

Minutes of the Maintenance Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 13 December 2010 at 7.35pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: M Ellwood (chairman) JE Coston R Day SC Humphries B Jefferson RT Summerfield
RLE Waters
WD Booth E Spong
The clerk and one member of the public

1 Apologies for absence - D Chamberlin GA Covell IF May.

2 Public participation - none.

3 Declarations of interest – none.

4 Minutes – the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

5 Cemetery – update

Request for an elevated tablet for ashes (not lying flat) and to plant a tree with a plaque – both requests were refused – in order to preserve ease of maintenance.

Request to purchase one site for ashes for four members of a family – the clerk would discuss with the family.

Action: the clerk

11 Village cleaning (min PC12/12-10 refers) (brought forward)

review of duties – to be discussed at staff appraisal and **litter picking Chesterton Fen** - awaiting information about SCDC's schedules for both Milton and Chesterton Fen.

It was AGREED that Committee could not make any informed decision until the SCDC schedules were received.

The clerk would ask for the district councillors' assistance.

Action: the clerk

6 Allotments – update

Contract costs - (M8/09-10) Minimum cost of clearing an allotment would be £100. An allotment in a very bad state – could take two/three days to clear at a cost of £200-300. In the winter Stuart Buchan and two colleagues have spent a week working on the allotments – cost c£1600. Some years his costs were higher than the contract figure (£2650) other years less.

To ask for quotes every time would cause a lot of unnecessary administration and possibly would mean extra costs.

The clerk explained that under the present arrangements S Buchan cleaned up those allotments left in an untidy state as part of his contract. The suggestion of allotment tenants paying a deposit had not been pursued (min M8/09-10 refers).

Noted that the tree at the entrance had not been removed (M9/09-10). The clerk would contact the County Council's Trees Officer again. **Action: the clerk**

7 Play

a) update (M9/09-10)

BMX track - Noted that MCC had agreed that the area between Tomkins Mead and the recreation ground could be used as an informal track. Residents would clear the undergrowth to make the track usable.

New equipment - replacements for Hawthorn Hedge site – no report available.

Play Champion – no one had come forward.

b) to consider proposals to:

- approve in principal the exploration in detail of providing outdoor fitness equipment and measures running tracks in the village (as provided by the City Council on sites in Cambridge) with a view to providing equipment for the general public;
- seek grants for providing / installing equipment; and
- consult on where the fitness equipment / running tracks could be installed and contact the community centre to seek views and also to ask if the equipment could be installed on one of the recreation grounds.

It was suggested that 3 to 5 pieces of equipment could be sited on either Coles Road or The Sycamores recreation ground at a cost of approximately £3,000 per piece of equipment.

MCC's Outdoor Recreation Committee and Main Committee would consider at their meetings in January. If approved by MCC JEC would investigate costs and grants available.

8 Grass Cutting and General Maintenance Contract 2011/12 (M10/09-10)

AGREED to accept Grass Cutting and General Maintenance Contract 2011/12 with Buchans Landscapes: £23,169 + 3% increase = £23,864.16 (to make 12 equal payments of £1988.68 + VAT).

A resident had written thanking Council for maintaining the footpath alongside the A10 and asked whether signs could be provided reminding dog owners to use the dog bins.

It was felt that those dog owners who did not use the bins were unlikely to take notice of a sign.

It was AGREED to take no further action.

9 State of Tesco grounds (Min PC13/11-10).

AGREED to write to Tesco head office about the state of the areas around the store and to propose that Council's contractor takes on the maintenance of these areas (cc to manager of local store).

Action: the clerk

10 Replacement seat

The seat on Pond Green had been damaged.

AGREED to ask P Captain to repair seat with hard wood – approx cost £40-£50.

Action: the clerk

Noted that this seat was installed at the time of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

12 To consider County Council winter gritting consultation

Council did not have the funds or staff to take on gritting. It was felt unlikely that Parish Councils would ever have enough resources.

Concerns:

Could reliable volunteers be found?

Should the village be consulted?

How many salt/grit bins would be needed and where would they be sited?

AGREED no further action.

13 Date of Next Meeting – 28 March 2011.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....