

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 03 December 2012 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) JE Coston (arrived 7:35pm) DJ Chamberlin M Ellwood
RJ Farrington G Heaney M Herson (arrived at 8pm) IF May J Mowatt MC Perkins
HM Smith I Tyes G Wynne-Jones
Councillor M Williamson (arrived at 8:57pm)
The clerk and assistant clerk
1 member of the public (left at 7:45pm)

1. **Apologies for absence:** AJ Campbell

2. **Casual Vacancy:** Noted Terrie Drummond had resigned. Call for a poll expires on 7th December.
Council asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to Terrie for her hard work.

**Action:
Clerk**

3. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of 05 November 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.

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

Tanya Rotor spoke to request a zebra crossing on High Street at the top of Fen Road to Pond Green as it was a dangerous place for mothers and children to cross going to and from the primary school. Also asked for a mirror on Fen Road at Goding Way junction to help visibility for traffic exiting Goding Way. Clerk to check if Cambs County Council Highways ever place mirrors on the highway. [Note: reply received 6th Dec-County Council will not place mirror on highway.]

**Action:
Clerk**

5. **Declarations of interest and dispensations**

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

HMS (non-disclosable pecuniary interest) Agenda item 7 – 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.

Members who are council tax payers in the parish were reminded to give all requests for a dispensation for discussions on financial matters and setting the precept to the Clerk.

6. **Clerk's report**

Local Highways Minor Improvements (Cambs County Council [CCC]): the anticipated closing date for receipt of bids will be 21st December 2012. After discussion of several options, including problems with parked cars in various locations in the village, it was AGREED that a zebra crossing from Fen Road across the High Street to Pond Green was the preferred option for a bid (proposed JEC, seconded RTS). Clerk will check with CCC to make sure there are no reasons why a zebra crossing could not be sited here

**Action:
Clerk**

Remembrance Wreaths: AGREED donation of £40 to British from S137 payments (proposed RTS, seconded DJC).

SLCC Membership 2013: AGREED payment of Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) membership (£162.00) for 2013 (proposed RTS, seconded DJC).

Street Lighting: details received from Balfour Beatty/CCC of street lighting improvements for parts of Milton. Some columns will be removed permanently (Note: final decision on removals will be taken by Balfour Beatty). The work will take place in approximately 6 months time. AGREED to send spreadsheet prepared by Clerk and Asst Clerk to Balfour Beatty/CCC recommending columns for removal (proposed RTS, seconded MCP).

P&R Road Signs: Details of revised signage received and circulated via email. Comments regarding the use of brackets around A10 have been passed back to CCC.

Cambs Fire Service: A consultation on further collaboration, up to a full merger, between Cambridgeshire and Suffolk fire and rescue services is currently taking place. The consultation and a form to be completed can be found at: <http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/6667.php> . A hardcopy of the consultation document is available in the parish council office.

Graffiti (previous min 07/11-12): CCC Highways Department has advised that only offensive graffiti will be removed from road bridges. This means the graffiti under the A10 bridge will not be removed as it is not deemed to be offensive.

Horse grazing (previous min 07/11-12): College of West Anglia are not interested in renting the field, they feel the rent is too high, but the information has been passed on to the equine courses there in case any students are interested. An advert will be placed in the next Village View.

**Action:
Asst
Clerk**

Photos: 2 books containing copies of photos/slides of old Milton taken by the late Harold Easy are now available in the Parish Council Office. These are on permanent loan from JEC. JEC will ask Spencer Attle, who donated the images to her, for permission for the Parish Council to have these. ME volunteered to help JEC with her ongoing project to find out more information about these images. It was NOTED there is a DVD available showing some of these images. DJC commented that this is a commendable project to preserve the history of the village.

Bellway site visit: Ian May, Alex Campbell, Roger Day, Bob Waters and the Asst Clerk met onsite on 16 Nov and confirmed that the two football pitches on offer are each at least 90m x 50m. There is a 9m gap between pitches which may be suitable for an artificial cricket pitch; the Asst Clerk has emailed the cricket club to see if this would be something of interest for them but has, as yet, received no reply. Demolition is well underway. HMS will check with SCDC regarding the number of trees permitted to be removed from around the lake under the planning permission granted for the Bellway Homes site. Thanks to Roger Day and Bob Waters for giving up their time to attend.

A10/Landbeach Rd junction: Hazel Smith, Michael Williamson and the Asst Clerk met with Sue Parsons and Andrea Haslock from the County Council Transport Dept. Sue and Andrea agreed that the junction was dangerous due to ambiguous/confusing signage and the proximity to Landbeach traffic; they will review the junction as well as the Ely Rd junction (by the allotments) and propose options for improvement. One option may be to amend road markings at the Landbeach Rd junction so that cars exiting the A10 into Milton have clear right of way over cars turning north onto the A10. Another option may be to prevent turning north onto the A10 altogether and making the Ely Rd junction the only option for turning north onto the A10 (Note: parish councillors did not support this option). HMS pointed out that Bellway development will put further pressure on these two junctions, as will a new cycle track which has just been funded. SP provided diagrams of junction for parish councillors to make suggestions. MW to provide comparative data on accidents at the junction received from SP. MW suggested meeting with Landbeach parish councillors as well to discuss options. IFM, IT, JEC and HMS volunteered to attend a meeting.

CCC - Cambridgeshire Future Transport – Next Stage: RTS, the Clerk and Jim Daniels attended a meeting at Horningsea on 20th Nov to discuss the 196 Whippet bus service from Cambridge-Waterbeach via Horningsea/Fen Ditton. The subsidy for this service is being withdrawn and representatives from Fen Ditton and Horningsea parish councils and bus users were present to discuss alternative services/routes.

Christmas Lights (previous min 07/11-12): AGREED to allow up to £100 for costs involved to put up Christmas Lights (LGA1972, S144). Proposed RTS, seconded IM, 12 for, 1 absention. The lights will be put up on 15th December and taken down on 5th January 2013.

Footpath: Horningsea–Baits Bite Lock (previous min 07/11-12): The Chairman of Horningsea Parish Council has thanked us for our letter of support and will keep us informed of progress.

Tompkins Mead (previous min 12/11-12): A walk through took place on 28th November with Mick Woolhouse (CSLT), Bob Waters, Roger Day and Mark Ellwood present. A meeting with a representative from Town & Country will take place on 11th December for a quote for work required to be prepared.

Request for path: A resident from Barnabas Court has requested that a path be installed along the boundary of the bowls green from the bowls pavilion to the surgery. The resident suffered a fall in the car park in August and considers the car park to be too dangerous to use. The wet grass and leaves make the current path very slippery. Asst Clerk spoke with MCC manager Andy Gray, who is aware of the request for a path and is pursuing funding. The suggestion that a letter is sent to MCC to state that local residents have expressed a need for a footpath here (proposed JM, seconded HMS) was NOT AGREED (3 for, 8 against, 2 abstentions).

Bus shelter damage: The bus shelter by the Apostolic Church on the High Street was damaged over the weekend 10/11 November. Algar repaired the damage (cost £420 + VAT) and a claim has been submitted to our insurers, Suffolk ACRE, who advised that submitting a claim will not affect future policy rates as we are on a group policy with other parish councils. A crime report was also filed with the police.

SCDC Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation: NOTED the 2nd consultation will run for 6 weeks between 7 January and 18 February 2013.

SCDC Speed Sticker Initiative: AGREED to order 120 free wheelie bin 30 mph speed stickers for distribution to houses at the 'entrances' to the village to reinforce existing speed signage.

**Action:
Clerk**

7. **Planning:** the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2012 were received and noted.

Decisions received:

S/2014/12/VC Miss Abby Mercer, Waves Consultancy Ltd, Tesco Stores Ltd, Cambridge Road, Milton – variation of conditions 3 (Opening Hours) and 6 (Materials) of planning consent S/2123/06/F for Change of Use of Car Park to Car Valeting Operation including Siting of Cabin and Canopy. **Approved**

New applications:

S/2273/12/FL CSR St Johns House, St Johns Innovation Park, Cowley Road – Compound Enclosure for Generator and Fuel Tank. **No Recommendation**

S/2404/12/FL Mr J White 29 Landbeach Road, Milton – Extension to form new garage and alterations. **No recommendation**

8. **Internal Audit:** the intermediate Internal Auditor was received and noted. AGREED that the notes taken during council meetings can be destroyed once the minutes of the meeting have been finalised (proposed IFM, seconded ME). All members were reminded to sign and hand-in signed Acceptance of Office agreements in order to adopt the new Ethical Framework (June 2012).

9. **S106 Monies: Development adjacent to Lea Court, Coles Road.** NOTED an amount of £3628.31 would be remitted for open space and community facilities contributions from the developer. An Indemnity to use the monies in accordance with the Section 106 Agreement was signed and will be returned to SCDC.

10. **Consultations**

Local Enforcement Plan for Minerals and Waste Development in Cambridgeshire (CCC)
Consultation Period: 1 Nov–5 Dec 2012. No comments were received for this consultation.

CCC Consultation on Cambridgeshire's Strategy for Local Flood Risk Management and Flood Asset Register for Cambridgeshire JEC, MCP and HMS had studied at the consultation document. AGREED to re-word Hazel's comments as a letter to send to CCC as it was felt no response could be made using the questionnaire supplied (proposed IT, seconded MCP).

**Action:
Clerk**

11. **Parish Plan**

GH and the Asst Clerk have updated the Parish Plan. All items are now marked for no further action as they have been either completed or the group set up to look at actions required has been disbanded. AGREED to accept revisions, subject to 'no further action required' being changed to 'no further action' where necessary (proposed JEC, seconded IT). Council thanked GH and Asst Clerk for their work.

IFM queried if a Parish Plan will be required to renew Quality Council status. [Note: this is one of 17 items of which 9 are required for Quality Status. NALC are reviewing the Quality Status requirements in 2013.]

Michael Williamson arrived at 8:57pm

12. **MCC report: Andy Gray, Community Centre Manager**

Maintenance/Improvements:

The slabs between The Sycamores Rec and Tesco's path have been re-laid, so this no longer forms a trip hazard.

Bookings:

No new classes to report and I expect all of our existing classes to continue into 2013.

The Bowls Club Brass Band Concert on the 8th is the only Saturday Night Booking during December. Nobody has booked us for New Years Eve, so we shall be closed from Saturday 22nd Dec to Wednesday 2nd January 2013.

Youth Building: Nothing to report. HMS advised she is able to go and unlock and lock the Youth Building on a Sunday if necessary to enable the building to be rented out.

Vandalism: Nothing to report.

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

www.michaelwilliamson.org.uk

**County Councillor's Report to Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach Parish Councils
December 2012**

This is a joint report. I know that some issues will be relevant to only some parishes, but to avoid leaving anything out, I felt it would be useful to circulate everything to all. I have used initials to show which items may be most relevant to which Parishes.

Cycle Parking at Waterbeach Station (L,W)

Some plans have been produced and these can be viewed on my website www.michaelwilliamson.org.uk. The scheme would yield twelve new covered cycle parking spaces in the car park area and ten new uncovered spaces on the northbound platform (by the waiting area). This would bring total provision at Waterbeach to 32 of which 22 would be covered. I am keen to get responses as soon as possible so I can go back to the County Council with any suggestions.

Cycle crossing of the A10 (L,W)

As above, I am awaiting more detailed responses from the County Council officers.

Landbeach Road - A10 junction (L,M)

We had a good site meeting a couple of weeks ago with County Council road safety officers. I have agreed to get together a group of Councillors from Milton and Landbeach to discuss the situation and make proposals to the engineers for possible improvements. Please could each Council nominate two or three representatives to meet.

Bus Services (W, M?)

I attended a meeting in Horningsea about the 196 service. Representatives from Milton Parish Council were present because there are some suggestions that any future service might go through Milton. Notes have been circulated of the meeting; if they have not reached the respective Parish Councils then please contact me.

Improved Park and Ride Signage

Proposals have been circulated and comments have been made by Milton Parish Council.

Denny End Traffic Lights

The suggestion was made that the programming of the lights means that they turn to green even when there is no traffic waiting to turn out of Denny End Road. From my personal observation, this is not true.

14. District Councillors' reports

Councillors Report – December 2012 – Hazel Smith

Finances

At this time of year there are many meetings at SCDC about the upcoming budget. There is a cap of 2% on the Council Tax rise unless you want to undertake a referendum (which would be very costly). There are great uncertainties in the budget because a lot of the grants that were part of the government's funding to councils are being removed, and instead there is the New Homes Bonus, which is a sizeable amount of money paid **if** the council delivers a lot of new homes. Most of this is outside the council's control: we can give planning permission but if the market for houses is slow, the developers will not build the houses. Luckily in this part of the country the housing market is holding up well.

Mettle Hill

The discussion of the medium-term financial plan was rather hijacked because that agenda item contained the first mention of the plans to reopen the Mettle Hill Travellers site, near Meldreth. The Leader and his henchmen have negotiated with the government and received a promise of a grant of half a million pounds to help bring that site and the 2 current rental sites in the district into SCDC's ownership when the County Council sells them.

Historically there were 4 rental sites in the district: Blackwell (in Milton, next to the A14), Whaddon (beside the Old North Road between Meldreth and Bassingbourn), Mettle Hill at Meldreth and Meadow Road in Willingham. These were, and still are, all owned by the County Council but managed in the same way as council houses for rent, by SCDC. The first 2 of these sites still operate in this way, and Mettle Hill and Meadow Road were both closed after bad behaviour by the tenants around 1996.

Since then, 2 large sites for Travelling Showpeople have been established opposite the Mettle Hill site, and there is another small Romany site a little way up the road. Meldreth is succeeding in integrating all these diverse families into the village, but enough is enough and they do not want Mettle Hill reopened.

As you will know, in general I have favoured the provision of sites for Travellers, and of course in Milton we have the largest Traveller population in South Cambs. However it is important not to have over-concentration of numbers that dominate the neighbouring population, and also we know that different communities of Travelling people do not want to settle cheek-by-jowl with each other. Irish and English Travellers do not stay for long on the same site, and Travelling Showpeople are another completely different community.

The local people are completely opposed to reopening the site, and I agree with them. There were over 200 of them at the Cabinet meeting that discussed this, and many of them asked questions of the Cabinet, and put their arguments very well. The final decision was originally to have been made at the Council meeting on Thursday 22nd Nov, but has now been put off to a special Council meeting on 10th Jan.

All councillors have been inundated with emails and letters from residents opposed to the reopening of the site, and a petition with over 3,000 signatures was presented before Full Council.

It is unclear whether it would be possible to use the cash from the government for any other site – or whether anywhere else could be made available in time.

Budget cuts

There are many changes coming due to budgets being cut, and the lack of money for Capital Grants. In the **Environmental Health** Dept they are losing several officers and reorganising the whole officer structure. The aim is for a more flexible workforce with people covering each other's jobs more than now, and merging planning and environmental enforcement to some degree. But £250,000 in cuts when the department is already far leaner than 90% of all councils in England, will be painful.

Funding for the **Arts Officers** and Arts in South Cambs is proposed to be removed entirely. You may remember the consultation over the Summer on grants given to voluntary organisations – our comment was that 'Sport, Arts and Heritage were not covered by this list of priorities'. The Community Arts work in Village Colleges and churches, like concerts open to the general public is likely to stop completely, as education funding to these Academy schools can only be used for their pupils' benefit. There were 5 Arts Officer posts in village colleges each of which SCDC supported through a grant of £14,000 (a total of £70,000) which brought in other grants and delivered over £400,000 of Arts projects.

You will be glad perhaps to learn that the funding for support of **Community Care** schemes remains fixed at £17,900, though an increase would certainly be justified. They propose to increase the **Community Chest** fund for small grants (of up to £1,000 each) from £36,400 to £52,000, but there will be no larger-scale funding for village projects.

The funding for the **Citizens Advice Bureaux** and other advice agencies in the Third Sector is being cut. There will be no money for the CABs in surrounding districts other than in Cambridge. The CABs are very upset by this response, which is said to be because of the introduction of Welfare Reform from April 2013, which of course will only add to the work they are called upon to do for SCDC residents.

On a happier note, the council has a licence to run the **Grantfinder** software, and this will be advertised in the South Cambs Magazine. You can contact the officer, Joseph Minutolo, and request a search for funding for a specific project.

Northstowe

Phase 1 has been through the Planning Committee, and approved subject to various conditions to be agreed. A major worry is the assertion that these 1,500 homes will make “negligible difference” to the traffic on the B1050 which is the only road passing the site. That’s an extra village not much smaller than the size of Milton, by the way. A Traffic Monitoring and Management Group is being set up, which will advise on keeping the traffic moving in nearby villages. Beyond Phase 1, there should be major improvements to the A14 and new roads accessing Northstowe directly from the A14.

Chesterton Station

I hope you all went to the consultation sessions. They had some impressive models and the ones I went to were very well attended.

Fen Road improvements

There is another meeting next week, following the traffic monitoring.

SCDC Local Plan

The field next to the Bellway housing site can be added to the 2nd consultation document for the Local Plan as possible recreation space for the future. An email has been received from Jonathan Dixon, Principal Planning Policy Officer at SCDC, requesting confirmation that the parish council supports this.

AGREED to support the inclusion of this site in the 2nd consultation document for the Local Plan (proposed RTS, seconded ME).

15. Bills for Payment and Money Received

Proposed by ME, seconded by IFM

CONFIRMED and AGREED payment of cheques 100781–100798.

AGREED payment of future BT bills by direct debit.

16. Correspondence (inc. urgent correspondence not on the agenda)

War Memorials Trust Bulletin Autumn 2012

The Clerk Magazine November 2012

17. Dates of Next Meetings – 20th December Planning (7pm); 20th December Maintenance (7:30pm); Monday 7th

January Parish Council; Thursday 10th January Community Care (11am); Monday 28th January Planning Committee (7pm); Monday 28th January Finance & Administration Committee (7:30pm).

18. Items and Reports for January agenda (to be received by Wed 19 December)

The meeting closed at 9:20pm

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