

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 09 January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) DJ Chamberlin JE Coston TA Drummond M Ellwood RJ Farrington
M Hersom IF May J Mowatt MC Perkins I Tyes A Winnington
The clerk, assistant clerk and two members of the public.

The chairman welcomed all and wished everyone a happy new year.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** – AJ Campbell HM Smith.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial** – TAD agenda 9 (personal) - member of Colts Football Club.
- 3 **Minutes** - the minutes of the meeting of 05 December 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 4 **Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak** – no member wished to speak.
- 5 **Clerk's report**

Golf course (16/11-11) noted that bulldozers were on site. CCC position re compliance had not changed.

Street lighting (6/11-11) - all maintenance responsibility for footway lighting, including day-to-day maintenance, renewals and replacements, had now been transferred to South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). Parish Councils would no longer have any maintenance responsibility for these lights or bear any maintenance costs.

Regardless of ownership (SCDC or CCC), all reports of faulty lights can be reported on one free phone number: **0800 7838 247**. Emergency faults likely to cause an immediate risk to life or limb should be reported to the police, in extreme emergencies, by dialling 999.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields (6/12-11) – the Asst Clerk had done some more investigating into this. The added protection would NOT guard against compulsory purchase orders. There was a possible Stamp Duty to pay. There was also an issue about charitable trust status. It would be possible to designate only part of the Sycamores site rather than the entire site, but the specific parcel would have to be specified at the time of nomination. Of note, Fields in Trust has the ability to approve (through the consent mechanism in the deed) any disposal of the site or erection of structures on it, although it may be possible to exclude certain types of structures (e.g. sports pavilion or changing rooms) from this restriction; this, also, would have to be specified in the deed at the time of nomination. Finally, there is the issue of signage. It is a condition that the field owner will erect a sign (to be provided by Fields in Trust) and probably not fixed to an existing building.

All in all, this would appear to be much more complicated than when it was first explained to the Asst Clerk by a Fields in Trust officer. Besides the costs involved above, it would certainly be prudent to pass this agreement by a solicitor, which would incur more cost. QEII status would NOT result in any guaranteed funding in the future; it merely opens up the possibility for funding.

AGREED not to pursue at this stage and review if necessary.

The assistant clerk would now look at funding elsewhere for play equipment (6/12-11).

Casual vacancy (6/12-11) – position not yet filled.

Housing strategy (6/12-11) – MH, HMS and IT to meet and circulate a report.

100th birthday (6/12-11) – the vice-chairman and clerk presented Rose Easy with a gift on her 100th birthday. Thanks to IFM.

Donation (9/12-11) – from David May badminton: “Please can you pass on my thanks to Milton parish council for approving our donation of £142.20 that you sent to me for the Milton Junior Badminton Club. It will make a big difference to us. Please also extend our thanks to the person who donated the money.”

From Rob Farrington: “On behalf of Milton Scout Group can I sincerely thank Milton Parish Council for the grant of £500 from the special fund donated by a Milton resident.

On Friday I met with the 6 Young Leaders who are currently working with the Beavers, Cubs or Scouts and advised them of the availability of this money. We discussed how it could best be used to further their own training and be of benefit to all the young people in the Scout Group. They will report back in a few weeks time with ideas and then we will proceed and use the money to the best advantage of all concerned. I expect the training to take place during 2012 and will keep the Parish Council advised of progress. Once again, many thanks for the help, which is very much appreciated.”

Empty Homes Strategy - consultation period till end of February 2012 and involved consultation with key staff, district councillors, parish councils, tenant participation group and empty home owners who had expressed a wish to be further consulted.

Be A Councillor Event- Monday 13 February 2012

Hosted by SCDC in the Council Chamber at Cambourne from 7pm on Monday 13 February 2012 to help people find out more about what Councillors do and how to go about being selected to stand for a political party or how to stand as an independent candidate.

Confirmation of attendance required by 4pm on Friday 27 January 2012.

- 6 **Planning** – the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2011 were received and noted.

Decisions received:

S/2348/11/PNA Sunclose Farm Butt Lane – erection of solar panels on agricultural (7/12-11) - **prior approval of the Local Planning Authority not required for the siting, design and external appearance of the development proposed in the above-mentioned application.**

New applications:

S/2293/11 Tesco Stores Ltd – Tesco Store, Cambridge Road – relocation of existing recycle centre and alterations to a pedestrian walkway (7 & 14 12/-11) – **no recommendation.**

The application notes state that because of opposition from local residents, customers and the Parish Council the footpath from Cambridge Road had been reinstated.

S/2572/11 Mr T Mendham – 14 Fen Road – single storey rear extension – **no recommendation.**

Advance notice: S/1250/11 Mr J Upton The Old Coal Yard Chesterton Fen Road – change of use to 7 caravan plots for travellers – to be discussed at Planning meeting 23 January. Concern was expressed about the increasing sites in Chesterton Fen.

- 7 **Maintenance** – the minutes of the maintenance meeting held on 12 December were received.

ME thanked RJF for organising the Christmas lights (PC6/12-11).

Play (M7/12-11) – JEC had met with a representative of Wicksteed and Bob Waters at The Sycamores recreation ground to agree the site for the new fitness equipment.

It was AGREED to accept recommendations:

to increase allotments rents to £25 per 10 pole allotment as from October 2012.

(RTS pointed out that according to a recent survey in the national newspapers this rate was at the lower end of the scale. Council would look sympathetically at any one in real need).

to maintain the fee for horse grazing at the same level

to accept quotation of £440 for play repairs by FLP and

£1147 by Buchans to supply and spread play bark at The Rowans play area. Action: the clerk

Noted that the dog bin at the entrance to the Community Centre car park was recently set on fire. The clerk would purchase with a metal bin - cost approx £142 + fitting. It was **AGREED** that the clerk had the remit to purchase such items without referring first to Council.

- 8 **Staffing** – the minutes of the staffing meeting held on 19 December were received.

update on interviews for clerk – there were applications from very strong candidates. Interviews to take place on the evenings of Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th January. Each applicant would make a short presentation and complete two computer exercises in addition to the formal interview. References would be taken up for the successful applicant in readiness for the February meeting to approve.

9 To consider request for funding from Colts football to help pay costs of playing home games outside the village

A request for funding was received from the Chairman of Milton Colts Football Club.

Noted that Council had approved grants since 2005 on the basis that some of the colts teams had to play their home games outside the village.

AGREED to grant the Colts Football Club £500. Action: the clerk

During 2009/10 four teams played outside the village and in 2010/11 two teams. In 2012/13 probably three would play outside the village.

10 MCC report

Maintenance/Improvements: The children's toilets in the Annexe were refurbished at the end of December/early January and the floor in the Annexe will be replaced during February half term.

Bookings: These continue very much as before, with no new groups to report.

Youth Building: The building continues to be used by the Youth Club on a Tuesday evening and Young Carers every 2 weeks on Saturday mornings.

Vandalism: There appears to be a small group of youngsters loitering around the car park in the evenings and although they are not causing much trouble, their presence can be intimidating to our users and staff. The police are aware of the situation and will continue to regularly patrol the area.

Andy Gray - Community Centre Manager - 21/12/2011

11 County Councillor's report - no report. (MW at Landbeach Parish Council meeting).

12 District Councillors' reports - no report.

13 Land Group update (15/12-11) - a meeting to discuss the URV/Helical S106 Agreement to be arranged. (Note: Friday 20 January at 5pm).

14 Bills for Payment and Money Received

AGREED - payment of cheques 100596 - 110619

15 Correspondence (inc urgent correspondence not on the agenda) (page 10)

IVC - conversion to Academy Status update (email 12/12/11).

SCDC - fourth South Cambridgeshire Arts Award showcase evening of Wednesday 28 March 2012 at the Venue, Swavesey Village College. Awards will be made to many people who volunteer to provide artistic activities and make a significant difference to the cultural life of their village.

Parish Councils are invited to make nomination by Wednesday 29 February.

SARS - Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) - appeal for financial support.

LCR - Local Council Review (Winter edition)

NHS - Keeping in touch newsletter

Histon Neighbourhood Panel Meeting - dates:

Oakington Methodist Church Coles Lane, Tuesday 10th January 2012 7.30pm

Tuesday 10th April 2012 - Cottenham V/College

Tuesday 10th July 2012 at Waterbeach - TBC

Tuesday 9th October at Impington V/College

16 Dates of Next Meetings - MA4Y Tuesday 10th January; Planning and Finance/Administration 23 January; Community Care 26 January 11am; Council 6 February.

17 Items and Reports for February agenda - to be received by Friday 27 January.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

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