

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 05 March 2012 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) AJ Campbell DJ Chamberlin TA Drummond RJ Farrington G Heaney
IF May J Mowatt MC Perkins HM Smith I Tyes A Winnington
Councillor M Williamson
4 members of the public (part), the clerk and assistant clerk

The chairman welcomed back Alex who thanked Council for allowing him the opportunity to complete his course.

1 Apologies for absence – JE Coston M Ellwood.

2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial
HMS agenda 6 (personal) - member of SCDC Planning Committee.

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 06 February 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Public Participation – no members of the public wished to speak.

5 Clerk's report

Cemetery headstones – a request for a double headstone 152.4cm tall (60 inches) was received, thus exceeding the maximum height of the current guidelines (90cm). The request was also for a red granite headstone. Members of the family were present and handed a letter to Council.

As there was one dark red granite headstone in the cemetery already Council had no objection to this colour. There were numerous kerbstones in the original part of the cemetery and the contractors had not complained about maintenance around these kerbstones.

As a result Council **AGREED** the following: (10 in favour, 2 against)

The headstone must conform to Council's regulations - namely no bigger than 90 cms high and 150 cms wide and that a kerbstone no higher than 15 cms could be installed around the grave.

Further amendments to the regulations were delegated to the Maintenance Committee.

Minerals and Waste Plan (5/09-11) - on 22 February the County Council and its partner Peterborough City Council adopted the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Plan and Proposals Map A: Mineral and Transport Zones; and Proposals Map B: Waste.

The Plan makes allocations for future mineral and waste management development over the period to 2026. At the same time the Councils also adopted the RECAP Waste Management Guide, as a supplementary planning document. This Guide provides advice on the design and provision of waste management infrastructure in residential and commercial developments, including the basis on which developer contributions will be sought for waste management infrastructure.

MA4Y:

Signage youth building (1/12-11) – **AGREED** to provide a sign on the youth building. MCC to be consulted about size. **Action: IT and the clerk**

Awards for All - the Awards for All application for a second youth club night had been unsuccessful. Funding for new and separate activities rather than simple extensions to existing services was preferred. Ian T was preparing a new application for three separate courses – babysitting, art & craft and bicycle maintenance

Minor Highway Improvement Schemes (10/12-11) - the total value of applications was in the region of £205,000 - considerably exceeding the available budget, so some bids would be unsuccessful.

All the applications would be considered by a panel of County Councillors from the South Cambridgeshire area. As part of the assessment process applicants would be able to attend the members' panel to present their application.

SCDC Housing Strategy (7/02-12) - all comments received through the consultation questionnaire had been taken into consideration. In the majority of responses, reference was made in the Draft Housing Strategy – such as providing more affordable homes, tackling empty properties etc. Some comments were more relevant to Planning processes, such as Neighbourhood Plans, - to be passed on to the relevant Officer as part of the Local Plan Review. Other comments were more of an individual nature and were not relevant for the Strategy but a full copy of the survey results, with references to the Strategy and responses to the comments, would be published on SCDC's website in due course.

The draft Housing Strategy was due to be considered by the Housing Portfolio Holder at his meeting on 21st March 2012.

New clerk (11/02-12) – IFM and the clerk had arranged to talk with Sue on Thursday 8 March.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee – in 1953 two brick bus shelters were built; in 1977 two wooden seats were bought; in 2002 a Holm Oak with engraved stone tablet was planted on Memorial Green. Noted that the Village Fayre had taken The Olympics as its theme. Members were not aware of anything planned in the village.

It was agreed to plant flowers in the shape of “QE11” and/or “60” and daffodils on the verge bunds opposite Tesco. The clerk would consult with Stuart Buchan. **Action: the clerk**

Charities – Council had no additional requests to Milton Charities for funding. (Noted that Council would receive £2000 automatically towards Community Care).

New fitness equipment funding (16/02-12) – applications to both AmeyCespa and WREN for funding had been sent. The Asst Clerk had spoken with a WREN representative who said that Council could submit an application to WREN even though we were asking for the total amount from AmeyCespa.

Golf Course – the assistant clerk gave an update.

6 Planning – the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2012 were received and noted.

S/2285/11 Day Nursery Stanton Farm (P4/01-12) – HMS reported that officers were enforcing the conditions regarding turning off and on to the A10 and signage.

S/2429/11 Mr N Charlton 27 Butt Lane – rear extension (P5/01-12) – **application withdrawn**.

S/0010/12 Mrs Wesson - 27 Fen Road - conversion of a garage into a habitable room (P5/02-12) – **application withdrawn**

Decisions received: none

New applications: S/0315/12 Mr D Khan 11 Shirley Close – extensions – **no recommendations**.

Northstowe - the planning application had now been received at SCDC for the overall Development Plan and the outline application for Phase 1.

Consultation period of 6 weeks from 5th March.

AJC, HMS and IT agreed to visit one of the displays and to meet subsequently to formulate a response for the April meeting. **Action: AJC, HMS and IT**

The clerk would invite ME also. **Action: the clerk**

7 Emergency Plan – AGREED to adopt the Emergency Plan submitted by the working group. Thanks to MH, JM, MCP and HMS.

8 MCC report

Maintenance/Improvements: The Annexe floor has been replaced throughout the building, which is a big improvement. However, because the floor is now so new and clean, this has highlighted the need for a complete Internal decoration, which is something we have planned for the summer.

Electric heaters have been installed in each of the changing rooms at the Sycamores Pavilion.

Bookings: These continue very much as before, with no new groups to report.

Youth Building: Nothing new to report.

Vandalism: Nothing of any relevance to report.

The clerk reported that he had informed the PCSO of litter problems in the car park during the previous week.

- 9 **County Councillor's report** – (received and attached to minutes)
A10 speed limit
Speedwatch
New Station
Waterbeach Station Parking
CAPALC
Closure of Waterbeach Barracks – to be discussed at April meeting “ to consider forming a joint group of Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach Parish Councils”.

- 10 **District Councillors' reports** (received and attached to minutes)
Accounts
Council tax
'Buying back' the South Cambs Council Houses
Planning
Enforcement
Cambridge Science Park station
Bus petition

11 **Land Group – update** (15/02-12)

The minutes of the Land Group meeting with Iwan Jones on Tuesday 21st February 2012 were received. Since this meeting Iwan Jones sent this email:

“Further to our meeting last week, I can now confirm that we will amend para 6 of Schedule 5 ‘Management Committee’ as you requested and that this will solely be a Committee comprising Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds Management Committee. I trust that this now concludes the outstanding points from the Parish perspective. I am meeting with Kate Wood tomorrow morning where I hope to be able to move matters forward to complete the agreement. I will keep you informed.”

The chairman had thanked Iwan on behalf of the village.

12 **Bills for Payment and Money Received**

CONFIRMED and AGREED payment of cheques 100636 – 100645

Cheque 100641 for FLP amounted to £515 + VAT (additional repair omitted in min PC7/01/12).

13 **Correspondence:**

Care Network - information about **Warm Homes, Healthy People** project

Balfour Beatty - Cambridgeshire Street Lighting PFI - are due to commence work in some areas of Milton mid April – mid May 2012

Care Network – notice of community transport evening on 18 April at Marshall's Airport.

14 **Dates of Next Meetings** – Planning 19 March, Maintenance 26 March, Council 2 April

15 **Items and Reports for April agenda** – to be received by Friday 23 March

The meeting ended at 8.57pm

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

9 County Councillor's report – to Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach Parish Councils

A10 speed limit

We had a useful meeting with Ian Greasley. Representatives from all three Parish Councils were present. He has now gone away to produce a proposal for formal consultation.

Speedwatch

I have been asked to arrange some more training. I have a contact at the police who is in charge of this matter. Please let me know if anyone would like to be trained (or any existing qualified Speedwatchers would like a refresher).

New Station

I am sure you will all know that the County Council have agreed to finance the building of the new station and the Department of Transport have given the go-ahead. It is to be called Cambridge Science Park station (unless anyone feels very strongly against this). Although it has always previously been called Chesterton Station it is actually in Milton!

In general it will be a very good enhancement of our local transport links, although the effect on Waterbeach Station will be mixed. There will almost certainly be fewer stopping trains at Waterbeach once the new station is open, but the parking situation will be eased.

Waterbeach Station Parking

The unofficial car park in the old goods yard has now been closed due, I believe, to non-payment of rent. This will have an adverse effect on local car parking, but a potential hazard has now been removed.

It is unlikely that permission would be granted for the yard to be used as an official car park due to the closeness of the entrance to the level crossing unless a new entrance from the existing car park could be built. This will not happen until the new franchise starts in September 2013.

CAPALC

Not really a County Council matter but I happen to be on the board. The new website at www.capalc.org.uk is now up and running and is much easier to use than the old one.

Closure of Waterbeach Barracks

I attended a very useful meeting with Adrian Loades, Director of Children's Services at the County Council about the effect of the closure on the school. Jane Green, Headteacher of the school was also present along with three other senior County Council staff.

We agreed that the main issue was of uncertainty, particularly in regards to the housing in Cody Road, etc. Adrian recognised this and agreed to provide support for the school until the situation becomes resolved.

I realise from various discussions I have had that no clear view has been expressed by any of the local Parish Councils on the future of the Barracks site. Something needs to happen to it, but what?

The current proposal as submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council via the SHLAA (Site 231) is for an area that includes both the barracks site and a significant area of adjacent farmland, the total area being 554 hectares. I could see at least three views that the Parish Councils could take:

1. Oppose any development and propose that the barracks site is returned to agricultural use
2. Agree to development on the MoD land alone (295 hectares) but not on the agricultural land
3. Agree to development of the whole area.

Within options 2 and 3 there are significant issues concerning the balance between housing and industrial use that would need to be addressed.

I attended a meeting of the Waterbeach Forward committee last week and it is clear that they are doing good work in responding to the current situation. However, they are a committee of 'local residents, Parish Councillors, District Councillors, and County Councillor, working together for the local community' and thus are to some extent informal with no clear mandate. I am happy to support their work as long as I believe it to be in the interest of the local communities, but I do wonder if the Parish Councils in the area should not take a more active position and a more active role. I look forward to comments.

Finally, I am aware that a number of Parliamentary questions have been put down for written answer concerning the significant financial costs of the closure; I look forward to hearing the answers!

Michael Williamson, County Councillor

www.michaelwilliamson.org.uk

10 District Councillor's report

Accounts

South Cambs has produced a 'new look' presentation of our accounts, in plain English, without bewildering accountants' conventions. It was designed for the public to understand, but we suspect secretly most councillors now for the first time understand our own accounts! - <http://tinyurl.com/6trkuum>

Council tax

We had the Budget setting meeting at South Cambs last week. The decision was to freeze the council tax for South Cambs, but because the tax bill everyone gets includes precepts also for the County Council and for police and fire authorities, the actual bill will go up by just under 3% overall.

'Buying back' the South Cambs Council Houses

The decision has now been made for SCDC to borrow £205m from the PWLB (which is effectively borrowing from the government), in order to pay the government the required levy for the South Cambs council houses. Our debt is the second highest in the country, but other councils are in a much worse position than us over this settlement. This payment will mean that (at least for the time being) the council will not have to pay the government each year a 'Negative Rent Subsidy' of £12m, from the council house rents of about £23m.

The money deal has to be done on the 26th March, so the council is completely at the mercy of the Markets that determine the interest rates on that day. The interest rate we will pay for the loan over the next 49 years should be the cheapest deal we could have got – the council looked at issuing a 'South Cambs Bond', or borrowing from banks and institutions, but with government gilts at a low rate the decision was to take the offer of the gilt rate plus 0.15% . This rate is lower than parish councils usually get for loans from the PWLB. We can thank the Greek debt crisis for the historically low rates at the moment. This is the biggest financial decision the Council has had to make in decades, perhaps ever. The officers have taken professional advice, and councillors have been well briefed, and we just have to hope there are no last-minute hiccups.

Planning

The application for the main part of Sandy Park has still not been registered.

The application for West View (the rental plots) is still being considered.

The S106 for the Eastern Electricity/URV site at Milton Hall is still with the legal department.

There is no doubt that SCDC planning and legal departments are understaffed and struggling at the moment.

Enforcement

There was one-day incursion onto the front of the URV site – some Travellers caravans moved onto the front of the site by Nokia (originally in their car-park then onto the adjacent land). South Cambs, the Clerk and villagers all contacted Iwan Jones and URV served a notice to quit within 24-hours on the Travellers, who were gone the next morning.

Cambridge Science Park station

This has now been announced – the borrowing for it has been agreed, and it is planned to **open in 2015!** This is happening in rather a policy vacuum. SCDC has a short section in its LDF merely stating that the Chesterton Sidings are safeguarded for use as a station plus more development and train 'stabling' (attached). There will also be an aggregates depot there (some deliveries for Northstowe etc). The access is in the City Council area and there seems to be no policy document to cover it on their website. The road layout at the Science Park entrance was changed 2 or 3 years ago in anticipation of the station, using a government Growth Area Fund grant. A meeting on 22nd March of the North Area Committee local forum is due to shed some light on how people will access the station. At the moment it seems to be planned to be a 5-platform station with access only from one side of the railway line, and the most obvious cycle approach route leading to the other side of the railway through Milton land in Chesterton Fen.

I will try to get more information for our meeting.

Bus petition

There is a new list of bus subsidies to be cut, in 4 tranches from Sept and April 2013 and Sept and April 2014. We have no subsidised service to the village now, so this is largely irrelevant to us. The back route to Waterbeach is due to be cut in a year's time.

http://petition.cambridgeshire.public-i.tv/petition_core/view/Buses