

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 01 February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

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

1 Apologies for absence - none.

2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

TAD - land update (agenda 7) and request from Colts Football (agenda 9) personal – member of colts football club.

IFM - land update (agenda 7) personal – chairman of colts football club; request from Colts Football (agenda 9) prejudicial.

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

3 Minutes – the minutes of the meeting of 04 January 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Public Participation – PCSO Claire Whiteman reported that she was leaving Milton and later in the year intended to join the regular force. On behalf of the village the chairman thanked Claire for her hard work and commitment to Milton and wished her very success in her new career.

Outstanding issues such as anti social behaviour in Froment Way would be handed over to the new PCSO to continue to monitor.

AGREED to write to both Inspector Savage and Claire expressing Council’s appreciation and thanks.

Action: the clerk

5 Clerk’s/Chairman’s report

Community Care (CC11/3.4-09) – the Community Care Scheme had been awarded a grant of £2000 from the County Council small grant scheme for 2010/11 – a reduction of £1000 from last year.

RLEW agreed to attend the grants reception on 8 March at Over Community Centre 1.30pm.

Tree (M4/12-09) – John Holder and Gaye Lockwood were pleased that the tree adjacent the Post Office had been lopped and offered to pay half of cost. The clerk would ask for £60. *Action: the clerk*

Salt bins (PC5/1-10) – having taken advice from Allianz Cornhill that Council may not be covered by Public Liability insurance the clerk consulted members and as a result did not take up the offer of salt bins.

MW was trying to find the definitive legal position from the County Council legal department.

Noted that both bridges had been salted 9 times by 5 January.

Reference Chesterton Fen railway crossing the City Council confirmed: “The responsibility rests with the County Council as the highways authority, they have responsibility for gritting of all adopted highways. I would not wish to complicate this issue given the railway location and the risks associated with the public working to spread grit etc. The safety aspect and the litigation issues need to be considered for such areas.”

Countryside access projects - Housing Growth Fund budget reduced resulting in ending of funding for Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan projects around Cambridge, Northstowe and St Neots as from 1st April. Mere Way improvements (PC5/1-10) - surfacing/gate/tree/hedge improvements – would not be completed after all the preparatory work.

Archaeology (PC5/1-10) – reports on archaeology finds at Long Meadow and Hill Close (off Fen Road adjacent lake beyond Milton Hall) received.

Office (PC5/1-10) – computer and printer installed and running well. The clerk’s office could arrange for Network connections to be made live if necessary. Probable cost £100+.

CBS had given Council a photocopier – cost 1 pence per copy.

AGREED to allow clubs to use photocopier at same rate as charged by MCC. Day Centre to be free of charge.

[Footnote: MCC charge 4p per copy and 2p per copy if clubs use their own paper].

Bin Fen Road – from SCDC: “In a relatively short space of time we have installed three bins at the river end of Fen Road. The 1st was burnt out, the 2nd vandalised and the 3rd stolen within 3 months. Given that these bins are expensive, I am not inclined to replace this bin....”

SCDC had agreed to pay half of costs for a substantial bin from David Ogilvie bin (as at basketball court).

AGREED to pay half of costs together with SCDC = £332.25 each. Action: the clerk

The clerk was waiting to hear whether the Cam Conservators would pay one third.

Bus stop – following a request from a resident about passengers standing out in all weathers to ensure that the city2 stops at the Waggon & Horses bus stop the clerk had asked if Stagecoach would consider making this stop mandatory and to ask drivers to stop in the lay by provided.

In response Mr Norwell, commercial director, confirmed that all stops were request stops.

The clerk would ask Mr Norwell for site visit or a personal representation in order to explain the problem in more detail. Copy letter to the County Council. **Action: the clerk**

The clerk would ask the County Council about the possibility of having a convex mirror put on the lamp post opposite. **Action: the clerk**

Meeting with Paul Torres 18th January 2009 – Hazel Smith (PC14/1-10) issues raised: Path from The Rowans, side passage, grounds maintenance, litter, zebra crossings, trolleys by parent/toddler parking at cash machines, Notice board and lobby, foxes getting into waste food, wheelchair, cycle racks.

HMS reported that Paul had acquired a wheelchair for the village and had arranged to have the trolleys moved so as not to cause a hazard.

The clerk would ask K Faunch to reinforce Council’s request to have the overhanging shrubs cut back.

Action: the clerk

Cambridgeshire County Council - Local Transport Plan Consultation – LTP3

A review is to take place on the Local Transport Plan for Cambridgeshire. The consultation period 11 January to 9 April 2010. The final plan will need to be adopted in March 2011.

Cambridgeshire Horizons - Green Infrastructure Review

Review of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The consultation period runs from 25 January to 7 March 2010.

Green Infrastructure describes a network of public open spaces, routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic sites. It is key to creating places which are attractive, healthy and give a good quality of life and delivers social, economic and environmental benefits. Dates and venues of all consultations received.

War Memorials Trust - half day conference entitled ‘*looking after war memorials*’ to provide advice and information to those who tend, have responsibility for or are interested in war memorials from 10am – 1pm on Thursday 4th March 2010 in the Small Hall at The Guildhall.

Minor Highways Improvements, Provision of Mobility Crossings – the CCC had asked for suggestions “for the optimum locations for crossings. The cost of a pair of crossings is around £1000 however this does depend very much on site conditions and circumstances. Given the current budget available there is potential to fund around six pairs of crossings in your parish, it would be helpful therefore to have six sites identified with say two reserves for us to progress should there be major difficulties delivering any of the first choice sites.”

The clerk would investigate. **Action: the clerk**

Bus timetable changes – as from 14th February: Cambridge - Ely – Littleport: Service 9 Journeys between Ely and Cambridge withdrawn except for two morning and one evening journey into Cambridge from Littleport and three evening journeys from Cambridge to Littleport. X9 would go through Milton. An hourly service to Ely would therefore continue.

6 **Planning** the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 January 2010 were received and noted.

Trees on towpath (PC7/1-10) – the clerk would ask the Trees Officer what would happen with the felled trees.

Action: the clerk

Landbeach Road (P4/1-10) - noted that the application at Landbeach Road had been approved.

Helical Ltd (P5/1-10) - Noted that the reserved matters especially regarding positioning and internal specification of pavilion were still to be determined.

Decisions received:

Ms F Roberts land to the east of 48 Fen Road (PC 6/1-10) – erection of single storey dwelling - **refused**. **Contrary to Policy CH/4 of SCDC LDF Control Policies DPD 2007 – adversely affects the curtilage or wider setting of a listed building. The proposed dwelling would detract from the special architectural and historic interest of the listed building at 48 Fen Road.**

New applications:

S/1890/09 Mr Luke Edwards 49 Cambridge Road – alterations and extensions to property to retain self contained ground floor hairdressing salon and create one 2 bedroom flat and one 1 bedroom flat – **no recommendation**.

S/1333/09 Ricardo Ltd Cambridge Technical Centre Unit 400 Science Park – installation of roller shutter door (retrospective) **no recommendation**.

C/11/17/072/04 East Anglia Children's Hospice – various tree works - **no comments**.

- 8 Finance** (taken before 7) – the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on 18 January 2010 were received.

It was AGREED to accept the following recommendation:

Grants Policy (FS10/1-10)

Having reviewed the budget spreadsheet Council also AGREED:

To grant MCC £32,000 for 2010/11 (FS12/1-10) and

To approve the budget (FS12/1-10).

It was also AGREED to

precept for £120,000 for 2010/11 (FS12/1-10 - 14 votes in favour 1 against). A motion to reduce the long term funding (LTF) amount by £4,000 and thus to reduce the precept to £116,000 was defeated by 13 votes to 2. Council had budgeted £18,000 LTF for four years to pay towards the improvements at MCC. The chairman of Finance recommended that Council continue to budget for this amount to increase capital funds so that Council would not have to borrow so much in the future.

Confidential item: Recommendations from F&S Committee on salaries following staff appraisals.

AGREED at 8.45pm [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item as details of confidential salaries were being discussed.

The clerk and assistant left the room.

The meeting re-opened at 8.55pm.

- 9 Request from Colts Football for grant towards pitch / pavilion hire outside the village**

IFM left the room for this item.

Arguments expressed against:

The club had a healthy balance.

154 youngsters played for the colts teams of which 92 lived in the village or attended school in Milton.

Council was already investing heavily in the colts future by acquiring land for football pitches.

Arguments put forward in favour:

A football pitch had been lost to the Barnabas Court development thus effectively ensuring that some teams must play outside the village; as a result Council had an obligation to pay for expenses.

The colts football club provided healthy sport for many youngsters. Many parents helped.

A grant would help towards future expenses.

It was AGREED to grant the club £700.

- 10 Christmas 2010 – to consider alternative arrangements**

It was AGREED that the clerk and chairman investigate the costs of providing a Christmas tree.

Action: clerk and chairman

7 Land Group update

AGREED at 9.05pm [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 confidential business held on 7 December 2009 and 4 January 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

The minutes from Land Group meetings 8 and 14 January were received and noted.

The meeting re-opened at 9.40pm.

11 Parish Plan update

Environment Group – notes of a recent meeting were received.

Communications and Transport Groups - had not met recently.

Successful completion of items of Action Plan would be reported at APM.

12 Milton Community Centre [MCC] update

MCC Finance Committee had recommended that MCC pay half of electrical / meter costs at meeting room/bowls pavilion.

Grant applications to WREN and SCDC for the building improvements had been submitted.

AGREED to arrange joint meeting MCC/MPC for Monday 8 March. The clerk to liaise with the manager MCC.

Action: the clerk

13 County Councillor’s report

Stagecoach bus service changes – see clerk’s report above.

County Council Budget - a significant number of cuts that will affect all. The full details are available in the Cabinet papers, but some particular matters that may be of interest locally are:

- Cut of £108,000 in mobile library provision in 2010-2011
- Cut of £30,000 in support for library access points (especially affects Waterbeach) in 2010-2011
- Significant reduction in highways maintenance, including a £1,000,000 cut in surface dressing in 2011-2012. MW would find out the % reduction. The CCC had requested resurfacing of the slip road adjacent Tesco.
- Further cuts in the Youth Service budget
- Major cut in County Youth Orchestras in 2013-2014

The proposed Council Tax increase is 3% which is probably the maximum the County Council can get away with without being capped.

20mph speed limits – Girton and Melbourn had both declined to take part in an 20 mph experiment. If Milton were to be asked Council would need to consult with the village first. MW would find out if Milton was due to be considered for the experiment.

Guided Bus – the CCC and contractor were at an impasse.

14 District Councillors’ reports

Chesterton Fen (PC14/1-10) – report from Chesterton Fen Road Residents Association circulated.

– noted that AWA had refused the application for a foul sewer. The clerk would send the Environment Agency evidence of the need for a mains sewer connection.

- noted that mail was going astray

- oil in ditch; barriers were in place in the ditch by Fen Road Milton.

Budget – Council Tax – this would be set at full Council on 25 February.

15 Bills for Payment and Money Received

CONFIRMED AND AGREED payment of cheques 100190 to 100203.

16 Correspondence - none.

17 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning - 15 February; Council – 1 March; Joint MCC – 8 March.

18 Items and Reports for March agenda - to be received by Friday 19 February.

The meeting ended at 10.15pm

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