

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 07 February 2011 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) PS Badley AJ Campbell JE Coston R Day TA Drummond M Ellwood RJ Farrington M Hersom SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May HM Smith RLE Waters
Cllr M Williamson, two members of the public, the clerk and assistant clerk

1 Apologies for absence - GA Covell.

2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

HMS – Planning agenda 6 personal – a member of SCDC’s planning committee.

TAD – Land update agenda 12 personal – member of Colts football club.

Noted that TAD (son member of cricket club) and RLEW (vice president cricket club) declared a personal interest “request from cricket club” under clerk’s report agenda 5.

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Public Participation

- As numbers of students at the College of West Anglia increased a resident expressed concerns about possible conflict / litter through Knights Way on route to and from the college.
- M Woolhouse asked Council to consider making a contribution towards the regular upkeep of Tomkins Mead and also to support the grant application to SCDC for refurbishment of the toilets in the Country Park car park. MW would send Council written details. To be discussed at next meeting.

5 Clerk’s/Chairman’s report

Fitness equipment (M7b/12-10) – MCC had agreed to allow the installation of fitness equipment on The Sycamores recreation ground. It was reported that both the football and cricket clubs would be keen to see the equipment on The Sycamores recreation ground – possible location between children’s play equipment and tarmac 5-a-side area. JEC would look for grants.

Milton to Impington cycle route (PC5/01-11) – response from M Davies:

1. There appears to be a gap of about 20 yards between the start of the Impington end of the cycle route and the pavement. Is that correct? “The cycle route takes cyclists from Milton into the traffic calmed 30mph speed limit at Impington where they are then expected to join the road, therefore the new foot/cycleway does not continue to St Andrew’s Way where there is a footway. If funding were not limited then this could be continued.”

2. The footpath/cycle path at present between the A10 and Mere Way is in a poor state of repair for cycles - having dips and hollows. “Any repairs to this section will have to be considered by our maintenance colleagues.”

3. Consultation: “There isn’t really anything to consult on in terms of options. Previously the Parish Council made it clear that they did not support a wide path of such a width that would have been of a standard for school buses to be withdrawn. The path to be built is relatively narrow and its presence should not cause the loss of such buses.”

Community Care (PC5/01-11) – Cambridge Housing Society had temporarily closed admissions to other schemes until the needs of those affected by the Crossway Gardens (Shelford) closure were met. Residents of Crossways with a “Milton connection” would have priority. This would involve one or two tenants only.

Localgiving.com (PC5/01-11) – the Assistant Clerk had registered MPC for this website, which was free for the first three months. The web was designed to generate fundraising for local community projects from those who visit the site. The Assistant Clerk was in the process of listing MPC’s Community Care Scheme as a project in need of fundraising to see whether any response is forthcoming. If not he would recommend withdrawing from site at end of three month trial period.

Parish Forum (PC5/01-11) – notes of the meeting not yet received.

Parish Liaison meeting – 29 March at Cambourne. Notes of previous meeting received.

British Legion Great Poppy Party Weekend - 10-12 June.

Golf course (P10/01-11) – JEC, MH, HMS and RTS met with CCC, SCDC and Environment Agency officers on 21 January to discuss the illegal dumping of waste on the site – discussed at end of meeting.

Double yellow lines junction The Rowans and Cambridge Road (second junction) – concerns by a resident about cars parking near junction causing potential hazard. He requested that Council consider double yellow lines.

Noted that this type of inconsiderate parking happened throughout the village and that as The Rowans was almost double width the police would be unlikely to try to pursue a conviction for obstruction.

Action: the clerk to write to the resident and to report concerns to PC Shulver and the PCSO

Pedestrian crossing near Tesco – a resident was concerned about the visibility problems for motorists approaching from Cambridge when buses were at the bus stop and the crossing's poor lighting.

Action: the clerk to write to the resident and to report concerns to PC Shulver and the PCSO

Refuse collections - correspondence between a resident and officer at SCDC about operatives “emptying the blue bin internal caddy for paper into the main bin then dumping whole contents into the main collection area of the dust cart instead of separating the items as before.”

Noted that “residents reports are logged so that [SCDC officers] can “monitor collections.”

Action: the clerk would ask the resident to inform both SCDC and Council if this happened again.

Request from cricket club: “Milton cricket club runs 3 Saturday teams, this means only the 1st and 2nd team can play their home games at Milton recreation ground. As a result of this the 3rd team have to play their home games out of the village, with this comes lost of costs (usual costs £80 -£150 a game to hire a ground). The committee mentioned at our last meeting that it would be good if there was some help available with funding for us to cover some of our costs. Do you know if there would be any help available, no matter how small?”

Action: to be included on March agenda for discussion

Funding for youth - request for funding (£150) from Paula Mayes towards youth First Aid & Food Hygiene training course. **Action: to be included on March agenda for discussion**

6 Planning

Gemmix Concrete Batching Plant (P4/10-10) – copy letter received from G Chamberlain Cecil Instruments detailing list of planning conditions being breached. Council supported Mr Chamberlain. The clerk would write to SCDC and also to Mr Chamberlain thanking him for keeping Council informed. **Action: the clerk**

Decisions received:

S/1593/10 Mrs D Miller 73 Coles Road (Pc7/11-10) – front extension - **approved.**

S/1992/10 Cambridge Regional College (PC7/12-10) – installation of mezzanine floor to create additional classroom; erection of external staircase and external alterations – **approved.**

S/2008/10 A De Simone 25 Butt Lane (PC7/12-10) - 2 storey side and single storey rear extension and front bay. Extension to time limit for implementation of planning approval S/2055/07 – **approved.**

S/2087/10 Mr & Mrs Witt 10 Willow Crescent (P5/12-10) – single storey front and two storey side and rear extensions to house - **approved. External materials to be identical to those used for existing building or to be approved by LPA.**

New applications:

S/0303/10 Mr Patrick Davies Steeldome Ltd – 296 bedroom hotel (C1) following demolition of existing health club (D20 and offices (B1). Change of use of existing Trinity Centre (D2) to hotel facilities (C1) with connection to hotel for associated restaurant, bar and meeting rooms along with associated landscaping, car parking and pedestrian links (PC10/01-11) - amendments and flood risk assessment – **for information only.**

S/2217/10 Mr Ben Moore – land to the rear of the Barn Chesterton Fen Road – erection of stable building and use of land for stabling of horses – **refuse.**

In view of the history of the site in which a stable ‘became’ a dwelling Council was concerned that this could happen again. The size of the proposed stable block was out of keeping with the rural scene within the Green Belt.

The application appeared to be incomplete in that the plans did not show the type of materials to be used.

S/0088/11 Milton Primary School Humphries Way – roof alterations – **no recommendations.**

Noted that the owner of 48 Fen Road was intending to submit a new application for a dwelling adjacent 48 Fen Road.

- 7 **Staffing** – the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 17 January 2011 were received and noted.
- 8 **Finance** – the minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting held on 24 January 2011 were received. The chairman explained minute F&A9/01-11 and F&A13/01-1.

It was AGREED to accept recommendations to:

- **ask MCC to give an undertaking to pay any amount above £70,000 back to Council should the VAT claim on the refurbishment work be rejected** (F&A9/01-11)
- **approve increased expenditure on youth centre cooker (£387.49 + VAT)** (F&A10/01-11)
- **approve the grant to MCC of £32,000** (F&A13/01-11) [RTS and HMS as members of the MCC Finance Committee declared a prejudicial interest and left the room. AJC took the chair for this item]
- **approve the budget forecast for 2011/12** (F&A13/01-11)
[The budget forecast spreadsheet was reviewed and approved by Council after amendments were made to the way that the grants to the youth were shown on the spreadsheet. It was **AGREED** to support the youth club for the amount requested (£5,717 – Min PC2/12-10) (9 votes in favour 4 abstention)]
- **precept for £125,000 for 2011/12** (F&A 14/01-11)

The above decisions were agreed unanimously.

HMS explained that the relatively low percentage increase was due to an additional 25 Band D homes in Milton during the year. Additional homes were spread across the bands from A to G. Band A (7 new homes) would be small houses or plots on Chesterton Fen, extensions might move houses up a band, other additions would come from the change in discount rules for second homes, change in number of long term empty homes and fewer homes in single occupancy (which qualify for 25% discount).

9 **MCC update**

Refurbishment: the work was just about completed. Opening ceremony was arranged for Thursday 10th Feb at 10.30am, all the 4 funders had been invited (WREN, Milton Parish Council, SCDC and Donarbon), together with the Cambridge Evening News.

Bookings: Very little to report, all the regular groups continue to use the facilities, with the exception of the over 60's, who have had to cancel as they no longer had a volunteer to run things.

Youth Building: No new bookings or enquiries - the building being used only by the Youth Club on a Tuesday evening and Young Carers on a Saturday morning.

Vandalism: Not much to report, except for some Graffiti on the Annexe - CB4 in bright pink was daubed on 2 walls during the night of Wednesday 26th January - now removed by SCDC graffiti removal squad.

Premises licence holder – the premises licence holder had given notice that he intended to retire.

10 **County Councillor's report** (detailed report attached to minutes)

County Council budget summary

Park and Ride lighting - Campbell Ross-Bain who is responsible for the P&R says that the lighting is reduced to 50% at nights but needs to be kept on for security.

It was felt that leaving these lights on was a waste of energy and resources.

Suggestions for Mr R-Bain to consider:

- Should all lights be turned off after a certain time?
- Turn off most of the lights but leave a few on near the building
- Dim the lights if possible.

The question was asked: "Are the lights all left on at the other Park & Ride sites around Cambridge?"

Action: *MW and the clerk to investigate*

Subsidised bus services - removal of subsidies from bus services - *in terms of service 9 the journeys involved are the evening ones. The remaining journeys are operated on a commercial basis and therefore not part of the review. Service X9 is again largely commercially operated with the contracted journeys under review being the 08:30 and 16:30 Monday to Friday arrivals in Ely from March and the 07:35 and 16:35 departures to March from Ely.*

Milton-Impington cycleway - meeting arranged 10th February at 14.00. (See clerk's report above).

11 District Councillors' reports (detailed report attached to minutes)

Drains on Chesterton Fen – HMS was trying to arrange another meeting to discuss lowering the culvert near Long Reach Farm. She was also trying to get something done to improve the state of the ditches under the Health Powers. Chris Bradley, Enforcement Officer SCDC has informed the clerk that 95% of the rubbish, including electrical appliances ie fridges etc, had been removed from the last field by the A14.

Blue bins – “income from the recycling collections has been even more than anticipated. However the volume of paper and other materials has been greater than they had expected, so the council is using some of the extra income to buy another freighter, to cope with the extra amounts.

There is a lot of blown litter after the recycling collections compared to the green and black bin collections. They are looking at the way in which material blows out in the process of being tipped into the freighter, to see if some better way can be found. It is recommended that only confidential parts of papers are shredded, and that the shreadings are put into an envelope, rather than piled into the bin loose.”

Bus cuts - explained by CCC above.

Tesco – the clerk’s office contacted Tesco, both Head Office and locally and also Chris Bradley, Enforcement Officer SCDC. He and a colleague came out immediately and saw Mr Coe, under manager Tesco who agreed that the area around Tesco was unacceptable.

Four “Department Heads” from Head Office had been to see the site.

New contractors had been employed – to litter pick monthly at present and fortnightly during the summer, to trim bushes and cut the grass.

The clerk would write to Mr Coe thanking him and reminding him to cut the bushes back to the highway boundary. **Action: the clerk**

Golf course – HMS had asked the Enforcement Officer to take action regarding the signs and “dazzling” lights at the entrance to the golf course.

Ditch Ely Road – had been cleaned out recently by CWA. HMS would talk to the drainage manager SCDC, Pat Matthews to find out what was happening there, where silt and roots had been piled up beside the road. [**Note: Pat Matthews has asked CWA to remove the 'arisings' 09/02/11**].

Litter pick – scheduled for second Saturday half term.

12 Land Group

RTS noted that the group will meet with Allen Moore from the Institute of Groundsmen to discuss layout of sports pitches. Asst Clerk is discussing planning application with SCDC planners with intention to re-submit change-of-use application from agricultural to recreation land.

Golf Course – (from Clerk’s report above)

AGREED at 9.56pm [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

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January were received and being treated as confidential. Asst Clerk will email all present at meeting to confirm Minutes are a true record. It was hoped that some progress will have been made by the time the next meeting takes place in March.

The meeting re-opened at 10.04pm.

13 Bills for Payment and Money Received

CONFIRMED payment of cheques 100401 - 100404

AGREED payment of cheques 100405 – 100416 (1 abstention)

14 Correspondence

Connections Bus Project - advertising its availability for hire for youth work

Magazines - The Clerk, Local Councils Direct, Local Government Review

CPALC - Bulletin and letter about “Type 2” diabetes research

15 Dates of Next Meetings – Planning 21 February, Council 7 March.

16 Items and Reports for March agenda (to be received by Monday 28 February)

The meeting ended at 10.05pm.

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