

**Minutes of the Maintenance Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 27 June 2011 at 7.50pm in the Bowls Pavilion**

**Present:** M Ellwood (chairman) GA Covell J Mowatt HM Smith (for items 1 and 6) RT Summerfield  
WD Booth E Spong  
JE Coston (in attendance) M Oakman (Cambridgeshire County Council)  
The clerk and asst clerk

**1 Election of chairman** – M Ellwood elected chairman unanimously.

**6 Winter gritting** (PC20/06-11) (item brought forward) – Michael Oakman gave a brief on winter gritting  
MO explained that both the Jane Coston and A10 bridges are already treated with salt. Last year, the bridges were treated 14 times (as opposed to the roads which were salted 60 times). Bridges are treated according to 5 day weather forecasts. JEC wondered whether this criteria might be changed as the slope on the bridges (particularly the Jane Coston bridge) made crossing for both pedestrians and cyclists very dangerous in icy conditions. MO agreed that the location of these bridges made them more exposed than other bridges in Cambridge. It was **AGREED**

**to speak to Louise Collier and Richard Kingston of Cambridgeshire County Council and request that the Jane Coston and A10 bridges are treated with salt as soon as required (as opposed to waiting for a 5 day forecast).**

**Action: M Oakman**

MO discussed a new programme on offer from CCC for parishioners themselves to get involved in winter gritting. CCC will provide salt and machinery and parishioners provide the labour. CCC has agreed to take on insurance liability as long as the parishioners undergo a CCC training course. Another meeting would be required to lay out the details of such an arrangement. MO will email the council with more information about this programme.

**2 Apologies for absence** - DJ Chamberlin, TA Drummond, IF May.

**3 Public Participation** – no members of the public were present.

**4 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial** – none.

**5 Minutes of 28 March 2011** – were approved and signed as a true record.

**7 Cemetery**

The chairman and clerk filled 25 bags of rubbish mainly from the green bin at the cemetery. Alan Smith from Blackwell's caravan site kindly took it all away to the HWRC in Butt Lane. The clerk had sent him a message of thanks. Command Pest Control continued to treat the workings for moles and rabbits.

An inquiry had been made about Muslim burial, specifically whether a plot could be made to face directly east (by compass point). Discussion as to whether a separate area should be designated to accommodate such burials. It was **AGREED**

**to determine how precisely the graves are laid out on an east/west axis according to a compass.**

**Action: Clerk**

It was noted that there was a large amount of plastic containers and wire thrown in with the green waste. It was **AGREED**

**to make a laminated sign requesting people to separate plastic and wire from green waste.**

**Action: Asst Clerk**

There was discussion as to whether more guidelines for the cemetery needed to be set out. ME noted that he believed the cemetery was in good order and that any issues arising should be dealt with by the clerk, as has been done in the past to good effect.

**8 Allotments – update** (M6/03-11)

Dangerous tree – had finally been removed.

Inspection – WDB reported that he was fairly pleased with the state of the allotments, which are in better condition overall than last year at the same time. ES pointed out that there were three plots with large amounts of overgrown nettles and two plots with unsuitable trees (one walnut and one silver birch). It was **AGREED**

**to write to the three allotment holders with overgrown nettles to advise them of complaints from fellow allotment holders and ask them to be more considerate in the future by removing the nettles.**

**Action: Clerk**

**9 Play – update (M7/03-11)**

Council had delegated responsibility for proceeding with play repairs / inspections to this committee (PC12/06-11).

Play inspections (PC 9/04-11 also refers) – as the City Services were no longer conducting inspections the clerk, JEC and A Gray MCC had asked Fenland Leisure Products (FLP) from Christchurch to quote. This company had already done a one-off inspection.

**AGREED to ask Paul Capitain could do some of the work and then to ask FLP to re-inspect and repair as necessary.**

New equipment - replacements for Hawthorn Hedge site. Quotation received.

It was **AGREED not to install play equipment at the present time for the following reasons:**

- **Lack of funds**
- **Proximity of play area at The Sycamores recreation ground**
- **Possible noise disturbance to residents adjoining the site.**

Committee to review in due course.

Fitness equipment – two companies had provided quotations. JEC would carry out further investigations.

**Action: JEC**

BMX track (PC8/10-10) – noted that the residents had decided not to proceed.

**10 Tomkins Mead**

On the recent village bike tour, it was noted that one of the signs for Tomkins Mead was missing (the one at the surgery end). M Woolhouse had obtained a quote for replacing both signs with ones made in wood - £135 per sign for a carved sign saying Tomkins Mead Local Nature Reserve.

JEC suggested a concrete sign. It was **AGREED**

**to ask Phoenix Trust for a quote for a concrete sign stating TOMKINS MEAD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE and inform M Woolhouse that the parish was considering a concrete sign and ask for his comments.**

**Action: Clerk**

**11 Correspondence**

**Footpaths - Parish Paths Partnership Scheme**

From Kate Day Rights of Way and Access Manager:

“The County Council's Revenue Budget for Rights of Way has been cut by £50K representing a cut of approx 26%. We have capitalised what spending we can and retained funds as far as possible for the following; grass cutting, Farmers Path Management Contracts and bridge repairs/replacement.”

The clerk would ask K Day for more information on which paths are being cut. **Action: the clerk**

**Request for BMX / skate park to be rebuilt**

The clerk would advise the resident that obtaining funding for a skate park was a necessity and would ask if she was prepared to assist. If so JEC offered to discuss with her. **Action: the clerk**

**12 Date of Next Meeting – 26 September 2011**

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....