

## Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 16 July 2012 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

**Present:** RT Summerfield (chair) JE Coston (from 7:10pm) TA Drummond M Ellwood  
RJ Farrington (from 7:45pm) G Heaney IF May MC Perkins HM Smith I Tyes  
Councillor M Williamson  
The clerk and assistant clerk

**Absent:** M Hersom J Mowatt

1. RTS welcomed James Tipping, Monitoring & Control Officer and David Atkinson, Principal Planning Officer (Development Control)/Minerals & Waste Planning Manager, from Cambridgeshire County Council. Andrew Greenwood, Principal Planning Officer (Implementation), sent apologies that he was unable to attend.

**Proposed [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item owing to the confidential nature of the business.**

Proposed by IFM, seconded by IT.

**AGREED** to close the meeting at 7:05pm

JEC arrived at 7:10pm, RJF arrived at 7:45pm

The meeting re-opened at 7:50pm

2. **Apologies for absence:** AJ Campbell, DJ Chamberlin (RJ Farrington sent an apology as he would be arriving late)
3. **Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial:** Personal: HMS agenda 8 Planning – a member of SCDC Planning Committee
4. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Public Participation:** no members of the public were present.
6. **Casual Vacancy** Notices have been posted and advertising placed on Milton News/Milton Chat. An advert will appear in the next issue of Village View. No applications have been received.
7. **Clerk's report:**

Cambridgeshire.net website: This is a website dedicated to the county (managed by Care Network Cambs) for posting information on services, leisure opportunities and the suchlike. This is an ideal place for publicity for Good Neighbours Schemes and there is no cost to be listed on here. This will be discussed further at the next Community Care meeting as a possible outlet for details of the Community Care scheme.

Daffodils (previous min 7/06-12): Stuart Buchan will plant these in the Autumn and will confirm a price late August, when supplies of bulbs will be available.

Taxi activity in Pearson Close (previous min 17/06-12): An email has been received from John Raynham, Director, Panther Taxis and circulated to Council. The resident in Pearson Close has been reminded that all vehicles bearing the taxi company name should be driven with care and cause the least possible disturbance to local residents. It appears that the house concerned is now up for sale.

Parish Council Web site: the software for tracking visitors to the website has been changed so it no longer uses cookies so the website is compliant with Directive 2009/136/EC, which amends the Privacy & Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003. Hence it is not necessary to ask visitors to the site if they are happy for cookies to be placed on their browser.

CAPALC Training course for new clerks: a 2 day course has been arranged on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July which the Clerk will attend instead of the original dates booked in September and October (the first part on 12<sup>th</sup> July has already taken place and proved to be very informative).

Community transport: In response to an article in the Village View asking for volunteers for a car scheme in Milton similar to the Beaches scheme, there were four residents possibly interested in being volunteer drivers but no one has expressed interest in co-ordinating the scheme. As the co-ordinator is central to the success of the scheme, we do not see how this can be taken forward at this time. If the four drivers agree their names will be forwarded to the Beaches scheme co-ordinator so that we have more drivers from Milton (at the moment there is only one driver from Milton on the Beaches scheme). JEC asked that the Beaches scheme co-ordinator is contacted to check whether volunteers from Milton could just work within Milton, if this is not the case the drivers will need to be advised that the Beaches scheme may ask them to drive in villages other than Milton to make sure they were still willing to put their names forward.

CBS litter pick: An email of thanks was sent to the volunteers from Cambridge Building Society who performed a litter pick in the village on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, organised by South Cambs District Council.

Fitness equipment opening ceremony: A number of residents and parish councillors attended the opening ceremony for the new fitness equipment on the Sycamores Rec on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Reps from Sport Makers UK held a facilitated session to show people how to use the equipment and to explain the benefits of Sport Makers (handout attached in green). There will be an article with pictures in the next Village View and there is now a page on the parish council website about the new fitness equipment (under 'Health'). RTS thanked the Assistant Clerk for his hard work to organise the opening ceremony and thanked JEC for bringing the idea of fitness equipment to the parish council.

**Action:**  
**Asst.**  
**Clerk**

8. **Planning:** the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July were received and noted.

**Decisions received:**

S/0841/12/OL Mr Dama Glassworld PLC, Cambridge Road – erection of single storey extension to factory unit – **approved**.

S/0945/12/FL Mr Clive Nichols 197 The Rowans (P 7/05-12) – first floor extension over existing ground floor extension – **approved**.

**New applications:**

C/11/40/072 PL, Milton – application to remove tree with TPO. Trees Officers had visited the site and do not agree that the tree should be taken down. They would like a meeting to be arranged between Acacia Trees Surgery, SCDC Trees & Landscape Officer and themselves before any action is taken.

**Action:**  
**Clerk**

S/1393/12/VC Mr & Mrs Marshall 48 Fen Road, Milton – variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission S/0202/11 to vary the design of the approved dwelling. **No recommendation**

S/1416/12/FL Mr & Mrs P Mynott 15 Pearson Close, Milton – Single storey extension to rear. **No recommendation**

S/2464/11 Mr Adam Culyer College of West Anglia – installation of column lighting to car park and ménage area. **No recommendation. Concerns about the height of columns (8 m) for the ménage area have been raised by some residents in Landbeach Road and Humphries Way. These lights should only be on when the ménage is being used.**

Northstowe Masterplan (Development framework) – meeting of Northstowe Joint Planning Committee 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 10am in Council Chamber, SCDC, Cambourne. Register by Tues 17 July. No members will be attending.

9. **Maintenance:** the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July were received and noted.
10. **Parish Plan representative:** GH was appointed Parish Plan representative.
11. **Code of Conduct 2012, Complaints Procedure and Declaration of Members Interests (Localism Act 2011):**  
The clerk notified members that verbal advice from CAPALC was to continue to use the existing Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure until SCDC had adopted the new Code of Conduct (decision to be taken on 26<sup>th</sup> July). This item will be discussed at the next council meeting in September.  
Standing Orders relating to interests at meetings will also be reviewed at the September meeting, when further instructions will have been issued by CAPALC.  
The clerk reminded all members who have not returned their completed Declaration of Interest form that these are required by 25<sup>th</sup> July. RTS asked all councillors to return these urgently. These will be sent to the District Council's Monitoring Officer (by 28<sup>th</sup> July) and also posted on the parish council website.
12. **Consultations:**  
Consultation on Cambridge Local Plan Issues & Options Report 2012 (Cambridge City Council) ([www.cambridge.gov.uk/issuesandoptions](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/issuesandoptions)): Comments for items affecting Milton (River Cam, Northern Fringe East, Gypsies and Travellers and Moorings) were **AGREED** for this consultation (unanimous, except Gypsies and Travellers: 4 in favour, 1 against, 5 abstentions).

Consultation on Interim Planning Policy Guidance (IPPG) on The Protection of Public Houses in the City of Cambridge (Cambridge City Council): No comment required as this does not affect Milton.

**Action:**  
**Asst.**  
**Clerk**

Consultation on Cambridgeshire 2012/13 Health & Wellbeing Strategy (Cambs County Council) <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/Consultations/Details.aspx?ref=177>: A response was **AGREED** to ask for support for local Community Care schemes.

The Assistant Clerk will send responses to the two consultations.

**Action:**  
**Asst.**  
**Clerk**

It was **AGREED** to form a sub-committee, consisting of HMS, IT and the Assistant Clerk, to prepare a report for the following consultations which will be presented at the September meeting. A meeting of this sub-committee will be arranged.

Consultation on Issues for a new transport strategy for Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire (Cambs County Council) [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/tscscn](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/tscscn), and

Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation – Local Opportunities (SCDC)

<http://www.scams.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/DistrictPlanning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/SCLP.htm>;

Noted a public exhibition for the Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation will be held at Milton Primary School on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July between 3–8pm.

13. **Jubilee Oak** (previous min 14/06-12):

A letter has been received asking that the new Oak have a stronger stake and that the turf be cleared from around the base. The tree has now be re-staked and turf has been cleared from the base.

14. **MCC report:**

Maintenance/Improvements:

MCC kitchen will be refurbished early August. A new floor will be fitted, the old units, worktops, sinks, wall tiles and bar counter will be replaced and a glass washer will be installed. Once all this work has been completed, we will look to replace the ceiling.

Bookings:

There have been a number of enquiries for new classes, starting in September - Zumba + Pilates + Drawing for Beginners, (all being run by IVC), Children's Messy Play and Children's Drama. Only time will tell if there is enough interest for these classes to run.

One of our groups have cancelled their sessions from September - Children's Eye Test's, run by the NHS on a monthly basis, will no longer be using the facilities.

Youth Building:

Nothing new to report.

Vandalism:

Nothing new to report, although there has been an increase in the amount of litter at Coles Road Rec and the Sycamores Rec, which is normal for the summer months.

Summer Fayre:

Despite being moved to the car park at the last minute the Summer Fayre went well. Council asked that a letter be sent to the organizing committee to express their thanks for all their hard work and the determination shown to stage the event despite last minute changes.

**Action:**  
**Clerk**

15. **County Councillor's report:**

**Northern Corridor Area Transport Plan s106 funding**

Significant funds have accumulated from Section 106 contributions from developments in the northern corridor which included Milton but not Waterbeach and Landbeach. A series of workshops have taken place, and I am pleased that three schemes that will benefit our local area have been included for further discussion. These are:

Milton	Speeding between Milton and Landbeach	Consider provision of shared-use cycle route to improve safety for cycling on east side (speed reduction to 50 mph is being implemented) and combine with improved crossing of A10
Milton	Reduced bus service between Landbeach and Ely	Review and consider potential for improving/ reinstating direct service from Landbeach to Ely
Milton	No Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) on A10	Review potential for providing RTPI along A10 corridor to Ely

I'll keep everyone in touch about progress on these ideas. Note that, although they all refer to Milton because that is the only one of our three parishes which is within the Northern Corridor area, they have benefits for Landbeach and Waterbeach as well.

### **Cycle Parking at Waterbeach Station**

I received an email from a County Council officer the other day that included the phrase 'funding is not a problem'. Apart from nearly falling off my chair when I read it and wanting to frame the quotation, I was also pleased to note that two County Officers will be getting together and looking at where to put additional cycle racks at Waterbeach to be funded by the [Local Sustainable Transport Fund](#). There are probably other local improvements that could be financed by this grant, and I am in touch with officers discussing possibilities.

### **Future of the Barracks Site**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is about to go out to consultation on the Issues and Options for the new Local Plan. This will definitely include questions on development on the Waterbeach Barracks site but, despite misleading publicity, it is not yet the case that SCDC favours such development.

It is vital that local Parish Councils and individuals respond to this consultation which will include a large number of questions. These were discussed at length at a [meeting of SCDC](#) on June 28<sup>th</sup> which I attended as a spectator and the final report will be put out for consultation during the period from July 12<sup>th</sup> to September 28<sup>th</sup>. It is unfortunate that much of this is over the holiday period, but I think it important that we all respond. There will also be roadshows put on over the period, but the dates have not yet been fixed.

I have enlarged a little on this matter on my [personal blog](#) where I have linked to the three site options for Waterbeach to be consulted upon.

There are also other sites in Waterbeach and Milton (but none in Landbeach) that were submitted in response to the SHLAA call for sites. However, few got through the initial Sustainability Assessment and they are listed in [this document](#) (page 13).

### **Libraries**

I was asked at the Waterbeach Annual Parish Meeting about the factors taken into account when it was decided to introduce a new library management system in conjunction with other library authorities in the East of England. This site is called the SPINE project and some information can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council web-site. In particular Item 6 on the Cabinet Agenda for 27 September 2011 (see <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=78>) links to a report on the topic.

## **16. District Councillors' reports:**

### **Planning – new Local Plan 2011-2031**

The Issues and Options document which starts its consultation period on 12<sup>th</sup> July is the first stage of the plan making process. In parallel, the City Council is consulting on its general policy Issues and Options, and the County Transport Strategy is also open for consultation at the same time.

Any representations about a new road into Chesterton Fen would have to be made to the County Transport Strategy. This request was the overwhelming wish of the recent North Area Committee, when discussing the problems on Fen Road Chesterton. Could the Parish Council support its residents on Chesterton Fen and write in support of a new road?

Any sites on the edge of Cambridge in general will be dealt with in cooperation with the City Council. Traveller sites are also being dealt with separately.

SCDC are suggesting that Milton could become a Minor Rural Centre (up to 30 or 50 new homes in any new development), rather than a Group Village (up to 8) as at present.

There is an opportunity for the Parish Councils to ask for specific changes to the local plan for their own areas. Perhaps a change to the village framework, or policy areas. There will be more information about this initiative in the coming week, at the meetings with Parish Councils – ours is on Monday evening, 3pm-8pm. We should consider whether to ask for changes both for Milton and perhaps for Chesterton Fen.

Milton Parish Council should probably also express an opinion on the Waterbeach options.

One more point on the Local Plan is that the SCDC administration does not really seem to want to grasp or understand the challenge posed by new development in terms of the climate change agenda, i.e. the need to minimize carbon emissions from dwellings and non-domestic buildings. I and my colleagues don't really feel the consultation document is that ambitious in this respect. Yet, as we are all seeing, global weather appears to be getting more extreme as global warming continues.

### **Traveller planning issues**

Michael Perkins and I attended a workshop on Traveller Planning issues last week. It covered Development Control (determination of planning applications) and the changes in policy. There should be more on this as we move through the local plan process.

**Parish Council workshop on local plan** - Ian Tyes and I went on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July and asked some questions afterwards.

1. There is a new designation of Local Green Space – that would protect any areas (e.g. the field by the cycle bridge) that we wish to keep as open space.
2. It might be possible for us to get some control of expansion of the village by proposing an extension of the village envelope, that would effectively take that land out of the Green Belt. The landowners would be quite amenable to any or all of the 3 fields around the Milton Hall EDF/URV/Bellway site being considered for this. If we want control of the land to be offered for sports fields we must have a written agreement from them before the parish council supports or proposes the changes in September. We should also talk to College of West Anglia and the Golf Course about sports fields and development.

#### **City and County Council consultation at Brown's Field last Tuesday**

City Plan: Question 23 Cam corridor – not really relevant to us?

Q 33:Cambridge Northern Fringe East – proposes what should be developed on both sides of the boundary in general terms.

Q119: Gypsies and Travellers

Q120: residential moorings off Fen Road Chesterton.

**County Council Transport Strategy:** they had received quite a few representations about putting another car and lorry route in to Chesterton Fen area. (see suggestion that we respond on this topic, above)

#### **Neighbourhood Panel**

The police would like to have a Neighbourhood Watch rep for the village (as suggested by Polly Wilderspin last month).

#### **Interests**

We are all required to list our spouse's interests as well as our own. This has caused some anxiety in other parish councils with some members resigning rather than list their interests.

However, if you do not know your spouse's interests there is no requirement for you to find out.

Failing to act properly in declaring interests has become a criminal offence.

Cllr Kindersley reports: a query to the Chief Constable has elicited the response that the Police have neither resource nor inclination to get involved with this. Personally I'd be quite happy to be arrested for failing to declare a partner's interest as the ensuing publicity would certainly ensure a swifter reform of the new idiotic legislation than the trudge of lobbying MPs etc but I do agree breaking the law is not to be encouraged.

#### **Council Tax Benefit Consultation**

Yes I can hear your sigh. But this is a big deal – not least for the 6,868 South Cambs residents currently in receipt of CTB. The Government has changed the way this is funded from a central grant covering all the cash paid out, to a localised system which will be capped and which is to be reduced by 10%. So all the local authorities have to plan for this. Those recipients of pension age, sole parents with children under 5 and some other small groups will be left untouched – that removes about half the claimants from the changes proposed. It means that the 10% cut (and the capping) disproportionately impact the remaining half who may see their CTB reduced by anything up to 55%.

The new rules however do allow the Council to make changes to who pays Council Tax so that more property could be paying Council Tax; and indeed more people. For example if you have savings of less than £16k you get to apply for Council Tax support. That may be reduced to £6k. The Council can also change the current discounts. So at the moment a second home discount is allowed of 10%. This could not only be removed but second homes could be subject to 200% council tax – i.e. if they are empty the owner pays double! The side advantage is that this would encourage use of the 600+ empty properties in South Cambs. And so it continues....The consultation runs from July 23 – 28 September.

#### **17. Land Group update**

The Minutes of Land Group meetings on 18 & 25 June were received.

Bellway Homes site: On 18 June, members met with Richard Gardner, Senior Land Manager for Bellway Homes Ltd, which is the firm that has purchased the former EDF site from Urban Renaissance Villages (URV). A range of issues was discussed including the new indicative plan for the general housing development and the parish's option to take either the sports fields or a recreation sum of £200,000. Of note, Gardner said that Bellway was, in principle, in favour of granting the freehold of the recreation area to the parish council (in contrast to the 99 year lease stipulated in the S106 Agreement), as long as there were clauses in place to preclude any future development on this land.

College of West Anglia (CWA) land: Our land agents (Savills) have contacted the CWA's land agents to inquire whether the college was willing to sell the land outright which they had previously offered to swap with the parish council. Land Group to meet with Edwin Lee of Cheffins (CWA's land agent) on Wednesday 8 August.

Landbeach Road land: Stephen Conrad, Strategic Asset Management Developer for Cambridge-shire County Council (CCC), was asked whether the Landbeach Road site was still available for purchase and responded that it is no longer CCC's policy to grant the freehold but rather a long leasehold (e.g. 99 years). However, the cost would remain the same for a long leasehold as for a freehold. SC said that a new valuation of the land would need to be taken but he thinks the price would remain approximately £20,000 per acre. SC recommended pursuing options on the village side of the A10.

Way forward: On 25 June, members discussed the way forward and agreed to ask Stephen Conrad to attend a 24 July Land Group meeting to discuss the parish's options. The parish would ideally like one large area (perhaps including Bellway Homes sports fields) to satisfy the need for recreation space required by the growing village sports clubs.

18. **Bills for Payment and Money Received** (to be circulated)  
**CONFIRMED and AGREED payment of cheques 100700□100720**
  
19. **Correspondence** (inc. urgent correspondence not on the agenda)  
**Woodland Trust Newsletter**  
**Rural Opportunities Bulletin July 2012**  
**Cambridgeshire ACRE News Digest July 2012**  
**Clerks & Councils Direct July 2012**  
**The Clerk Magazine July 2012**  
**Care Network News Issue 2**
  
20. **Dates of Next Meetings** – Finance & Administration 23 July; Land Group 24 July 7pm; Planning 24 July 8pm; Planning (provisional) 13 August; Council 3 September
  
21. **Items and Reports for September agenda** (to be received by Friday 24 August).

The meeting closed at 9:50pm

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