

Minutes of the Maintenance Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 12 December 2011 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: M Ellwood (chairman) IF May J Mowatt WD Booth The clerk

1 Apologies for absence - DJ Chamberlin TA Drummond RT Summerfield.

2 Declarations of Interest – none.

3 Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak – no member of the public was present.

4 Minutes of 26 September 2011 - were approved and signed as a true record.

Winter gritting (M4/09-11) (Min PC6/11-11 refers) – Michael Oakman, Area Manager Maintenance had agreed to increase the frequency due to the more rural exposed nature of the two bridges in Milton. During the 2010/11 winter the bridges were salted 15 times. This would be increased to 30 in the current year if similar conditions were to prevail.

Noted that the Jane Coston bridge had been gritted the previous week.

In response to the Village View article one volunteer only had come forward

Tomkins Mead (M8/09-11) – due to an error the signs (PC12/11-11) had to be made again – additional cost £20 which the chairman had paid for.

5 Cemetery

Policy (M5/09-11) including fees – agreed that Council should not allocate areas for different groups, ie for people of other faiths or other cultures.

In the clerk's opinion the system in place worked well. There was a concern that as land in Cambridge for burials became scarcer more people would opt to be buried in Milton cemetery. It was felt, therefore, that the following area could be strengthened :

"All fees are x4 for non residents, who must demonstrate a Milton connection (to be determined at the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk's discretion).

Note: At the Chairman and Clerk's discretion the x4 fee may be waived for people previously resident in the village."

The clerk would report back to the next meeting including a recommendation for fees. **Action: the clerk**

In response to a query from Cambridge Funeral Service committee would not allow bricked graves a with a concrete slab on top.

No recommendation was made about kerb edging. Many of the graves in the "old" part of the cemetery had kerbing and the contractors had not reported any difficulty in maintaining the grass.

Update from Command Report – rabbits and mole activity.

6 Allotments – update

Update - as a result of the article in the Village View there was one person now on the waiting list.

Review of fees

Allotments – Fees received 2011/12 £1250 - expenditure £2500.

AGREED to recommend an increase from £20 to £25 per 10 pole allotment as from October 2012.

Horse grazing land – the tenant had improved the paddock. **AGREED to recommend no increase.**

The clerk would write to Tom Herring of CWA thanking him for bringing manure to the allotments.

7 Play – update

Noted that Council was considering outdoor fitness equipment on Sycamores Recreation ground - cost £12,715 – the assistant clerk was investigating grant funding for this project. (Min PC 6/12-11)

Play inspections (M7/09-11; see also PC9/10-11) - Fenland Leisure Products were now doing 6 monthly inspections. Their first report had been received. The clerk had asked P Capitain to do the fence and wooden roof repairs. Play equipment repairs would cost £205. The clerk would liaise with A Gray MCC and report back to the January Council meeting.

Quotation for bark at The Rowans play area received (PC9/10-11). The clerk would seek alternative quotes.

Action: the clerk

8 Budget 2012

Grass cutting £25,000 (inc allotments, cemetery); Highways £4,800; Play £3,000

9 Correspondence - none.

10 Date of Next Meeting – 26 March 2012

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

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