8:24pm and 2 left at 9:10pm) and the following Parish Councillors:  
AJ Campbell (arrived at 7:50pm) JE Coston RJ Farrington G Heaney MC Perkins HM Smith I Tyes G Wynne-Jones  
The clerk and Assistant Clerk  
County Cllr. M Williamson  
Chris Poultney (Cambs County Council), Keith Miles (SCDC) ( both left at 8:24pm)

- 1. Introduction by Chairman:** The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the meeting.  
**Apologies for absence:** accepted from D Chamberlin, M Hersom, IF May.

- 2. New Cambridge Science Park Station:**

Chris Poultney, Project Leader for the new station at Cambridge County Council gave a presentation on the proposed layout and means of access to the new station by bus, guided bus, foot, cycle and car. The formal planning application will be submitted shortly and the new station should be open by the end of 2015.

Keith Miles, Head of Planning Policy at SCDC, gave a presentation on development for the Northern Fringe area of Cambridge, which includes the site of the new station, based on the responses received from the public consultations on the revised Local Plans being drafted by both SCDC and the City Council.

- High quality employment-led development was highlighted as most appropriate for this area, not housing. This is a good area to focus additional employment.
- Discussions are taking place with Anglian Water to try to downsize the existing sewage works and improve operations there. It will not be possible to relocate the sewage plant from the existing site.
- The existing freight sidings being used by aggregate companies will be retained for at least 10 years.
- It is hoped that the Chisholm Trail cycle route will connect this area with the south of the city.

Following these presentations a question and answer session was held which included:

- How many passengers will new station be able to deal with per hour?
- The possible effect on Waterbeach station (no impact is foreseen)
- There must be safe access for pedestrians and cyclists across busy road junctions near to the station
- The proposed footpath from Chesterton across the bramblefield site could lead to parking problems in roads in this area
- It will be important to set the cost of car parking at a sensible level.

RTS thanked Chris and Keith for their presentations.

- 3. Introduction of Parish Councillors:** the Parish Councillors introduced themselves.
- 4. Minutes:** the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 23 April 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 5. Chairman's Annual Report.**  
The chairman's report was circulated and included the following: retirement of County Cllr Michael Williamson, new sports pitches at North Lodge Park, annual precept, MCC, community care, youth, local plan consultation, Cambridge Sport Lakes, office and welcome packs, village litter picks.

**Draft accounts 2012/13:** general fund increased from £205,525 to £217,550.

- 6. Charities Report:**

A total of £3540 was received in rent from tenants who farm on land owned by the Charity.

Investment Income amounted to £497.

The Charity administers 15 Lifeline Alarms for Milton residents and the holders of these alarms provided a total of £345 towards the cost of this facility.

The Charity donated £2000 during the year to the Community Care Scheme, administered by the Parish Council.

Milton Parochial Charities is associated to The Jean Gallagher Trust, who provided the following donations:

- Senior Citizens £500
- Day Centre £600
- Trolley Bus £900

- 7. Milton Action for Youth (MA4Y) Report:**

We have had a successful year in maintaining the Tuesday night term-time Youth Club, with thanks to Milton Parish Council for funding this.

In addition, we were successful with our grant application to Awards 4 All, part of the Big Lottery and were able to run additional classes on Thursdays :

- in the Autumn Term an Arts Award project, resulting in a large art work proudly displayed at the Youth Club;
- in the Spring term a baby sitting course for a number of local teenagers
- in the summer term, we shall be running a 6 week bicycle maintenance course.

All the people who completed the courses received certificates, which should help their future career paths, whatever that may be.

Looking ahead for 2013/4, MPC have agreed to continue to fund the Tuesday night Youth Club, which will continue on the same term-time arrangement as at present.

We are also looking at fund-raising for a new skate-park on the Sycamores, having received a petition signed by young people from Milton.

We hope to have some plans available for our stall on the summer fayre.

IT commented that the youth building is considerably underused and is available for hire. It would be a great venue for children's parties, social events, group activities.

#### **8. Milton Community Centre (MCC) Manager's Report:**

##### Bookings

These continue very much as in previous years, with the main building being used most of the time during the day and every week day evening. Saturday night bookings have been fairly quiet, although these will increase during the summer months, with a few parties, a couple of weddings and a number of social events coming up.

The Annexe continues to be fully occupied by either Cygnets Pre-School or Kids R Us, Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6.00pm, with additional groups using the facilities in the evenings and Saturday mornings. Children's birthday parties are held on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, on average 2 or 3 times a month.

The Youth Building hosts the Youth Club on a Tuesday & Thursday evenings, Young Carers use the facilities every other Saturday morning and Cavalry Chapel use it in the evening on the first Friday of the month.

##### Maintenance and Improvements

The following work has been carried out during the last year:

- MCC kitchen refurbished;
- Windows in the Bowls Pavilion replaced;
- Floor and carpet in the Bowls Pavilion replaced;
- 2 uneven paths at the Sycamores Rec have been re-laid;
- Gutters on all the buildings have been cleaned out.

##### Staff

Besides myself, there are 4 staff members - Linda and Gina who clean and lock up at the Community Centre and Annexe, Ray who keeps Coles Road rec and the Sycamores rec clear of litter and Kevin, who looks after the Youth Building.

RJF noted that Andy Gray, MCC Manager, was doing a great job and was available at the MCC most weekdays for any enquiries.

#### **9. Police Report:** apologies had been received from Sgt. Rogerson and PCSO Mason that they were unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk had prepared a report with data relevant to Milton taken from the most recent Histon Neighbourhood Panel Meeting Notes

##### Previous Priorities

Speeding outside Milton Primary School has been fed back from both the online panel and from engagement with parents on the school gate, it is suggested that this is added to the list of sites for the next period.

It is suggested that this priority continue.

##### Milton, Landbeach Crime

Milton has seen a reduction in crime over the last period. Recorded crime fell from 82 in the last period to 66 in this period. Looking at the yearly trend this sees a return to normality for the village. The rise and reduction is believed to be related to drugs activity around a specific property in Milton which continues to receive police attention.

There have been two house burglaries in the last three months, a reduction from nine this time last year. One relates to the incident below\* where car keys are taken and a car is stolen and subsequently used to try and steal a van. During the second crime, offenders break into a rear window to gain entry.

Mirroring the rest of South Cambs there has been an increase in commercial burglary. Milton has been targeted more than other parishes, owing to its proximity to the A14 and the layout and design of Cambridge Rd Industrial Estate which allows for persons to enter and load out of sight. Regular patrols are already in place around these premises along with some other identified vulnerable locations in Milton.

Eight offences relate to properties outside of the Milton Village area, technically in Milton Parish within the city boundary.

\*In Landbeach a van was stolen as part of a series of events whereby a car was stolen from Milton and used to commit further thefts at the Landbeach address.

##### Anti-social behaviour

There have been very few reports of anti-social behaviour for Milton in the last period via the Police Service Centre. It is worth however, noting the concerns made via the online-survey in regards to the possible drugs used in Milton Country Park.

JEC enquired whether PC Shulver was still the village officer for Milton. The Clerk advised that according to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website he was no longer part of the Histon team, which is headed by Sgt. Paul Rogerson. PCSO Mason covers Milton as part of his area but there does not appear to be a PC assigned to Milton. JEC commented that it was disappointing that the Parish Council was not kept up-to-date on personnel changes with the local police team.

#### **10. County Councillor's Report:**

##### County Council Budget

Money continues to be very tight. In this area, as mentioned below, we have benefitted from some local funds, but overall spending is being reduced all the time.

Of course the County budget situation is not helped (to put it mildly) by the drain on resources caused by the historic problems of the construction of the Guided Busway; hopefully these issues will be resolved soon, but who knows what will be the final cost.

Highways

Getting anything done of a routine nature for our local roads seems to be getting harder and harder. Some of the contacts who we have been dealing with in the past have been made redundant or are taking early retirement. The state of a number of side roads is getting worse and worse and it is difficult to see how money will become available to solve these problems.

Milton-Impington Cycleway

This is still not finished. The facility is, of course, a mixed blessing. There is no doubt that it will significantly increase road safety along this road but there is also a danger that its presence will cause the removal of free school transport from Milton to Impington Village College. There is a process in the County Council for Councillors to make the final judgement on removal of buses, and there have been recent cases where the building of a cycleway has been deemed not to provide a safe enough route to justify the loss of transport.

Landbeach-Milton Cycleway

This is a scheme that has been financed by money from developments in the Cambridge Northern Fringe. It will provide a safe route for cyclists and walkers between Landbeach and Milton and will benefit both those who wish to cycle from Landbeach for work and also those who wish to cycle from Milton to the Landbeach Research Park. Work is proceeding apace, but there is a potential issue about the junction where it meets the A10. Both Landbeach and Milton Parish Councils have concerns about the work needed to make this crossing point safer, and discussions are going on to get a suitable design.

Other issues

The Council is responsible for many issues besides those relating to roads, but it is highways and transport matters that seem to have taken up most of my time as a Councillor over the last eight years. I have not mentioned the constant problems with the Social Services budget and the seeming inability of the Council to manage it properly. Nor have I mentioned the issues at Amey-Cespa just up the road where much of the black bag rubbish is not being processed and going directly to land-fill.\* These and other matters are for a future Councillor to continue to deal with since I have decided that I shall be retiring at the election on May 2nd. I have found the last eight years enjoyable but, in some ways, frustrating since I have not been able to achieve as much as I would have liked. However, I wish my successor well (whoever it may be) and thank the residents of Milton for their support.

Michael Williamson  
Tel: 01223 860899  
The Willows, Long Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9LW

\*MW noted that this has caused extra landfill tax payments which means Amey-Cespa has a large amount of grant funding available at the present time.

RTS thanked MW on behalf of the Parish Council and the village for his hard work for the past 8 years and wished him a long and happy retirement.

**11. District Councillor’s Report** (attached to minutes as Appendix I)

**Topics:** Council Housing, South Cambs Finances, Budget Cuts, Environmental Health, new Local Plan, Land for Sport, Planning for Traveller sites, Traveller site for SCDC rental plots, Planning for Northstowe, Waterbeach development, Cambridge Science Park station and Fen Road Chesterton, Flooding on Fen Road Chesterton, Traffic calming on Fen Road Chesterton, Northern Area Corridor Transport Plan, Planning in Milton, Bellway development (North Lodge Park), Future Transport, SCDC Magazine delivery, Emmaus Cambridge.  
JEC thanked HMS for her hard work as District Councillor and noted that Hazel’s knowledge was invaluable to the Parish Council.

**12. Question and Answer Session**

Golf Course: a resident asked if the work to comply with the enforcement order had been completed. JEC commented that the terms of the enforcement agreement were appalling and a lot of the material dumped at the site was not to be removed. MW noted that the enforcement process is very long-winded and is subject to appeal by the landowner and that the compromise reached in this case was the probably the best solution. A portion of the aggregate has been removed.

Northbound cycleway through Milton: a resident commented that this cycleway needs refurbishing.

The chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9:20pm

Signed..... Date.....

## ***District Councillors Annual Report – April 2013 – Hazel Smith***

### **Council housing**

The big news last year was that the district council had just taken on a loan of £205.123m (over 205 million pounds) and in return had full control of its housing stock. As it no longer has to pay £13m a year to the government, the council will be able to pay the interest on the loan, put more investment into council house improvements, AND build up a fund to finance building new council houses.

The planning permission has now gone through for the first of the **new SCDC houses** to be built this year, replacing some garages on a council estate in Linton.

SCDC council officers are also building up quite an expertise in ‘**greening**’ the council houses – you will have noticed the solar panels fitted to bungalows in Recreation Close, and these have been fitted to council houses throughout South Cambs District, along with improved insulation. The council owns over 1,000 solid-walled properties, many heated by oil, which are very difficult to insulate. We are working our way around this housing stock fitting new windows, insulation and external cladding to improve their energy efficiency, and one of our officers has won a national award recognising his contribution.

The SCDC **Sustainable Parish Energy Project** gained an award from a national competition - best community effort in the East of England for Carbon Reduction. There was a presentation at the Gamlingay Eco-hub, and the competition carries on to a national final now. South Cambs is also a coordinating organisation for the **Green Deal**, and about 30-40 home owners and tenants, some in Milton, have had a free Green Deal Assessment done. Here in Milton the **Environmental Group** again had a stall as one of the destinations in the Country Park Easter Egg Hunt. This year we had the SCDC eco-dolls-house, which was very popular, and also a litter picking race game.

### **South Cambs Finances**

You will have noticed that council tax in Milton went up by 3.2%. The part levied by South Cambs for itself went up by £5 for a Band D house – the limit set by the government, which comes to 4.3%.

### **Budget cuts**

You will be glad perhaps to learn that the funding for support of **Community Care** schemes (which we benefit from) remains fixed at £17,900, though an increase would certainly be justified. The **Community Chest** fund for small grants (of up to £1,000 each) has increased from £36,400 to £52,000, but there will be no larger-scale funding for village projects. South Cambs will help village organisations find funding from elsewhere, though, as it can run the FunderFinder software for us. The funding for the **Citizens Advice Bureaux** and other advice agencies in the Third Sector is being cut.

A lot of the grants that were part of the government’s funding to councils are being removed, and instead there is the New Homes Bonus, which is a sizeable amount of money paid **if** the council delivers a lot of new homes. Luckily in this part of the country the housing market is holding up well. South Cambs appears to be hoarding its New Homes Bonus to pay towards the A14 upgrade.

We now have the detail of the new regime that replaces Council Tax Benefit - **Localised Council Tax Support**. There are a number of serious differences from the current system:

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1. The new regime does not charge council tax and then give people who qualify a rebate. The rebate is deducted at source, by reducing the bill in the first place, so everyone's council tax will rise a little to make up the difference.
2. The Local Council Tax Support scheme of SCDC removes the 6 months free of council tax if a property is empty. So if a landlord does not immediately fill an empty rented house, they will themselves be liable for the full Council Tax on that house.
3. It removes the 10% reduction for second homes.

### **Environmental Health**

There is a major problem with meeting the recycling target of 65%. This is likely to be 58% at the end of the year, largely due to the dry spring and wet summer last year! The Green Bin waste was less than expected in the Spring, and then when everything started growing the green waste was too wet to compost.

### **The new Local Plan**

The District Council has started a new round of plan-making, to cover development up to the year 2031.

There have been consultations with the public, followed by 4 all-day workshops for councillors on aspects of the Local Plan. Sections of it come to meetings for approval, then the council will agree a new draft in June, that will be out for consultation over the summer.

### **Land for sport – local plan**

The Bellway development has now started behind and beside Milton Hall, and the parish will get 2 football pitches and a pavilion built as part of the scheme. I suggested that land North of this recreation area should be safeguarded for recreation use in the plan to 2031, as more pitches may well be needed, and this will be consulted on in the summer.

The Union Place proposal for a **Community Stadium**, near Blackwell caravan site, across the A14 from the Regional College, is still one of the possible options. There are 11 sites from the City and South Cambs areas from which one will be chosen as a centre for 'sub-regional facilities' ie a large stadium. The old P&R site at Cowley Road is another of the options.

Last week we attended an all-day workshop to decide a 'Vision' for the development by the new station beside the sewage works. The conclusion seemed to be that the future of the sewage works was of supreme importance to any development there. Many of us felt that if it remained as now, then no houses should be built there at all.

### **Planning for Traveller sites**

The Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan had stalled and is now to be rolled forward and published as part of the new Core Strategy, expected to be adopted in 2015.

The lack of a completed Plan Document left the Council area vulnerable to unauthorised encampments, as from April 2013 the Council has to show that it has a strategy to provide enough legal plots for local Traveller families when it turns down planning applications for more.

There was a Needs Assessment done in 2012 – a detailed academic piece of work, analysing the needs of the local Travellers over the years to 2031, that concluded that from 2011 to 2016, 65 permanent pitches were needed, with a further 20 pitches between 2026 and 2031. 44 individual permissions had been granted (26 of those on Chesterton Fen) before last month, and then at the April Planning Committee 55 further pitches got permanent permission. So by my reckoning we have already approved more than the total needed by 2031. And yet there are many other Travellers in the area unable to find places to live. The Council is defending an appeal by Irish Travellers whose application to live on Smithy Fen was turned down.

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You can see from this that planning for Traveller sites is in a mess. Some poor decisions have been made.

### **Traveller site for SCDC rental plots**

You may have read in the local news that following the public opposition, SCDC are now no longer intending to reopen the Mettle Hill site. But they have £500,000 of government grant for a new rental Traveller site burning a hole in their back pocket – and nowhere to spend it at present.

They are looking at some sites in Fen Road, Chesterton that already have planning permission, but the owners are asking for ridiculous amounts of money for them. We are hoping that something can be organised as this may be a way to get a better sewerage system installed down there.

### **Planning for Northstowe**

The new town of **Northstowe**, which featured in the previous plan, is coming closer to being a reality, and the application for Phase 1 has been passed by the planning committee. Our main worry in Milton was over the possibility that some of the construction aggregates would be brought into the area through the railhead at Chesterton Sidings, behind Cowley Road and opposite the Science Park, but we have been assured that they will come from the North (Earith & St Ives). However, the Chesterton Railhead is important for bringing the necessary supplies for upgrading the A14, if that ever happens. With construction of the new station in the same area happening between 2014 and 2015, we must expect to see a lot more traffic on Milton Road in future.

Phase 1 of Northstowe (the size of Milton) was approved with only £30,000 in the S106 pot for infrastructure. This follows the October approval in principle, which indicated £65m for Phase 1 S106 commitments, and January's meeting in which it was reduced to £41m. I could not bring myself to vote in favour, as the whole project is now becoming trimmed down to the bare essentials. At various points along the way we were told that 'eco-towns' would expect government funding, and we had high aspirations for an exemplary development at Northstowe. I'm afraid that now this is all unravelling to the point that we are not even sure that the road serving that part of the development won't jam up solid when the extra traffic is added in. I am a member of the Traffic Monitoring and Management Group that should (in theory) be able to make sure that life doesn't become miserable for motorists in surrounding villages.

Beyond Phase 1, there should be major improvements to the A14 and new roads accessing Northstowe directly from the A14 before the rest of Northstowe can be built.

### **Waterbeach development**

You may have noticed a few mentions in the Press about Waterbeach – both the City Council in their plan and County Council (Nick Clarke) seem to have assumed that a large new town will be built there. South Cambs has not made a decision on this, or even discussed it, yet, after the consultation in summer 2012. The Lib Dem view, that we are trying hard to get across, is that because much of the site is below the 5m contour, then regardless of the EA flood maps, this should rule out the larger site for development. There are also arguments about the A10, and concentration of development North of Cambridge – Northstowe is coming, along with NIAB and NW Cambridge, so any other new town should be to the South.

### **Chesterton Station and Fen Road**

4 years ago, I organised a petition to Anglian Water for a **mains sewage connection** to the Travellers area of Chesterton Fen Road, as outflows have caused lots of environmental problems down there beside the River Cam. Residents of Fen Road Chesterton in the City area are very keen that a **second road** is laid into Chesterton Fen in conjunction with the new station scheme. They suffer from large numbers of skip lorries passing their doors, day and night, going to the businesses down there ... now read on ...

### **Cambridge Science Park station**

There have been many many meetings that I have attended about the plans for the new station. By keeping it simple they hope to deliver it by the end of 2015. However this means that any other accesses on foot and by bike from Chesterton, and the approaches from Milton Road are likely to happen in a piecemeal fashion, and for it all to be ready in time a great deal of cooperation between the councils is needed. The funding for the project will come from the rail franchises being let in the next year or two, and this funding can only be spent on the station and necessary infrastructure, for example improvements in the existing Fen Road level crossing. However the hoped-for second access road to our Chesterton Fen Road area cannot be paid for by this means.

I have asked that they leave space so that a road could be put in across to Chesterton Fen Road south of the station platforms, and this may be possible though no-one will fund it. The idea of a cycle track beside the old railway line from Milton Road right across the river and to Newmarket Road has a lot of support.

### **Flooding on Fen Road, Chesterton**

There was some significant flooding during the period of heavy rain in July 2012, luckily not to any homes, but about 6 businesses in the Cottage Industrial Estate on Fen Road were flooded to a depth of 2 to 3 inches, and many hundreds of pounds worth of damage done. There was also a lot of pumping out onto the road, and the water ended up in Mr Barton's grazing field. Subsequently I attended a meeting there with the South Cambs District Council Drainage Manager and the County Council Flood Risk Management Officer, Rachel Hobbs. The technical people at this meeting agreed that there is a 60m length of pipe that needs to be lowered, and a larger pipe laid, to avoid this type of flooding happening again.

Several individuals from Fen Road have agreed to help in one way or another, and this may require the Parish Council to apply for funding from DEFRA next year.

In a separate development, I persuaded the Cam Conservators to reinstate an old ditch so that the foul ditch at Grassy Corner and the fields North of there can drain out to the Cam. This was done earlier in April and the fields are becoming much less waterlogged.

### **Traffic calming on Fen Road, Chesterton**

The County Council has approved £100,000 towards a new scheme of traffic calming. They also have a plan to make crossing the railway safer. There is a possibility of a footpath right up to the railway on both sides, but also a possibility of an alternative route down to the towpath and under the railway bridge that way.

### **Fen Road 20mph project, as part of N Cambridge phase**

The City Council has a plan to introduce 20mph zones over most of the city, starting with North Cambridge in 2014. They have proposed to include the whole of Fen Road in that project.

### **Northern Area Corridor Transport Plan**

This is a fund into which developers in Milton, Histon and Impington and the northern part of Cambridge City have been paying transport infrastructure S106 contributions over the last few years. It stands at over £2m, to be spent in these areas to alleviate transport issues caused by the increased use of the roads etc. Many bids have been put forward for spending the money – but most of these are from within Cambridge City, though we were able to get funding for the **Landbeach Road cycle and foot-path**. Also the proposed cycle and pedestrian bridge across from Fen Road to Stourbridge Common and Newmarket Road was suggested for a large slice of the remaining funds. It would provide a useful approach to the new station from the South and East.

Again this money cannot be used to fund a second road into Chesterton Fen.

### **Planning in Milton**

In February the Section 106 agreement for the **Cambridge Sport Lakes** was signed and executed, which means that finally the clock starts ticking on their 5-year planning permission. Nothing will happen on the ground until they have submitted the necessary Flood Risk Assessments, which are a major piece of work.

### **Bellway development**

The SCDC ecology officer is keeping an eye on the clearance of the wood round the lake. It looks as though a great many trees are being removed, but what is being done is tightly controlled according to a submitted and approved plan, and letting some light in to the lake is one of the aims. A lot of cut wood is remaining onsite to provide shelter to small creatures and grubs, but quite a lot has also been taken off via Fen Road.

### **Future Transport**

There seems to be little hope of improved public transport for Milton now. A few more people from Milton are now volunteering their help to the Beaches Car Scheme, which now covers Milton, mostly taking people to appointments at Addenbrookes, but also to Cambridge, to the hairdresser's etc.

### **Magazine delivery**

There was evidence that SCDC was paying less than the minimum wage to workers employed to deliver the SCDC magazine on piece rates (4p per copy). Cllr Hockney, the portfolio holder responsible, was questioned repeatedly and did not give a satisfactory explanation of this.

### **Emmaus Cambridge**

I was asked to join the Emmaus Board of Trustees 9 years ago when I became your district councillor, and I have just taken over as the Treasurer. Emmaus Cambridge is doing well and its finances seem very sound. We have opened a shop in Cambridge on the ground floor of the Emmaus UK office in Newmarket Road, just behind the Grafton Centre, to showcase some of the good quality second-hand clothes and nick-nacks we are now selling. It is very interesting – full of top-quality classic pre-owned stuff, and well worth a visit!

I would like to thank the parish council and the clerks for their support throughout the year.