

## Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 08 April 2013 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

**Present:** RT Summerfield (chair) AJ Campbell (arrived at 8pm) JE Coston M Ellwood RJ Farrington  
M Hersom (arrived at 7:10pm) J Mowatt MC Perkins HM Smith I Tyes G Wynne-Jones  
The clerk  
M Williamson (left at 7:30pm, returned at 8:58pm)  
Rikki Parsons, Mike Davies (Cambs County Council) (left at 7:30pm)  
1 member of the public (left at 7:30pm)

1. Rikki Parsons – Lead Technician, Major Infrastructure Delivery and Mike Davies – Team Leader, Cycling Projects from Cambridgeshire County Council attended to talk about plans for the Humphries Way/A10 junction to link in with the new footpath/cycleway to Landbeach. Sue Parsons and Andrea Haslock from Road Safety Engineering were not able to attend the meeting.

Phase 1 of the footpath/cycleway, from Landbeach to the cemetery, has just begun and will take approx. 8-10 weeks to complete. Phase 2, which will include the junction, will follow on from this. A plan of the proposed changes at the junction was distributed (Appendix I).

Council agreed the long term aim should be to have traffic lights at this junction – this would not encourage rat running through Milton due to the delays exiting the village at the A14 roundabout. Mike Davies advised that this would need to wait for the safety assessment to be completed which could take a long time, and there was no guarantee there would be any funding available for this. There was concern about the deceleration lane being removed for traffic travelling from Waterbeach. A trial will be conducted for 2 weeks using cones to close-off this slip road, followed by a meeting between County Council staff and councillors. IT asked that a white line is added along the length of the new footpath to designate which side is for cyclists and which for pedestrians. RJF commented that the hatching in the central reservations would not stop more than one vehicle waiting here at busy times to turn right.

RTS thanked Rikki and Mike for their presentation.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were accepted and approved from: DJ Chamberlin – conflicting appointment; G Heaney – personal; IF May – work commitment; AJ Campbell sent an apology that he would arrive late due to a work commitment.
3. **Casual Vacancy:** No applications had been received.
4. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of 04 March 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak.**  
When this item commenced there were no members of the public present.
6. **Declarations of interest and dispensations**
  - a) **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.**  
HMS (non pecuniary interest) Agenda item 8 – member of SCDC planning committee
  - b) **To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).**  
None received.
  - c) **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**

### 7. Clerk's report

**Letter to RT. Hon. Eric Pickles MP** (previous min 6/03-13): a reply has been received from DCLG in response to the letter sent by the Chairman about localising council tax support (Appendix II).

**Mobile phone and uniform for the Warden** (previous min 8/03-13): a mobile phone on a capped monthly tariff of £12.50 has been purchased for the warden. A fleece jacket, sleeveless bodywarmer and polo shirt have been purchased with an embroidered logo.

**Clayhithe Bridge Works** (previous min 6/01-13): These works were completed on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Signs for cyclists/pedestrians from Science Park to Jane Coston Bridge** (previous min 6/03-13): Patrick Joyce (CCC) has confirmed these will be ordered as part of the signage being added for the Busway.

**Butt Lane:** A resident visited the office to complain about cars speeding in Butt Lane near the school entrance. This was reported to PCSO John Mason who will pass this onto the Impact team, responsible for carrying out speed checks, so that they can add this to their list.

**NALC:** The Chief Executive, John Findlay OBE, will retire from the National Association on 31st March 2014.

**SLCC:** Howard Midworth has now been elected as CEO to replace Nick Randle and officially took over on 1st March 2013.

**CCC Highways Department: Keith Fauch** left the County Council Highways Department on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Interviews for a replacement are taking place in early April. Until a replacement is appointed please contact Highways to report a problem by using either the Contact Centre 0345 045 5212 or through the County website at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/>.

**Absence from Council meetings:** CAPALC advice in their latest e-Bulletin is that an absence from council should be accompanied by an apology from the councillor with a reason for the absence. That reason needs to be accepted and approved by council. Where a councillor has persistent absence, *i.e.* absence at parish council meetings without acceptable apologies, for a period of six consecutive calendar months then the member loses their seat. Unless a dispensation has been given by the council for the absences the loss of the seat is automatic. I will update the agendas/minutes to reflect this. Holidays will not be shown as holiday for security reasons.

**Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2013/2014:** The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for 2013-14 is £6.98.

**Advertising on Tesco Roundabout:** following a discussion **AGREED** that as the County Council has the power, under The Highways Act 1980, section 149, to remove any advertising that is deemed a safety hazard to traffic the parish council has no power to allow any advertising on this roundabout (proposed RTS, seconded JEC). A letter will be sent to the local business thanking them but declining their offer to provide sponsorship for the roundabout in return for some form of advertising here.

**Action:  
Clerk**

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):** Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has recently been given the go-ahead to take responsibility for the £850million NHS budget for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and parts of Herfordshire and Northamptonshire. The CCG will become a statutory organisation from 1 April. GP services, dentists, pharmacies and opticians - known in the NHS as 'primary care' services - will be commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board. The CCG will be responsible for commissioning hospital and community services. For more information go to: <http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/home.htm>

**2013 Electronic Audit Returns (eAR):** The Audit Commission has published an electronic annual return for the financial year ended 31 March 2013 for use by parish and town councils and parish meetings in England. They say that it is not possible to send the completed form via email or to save a copy to your computer so, once the form is completed, it should be printed out for the council's approval. It is only necessary to complete either the paper version of the annual return sent to you by your appointed auditor or an electronic annual return. You must not complete both.

**Parish Office:** the business rates for the office for 2013/14 have been confirmed as £0.00.

**Cambridge Northern Fringe East Visioning Workshop:** this will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> April as a facilitated session to discuss Cowley Road/Chesterton sidings/new Cambridge Science Park station area for incorporation into Local Plans for Cambridge City Council and SCDC. IT will attend for the Parish Council.

**CCC Winter Gritting Scheme:** During the snowy weather this winter several residents contacted the clerk's office to ask about gritting for some areas in the village (outside the Doctors surgery mainly) and some offered to help out. **AGREED** to place an advert in the Village View to give details of the County Council's volunteer scheme. If there is any interest the Highways Division will visit to agree routes and explain the programme (proposed RTS, seconded HMS).

**Action:  
Clerk**

**Histon Area Police Panel Meeting:** The next Histon area Police meeting will be held on Tues 9<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7:30pm. The meeting will be at the Pavilion building in Impington which is off New Road.

**Poppies to commemorate WW1:** **AGREED** to ask Buchans to add poppy seeds to wildflower area in cemetery to commemorate the start of WW1 (proposed HMS, seconded JEC).

**Action:  
Clerk**

**CAPALC Subscription for 2013/14:** **AGREED** payment of subscription for CAPALC of £726.41 for 2013/14. This will be reviewed for 2014/15 (proposed RTS, seconded JEC).

## 8. Grants

The application from Milton Colts Football Club for £600 to allow two teams to play home games outside the village was deferred until the next meeting. A copy of the accounts, proportion of players from Milton in each team that play outside the village, and details of the amount to be paid for maintenance of the pitch at Landbeach will be requested.

**Action:  
Clerk**

**NOTED** a grant had been received from The Jean Gallagher Trust for £900 towards the cost for the Trolley Bus in 2013/14.

## 9. Planning: the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2013 were received and noted.

### Decisions:

S/0225/13/LB Mr Tony Cheeseman PI Innovo Ltd, Milton Hall, Milton – Alterations and refurbishment of listed building to form modern offices – **approved**.

S/0301/13/NM Bellway Homes (Essex) Ltd – provision of 0.5m maintenance strip along eastern edge of turning head adjacent to sports pavilion (revision to S/1388/12/RM) (previous min P6/03-13) – **amendments accepted**.

S/0331/13/FL Mr Donogh Waring 20 Froment Way – first floor side extension (previous min 7/03-13) – **approved**.

### **New applications:**

S/0428/13/FL Mrs Anna Reader, Milton CE Primary School – Erection of fencing to enclose front grassed area (Butt Lane). **Approve – new fencing should be set back by 1m with suitable planting in front. Keep existing fence until planting has grown up.**

S/0633/13/DC Cambridge Regional College Kings Hedges Drive, Cambridge – discharge of condition 7 (power driven plant or equipment) of planning approval S/0492/12/FL (previous min P6/05-12). **For information only.**

### **Appeal Decision:**

S/0680/12/FL Mr T Mendham 14 Fen Road, Milton – dwelling house r/o 14 Fen Road (previous min P4/10-12). **Appeal dismissed.**

### **Payment of S106 monies:**

Re: application S/0202/11/F: Land adjacent to 48 Fen Road, Milton (previous min 6/04-11) – payment of £2288.35 in lieu of on-site provision of public open space and £378.18 towards off-site provision of community facility space. **AGREED** that RTS and HMS sign the Indemnity document (proposed RJF, seconded AJC).

### **Introduction of Electronic Consultation for Cambs County Council planning applications:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 all planning related correspondence from Cambs County Council will be sent via email with web links provided to view application submissions, plans and related documents. Hard copy of large plans (larger than A3) can be requested from the planning department at CCC. This does not affect SCDC planning applications.

10. **Maintenance:** the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2013 were received and noted.

It was **AGREED** to accept following recommendations:

- **to confirm updated contract for Buchans for 2013/14 (cost £25826.48, a 2% increase and additional two items added – these to be paid from MCC Grant)** (proposed ME, seconded RTS);
- **to adopt Tree Assessment policy** (proposed JEC, seconded AJC).

**Horse Grazing:** Council discussed request from a resident to sell the horse grazing field for use as an orchard. **AGREED** that the land is a council asset and should be kept in council ownership for the benefit of the village (proposed JEC, seconded RTS). Maintenance Committee will discuss if any land can be made available to rent at the allotment site for planting fruit trees at their next meeting. The clerk will write to the resident.

**Action:  
Clerk**

11. **Reports from external meetings attended by Parish Councillors**

- **The report from Footpaths Officer (GW-J) of Parish Paths and Future Partnerships Meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2013 was received and noted.**

GW-J advised that she has a booklet giving more information (this information on Countryside and Rights of Way can be downloaded from:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countrysideandrights/](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countrysideandrights/)).

RTS thanked GWJ for attending this meeting at short notice.

- **The report from Ian Tyes of SCDC Parish Council Liaison Meeting held on 7th March 2013 was received and noted.**
- **The report from Ian Tyes from Local Highway Improvement Panel Meeting held on 25th March 2013 was received and noted.**

IT reported the panel were very knowledgeable and prepared and made suggestions of the best way to tackle the crossing issue within the budget available. No notification has yet been received if the application for funding from the Local Highway Improvement Fund has been successful.

RTS thanked IT for attending these two meetings.

12. **Notice of annual audit for year ending 31 March 2013**

Deadline to be sent to auditor: 10 June 2013.

Timeline: F& A recommend approval of the accounts on 29 April;

Council approve accounts 13 May.

13. **Milton Village Photos:**

ME reported that a lot of work had been done to catalogue the photos of old Milton by residents willing to give up their time and other photos had been offered. ME offered to continue to work on this project after he steps down from the Parish Council in May and council agreed that he should. RTS thanked ME and JEC for their ongoing work to create a permanent photographic record of old Milton.

#### 14. **MCC report: Andy Gray, Community Centre Manager**

##### Maintenance/Improvements:

Nothing to report.

##### Bookings:

The Monday evening birthing class has been cancelled, due to lack of numbers.

A new fitness class will start on Tuesday lunchtimes and Friday mornings during April.

The courts will now primarily be used for Tennis. However, the Thursday Night Netball Summer League will start on the 18th April and will use all 4 courts between 6.00pm and 9.30pm.

##### Youth Building:

Nothing to report.

##### Vandalism:

The graffiti at the Sycamores Pavilion and Youth Building (which was detailed on last months report) has been removed by SCDC Graffiti Removal team.

#### 15. **County Councillor's report: Michael Williamson, County Councillor**

As MW had not yet returned to the meeting this item was deferred until later in the Agenda.

#### 16. **District Councillors' reports**

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

##### **Fen Road 20mph project**

Michael Perkins and I went to the meeting of the Cambridge City Council's North Area Committee which was discussing the City Council's 20mph project. This will involve consultation in this area in the Summer, and they hope to introduce the limits in 2014. Including our end of Fen Road, Chesterton, of course costs the City Council nothing – the County Council will make the Traffic Regulation Orders if there is sufficient support, and the only difference is NOT putting in a 30mph sign somewhere on that road.

##### **SCDC Enforcement policy**

I am on a working group that is looking into enforcement, in Planning, Environmental Health, Food safety, etc. There will be an opportunity for parish councillors to meet (7:30-9:30 one evening) to discuss their views on a draft plan for enforcement. If any Milton councillors would like to come along, let me know. 8 other parishes with pressing issues to raise have already come forward, so do not feel under any pressure.

##### **Gypsy and Traveller Sites**

By the time we meet the South Cambs Planning meeting will have taken place – on the agenda on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April are the two areas on Chesterton Fen which had had temporary permissions, Sandy Park and West View (aka 1,3 and 5 Sandy Park), and also the Old Coal Yard, which has never had permission and adjoins Sandy Park to the North. [Note: permission has been granted for these sites. HMS has spoken on Radio Cambridgeshire about the decisions].

##### **The policy position:**

Travellers/Gypsies on average die 20 years earlier than in the settled community; 20% of children obtain 5 GCSEs as opposed to 60% in the settled community and perhaps most shocking of all 18% of Gypsy/Traveller women will have a child die. In the settled community it's less than 1%. And within the prison population Gypsy and Traveller inmates are not over represented.

Obviously new sites have to be in the best places but it is becoming accepted that the most successful are small, single family sites with a maximum of 5 caravans. These are easily absorbed into communities and are invariably very successful.

Chesterton Fen is a whole hamlet of English Traveller developments, and quite against the emerging South Cambs policy.

##### **Council Tax (again) and the A14!**

I reported last month that the Council Tax had been set to accumulate nearly £10m at the end of 5 years in 'New Homes Bonus', while the Council was being very mean on all other fronts, and that the Council had not then told us how they were going to spend the surplus. A few days after the budget meeting it became clear that the government wanted a large contribution from local councils towards the A14 upgrade – so now the cat is out of the bag.

##### **Northstowe planning permission**

Phase 1 (the size of Milton) has been approved last week 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 freeze 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.

### **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 the summer. 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, so any other new town should be to the South.

### **South Cambridgeshire Business Support Service**

If you have been running a business in South Cambridgeshire for more than 12 months, employ fewer than 250 people and are facing financial difficulties as a result of the recession you can access the following services FREE of charge: Business advice and support, Training workshops, access to funding up to £1000 - For more information phone 0844 3460755 or e mail southcambridgeshirebusinesssupport@exemplas.com.

### **The Dreaded Guided Busway**

Cambridgeshire County Council has announced a total of four million passengers on the 'Busway', giving the impression that the figure reflects ridership on the Guided Busway. In fact the ridership data is collected from all buses on a network called 'The Busway' which includes a multitude of journeys outside of the 16-mile Guideway itself – for example Cambridge Railway Station to Cambridge City Centre, anywhere between St Ives and Huntington, Drummer Street to Castle Hill, etc. So that's a perfect case of "lies, damned lies and statistics".

The cost of the Guided Bus project is felt county-wide, as taxpayers have already covered £6 million in interest payments on the council's £60 million Guided Bus loan, which it was forced to take out on unanticipated costs of the project, and over which it is involved in a legal dispute with the Guided Bus contractor. In anticipation of the court battle, taxpayers are also covering the cost of the council's legal contingency fund, set to rise to £5 million. In the wider context, the council spends £1.48 million annually on press, marketing and PR, and is looking to save £1.2 million by cutting all rural bus subsidies. So when you next use the Busway make sure you get your money's worth!!

### **Beaches Car Scheme**

3 new drivers from Milton have volunteered for the Beaches Car Scheme.

### **17. Bills for Payment and Money Received, Budget Figures**

Proposed by ME, seconded by MP

**CONFIRMED and AGREED** payment of cheques 100846–100862 (12 for, 1 abstention - RJF abstained from vote).

Budget figures were noted.

### **18. Correspondence** (inc. urgent correspondence not on the agenda)

The Clerk Magazine – March 2013;

LCR – Spring 2013;

Cambs ACRE – letter outlining changes to services provided;

Milton Bowls Club – letter from Jim Daniels thanking council for their contribution towards new vinyl & carpet. Having the carpet was the right decision.

### **19. Dates of Next Meetings** – 22nd April Planning (7pm); 22nd April Annual Parish meeting (7:30pm in the Lounge at the Community Centre); 29th April Finance & Administration Committee; 1<sup>st</sup> May Community Care Committee (11am); 13th May Annual General Parish Council.

### **20. Items and Reports for May agenda** (to be received by Fri 03 May)

### **15.** (MW returned to the meeting at 8:58pm)

**County Councillor's report: Michael Williamson, County Councillor**

[www.michaelwilliamson.org.uk](http://www.michaelwilliamson.org.uk)

Many of you will be aware that this is my last report as County Councillor for the Waterbeach Division. I have decided that, after eight years in the role, and approaching my three score years and ten, it was time to hand over so I shall not be standing at the elections on May 2nd.

### **Cycle Parking at Waterbeach Station (L,W)**

The work has been ordered but I do not have any date for installation.

### **Cycle crossing of the A10 (L,W)**

This has been included in the minor highways improvements. However, as yet I haven't had any indication as to progress.

### **Landbeach Road - A10 junction (L,M)**

Preliminary designs are to be discussed with Milton Parish Council (and, hopefully, Landbeach) on April 8th.

[Note: for details see item 1.]

**Waterbeach Barracks**

I have now managed to achieve contact with DIO and am receiving reports on the status of the handover of the housing. This appears to have been delayed but the first tranche should be handed over to Annington Homes on April 19th.

You will all be aware that the barracks has now finally closed and we await news of the future. I am somewhat concerned that there seem to be quite a number of voices pushing for substantial development there, including Cambridge Past, Present and Future. I was also very concerned about an entry in the blog of the leader of Cambridgeshire County Council (March 13, 2013) where he referred to the improvements to the A14 being essential for the development of Waterbeach. If we really don't want to see a town the size of Ely being developed on the airfield, with consequent unsustainable strain on the already inadequate local infrastructure, we must be alert to all the voices which imply this to be a fait accompli.

**A14 improvements**

There have been some unclear messages coming out of the County Council on this topic. I don't want to bring in Politics when it is not appropriate, but I do want to make it clear that on our side of the Council Chamber, we very much support the upgrading of the A14, particularly the improvements to the Girton interchange and the Huntingdon bypass. However, we have real reservations about the scheme currently proposed which seems to be over-engineered for what is really necessary. We are also very much against local Council Tax payers being asked to contribute to the solution of what is a national, if not international, problem.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm

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