

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 7 April 2014 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) A Bradnam RJ Farrington IF May J Mowatt
MC Perkins HM Smith
S Humphreys (taking minutes) and D Geasor (operating laptop/graphics)
County Councillor Maurice Leeke (arrived 8:59pm)
7 members of the public (4 left 8:05pm, 2 left 8:58pm, 1 left 9:18pm)

1. **Apologies for absence:** apologies were accepted and approved from: DJ Chamberlin– work commitment, JE Coston and G Heaney – personal, M Hersom and I Tyes – another commitment.

2. **Casual Vacancy:** No volunteers have come forward for co-option to the parish council. A member of the public was present to observe the meeting with a view to joining the council

3. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of 03 March 2014 were approved and signed as a true record (proposed RJF, seconded IFM).

4. **Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak.**

The members of the public present were invited by the Chair to speak during the items they were attending to discuss.

5. **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.

6. **Old Village Photographs. Report from Roger Day & Mark Ellwood**

The old photos donated by a former Milton resident have been compiled, and converted to electronic files. ME thanked Graham Easy for his help with naming individuals in photos and re-drawing some, Clive Milner for his work converting them to electronic files and Judy Milner for all her work collating and filing them.

The collated images will be available in the Parish Council Office for the public to view. An article will be prepared to appear in the Village View and on the website to advise residents the images can be viewed in the PC office and to ask if any residents have any old photos they would wish to donate for the archive.

AGREED that the original photos/slides, currently with JEC, should be kept securely in the Parish Council Office (proposed RJF, seconded HMS).

4 members of the public left at 8:05pm

AGREED to write a letter to Graham Easy and Clive Milner to thank them for all their work for this project and to write to Judy Milner and send a cheque for £100 to recognise the many hours she had spent over the last 12 months working on this project (proposed RTS, seconded AB).

Action: Clerk

Action: Clerk

7. **Clerk's report**

New

Dangerous Driving Butt Lane.

A resident called after witnessing dangerous driving on Butt Lane. The resident called the police and reported the incident, however also wants to make the council aware, and would like to know what procedures are in place for when the charges come in to force at the park and ride site as the sheer amount of traffic on Butt Lane is likely to be a fair bit heavier. DG advised the Police have since spoken to the driver involved.

Park and Ride (previous min 7/03-14).

Two responses have been received, one to the Parish and one to the clerk.

Litterpick sticks (previous min 7/03-14).

Have arrived and are in the Parish Council Office.

Dog Fouling Sign for Humphries Way Play Area (previous min M6/03-14).

Ordered.

The following email has been received from a resident.

A couple of things for the Parish Council:

Last week, I twice cycled the Milton-Landbeach cycle path after dark. Whilst appreciating the 'solar' lights illuminating the path, I see that there appear to be similar lights inside Milton cemetery (I'd say order of a dozen of them). I've not been inside the cemetery to check exactly - they're up at the far end somewhere. Anyway, having lights seems to be against the cemetery policy, and I'd certainly prefer to see it without this kind of thing.

And: recently, an advertising board for a "Decorators" company has appeared on the fence round the garden of the Jolly Brewers pub. I think contrary to rules, especially as listed building in the conservation area. I appreciated the past attempts to rid the pubs of garish adverts unrelated to their actual business, so

not pleased to see one back again.

HMS will speak to SCDC Conservation Team about advertising boards in a Conservation Area.

Action: HMS

8. **Planning:** the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2014 were received and noted.

Decisions received:

S/0135/14/FL – Mrs Chong, 32 Cambridge Road Milton – Single storey front extension. – APPROVED (previous min P5/02-14).

S/2746/13 – Mr B Shimmons, 290 Cambridge Science Park, Milton – Replacement Windows – APPROVED (previous min P5/02-14).

S/0242/14/FL – Mrs R Javahery, 9 The Sycamores, Milton – Two storey Side extension – APPROVED (previous min 8/03-14).

New applications

S/0527/14/FL Mr Chris Reynolds 71 Coles Road, Milton – Single storey front porch extension. **Refuse** – on design grounds – out of keeping with street scene and not a porch as described but an extension.

S/0612/14/FL Ms Emily Orton 3 Pearson Close, Milton - Installation of new window in first floor side elevation. **No recommendation.**

9. **Maintenance:** the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2014 were received and noted.

JM noted that an item should be added to the next Parish Council agenda to agree proposal from this meeting for pest control at the allotments (min M5/03-14).

Gary Heaney (Chair of Maintenance) has inspected the cemetery and proposed, via email, that the Smith family were allowed to have grave ornaments shown on the proposed plan submitted to the Clerk, which must not to exceed the dimensions of ornaments on other graves in the cemetery, on their mother's grave.

AGREED to allow grave ornaments of same size as other graves for the grave of the late Louise Smith (proposed HMS, seconded MCP) (previous min M4/03-14).

Action: Clerk

Horse Grazing Field. Cost review for the next year's agreement. The tenant was being offered a reduced rate of £20.00 per month, as the field was in a poor state. Tenant would like to carry on with the rental agreement. Would also like to know when the field will be sprayed. The Clerk will liaise with Buchans and the tenant to agree a mutually convenient time to move the pony out and spray.

Action: Clerk

Derek Booth has resigned from Maintenance Committee.

Green Bin at the cemetery. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into getting a green bin for the cemetery at the maintenance meeting 24/03/14. After speaking to SCDC, they have advised that a black bin would be needed, as green bins are so often misused at cemeteries. And there are conditions, 1, it has to be easily accessible to the refuse workers and, 2, we have to chain the bin to something secure with a combination lock. Apparently there is a standard code that refuse workers use. I would assume we have to buy the lock and chain. However the bin is free and can be delivered fairly imminently. SH advised that John Caulkett, Business Waste/Recycling Officer at SCDC had previously advised that a green bin could be supplied and sited at the cemetery and emptied on a Thursday, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, at a small fee (£3.75 - £5.65 per lift dependant on the size of the bin). Clerk to contact SCDC to confirm whether a green bin can be placed in the cemetery, and the current costs, and add proposal for agreement at the next council meeting.

Action: Clerk

10. **Finance & Administration:**

Item to be added to F&A agenda for April – to agree recommendation to council to approve appointment of internal auditor for 2014/15 financial year.

Grant application for Milton Colts Football Club. Adrian Collen spoke to outline the need for funding for 3 teams playing outside the village as there are no pitches available within Milton. There is a 70/30 split between residents and non-residents in the teams, but some of the non-residents used to live in Milton, have moved away but still wish to play for the village teams. It is sometimes necessary to have non-resident team members to ensure enough players are available. There may be no need to play outside the village when the new pitches at North Lodge are available.

AGREED to grant £800.00 to Milton Colts Football Club (proposed IFM, seconded AB).

Grant application for Milton Cricket Club – towards costs of having to play 3rd team home games outside Milton.

AGREED to grant £600.00 to Milton Cricket Club (proposed JM, seconded MCP).

2 members of the public left at 8.58pm

CAPALC membership fee of £740.95 was approved as part of budget for 2014/15 (previous min 10/02-14).

11. Moved to end of agenda.

12. **Highways**

A14 Improvements AGREED to delegate completion of Land Interest Questionnaire to RTS, HMS and DG.

Proposed prohibition of waiting order, Butt Lane (from Mereway to A10 junction) – no objections.

Noted an A14 stakeholder meeting had taken place on 2nd April 2014,

13. Emergency Plan:

HMS advised the Emergency Plan should be reviewed and updated. A working group was formed. Members: JM, HMS, MCP. A meeting will be arranged to discuss plan of action.

14. Reports from external meetings: Reports were received and noted from: SCDC Cabinet & Parish Councils Liaison Meeting 27 March 2014;

RTS thanked Anna for attending this event.

FA and Milton football teams 1 April 2014.

IFM advised the FA can recommend an expert to ensure new pitches at North Lodge are laid according to FA standards. DG will contact their recommended expert to obtain costs for his services. Details of these fees will be added to the next Parish Council agenda for approval. The aim will be to have the pitches ready for September 2015.

A visit to the North Lodge site was arranged for Sat 12 April at 9am.

The shortage of training facilities in Milton for football teams was highlighted. The Football Club will consult with members to gauge interest in fundraising for an artificial pitch and feedback response to the Parish Council.

Hardcopy of both reports is available from the Parish Council office.

15. MCC report was received: Andy Gray, Community Centre Manager

Maintenance/Improvements:

Nothing to report.

Bookings:

There is one Saturday Night party during April.

We will be closed for 4 days over the Easter Weekend.

Staff:

The new arrangement using Contract Cleaners is working well, with Kevin and Ray sharing most of the locking up duties.

Linda (the cleaner) is on long term sick leave.

Youth Building:

Nothing to report.

Vandalism:

Nothing to report.

16. County Councillor's report was received: Maurice Leeke, County Councillor

Greater Cambridge City Deal – The City Deal announced by Nick Clegg was confirmed in the Budget. The headline figures are for a total of £1billion to be spent on infrastructure projects in the Cambridge area over the next 15 years. The first part of this is a government grant of £100million for the five year period starting in April 2015. The detail of which schemes this will pay for is still under review but the emphasis is on public transport and cycling improvements to reduce congestion in and around the city. This will undoubtedly help many of our local residents as they travel into and around the city. A more obvious feature within the parish, however, is likely to be improvements to the A10. The detail on this – what exactly, and when - is still not clear, but it does seem to be mentioned as one of the early schemes within the package.

Park and Ride Charges – The County Council's cabinet confirmed the parking charges for all of the Park and Ride sites, with the intention to start charging from May. As I reported at the Parish Council's March meeting, the Cabinet has agreed to monitor the level of parking in roads near the footbridge, before and after the introduction of the charge, to assess the case for introducing ameliorative measures.

AB informed ML that there were other areas likely to be affected by displacement parking, e.g. The Rowans, and asked that these areas are monitored as well.

Landbeach Cycleway – The latest information I have about phase 2 of this scheme - the crossing for the A10 - is that work should start in July. This is later than I was expecting and I have arranged a meeting with the project manager.

17. District Councillors' reports

Councillors Report – April 2014 – Hazel Smith

HMS advised that grants for Community Care Schemes would be agreed at a meeting at the end of April 2014.

Changing the rules on provision of sewerage

Action: Clerk

I now have the text of a response from the minister's office in DEFRA (attached – Appendix 10 – yellow). The Guidance on the Water Act will be reviewed after October this year, and at that stage we will see if they are minded to put in some different wording about the definition of buildings. We have, at least, brought the question of equal treatment for Travellers to the attention of the Minister.

Enforcement

The case against the Golf Course for illuminated signs in the Green Belt without planning permission has been dropped as 'Not expedient to enforce'.

South Cambs Local Plan

The special meeting on 13th March voted by 27 to 21 to adopt the local plan and send it on to the Inspector. The procedure will involve the same inspector looking at Cambridge City's plan and our own at the same time, as there is a lot of overlap. This Inquiry will happen in June this year.

City Deal

The announcement on the City Deal, funding for transport infrastructure for the Cambridge City and South Cambs area to get cars off the roads (not for road building), has come in the Budget. The 3 councils are working closely together on this, together with the Local Enterprise Partnership and Cambridge University. The deal is less prescriptive than councillors had expected, but the local councils have to meet targets for new houses delivered in order to receive parts 2 and 3 of the funding. The first part is £100m, up to 2019, and further tranches of £200m are promised to follow if the targets are met. Part of the Deal is that we have to build an extra 1000 affordable houses (70 or so per year) in the first 16 years. These are envisaged to be on Exception Sites (outside village frameworks) on land owned by partners (e.g. County Farms land or university or college land). The councils will all be discussing this on 3rd April, and the Deal will be signed soon after.

We were told that the funding for the A14 improvements and any A10 improvements would be separate from this. Since the development plan puts the first parts of the expansion in housing in the A428 corridor (and at Northstowe), the A428 is likely to get schemes built ahead of this area.

Tesco

I spoke briefly to their Community Champion, Tara Barratt, and now have their email address.

1. The defibrillator that they told us they were getting is now in the building. It has come from the Kings Lynn shop that was closing down, and is not yet operational. No-one on the staff has yet been trained to use it.
2. Tara will ask if they can clear up the blown litter in the planting at the top of the wall that looks so untidy.
3. Tara will ask the staff at the petrol station to mention to delivery drivers the heap of discarded blue rubber gloves that we found in the planting just the other side of the wall where fuel deliveries are made, and to stop them from tossing their gloves over the wall.
4. Tara says she will try to get some staff to join our litter pick in June.

Parking on cycleway

I spoke to PCSO John Mason about enforcement of the cycleway regulations at the New Apostolic Church on Sundays and at the Chiropractors on Saturdays, when cars were reported as parking across the cycleway. He has contacted the Chiropractor and will be contacting the church to remind them of the law. The white lines do need repainting, though.

Council Rental site on Fen Road Chesterton

Negotiations for the site the council officers spoke to us about have broken down – the land was at too high a price.

And from the wider council:

Council Tax

The Council tax position is very tight with another 24% cut in Government funding for South Cambridgeshire District Council. Having delivered efficiency savings of around £5 million over the last four years, finding even more savings is going to be hard. To balance the books next year another £300,000 of savings will be delivered by the Council with a further £790,000 in 2015/16.

The Council plans to absorb almost 90% of the reduction in funding by generating income and delivering further efficiencies – equivalent to £18 per average band D home, with a proposed £2.40 (2%) rise in council tax for band D properties (less than 5 pence per week). Things being looked at include moving to a monthly green waste collection during the winter months. The proposed budget would also see reserves run down to £2.5 million by 2018/19.

South Cambs DC is not taking the Freeze Grant (of 1%) being offered by the government to those councils not increasing their rates. Because there has only been a small decrease in the percentage of rates that it collects the Council interprets this as meaning that people are not facing too much hardship. Our concern is that this is a potential time bomb with people managing so far by borrowing money and tightening their belts. However, the time will come when many will have maximised their allowable borrowing, have made all the economies they can and will then start to spiral into debt. This is certainly the message that we are getting from the CAB.

Home Improvement Top Up Grants.

Do you need improvements to be made to your home because you are sick or disabled? South Cambs

District Council has grants of up to £30,000 that you can apply for. Up until now, further top up grants have been available from the County Council if the District cannot pay the full amount. This is now going to change and only loans will be available from the County Council from now on. It is unclear how this new system is going to work or even if it is going to work at all. We are very concerned because it is requiring people to have exhausted all other means of raising money including equity release which in some cases has had a rather bad press. The Adult Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee has asked for the detail to be looked at again to ensure that the new system is fair and accessible to all.

Papworth Hospital

In 2005 South Cambs lost the battle to keep the Hospital at Papworth as – on clinical grounds – it was decided to move it to Addenbrookes. The Treasury – at the very last moment – has delayed this move on the basis that a better place for it might be to shore up the PFI hospital in Peterborough which is staring a financial abyss in the face. We proposed a Motion to South Cambs asking the Council to lobby the Chancellor to get a move on with the original plan and to stop mucking about.

What ought to have been straightforward unanimous support of this Motion then demonstrated Freud's five stages of grief. Firstly the administration tried to get us to withdraw it before the meeting. They then proposed a Motion to Move ie no debate. We protested and asked why the administration were not supportive - the answer was they wanted Papworth to stay in Papworth - a battle already lost. Next came a wrecking amendment and further outcry from the floor. At that point one of their number said he was going to vote for the motion as it was - cue collapse by Administration and the vote proceeded to support the Motion.

So we saw denial, anger, destructiveness, resignation, acceptance....

Grant Grabber

If you are looking for a grant for a club or charity, you can go on the South Cambs DC website, type 'Grants' into the search engine and then click on Grant Grabber . This is a free search facility for anyone in South Cambridgeshire looking for grant funding.

Green Bin Collection

South Cambs has agreed to restructure the bin collection service so that money can be saved on 12 jobs i.e. £400,000. As well as resulting in redundancies this will also mean that the Green Bins will only be collected once every 4 weeks during the 3 winter months. We are informed that not many are put out every fortnight during the winter. We are to be told to put our food waste in the black bins during this time because apparently some organic waste is required for the composting /recycling process at Waterbeach to work most effectively. The 'new service' will involve the remaining crews doing different (we suspect longer), routes.

Destination Digital

Connecting Cambridgeshire has secured extra funding of over £4.5m to help hundreds of small and medium sized businesses across Cambridgeshire afford better broadband connections. Businesses can find out more about applying for grants and free support at www.destinationdigital.info or talk to an adviser by calling 0800 917044.

A14 Improvements

A public consultation meeting has been arranged in Milton on Tuesday 27th May 2014 from 3–7pm in the Church Hall.

18. Bills for Payment and Money Received, Budget Figures

CONFIRMED and AGREED payment of cheques 101030–050 and 101101–101106 (proposed RTS, seconded IFM).

Budget figures were **NOTED**.

19. Correspondence:

SLCC Clerk magazine – March 2014

C&P CCG – proposals to improve older people's healthcare and adult community services.

20. Dates of Next Meetings – 14th April Annual Parish Meeting (now in the Community Centre Lounge at

7pm); 28th April Planning (7pm) and Finance & Administration (7:45pm in PC Office); 7th May

Community Care (11:30am); 12th May Parish Council (AGM).

21. Items and Reports for May (AGM) agenda (to be received by Fri 5th May 2014).

Items for Planning Committee and Finance & Administration agendas to be received by Monday 21st April 2014.

1 member of the public left at 9:18pm

11. (moved down the Agenda)

Staffing:

AGREED [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public/press to this item owing to the confidential nature of the business (proposed RTS, seconded IFM).

The meeting re-opened at 9:30pm (proposed RTS, seconded IFM)

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

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