

Minutes of the Maintenance Committee Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 16 December 2013 at 7.45pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: G Heaney (chair) WD Booth J Mowatt M Perkins
The clerk
Cllr I Tyes (attending as a member of the public) left at 8:05pm

1. **Apologies for absence received and approved from:** DJ Chamberlin – conflicting appointment; IF May – work commitment; RT Summerfield – conflicting appointment; J Western – conflicting appointment.
2. **Declarations of interest and dispensations**
 - a) **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.**
 - b) **To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).**
None received.
 - c) **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**
G Heaney has been given dispensation for item 6 (Allotments).
3. **Public Participation:** The Chairman agreed to bring forward item 8 on the agenda for discussion.
8. **Item 8 (Grass Cutting and General Maintenance)** was brought forward as Cllr I. Tyes wanted to raise concerns over the Tesco Roundabout.
I. Tyes felt that 2 lanes approaching this roundabout from the A14 roundabout and on the exit from Tesco were dangerous as it was ambiguous in the absence of signs and the left hand lanes should be marked for traffic turning left only with the right lane for traffic going straight or right, or the markings changed so there was only 1 lane. GH thought this would increase traffic congestion, especially at peak times. Noted road markings were the County Council's responsibility, not the Parish Council's.
In conjunction with the concern over lack of specific lanes and clear signage I. Tyes asked that the bushes on the roundabout were removed to improve visibility. **AGREED** to reduce the height of the bushes on the roundabout to 1ft (proposed JM, seconded MP).
I Tyes left the meeting at 8:05pm.
TREES: **AGREED** extra tree work in the village (previous min PC 11/11-13) (proposed GH, seconded JM):
Remove deadwood/prune and clear away arisings on tree at corner of Coles Road/Cambridge Road - £110 + VAT (this work has already been done as a branch on this tree was in a dangerous condition);
The Sycamores – footpath towards Tesco – cut back 2 trees to clear street lamps - £30 + VAT.
4. The minutes of the Maintenance committee meeting held on 16 September 2013 were approved.
5. **Cemetery**
Command Pest Control reports (Oct & Dec) were **NOTED** – little rabbit activity, all rabbit workings treated, recent mole activity, 4 traps set.
GREEN WASTE: **AGREED** to obtain quote to remove existing green waste container. **SCDC** fees for a green waste bin are: £3.75 per lift for 240 ltr bin, £5.65 for a 360 ltr bin. Collection on a Thursday, weekly, fortnightly or monthly. The bin could be sited by the entrance gate to avoid having to drag it from the hedge in the centre of the cemetery to be emptied. **AGREED** to hold this item over to the next meeting for a decision.
RISK ASSESSMENT: **NOTED** the Clerk had conducted a risk assessment inspection of the cemetery and no hazards or problems were identified.
FEES: **AGREED** to recommend cemetery fees remain the same for 2014 (proposed GH, seconded MP).
Action: Clerk
6. **Allotments**
NOTED there are 3 people on the waiting list for an allotment, 2 of whom already have an allotment.
LOCK: A new lock has been fitted (previous min 6/09-13).
TREES: 2 allotment holders have contacted the Clerk to advise that non-fruit trees were present on their allotments when they took them over. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote to remove these trees.
2ND ENTRANCE: **AGREED**, noting comments received by the Clerk from allotment holders, there was no majority in favour of closing this entrance, and as any action would incur expenditure at a time when the council was trying to make savings, not to take any further action to close the entrance off (proposed GH, seconded JM).
HORSE GRAZING: The field is rented out until 31 March 2014 at reduced rent (£20/month) due to the poor state of the grazing.
Action: Clerk

REVIEW OF FEES FOR ALLOTMENTS AND HORSE GRAZING LAND:

Current fees: £15 p.a. per half-size allotment (other sizes pro rata), £25 p.a. for full size (10 pole) allotment and £500 p.a. for horse grazing.

Fees received to date 2013/14: £1489 Expenditure to date 2013/14: £2050

AGREED to review Horse grazing fees when current tenancy expires on 31st March 2014 (proposed GH, seconded MP).

AGREED to recommend an increase from £15 to £20 p.a. per half-size allotment (pro rata for other size allotments - 1/3-size = £13, 1/4-size = £10) as from October 2013 and an increase from £25 to £30 per full size allotment (proposed JM, seconded MP: 2 in favour, 1 abstention).

7. Play – update

The skier at The Sycamores recreation ground has been repaired and re-installed (previous min 7/09-13).

8. Grass Cutting and General Maintenance

Brought forward to follow item 3.

9. Budget for 2014/15.

AGREED budget:

Allotments	£3100
Cemetery	£2040
grass cutting	£10,750 (does not include MCC areas)
highways	£3720
play	£3000
(proposed GH, seconded JM)	

10. Correspondence: none received

11. Date of next meeting – Monday 24th March 2014

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm