

## Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 07 June 2010 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

**Present:** RT Summerfield (chair) JE Coston GA Covell R Day M Ellwood RJ Farrington SC Humphreys  
IF May HM Smith RLE Waters  
Cllr M Williamson, Cllr M Hersom, the clerk, assistant clerk and one member of the public

**1 Apologies for absence – RHC PSB AJC TAD BJ.**

**2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial**

GAC - land update (agenda 8) personal – allotment holder  
ME - land update (agenda 8) personal – allotment holder  
IFM - land update (agenda 8) personal – chairman of Colts football club  
HMS – planning (agenda 7) personal – member of SCDC planning committee

**3 The minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.**

**4 Public Participation – none.**

**5 Clerk's / Chairman's report**

A14 widening (PC9/05-10) – notice received of error in production of draft Side Roads Order schedules from Fen Drayton eastwards. The Highways Agency had corrected these. HMS did not attend Pre-Inquiry meeting as her concerns had been answered fully in writing by the HA.

Public Inquiry to start on 20 July. JEC (and RHC?) would attend when necessary. Agenda item for July meeting.

CPALC - notice of training courses received.

Addenbrooke's Hospital – governors of Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust wish to meet with parish councils. JEC as a governor would produce a report.

Tomkins Mead – updated Land Registry plan of Tomkins Mead received which appeared to show that a garage had been built within the boundary. The clerk would report to July meeting. **Action: the clerk**

Rate relief – the clerk had applied to SCDC for “Small Business Rate Relief” for the financial years 2009-11.

Standards Committee – Spring 2010 newsletter received. Noted that the clerk must minute reasons for declaring prejudicial interests unless it is sensitive information: “Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your authority’s monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest.”

Chairman's Annual Report – 8 councillors and 3 non-councillors helped deliver the chairman’s annual report. Thanks, especially from the chairman, for help which was much appreciated.

*Email from resident: “I moved in to Milton last year and I just wanted to say thank you to the Parish Council for all the work you do to make Milton such a lovely community. I spend most of my life at work so don't have much time to integrate, but I always get the feeling it is a happy, safe community and that if I had the time to be part of it there would be plenty of opportunities. The newsletter is most welcome, so thank you!”*

Affordable housing – July meeting.

ACRE – copy of new “Products and Services Guide” which gives full details of support that ACRE can offer eg Financial Management, Community Facilities Management, Play Area Management etc.

Bunding on verge by kebab van (M10/03-10) – had now been done. The chairman has explained to the kebab owner that the works were carried out because he continued to drive over and damage the verge; that it would be an inconvenience to him but would have no effect on his business. Indeed a suggestion had been made that the kebab van be removed - a course of action that Council did not wish to take. RHC intended grass seeding and planting with daffodils.

Thanks to RHC for organising this.

## 6 County Councillor's report

Park and Ride lighting

No funding available at the present time but Alistair Frost (AF) undertook to put in a new lamp column during Phase 3. No time scale for that yet, would depend on usage.

Butt Lane Turning

AF had put in an additional sign at the junction, there was already a physical right turn island at the junction itself. One of the problems may well be SatNavs which may mislead drivers who don't know the area by trying to send them right at the end of Butt Lane. Then, after the driver turns left, the SatNav recommends ‘Make a U-turn’ on the A10.

It was suggested that a large “Keep Left” sign be installed at the junction.

### Cycle Bridge CCTV

Recordings are being made but due to a software problem pictures cannot be seen in real time. The pictures are not being monitored at the Park & Ride site. Officers are trying to sort out the technical problem.

### Raised Pedestrian Crossing

The vibrations from traffic were causing problems to those who live close by. MW would inform the resident that this crossing was part of the traffic calming scheme and that Council felt that it should not be removed.

### LTP consultation

LTP consultation extended to the end of July.

See <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/strategies/local/> for details.

## 7 **Planning** **Appeal**

Mr B Moore (PC10/05-10) land south east of Chesterton Fen Road – against an enforcement notice alleging change of use from agriculture and/or stabling of horses (pp S/1379/94/F) to yard for storage of building materials and equipment; and erection of covered structure and secure containers for the storage of materials and equipment.

**Appeal successful in part and enforcement notice upheld subject to variations in terms – extension of time for compliance.**

Mr J Hammond 53 Cambridge Road (PC6/01-10) – appeal against refusal of permission of demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two-storey house - **dismissed. Harmful to occupants of 55 Cambridge Road through dominance, loss of aspect and loss of daylight and lack of arrangement to provide financial contribution towards provision of open space.**

Note: Certificate of lawful proposed use or development approved – to convert existing bungalow.

### **Decisions received:**

Mr P Downham 162 The Rowans (PC6/04-10) – extensions - **refused. By virtue of its height, scale and mass out of keeping and unacceptable visual impact on street scene – contrary to Policy DP/2 SCDC LDP 2007; unacceptable adverse impact on 164 The Rowans.**

Mr & Mrs C McGowan (PC6/04-10) 5 Wilson Way –extensions - **approved.**

Miss P Murden (PC10/05-10) – replacement fencing at 20 & 22 Woodman Way & 6 & 7 Fox's Close - **approved.**

### **New applications:**

S/0523/10 Mrs M Beaver 20 Newfields, Chesterton Fen Road – Replacement Day room – **No recommendation**

S/0661/10 Mr Mark Dwyer land to west of Enterprise Nurseries – change of use and excavation of land to form a fish stock pond – **refuse:**

**“We are disappointed that we were not consulted on this application as it is adjacent to Milton parish. We refuse this application as it lacks detail and we are concerned what else is planned for the whole site. Planning history shows that no permission has been granted for Uses B1 and B2 and it is our opinion that the site should not be used for B1 and B2 on safety grounds especially as the access is on the very busy A10.”**

S/0678/10 Mr M Mair 8 Faulkner Close – 2 storey extension to create 4<sup>th</sup> bedroom and downstairs office space - **No recommendation**

S/0701/10 Mr N O'Connor next to unit 1 Sandy Park Chesterton Fen Road erection of boiler house - **No recommendation**

S/0718/10 Excelr8 Learning UK Ltd 135 Cambridge Road – 2 fascia signs - **No recommendation**

S/0721/10 Mr J Lindsay 17A High Street – two storey front extension - **No recommendation**

## 8 **Land Group update** (taken at end of the meeting)

## 9 Finance – internal auditor’s report

The independent internal auditor’s report was received and noted, especially his comments about payment of cheques between meetings and review of policy documents. [Note that employees’ salaries (exc clerk and assistant clerk) are paid third week in the month].

## 10 To consider subscribing to Parish Online

The clerk had been unable to obtain maps of the correct scale for the Land Registry (See minute M10/03-10) and had been directed to Parish Online (see [www.parish-online.co.uk](http://www.parish-online.co.uk)) by an officer from SCDC. It would enable Council to print maps add symbols to maps etc. Cost is initial £20 and £50 per year.

The clerk would research and report back to Council. **Action: the clerk**

## 11 Youth – the minutes of the Youth Working Group held on 8 February were received and noted.

### 11a MCC update

Refurbishment: The starting date for the building work has still not been finalized, although I understand that Grantchester Construction are presently preparing a programme of works, so I would expect to hear from them shortly.

Bookings: 3 Saturday night events during May, one of which was the very successful Colts presentation evening attended by over 350 adults and children.

Youth Building: Presently being used 3 times a week during the day (2 to 3 hours per session) by the Centre School at Cottenham + 3 Youth Club sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings + Young Carers on Saturday mornings.

Vandalism: Very little to report. Not sure if this is down to PCSO John Mason and PC Phil Shulvers regularly patrolling the area, but if it is, well done to them both.

## 12 District Councillors’ reports

### “Sewage on Chesterton Fen – Section 101A request for first time sewerage

I’m meeting a couple of people from the EA and Anglian Water down there on 30th June – this is the site visit for the decision on the sewage connection appeal. Jane has offered to come too, if she can get the time off work.

### Other problems on Chesterton Fen

New signs have gone up at Grassy Corner about fly-tipping and fines. The water in the ditches is now much lower. At Grassy Corner it looks better generally, because the grass is covering much of the fly-tipping and litter, but as the water has drained down you can now see heaps of bicycles and a pram in the bottom of the ditch particularly near the river end of that path. It does not smell bad at the moment.

I asked the SCDC fly-tip team to go down again and fish out the remaining bikes etc. Their response is that they have looked into the ownership of the path and ditches – as it is private land (although it is a public Right of Way, Milton footpath 5), they have no responsibility to clear the mess. And the County does not have to cut the trees back either. These are almost blocking the path now. I have asked that they tell me who the owners are so I can shame them into doing something.

In a separate development, the Cam Conservancy engineer has asked that I approach the Highways Agency to ask for the culvert parallel to the river at the A14 road bridge be cleared out. The HA responded that although they took no responsibility for it, they would clear it. I do not know if they have acted – all I know is that the water levels have gone down (as you would expect with a run of dryer weather).

SCDC have surveyed the levels in the ditch beside Fen Road, and conclude that if it is cleared out it should work to drain the area. They will clear out the Award Drain through Camside Farm to the River Cam. It will be up to the land-owners to clear other ditches.

Cllr Mark Hersom and I cycled down there last week so I could show him the area. There are a number of places where areas of hard-standing seem to be appearing, and I have drawn the enforcement officers’ attention to them.

### Jane Coston Bridge, and cyclepath

I have asked Cambridge City’s interim head of Streetscene (Joe Tavernier, replacing Dave Coventry) to see about removing the small tree that is growing on the ramp to the cycle bridge at the far end.

Also about cutting back the hedge along Cowley Road, which is half-covering the footpath side of the foot-cycleway.

### South Cambs Annual Council meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May

There was a statement from the Exec Director of the Council about the worries over the Harrow site, (aka Bayer, Schering, Fisons etc) at Hauxton, where the foul chemical residue is being cleared from the factory site, prior to it being allowed to be developed as building land. The strong pesticide chemicals are again hanging in the air as they did at times when it was operational, and all the agencies are keeping a close eye on what is going on there. Pollution leaking into the River Cam is a constant worry (especially if the remediation is held up for any reason).

Council was due to make a decision on whether to take on £197m of 'Housing debt' as had been proposed by the Labour government. The officers' report and advice to us had been to accept the debt, as it would then allow the council to retain all of the rents from tenants rather than paying an increasing amount (£11.8m this year) from the rents to the government (the 'Negative Housing Subsidy') each year. However as signs were coming from the new coalition government that they would look more favourably on councils, we decided to defer this decision until we saw what the offer from the new administration would be.

**Planning**

I requested again that the 2<sup>nd</sup> application at Lea Court be referred to the committee if the officers were minded to approve it. I have been asked to remove my request, as the officers wish to refuse it under delegated powers.

**Energy saving**

Comberton Parish Council's Annual Meeting had a lively discussion with a conclusion in favour of trying to reduce energy usage by switching off perhaps every 4th or 5th street light, and maybe more after about 2am. There is to be a new streetlight PFI contract including 'general dimming' of all lights.

I would be interested to know what parish councillors feel about possibly doing this in Milton. The County Council will have to save money and is looking to reduce its energy usage too.

**Environment Group**

The group is meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Litter pick is due on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> from 2pm.

We have received 15 more home energy monitors from the SCDC Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership.

I approached Milton School as they have an Eco-Schools project, which is being led by the School Council. The teacher in charge of the project is very pleased to be loaned these 15 monitors, which the school children can then take home and use for a while.

We also hope to have a stall at the Environment Event at the Country Park on 20<sup>th</sup> June, and at the Village Fayre.

Clarke Brunt's house at 30 High Street will be one of the Open Eco-homes available for pre-booked guided tours on 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. The other participating homes are in Waterbeach, Histon and Cambridge. Poster is on the Environment Group webpage."

**Action / Comments:**

- Footpath at Chesterton Fen – the clerk would investigate ownership. **Action: the clerk**
- Concern about pollution in the river Cam at Chesterton Fen. The Environmental Health Department of SCDC and the Environment Agency were aware of the problems. A water sample had not yet been taken. Upgrades of septic tanks or a main sewer needed. HMS would make these points at the meeting of 30 June.
- Minutes of Environment Group meeting to be discussed at July meeting.
- Energy saving – dimming / turning off lights discussed at CCC 15 years previously and dismissed because of dangers. Council felt that lights should not be turned off at 2am. Concerns expressed that the Park & Ride lights stayed on all night.
- River Cam Conservators intended replacing the willow trees in the conservation area initially and all trees eventually.
- Graffiti on railway equipment – clerk to arrange removal. **Action: the clerk**

**13 Bills for Payment and Money Received**

**CONFIRMED** payment of cheques 100274 to 100276  
**AGREED** payment of cheques 100277 to 100287

**14 Correspondence** - none.

**15 Dates of Next Meetings**

Community Care 10 June 11am; Planning 21 June (if necessary); Maintenance 28 June; Council 12 July.

**16 Items and Reports for July agenda** (to be received by 6 July).

**8 Land Group update**

**AGREED at 9.00pm [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 meeting ended at 9.30pm.

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