

Minutes of the Maintenance Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 28 September 2009 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: M Ellwood (chairman) R Day SC Humphreys IF May RLE Waters
WD Booth M Desvaux E Spong D Chamberlin
1 member of the public The clerk

1 Election of Vice Chairman (M1/6-09) – ME elected vice chairman.

2 Apologies for absence – RHC, JEC, BJ and HMS.

3 Public Participation

Request to keep bees on allotment – the bee population was on the decline.

It was **AGREED**

to allow allotment holders to keep bees on the allotments.

The clerk would write this into the Agreement. Bee hives could be kept on the allotments and also on the area of land at the southern end adjacent the “Farm College” land.

Conditions: the owner of the hive must be responsible for it; advice and training must be sought from a “mentor”. Noted that there were allotment holders with bee keeping experience.

4 Co-option of Mark Desvaux

AGREED

to co-opt Mark Desvaux on to the committee as an addition allotments representative.

Mark was instrumental in setting up the Food Share project and would be happy to pass on information to and from meetings via email. (Noted that 2/3 of allotment holders could receive emails).

5 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial – ME, RD and SCH cemetery - personal (relatives buried in the cemetery).

6 Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.

7 Cemetery - update

Path – the church council was unable to help fund the turning area. The clerk would ask the Charities for help.

Action: the clerk

Command Pest Control report – no sign of mole activity; all rabbit workings treated.

8 Allotments – update

Waiting list of four at present.

The allotments had been inspected. Concern was expressed that inappropriate trees had been planted and would cause problems to neighbouring allotments. Overgrown and invasive brambles, raspberries etc were also causing problems. Should Council have a more rigid guidelines – a Policy - detailing what cannot be grown? Weeds were seeding and as a result were spreading from poorly maintained allotments to neighbouring plots.

The clerk would remind all of their responsibilities as per the Agreement paragraphs 5 and 7:

“5. The Tenant shall during the tenancy carry out the following obligations:-

a) The Allotment Garden shall be kept in a clean decent and good condition and properly cultivated.

7. If the Tenant shall have been in breach of any of the foregoing provisions of this Agreement for a period of one month or longer the Council may re-enter upon the Allotment garden and the tenancy shall thereupon come to an end but without prejudice to any right of the Council to claim damages for any such breach or to recover any rent already due before the time of such re-entry but remaining unpaid.”

Action: the clerk

Car accident: the claim for damages had not been met by the insurance company. The clerk reported the chairman’s view that Council may have to seek recompense through the Small Claims Court.

9 Play – update

The clerk reported that Buchans had rotovated the bark. The City Services inspection report recommended that Council provide more bark.

It was **AGREED**

to ask Council’s village maintenance person to rake the bark regularly. Action: Clerk

10 Tree works and general maintenance

Tomkins Mead – the clerk to arrange site visit with M Woolhouse. *Action: the clerk*

Tree adjacent post office – to be severely reduced in height to below ridge of adjoining garage, trees along bund at The Sycamores and north of Butt Lane, tree at The Elms, tree line in front of Cambridge Road industrial estate.

RD and RLEW would draw up a list of works to be done and ask Town & Country Tree Surgery [as a continuation of the tree works programme agreed in 2008-09 – Standing Order 56 (d)] to quote for these works – to be put before Council at its November meeting. *Action RD and RLEW*

11 Grass cutting contract review and to consider asking to take on SCDC contract

Review – changes to the contract to be notified to clerk.

AGREED

**to continue to ask Buchans Landscapes to submit a tender for next year’s contract
[Standing Order 56(d)]**

Final contract price for 2010-11 to be agreed at December Council meeting.

SCDC Contract – the clerk would find out the position re the SCDC contract for Walkling Way and Recreation Close and whether Council could take this on also. The clerk would ask Buchans to quote for these areas. *Action: the clerk*

12 Policy re proliferation of posters on lamp posts etc

Noted that the County Council had a zero tolerance of unofficial signs throughout the county. No signs should be allowed but where there is no complaint little will be done to remove them.

Email from HMS “it’s actually an SCDC performance indicator and SCDC litter pickers are supposed to remove them.”

13 Meeting room electrical works – update

The meter box outside the bowls pavilion had been vandalised (PC12/9-09). C Nunn of MCC was seeking a quotation to have the meter installed within the building plus upgrading and tidying electrical works. To be put before November meeting.

12 Date of Next Meeting – 14 December 2009

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....