

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 26 April 2004 at 8pm in the Community Centre**

Present: PK Oldham (chair) EH Baker RH Chapman JE Coston IR Cowley R Day  
 RJ Farrington CJ Lock IF May B Jefferson HM Smith RT Summerfield LC Twinn  
 The clerk SJ Daniels and 10 residents

### **Minute 164/04**

#### **1 Apologies for Absence - M Ellwood RLE Waters**

#### **2 Introduction**

PKO welcomed all to the meeting.

##### Thanks to:

MCC, which manages the Community Centre and the other buildings on the recreation grounds lead by Rob Farrington;

Jane Coston, county councillor and Richard Summerfield, district councillor who both work hard for the village all year round;

the whole Parish Council for their support and especially Hazel Smith, vice chairman and Jim Daniels, clerk.

##### The year 2003-04

The chairman highlighted general village maintenance. MPC owns and manages, either directly or indirectly through MCC, just about all the public green space in the village other than the Country Park, including the two recreation grounds, which are managed by MCC, and the play areas on Humpries Way, Froment Way, on the Rowans and on the Sycamores, plus a host of small areas of grass such as Memorial Green, Pond Green and Edmund Green.

Contractors employed by the Council mow all the verges, keep the borders trimmed and the weeds down. In the autumn volunteers, normally largely parish councillors, plant out daffodil bulbs around the village, which is why the display gets better and better every year.

Volunteers, including parish councillors again, inspect the play equipment on a weekly basis to ensure its safety. MPC repairs or replaces damaged equipment.

Last summer the horse chestnut on Memorial Green had to be cut down. and three smaller ones opposite as they were suffering from bleeding canker. This winter a hornbeam was planted on the green and bird cherries across the road.

Number of hours spent at meetings during the year worked out at 4 man days per councillor.

##### Elections

There would be district council elections this year. Two councillors would be elected.

The Parish Councillors introduced themselves.

#### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2003 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

#### **4 Draft Accounts 2003/04**

The unaudited draft accounts were presented to the meeting. Income £99,819, expenditure £102,972.

The Balance Sheet showed a decrease in net assets of approximately £3,100.

Reserves included approximately £90,000 commuted sums received at the time of the development of Milton in the 1980's towards maintenance of open spaces and play areas and £40,000 set aside for the purchase of land for junior football pitches.

#### **5 Charities Report**

Barry Jefferson gave a detailed report. During the year the Charity had supported individuals, groups and village projects. Income for the year £2,654.99, expenditure £1,702.09.

#### **6 County Councillor's Report**

The ward includes Milton, Landbeach, Waterbeach, and Chittering

It had been another busy year with many local projects some of which were:

Sewage Works — For over 3 years Milton Parish Council and local residents had been complaining about the smell coming from the sewage works. JEC organised the setting up of the Liaison Group which met regularly and we were successful in getting some improvements made but the problem continued to occur.

Anglian Water claimed that they were not getting many complaints. JEC therefore organised a petition. Many comments were returned. These were copied and sent on to Anglian Water, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, The Environment Agency, Milton Parish Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Even though the sewage works are within the city boundary it was South Cambridgeshire District Council that took action. Thanks to everyone who supported the petition. Over 1200 signatures were handed in.

Milton Cycle /footbridge —cycle paths - On November 8th just after midnight the cycle bridge was wheeled into position and it is hoped that it will be opened on May 18th. JEC was still working to make sure that the connecting cycle paths were safe for users and trying to get improvements to the road to the country park — also improvements to the local cycle network.

The cycle path to the north of the village had now been extended to the Denny End junction at Waterbeach and during the year it would be extended again as far as the Cambridge Research Park who were major contributors to the scheme. JEC was also pressing for a link to Landbeach and a link from Landbeach to Waterbeach.

Landfill Site - As Chairman of the liaison Committee JEC supported the Parish Council's objection to work starting earlier in the morning on site. Work would not now start as early as the landfill wanted.

Illegal dumping – JEC had been working to try to stop the illegal dumping happening on a site near the country park and would continue to press for more clearing up of the site to be done.

Waterbeach Library - Waterbeach Library was closed by the County Council in November and was reopened within a week by the friends of Waterbeach Library, a group set up by JEC. Support for the library and any donations of books were always welcome.

Northern Fringe - a meeting for Milton Parish Council and other local councils to be updated on the issues around the Northern Fringe development had been organised. Plans to alter the area dramatically in the next few years would have an effect on the area and especially the local roads. It was important to get involved at this early stage so that Milton could have some influence on the final plans.

The Milton Interchange – There had been a meeting recently with the accident prevention team to discuss the Milton interchange in particular. Improvements were planned for this roundabout - the main alterations to be done next year when the position of the traffic lights would be altered and the junctions remodelled. The roundabout was due to be resurfaced. JEC had asked for better markings and improvements to try to stop traffic entering the roundabout on the wrong side off the junction. More improvements were needed to reduce the number of accidents at all the A10 junctions in this area.

JEC continued to have 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.

Thanks to the Parish Council and district councillor, Richard Summerfield for their supportive working relationship that had enabled much to be achieved for the village.

## **7 District Councillor's Report**

Travellers – there was a major site in Milton Parish at Chesterton Fen. SCDC were going through the same process as at Smithy Fen Cottenham. The Blackwell's site owned by the County Council and managed by SCDC had been refurbished and was now full. There was a sense of community. Crime had been eradicated.

Traffic – recent improvements: cycleway, pinch point Ely Road, Butt Lane / High Street safety features. A new pedestrian crossing should be in place near Tesco during the current year.

Country Park – RTS was a member of the Advisory Group. Recent proposals that were not passed: dogs to be kept on a lead and fishing to be allowed in Todd's Pit only. SCDC had authorised the pollarding of many willows because of concerns for public safety.

Sewage Works – SCDC had served an abatement notice on AWA in respect of statutory nuisance. As a result there had been improvements. There had been smells recently since the withdrawal of the notice. JEC, PKO and RTS would be pressing for further improvements.

Northern Fringe – a development plan for the area east of the old A10 was being drawn up. An important issue was the access. As a member of the Joint Strategic Forum of County, City and South Cambs Councils RTS would ensure that Milton's voice would be heard.

Wheelie Bins – this scheme was now five months old. Many teething problems had been resolved. Three improvements planned: a nappy collection service, plastic bottle collection at Tesco from end of May and kitchen waste collection in the green bins. There was no facility locally for dealing with plastic bottles. Recycling had improved – in 2002 16% of waste, 2004 (part year new scheme) 27% and projected for 2005 40%.

Council tax bills would rise much more without this improvement in recycling.

Offices – SCDC were moving to Cambourne on 4 May. A small office would remain in Mandela House.

Thanks to Parish Council and JEC for a close working relationship.

## **8 Question and Answer Session**

Street Lights – JEC had been assured that the street lights near Tesco, although not vertical, were safe.

Road Surface – High Street / Cambridge Road would be re-surfaced in 2005-06 unless money became available.

Cycleways – there were concerns about the dangers at the junctions from Winship Road to the new bridge. PCSO Page should be informed about vehicles obstructing the cycleway.

County Park – there was concern about the number of trees taken down. There should be a balance between "common sense and safety paranoia". RTS suggested that villagers make their views known to the ranger. Was the SCDC Trees and Woodlands Officer consulted?

RTS would raise the issue of whether model sailing boats could be allowed.

The policy of withdrawing litter bins was questioned.

Allotments – a security gate at the allotments was requested. The Parish Council Allotments Committee would discuss.

Bus Service – complaints about the poor service were voiced. Stagecoach would provide a service only if it was viable. The County Council were reducing the number of "handouts" for services that were not viable. In the long term, development of the Northern Fringe would help as the Park and Ride would be moved north of the village.

Youth Building – cost of the youth building: Milton Parish Council had pledged £20,000 towards the project if the rest of the money could be found. The Youth Committee would approach SCDC, Wren and other charities for funds. The Youth Committee would manage the building. It was hoped that the building would be more vandal proof than the present portacabin.

The portacabin had been sited at the Sycamores to gauge the response. The question was raised as to whether the response so far was sufficient to warrant a new building, especially in an isolated position. MCC were looking at refurbishing the Community Centre and Annexe. Should the youth building be incorporated in this scheme?

The recent joint MCC/MPC meeting had voted in favour of siting a building at the Sycamores.

In response to strong concerns about vandalism the Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council were trying to reduce crime by engaging with the youth. Figures showed that the level of crime had gone down since the youth centre was set up.

A10 – JEC was trying to have a whole range of traffic issues at the A10 junctions looked at.

Rowing Lake – archaeology in Fen Road had been completed. There would be further archaeology in the higher ground between the railway line and the A10 during the summer. A planning application was not submitted in 2003 as had been expected. IRC reported that the Rowing Trust had hoped to open the first part of the scheme in 2006.

Noted that the National Trust were hoping to purchase land south of Wicken Fen to provide a green corridor.

The chairman concluded the meeting at 9.50pm.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date