

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 03 March 2014 at 7.00pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) A Bradnam DJ Chamberlin RJ Farrington G Heaney
M Hersom J Mowatt MC Perkins HM Smith I Tyes JE Coston
The Clerk and David Geasor.
County Councillor Maurice Leeke (arrived 8:15pm)
3 members of the public (2 left at 8:00pm)
7 Guests from Milton Primary School.

1. **Presentation from Year 6 students from Milton Primary School.** Four Children from the primary school discussed with the Council ways that Milton could be improved for Children. Surveys and voting took place to look at long and short term ideas. Favourable suggestions were a water fountain and a swimming pool. Clerk to send Thank-you letter to Milton Primary School. **Action: Clerk.**
2. **Apologies for absence:** apologies were accepted and approved from: I May – personal.
3. **Casual Vacancy:** No residents had come forward for co-option
4. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of 3 February 2014 were approved as a true record (proposed RTS, seconded AB).
5. **Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak.** **Action: Clerk, ML**
Paul Oldham raised the issue of cycle paths throughout the village. The lines are very faded and need improving. Cars are also parking over the cycle lanes. A grant has previously been applied for to maintain the cycle lanes in the village but failed. HMS to contact PSCO about particular areas where parking over cycle lanes is an issue. Clerk to include item in Chairman’s Report of next Village View magazine asking residents to respect cycle lanes, especially outside Chiropractor’s. ML to take up the repainting of white lines with CCC.
6. **Declarations of interest and dispensations**
 - a) **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.**
HMS (non pecuniary interest) Agenda item 8 – member of SCDC planning committee;
 - b) **To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).**
None received.
 - c) **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**
None
7. **Clerk’s report**

New:

Cycle/pedestrian path markings: A resident has highlighted the fact that there are no clear pedestrian markings on the path which leads from Fen Rd to the A10 which indicates which side is for cyclists and which for pedestrians. The resident has numerous times been shouted at by cyclists who claim the path is theirs alone. This is a safety concern, especially considering that this path will surely be used by more pedestrians and cyclists in the future with the adjacent Bellway development. This issue was raised with ML who will take up with CCC.

Cycle path lighting: We received the following email from residents in The Sycamores:
Dear Parish Council, my wife fell off her bike tonight on the Milton-Impington cycle path and ended up in a deep water-filled ditch. She is ok but badly shaken and her boots and some personal items are ruined. The accident has raised an issue we would both like the council to consider: the lack of reflective studs on the cycle path between the two villages. As there is no road lighting, the path is VERY dark in the evenings and difficult to navigate even with bike lights (which my wife's bike has).
I took a drive round the area and noticed that cycle paths in Oakington, Impington and Girton have reflective studs and or street lights. However, there are none between Impington and Milton.
Was the council aware that the path would be built without studs? Has it been done on the cheap? For the sake of other cyclists, particularly many teenagers who use that path at night, I urge the council to look into the matter.” **ML will consult CCC about back-fitting the cycle path with street lights and/or reflective studs.**

NHW lamppost sign for Garner Close: We received the following email from a resident in Garner Close: “I have recently set-up Neighbourhood Watch on our street and have all my neighbours signed up. I am also the registered street coordinator.
I have passed window stickers to my neighbours, but unfortunately most of us have patterned front door windows so it is difficult for them to be seen. After having a meeting with Polly, it was mentioned that you can get lamppost signs and that the Parish Council might fund one for our street. Is this a possibility?
Other streets in this area do have them, but I believe they are old and that the NHW has fizzled out on those streets. I am trying to pass the word around to get other street on-board. Many thanks” Cost of the NHW sign is £12. Proposed to fund by JC, seconded H.S. All in favour.

Litter in Butt Lane and Litter pick sticks: A significant amount of rubbish has been noted at the bottom of Butt Lane opposite to the Park and Ride site. HS to talk to AmeyCespa and South Cambs re litter collections on main roads.
There was a village litter pick on Saturday 22nd February. Anna Bradnam has requested that the parish consider

purchasing 5-10 litter picking sticks to supplement those we borrow from SCDC for our regular village litter picks. The cost (ex VAT) of a litter picking stick is £11 (this price includes a 30% discount for parish councils). Carriage is £5 on orders under £150 (and free for orders over £150). We have received an offer of £100 towards the cost of litter picking equipment from a Milton resident. Proposed 15 sticks to be purchased RF, seconded HS. All in favour.

Park & Ride charges: To discuss proposed charges at park and ride sites. Proposal to write a letter to Cambs county council complaining about the introduction of the charges and the effect of overspill onto neighbouring streets, the risk of putting people off using the P&R services. <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/News/Fear-over-10-bill-for-12-hour-car-stays-at-Cambridge-park-and-ride-sites-20140213063000.htm> Clerk to check if letter has been sent to object to the new proposals.

**Action:
Clerk**

Village View advert for APM: We will be putting the following advert on the front page of the next issue of the Village View:

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 14th April at 7pm in the Community Centre. We will have speakers from the Sewage Works, the new Cambridge Science Park station and the North Lodge development. All residents are encouraged to attend to find out the latest on issues which affect our village and make their views known. JC to work with David Geasor on this.

**Action:
Clerk**

Clerk to make sure room available at MCC for the APM.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative: Unfortunately, Milton's bid for 2014/15 (speed reduction on Ely Road) was not successful.

North Lodge Park: Question about owl boxes. When are they meant to be installed? Email response, Afternoon David, Whilst there will be bat and bird boxes as part of Bellways works to be carried out on the development, I do not believe that there are owl boxes associated with the development.

**Action:
Clerk**

A letter has also been received with questions about the sports facilities implementation. Copy of the letter to be sent to Councillors. Meeting to be arranged with Bellway after the APM to discuss this.

South Cambridgeshire Community Awards 2014: Thursday 20 March 2014. Two representatives from the Parish Council are invited to attend. Would anyone like to attend? JC possibly.

8. Planning:

Decisions received:

None.

New applications:

S/0242/14/FL Mrs R Javahery, 9 The Sycamores, Milton – two-storey side extension.

Recommendation of Council – Refuse – Over Development. Out of keeping with existing buildings. Over bearing presence to neighbouring properties. Insufficient car-parking in the area.

S/0205/14/FL Mr Stuart Lamenski, 43A Old School Lane, Milton – Two storey side and single storey front and rear extensions. **No Recommendation** – There is a concern about the basement, especially considering the high water table in Milton. 1 Abstain AB.

S/0290/14/FL Mr Steve Edwards, British American Tobacco, 210 & 211 Science Park, Refurbishment of the laboratories and relocation of main entrance to building. **No Recommendation.**

9. Maintenance:

Cemetery Request:- Milton resident Robin Rose has requested to relinquish two plots at Milton cemetery and instead have his and his wife's ashes interred within his parents' grave in the old part of the cemetery. Propose to refund fees paid when plots were purchased in 2004/06 less current fee for interment of two sets of ashes. Proposed to refund fees paid in 2004/2006 and charge prices for interment of ashes for the same years JC, 8 votes in favour. 2 Abstain.

10. Community Care:

SCDC has been appointed by the County Council to provide Housing Related Support for Older People in South Cambridgeshire from April 2014, which will include Barnabas Court.

The CPAD unit at the Bowls Pavilion was officially launched on Weds 26th February. The unit was installed by Thompson Electrical of Cambridge free of charge. Clerk will include message of thanks to East of England Ambulance NHS Trust and Thompson Electrical in Chairman's Report of next Village View.

**Action
Clerk.**

11. Finance & Administration:

Nothing to report.

- 12. Joint Meeting – MCC/Parish Council:** To received minutes of joint meeting held on 29th January 2014.

Actions addressed.

Skatepark – Not continuing.

Sycamores Car Park – IT to look into grants for the funding of a new car park. RF to give details to IT of tarmacking company.

Management and Maintenance of new sports pitches, pavilion and car park at North Lodge. – Awaiting meeting information.

Take Over date for North Lodge sports pitches – To be confirmed.

Discussion of footpath beside bowls green: Council would like it noted that there has been no agreement or approval for a footpath to be built alongside the bowls green towards the surgery and community centre. There is a sub-committee which will recommend future open space/community facility projects (previous min 10/09-13) and include the footpath in their deliberations.

- 13. Reports from external meetings:**

- 14. Community Centre Report - March 2014**

Maintenance/Improvements:

The decoration of the lounge, upstairs rooms 1 + 2 and the stairwell has been completed.

The slabs on the pathway between MCC and the doctor's surgery have been levelled.

A new computer system has been installed in Andy's office, as the old one was almost 10 years old and was on its last legs!

Bookings:

There are no Saturday night party's during March. However, there are activities taking place in the main hall on every Saturday and Sunday during the day, so the facilities continue to be well used.

Staff:

Sadly, after a long illness, Gina (one of our cleaners) passed away on Saturday 4th Feb. Kevin and Ray have been excellent in assisting with the cleaning and locking up duties, although we have now decided to use contract cleaners, who started on Monday 24th Feb.

Youth Building:

Nothing to report

Vandalism:

Nothing to report

- 15. County Councillor's report was received: Maurice Leeke, County Councillor**

County Councillor's Report to Milton Parish Council - Monday 3rd March 2014

A14 - As I mentioned at last month's meeting new plans are being prepared for the proposed upgrading of the A14, and there will be further consultations on these plans. I have been told that Parish Councils, including Milton, will be invited to a local briefing to explain what is being proposed. The biggest difference, of course, is that the idea for tolling has been dropped. There are also changes to the A1 section near Brampton and some tweaking of the layout of some of the junctions. Another idea that they are working on is adding both the extra lanes on one carriageway - then moving the central reservation - rather than adding a lane on each carriageway. An example of the effect of this is that it would not mean the traffic was closer to Orchard Park. It will be interesting to see the detail but this should not affect Milton village as the extra lane stops at the Milton roundabout.

County Council Budget - This was agreed with a few fairly minor changes. The proposal to introduce parking charges at the Park-and-Ride sites this year remains, as does the proposal to charge the full fare to people with bus passes from next year.

The Charges are due to start in June 2014. The Clerk has sent a letter to the P&R with disapproval comments. It is thought that there will be double yellow lines on Butt lane by the Park and Ride. Milton Butt lane residents may expect to see a survey to try and tackle parking issues. JC questioned whether money has been put aside to help combat parking permit issues should they arise. ML to take suggestion back to CCC.

- 16. Response to the consultation on sewage guidance.**

Changing the rules on provision of sewerage

Baroness Christine Humphreys spoke on the Water Bill at the Committee Stage in the Lords on 11th Feb and her speech was very much along the same lines as my motion to South Cambs last month. She mentioned Chesterton Fen as a case in point. Paul has put the video up on Milton News. The Minister's spokesman replied saying they thought that leaving out "on which there are buildings" and inserting "with permanent use and generating domestic

effluent" may lead to unintended consequences. They have offered the baroness and her colleagues a meeting with the Minister after half term recess. I have asked whether I could go along, but without much hope.

SCDC officers are investigating other councils that may have similar issues, and are going to put in a response to the Welsh Assembly consultation.

Parish Council AGREED following response:

Milton Parish Council has been aware for many decades of the environmental problems in our parish near the Cam to the North of Cambridge, at Chesterton Fen, due to the lack of proper mains sewerage connections for the 261 Traveller caravans on that low-lying area. One of our councillors arranged a petition to Anglian Water in 2007 asking for a mains sewer under S101A of the Water Industry Act 1991. This was refused and the subsequent appeal to the Environment Agency was lost in 2011. The crux of the decision was that legal duty to provide mains sewerage connection only applies to premises with 'buildings', and in their view "day rooms" and "caravans" do not count as "buildings" even if they have permanent planning permission and are lived in all year round.

The Parish Council would like to propose a change to the Guidance (in Wales and England) to define the meaning of the word 'building' as it appears in the Act, so that it would include such properties, as long as there is some 'permanence' to the site, for example, *with planning permission for permanent occupation*, or connections to mains electricity. This would enable the same calculations that determine whether the water company has a duty to provide a sewer to apply to caravan dwellers, as apply to those living in houses. – **Deadline 6th March.**

**Action
Clerk**

Baroness Humphreys raised the question of this appeal for a sewerage connection at Chesterton Fen in the discussion on the Water Bill on Tuesday 11th Feb. The amendment she proposed was withdrawn, but the Minister offered a discussion to see whether some other means could be found to remedy the problems such as those experienced at Chesterton Fen. This meeting has not yet happened, and regardless of the outcome we would want to press for a change to the Guidance.

17. District Councillors' reports

Councillors Report – March 2014 – Hazel Smith

South Cambs Local Plan

There was a portfolio meeting in February that went on for over 5 hours discussing the plan, but it was pretty meaningless – the officers merely took us through their ideas again and any local opposition was brushed aside with the same old arguments. Then the portfolio holder agreed to recommend the plan to the council for decision at a special meeting on 13th March.

If the plan is voted down at that meeting the development industry will have a field day – without a proven 5-year Land Supply for new development, any council can expect that plans for large developments will be approved on appeal, so it will be a free-for-all. However the Plan hasn't changed. They propose 1400 houses in Waterbeach but the building will not start until 2026 (so that it does not compete with Northstowe). Waterbeach needs more houses now. But it does not need to be a new town clustered round a railway station and largely being a commuter town for London!

On the A428 the proposal is for a new town at Bourn Airfield, plus 1500 houses added to Cambourne to the West, around the new Village College. The problems of access into Cambridge for work from Caldecote and Cambourne are severe, with Madingley Hill being severely congested in the mornings. The County Transport Plan just proposes a bus lane there, and possibly a guided bus in the future.

Building at Northstowe has not yet started, though it cannot be long now before the first houses go up. They are only allocating 250 or 500 houses a year at Northstowe and I think that this should be increased so that other less well-served developments do not need to go ahead so quickly.

City Deal

There will be an announcement soon on the City Deal, funding for transport infrastructure to get cars off the roads (not for road building), for the Cambridge City and South Cambs area. The 3 councils are working closely together on this, and the government will publish a Red Book of the scope of the funding and what they expect to be achieved by it.

A14 plans

We had a briefing last week – they are drawing up the schemes for the different junctions ready for another round of consultations on a larger scale than before, and they want to talk to Parish Councils in March/April. There will be a 10-week consultation starting 7th April. The new roads will be built in 2016-19. Cambridge Northern Bypass will be widened with the centre of the road moving to the North (but no detail of the area around Blackwell Caravan Park yet).

Police panel

This now covers Swavesey as well as Histon areas, and extends from beyond the Eversdens across to Waterbeach. The meeting was interesting – they talked about Operation Oaklands (a blitz on home security, advice to householders concentrating on one village each day for a month). Other villages are keen to be in the next tranche. They also spoke about the liaison with Village Colleges – Lee Page (once our PCSO) was posted at IVC for a long time, but has now moved on. Mike Hill from SCDC talked about the District Council’s role in preventing ASB and how they work with the police.

Parking at Waterbeach Station was mentioned – the double yellow lines at the edge of a road also prohibit parking behind them, if that land is Highways land, and people had been ticketed for parking on the grass verges near the station.

18. Bills for Payment and Money Received.

CONFIRMED and AGREED payment of cheques 101018–101029 (proposed by RTS, seconded by GH).

19. Correspondence

Cambridgeshire Mencap – letter about change of name to The Edmund Trust and Eddie’s

Cambs ACRE – News Digest Feb 2014

20. Dates of Next Meetings

17th March Planning; 24th March Maintenance; 7th April Council; 14th April Annual Parish Meeting (in Community Centre Lounge at 7pm).

21. Items and Reports for March agenda (to be received by Fri 28 March 2014).

The meeting closed at 9:45pm

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