

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 03 October 2011 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) JE Coston M Ellwood RJ Farrington M Hersom (from agenda 9 apologies for lateness) IF May J Mowatt MC Perkins HM Smith I Tyes A Winnington
Cllr M Williamson (part), the clerk and assistant clerk

1 Apologies for absence – AJ Campbell DJ Chamberlin TA Drummond.

The clerk reported that AJC would be unable to attend Monday meetings until March 2012 as he was completing a course at Cambridge Regional College. The Local Government Act 1972 S 85 (1) declares that “if a member fails throughout six consecutive months to attend any meetings..... he ceases automatically to be a member of the Council unless.....his failure is due to a reason approved by Council.” (Arnold-Baker Local Council Administration 8th edition page 60). Item for November agenda. **Action: the clerk**

2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial

HMS – planning agenda 8 personal – a member of SCDC Planning Committee.

3 Minutes - the minutes of the meeting of 05 September 2011 (inc confidential) were approved and signed as a true record

4 Public Participation – no members of the public were present.

5 Casual Vacancy – to consider co-option (PC1/09-11).

Council was now at liberty to co-opt. The two candidates who stood previously did not wish to stand. The clerk would advertise. To be considered at November meeting. **Action: the clerk**

6 Clerk’s report

Consultation on review of the decision to remove all subsidised bus funding (13/07-11) – the chairman encouraged all to complete the Cambridgeshire County Council questionnaire on changes and reductions being proposed to bus services which were supported by financial contributions from Council funds.
The closing date for responses to the questionnaire - 16:00 on Friday 9 December 2011.

Drains (PC5/09-11) – Keith Faunch would not agree to a wire mesh under the drain covers. The drains were due to be jetted out within the next two months and would be jetted thereafter every two years. He would investigate any reports of flooding.

Bus shelter damage (5/09-11) – the court had ordered the culprit to pay Council £200 compensation. The clerk would write to thank the resident for his prompt action in reporting the incident to the police. **Action: the clerk**

Joint training session for District, Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks (5/09-11) - Monday 12 September 2011. Training materials were available on request.

Localgiving.com (CC4/06-11) – the free trial was due to expire on 31st October. To date no donations had been received. A 12 month subscription would cost £60. **AGREED** not to continue.

Youth – noted that Paula Mayes who had managed the County Council Youth work team in our area so well for many years is leaving on 7th October.

11 County Councillor’s report – attached (brought forward)

Golf course (6/07-11) – the owner of the golf course was in breach of an injunction. A Greenwood CCC was gathering evidence. The CCC legal team would then decide whether to pursue.

AGREED to ask Mr Greenwood for another meeting. **Action: assistant clerk**

Speed bumps Chesterton Fen (11/09-11) – these were effective but did not meet the legal requirements. (See DC report below).

Waterbeach Barracks (14/09-11) – the CCC now had no role in strategic planning but would be assertive in ensuring the quality of the A10 if development at the barracks takes place.

Community transport – (see DC report).

Budget – consultation see www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

Cycle path Landbeach to Milton – the clerk to write to Landbeach PC in support of their proposal – copy to Mike Davies cycling officer CCC **Action: the clerk.** IT felt that none of the cycle paths around Cambridge link up in a logical fashion and that an overall plan of improvement was needed.

- 7 **Staffing** – the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 12 September were received
Time scale (S3/08-11) – noted that the clerk intended to retire on 31 May 2012.
New clerk – hours of work (S7/08-11) - the post was to be advertised a minimum of 20 hours per week. If a suitable candidate was found 25 hours or even full-time would be considered.
Council's solicitor had made changes to the following documents:
Employees Code of Conduct (S/3/09-11)
Clerk: job description
job advert
person specification
application form (S/04-11)
It was AGREED to adopt these (after minor amendments).

- 8 **Planning** – the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26 September 2011 were received
S/1524/11 Dr A Miege 31 Willow Crescent (P5/09-11) - proposed ground and first floor rear extension - amendment showing rear roof dormer windows and altered roof to single storey rear extension – **no recommendation.**

- 9 **Maintenance** – the minutes of the Maintenance Committee meeting held on 26 September 2011 were received
Cemetery (M5/09-11) – the committee would review the cemetery policy and regulations.
Grass cutting contract (M9/09-11) - the chairman of Maintenance and the clerk were due to meet S Buchan on 6 October to discuss.
It was AGREED to accept quotations from Fenland Leisure Products (FLP) for:
a) **6 monthly play inspections – 3 sites Froment, Humphries Way and The Rowans 2 sites for MCC: £75 per site x 5 x 2 = £750 per year (MPC £450 MCC £300)**
b) **supplying and spreading bark at Froment and Humphries Way - £1010 + VAT (M7/09-11).**

The clerk had asked FLP to quote for supplying bark for The Rowans play area also. (This was within the Maintenance Chairman's remit to proceed).

10 MCC update

AGM: to be held in the Annexe on Wednesday 12th October at 7.00pm. All residents welcome to attend.
Play Equipment: A new Climbing Net at Coles Road had been installed, funded by a grant of £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund. The clerk would send congratulations to the manager and committee on a successful outcome. **Action: the clerk**
Maintenance and Improvements: The Court Lights at Coles Road had been replaced and these were proving to be far more reliable and a massive improvement for the footballers, netballers and tennis players using the courts.
MCC refurbishment: Final invoice from Grantchester Construction received.
Bookings: These continued very much as before.
Youth Building: The building continued to be used by the Youth Club on a Tuesday evening and Young Carers on a Saturday morning, although Young Carers now used the building every fortnight only.
Vandalism: Once again, nothing of any note to report.

12 District Councillors' reports – (attached)

Speed bumps Chesterton Fen Road (11/09-11 also CC report above) – the clerk would write to Brian Stinton, CCC supporting his approach to instruct the residents to modify the speed bumps to ensure that they were within legal requirements. **Action: the clerk**

Other issues: Neighbourhood Plan; Grass cutting on Cowley Road; Council house maintenance; Council open day 7th October, 9:30-4:30; County Council and our Reward Grant; What's happening with the Buses?; South Cambs & Further Housing; National Planning Policy; Affordable Rents; Photovoltaic panels on the roof of SCDC building in Cambourne.

13 Land Group update

RTS reported that the land deal with the College of West Anglia was now defunct. Our latest offer to CWA (for the parish to acquire a very small extra parcel of land adjacent to the sports pitches) had been on the table for weeks with no response from the college. Our land agents (Savills) had tried numerous times to get in touch with CWA's agent (Cheffins) to no avail. The Asst Clerk contacted Mark Reavell of CWA by phone to get an answer. Reavell said he had informed Cheffins weeks ago that the college was not prepared to give us additional land and had assumed the deal was off as the college had not heard back from us. We informed him that our agents had been pursuing Cheffins for weeks. Mark apologized and said he would speak to his agents. The Asst Clerk explained that, due to the delay, it would now be very difficult to give notice to the allotment holders this September, so the deal would probably have to be delayed until next year.

Mark Reavell said he was happy with the revised time scale and that the land swap was in the best interests of both the college and the parish and he would do everything he could to make it happen. The next day Reavell sent an email saying the deal was off.

The reason Reavell gave was that his Land Based Managers were not happy and needed additional equine paddocks sooner. RTS wrote to Reavell to state his surprise and disappointment at the college's decision. CWA had never indicated during the entire two year process that the deal was a matter of urgency for the college. In fact, it was delays on CWA's part which placed us in the current situation. Having had no response from this letter, RTS phoned Reavell a week later and was informed that there was no change in the college's position.

General surprise and disappointment noted by councillors as to CWA's decision to break off negotiations, particularly as it had been the college who first approached us to swap the land as they did not want to cross Ely Road with their horses. It was noted that the numerous delays could have been avoided by the college. RTS outlined the parish's costs to date for the deal of approx £1,867.50. JEC pointed out that the £500 paid on account to Savills was fully justified with all the work the firm had done for the parish over the past years. It was **AGREED**

for the Chairman to write to Savills telling them of the parish's disappointment that the other party had let us down in this deal and that we would like to work together in the future. Action: Asst Clerk

The Clerk had already written to the Department of Communities & Local Government as well as CPALC cancelling our need for borrowing approval. The Clerk had also written to the allotment holders by email and placed a notice on the allotment notice board about the deal being off. IFM suggested writing to the Football Association, informing them of the college's decision and thanking them for their support. RTS noted that the outcome of the CWA deal has highlighted the importance of the Urban Renaissance Village (URV) development and associated recreation land for the parish. The Land Group will meet to discuss URV's latest S106 Agreement.

14 Bills for Payment and Money Received

CONFIRMED and AUTHORISED payment of cheques 100540 to 100554
Cheque 100552 £40,000 transfer of funds to Scottish Widows.

15 Correspondence

CCC - the RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Draft Supplementary Planning Document
Magazines: - Local Council Review, Clerks and Councils Direct, The Clerk
Victim Support - request for contribution
SCDC - Disability Forum – article for Village View
Boundary Commission for England - The 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies in England. Consultation ends 5 December 2011 on the proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies in England.
Cam Conservators - refurbishment of Baits Bite Lock Oct/Nov 2011

16 Dates of Next Meetings

Milton Action for Youth 4 October
Community Care 6 October 11am
Planning (7pm) and Finance/Administration (7.30pm) 17 October
Staffing (7pm) and Land Group (7.30pm) 18 October
Emergency Plan 20 October
Council 7 November 7.30pm

17 Items and Reports for November agenda - to be received by Monday 31 October.

The meeting ended at 9.04pm

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