

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 12 April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RH Chapman (chair) AJ Campbell JE Coston GA Covell R Day TA Drummond RJ Farrington
B Jefferson IF May HM Smith RT Summerfield
Cllr M Williamson, the clerk, assistant clerk and four members of the public

1 Apologies for absence – PS Badley M Ellwood SC Humphreys RLE Waters

2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

RHC - land update (agenda 8) personal – working relationship with CWA.

TAD - land update (agenda 8) personal – member of colts football club.

IFM - land update (agenda 8) personal – chairman of Colts football club.

HMS – planning (agenda 6) - personal – member of SCDC planning committee.

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 01 March 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Public Participation – no member of the public wished to speak at this stage.

5 Clerk's/Chairman's report

CPALC - The Future Jobs Fund bid had been successful and Job Centre Plus was ready to deploy candidates to councils for interview. The Fund is a government backed scheme to get 18 to 24 year olds who have been unemployed for more than 6 months back into employment.

CPALC Bulletin received.

Environment Clean-up ???– the clerk would inform SCDC of three areas that were especially badly infested with litter:

1 outside Tesco

2 under bridge by Park & Ride site

3 along Ely Road.

Neighbourhood Watch meeting: the following points were raised - to discuss with the Parish Council:

Butt Lane bridge : lack of lighting.

It was raised at this meeting that there was a lack of appropriate lighting over the Butt Lane bridge (Park and Ride end). This made the place very uninviting and potentially susceptible to hidden crime and threat to ones safety. It was requested to investigate the possibility of having a light (s) installed to make this a more safe open area rather than the dark place it is (made worse when the trees and in bloom). MW was investigating???

Funding for a number of NHW post signs. The clerk had confirmed that Council would pay for these signs and was awaiting an invoice.

Parish Office Hours: The Wednesday evening office hours have been cancelled and replaced with Wednesdays from 10-noon, as there has been very little activity on Wednesday evenings during the past year. The change has been advertised in the Village View.

Annual Parish Meeting – 19 April 8pm. The clerk would invite PCSO John Mason. **Action: the clerk**

Planning Policy update from SCDC received.

15 County Councillor's report (brought forward)

MW asked if he could give his report early in the meeting so that he could then attend Landbeach Parish Council meeting afterwards. Thereafter every other month he would attend Landbeach first and Milton afterwards.

AGREED.

Mobile Libraries – service was likely to be cut. Details not yet known.

Local Transport Consultation – it appeared that residents had not received the consultation documents.

Signage Butt Lane/A10 junction (PC12/12-09) - MW was 'chasing up' A Frost yet again.

6 Planning - the minutes of the planning meeting held on 15 March 2010 were received and noted

Decisions received:

Cambridge Assessment Unit 332 Science Park (P5/02-10) - enclosure and additional plant zones – **approved.**

Mr N Johnson – 1 Knights Way (P5/02-10) – extension **approved. First floor window in south side to be permanently obscure glazed and fixed unless otherwise agreed in writing by LPA.**

Mr A De Simone (P5/02-10)– land to the South-west of Lea Court Coles Road – single dwelling - **refused. Its proximity, mass and scale unduly overbearing in relation to 26 Coles Road; loss of outlook and light to ground and first floor windows of Lea Court; loss of amenity area and open space; out of character with street scene; lack of pedestrian visibility splays. Policies DP/2 and DP/3 of SCDC Local Development Control Policies 2007 refer.**

Helical Ltd – Former EDF Depot & Training Centre, Ely Road (P4/03-10) – appearance, landscaping, layout & scale of Outline planning application S/1601/08 for 100 retirement units, including the setting of North Lodge, 1 warden’s unit, central facilities building, sports pavilion, football pitches, hard & soft landscaping including the restoration of the parkland setting & lake to emulate the Humphrey Repton landscape – **approved (drainage and landscaping deferred).**

New applications:

S/0369/10 Mr P Downham 162 The Rowans – extensions – **refuse** (2 abstentions). **Overdevelopment of a mid terrace small property. Intrusive and overbearing for neighbours. Inappropriate to the street scene.**

In order not to influence the decision HMS did not take part in the debate having already asked the Planning Officers to take this application to committee should they be minded to approve. The Planning Officers had indicated however that they were going to refuse this application.

S/0412/10 Mr & Mrs C McGowan 5 Wilson Way – 2 storey extension to side and single storey to rear; porch to front – **no recommendation. Conifer to be removed did not appear to within the curtilage of the property.**

7 Milton Community Centre [MCC] update and minutes of the joint meeting between MCC and MPC

Community Centre Report

“We have recently received confirmation that 2 grant applications (WREN, £50,000 + SCDC, £8500) have both been agreed, meaning that our refurbishment programme can now go ahead. We are due to meet with the Builder and Architect on the 14th April, after which we will have a clearer idea of when the work will commence and how long it is likely to take. However, the Community Centre will remain fully operational during the refurbishment.

Bookings - these have slightly increased, although Saturday nights have been quiet. However, we have 2 Saturday night bookings in April + 3 in May.

Vandalism - very little, although the police have been asked to keep an eye on things, as occasionally there is a group of youths who congregate at the Community Centre in the evenings.”

MCC were in dialogue with Donarbon about a possible “top up”.

The manager was actively promoting the facilities.

It was **AGREED**

to ask the builder for a joint contract with MPC and MCC so that the VAT on Council’s expenditure of £70,000 could be reclaimed.

Minutes - The minutes of the Joint Meeting between Milton Parish Council and Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds Management Committee held on Monday 8th March 2010 were received.

8 Land Group update (PC7/03-10)

Proposal [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business. AGREED not to close the meeting.

Confidential Minutes of 1 March were approved and signed as a true record. The minutes of the Confidential Minutes of 12 and 23 March Land Group meetings were received and noted.

Update on College of West Anglia land:

- Planning application S/0463/10 for change of use of land to east of Ely Road from agriculture to recreation ground now received from SCDC.
- Report of the meeting with allotment holders 8 April was received. All allotment holders had received a report of the meeting from the clerk.

AGREED in principle to appoint Richard Janes of Savills to negotiate with CWA at a fee of £4,000 on the basis that the deal comes to fruition.

Noted that Richard Janes had already done a lot of work on behalf of Council free of charge. The Land Group expected CWA to meet their own costs

Update on Urban Renaissance Villages retirement development:

- Approval of Reserve Matters application - see planning above.

HMS had updated Melissa Reynolds, Planning Officer about the disappointing news that URV was possibly considering selling the site. If another developer bought the site Council would have more time to re-negotiate a S106 Agreement.

Meeting with Jim Hill of Football Association scheduled for Wednesday 14 April to discuss grants.

9 Double yellow lines on industrial estate (PC5/01-10)

RHC, RTS, Michael Williamson and the assistant clerk met with County Council officers and interested parties on 18 March. The County Council had prepared a Traffic Regulation Order outlining a plan for instalment of double yellow lines. This was **APPROVED** with a request that be provision be made to refresh the following road markings:

- Give-way at the intersection
- White lines down the middle of the roads
- Solid white lines, especially opposite Keep Clear outside Labute Printing

N.B. Double yellow lines will not be installed along the entire stretch of the road at the industrial estate since the County Council is obliged to provide parking where there are no outstanding safety issues involved.

10 A14 Widening (PC8/01-10)

Fen Ditton PC had asked whether Council would wish to combine with Fen Ditton and/or other councils to share legal costs at the Public Inquiry.

AGREED to inform Fen Ditton that “we shall represent ourselves if necessary at the Inquiry and feel that in our case legal advice is not needed as we support the scheme in principle, subject extensive offsite tree planting to mitigate the scheme's visual impact.”

Action: the clerk

Noted that the Pre-Inquiry meeting was scheduled for 24 May 2010 at St Ives.

11 Community Care – the minutes of the committee meeting held on 18 March were received and noted.

Conflict of interest (CC5/03-10) – IFM was seeking advice about good practice regarding staff working with two employers on behalf of the same client.

The clerk had written thanking the Charities for the following donations:
£2000 towards the Community Care scheme
£500 from the Jean Gallagher Trust towards the Trolley Bus scheme and
£350 towards the new cemetery seat (Min M5/03-10 also refers).

12 Maintenance - the minutes of the Maintenance Committee meeting held on 29 March were received.

It was AGREED to accept recommendations and confirm decisions taken:

- **that Council pay Command Pest Control's quarterly bill by direct debit.**
- **during the recession not to raise the horse grazing rent.**
- **not to allow any advertising on its premises.**
- **to ask Thompsons to repair light at bus shelter when they do electrical works at pavilion.** (RD abstained from this vote – member of family works for Thompsons).

Verge Ely Road - the clerk reported that the Chiropractic clinic were aware of the possible damage to the verge and intended to prevent further damage (M10/03-10).

Bunding by kebab van (M10/03-10) – RHC had obtained top soil and he was arranging for a digger driver to do the work.

Bus stop Waggon & Horses (M10/03-10) – noted that at least one driver actually stopped recently in the lay-by to check for passengers before proceeding.

13 Minibus - The minutes of the Minibus meeting held on 7 April were received.

Issues highlighted:

Conditions of hire (CM5/04-10) - “with driver” conditions removed. It was committee’s policy not to recommend drivers.

Replacement of vehicle (CM6/04-10) - Committee was committed to look to replace the minibus in the medium term.

Noted that the treasurer closely monitored fuel prices and their effect on income.

14 Parish Plan update (PC12/03-10)

The chairman reported that due to pressure of work PSB was retiring as chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group and asked whether anyone was willing to become chairman.

Progress report on the Action Plan was received. This would be available at the APM. Noted that many of the actions had been completed.

RHC thanked PSB for his hard work in producing the Plan – a document that Council can and does use.

16 District Councillors' reports

Injunction against incursion onto Enterprise Nurseries - the South Cambs enforcement officer had confirmed on 1st April that the court had granted an injunction against anyone wanting to move onto the Enterprise Nurseries site.

There was some evidence that a large group of travellers were thinking of moving onto the site over Easter weekend, and HMS alerted SCDC to rumours in the village.

A judge requires a significant amount of concrete evidence before issuing an injunction, and this had apparently been obtained. Once the injunction has been issued and served it is a criminal offence to move onto the land, and anyone doing so is in contempt of court and can be sent to prison. However the police will not normally go out straight away. There is a procedure for enforcing, that starts with contacting the District Council portfolio holder Nick Wright.

Two evictions of up to 60 caravans were due to take place in Essex during June and August.

Donarbon visit - 17 people visited Donarbon - it was very interesting, and we had a full tour of the site, though unfortunately the sorting equipment was out of action for maintenance at the time.

Reports - have gone to the SCDC scrutiny committee from 2 panels I have worked on - one on finance, which should lead to a better design of council tax booklet (but not till next year), and better scrutiny of the budget. The other was on children and young people's services delivered through partnerships. RS had also been on the Finance panel and had acted as Chairman for a lot of the meetings in the absence of the Chairman.

Chesterton Fen (PC15/03-10) – an Environment Agency inspector would ask for a water sample.

Neighbourhood Panel – meeting Tuesday 13 April.

Willows by river – the conservators had cut down a lot of willows (which had a fungus) following a Health & Safety survey.

Richard Summerfield announced his retirement as district councillor. The chairman thanked Richard for his dedication and his commitment to the village over 15 years. He would be a tremendous loss.

RTS thanked the chairman for his comments.

17 Bills for Payment and Money Received

AGREED and CONFIRMED payment of cheques 100225 – 100252

RHC declared an interest (ch 100225) – has business connections with Algar Signcraft – and abstained.

HMS abstained (ch 100243).

MCC grant 2009/10 at approximately £7,500 – to be carried over to 2010/11.

18 Correspondence

Local Council Review, Clerks and Councils Direct, The Clerk, Community Action (ACRE),
Cambs Community Services Newsletter “Connect”

SCDC - Draft Gender Equality Scheme 2010 – 2013.

19 Dates of Next Meetings

APM 19 April; F&S and Planning 26 April; COUNCIL (Annual Parish Council Meeting) 10 May.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

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