

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Thursday 29 August 2013 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) JE Coston RJ Farrington G Heaney IF May MC Perkins
HM Smith I Tyes G Wynne-Jones
The clerk and assistant clerk
3 members of the public (arrived at 7:55pm, left at 8:30pm)

Absent: J Mowatt

1. Apologies for absence: DJ Chamberlin – personal; M Hersom – work commitment.

2. Declarations of interest and dispensations

a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.

None received

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).

None received.

c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

n/a

3. Staffing: The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2013 were received and noted.

AGREED

- to advertise Assistant Clerk position (part-time – approx. 40 hours per month) in Village View magazine, on Parish Council website, via CAPALC and on Parish and Tesco noticeboards (proposed GH, seconded IFM).
- To adopt revised payscales agreed by National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services, backdated to 1st April 2013. Backdated pay to be paid with September salary (proposed GH, seconded IFM).

The proposal to choose a supplier for a new ‘stable-style’ door for the Parish Council office was deferred. Quotes for a wooden counter in the office will be obtained.

**Action:
Clerk**

4. Planning:

53 Cambridge Road **AGREED** to instruct the councils’ solicitor to pursue receiving payment for granting the right of access over Parish Council land at Barnabas Court to the proposed new dwelling at the rear of 53 Cambridge Road (proposed JEC, seconded IFM).

**Action:
Clerk**

5. Cemetery:

Three members of the public, Louise Holmes, Lena Smith and Esther Smith, arrived at 7:55pm.

RTS welcomed the public to the meeting and advised that council would listen to their concerns about the grave of their mother, Louise Smith. The family members showed photos of possible styles of headstone they would like to have. A diagram of possible styles of layout, to include measurements for headstone, kerbing and flower pots was requested.

Notes of the points raised by the Smith family are attached (Appendix I). The family will be sent a draft copy to confirm this is a true record of the discussion.

The Maintenance Committee will consider the request for a double-size headstone and kerbing with flower pots at their next meeting and make a recommendation to council.

JEC asked that as many councillors as possible attend the Maintenance meeting to debate this item.

The family will be advised in writing of the councils’ decision.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm

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

NOTES from Extraordinary Meeting of the Milton Parish Council on Thursday 29th August 2013.

The daughters of the late Louise Smith (Louise Holmes, Esther Smith and Lena Smith) made the following points to the parish council:

- The family have removed a number of items from their mother's grave and are happy with what is now there.
- According to their tradition, tending their mother's grave is the last thing they can do for her and they take this responsibility very seriously.
- The family believe that the new cemetery regulations should not apply to their mother's grave since she was buried before these rules came into effect.
- The family would like to put a double headstone and kerbing with built-in vases on the grave and will provide dimensions of the headstone, kerbing and vases to the parish council. They circulated photos of possible styles and sizes of headstones for councillors to view.
- Other traveller graves at the cemetery have double headstones and kerbing and the Smith family would like the same as other existing traveller graves.
- The family believe it is not right to expect them to put a single headstone now and then replace it later with a double headstone as headstones are very expensive.
- The family feel they are being picked on because they are travellers.
- The family feel they have been treated unfairly by the parish council. An example: they were told to remove flowers from the grave three days after their mother's burial.
- The family often receive comments from people at the cemetery on how nice their mother's grave looks.
- The family do not like the state of some other graves in the cemetery which are not well tended.
- The family have put a water butt at the cemetery for all to use.
- Their mother was buried to the right of the plot and Esther intends to be buried beside her mother. According to their tradition, a divorced or separated person should not be buried on their own.
- The family feel they should have the right to do what they want to on their mother's grave, as long as it is not out of proportion with other graves in the cemetery.
- All three daughters lived on the Blackwell site in Milton when they were children.