

Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 06 September 2010 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: RT Summerfield (chair) PS Badley AJ Campbell JE Coston GA Covell R Day TA Drummond M Ellwood RJ Farrington SC Humphreys B Jefferson IF May HM Smith RLE Waters Cllr M Williamson, Cllr M Hersom, the clerk and assistant clerk

- 1 Election of chairman and signing of declaration of acceptance of office** – RTS reported that RHC had resigned as chairman and councillor.

AGREED that the clerk write to Rob Chapman expressing Council's regret and that the minutes should reflect the enormous contribution that RHC had made to the village:

"It is very difficult to find good active parish councillors. It is voluntary work – and people sometimes forget this.

Members were reminded of some of the works that RHC had done on behalf of the village with no thought of personal gain or thanks and his valuable contribution that had saved the village thousands of pounds:

Removal of debris of burnt out youth building; removal of parts of dangerous skate park, youth shelter and wooden play houses; removal of rubbish from allotments; putting up and taking down of Christmas lights; bunds on verge by kebab van; monitoring the cemetery and various works including taking away rubbish from the bins; repairs of gates and fences and many other smaller projects; lights on recreation grounds for the Community Centre committee.

Council was extremely grateful for what he had done while at the same time working long hours 7 days a week running his own business.

His chairmanship of the Maintenance Committee ensured that a greater interest is now taken in the allotments, cemetery, grass cutting and all matters relating to maintenance and there is no doubt that there has been a considerable improvement in these areas.

He will be a great loss to this Council." *Action: the clerk*

RTS was elected chairman (10 votes in favour, 3 abstentions) and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

- 2 Election of vice chairman** – AJC was elected vice chairman.

- 3 Apologies for absence** - none.

- 4 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial**

PSB - land update (agenda 15) personal – allotment holder

GAC - land update (agenda 15) personal – allotment holder

TAD - land update (agenda 15) personal – member of Colts football club

ME - land update (agenda 15) personal – allotment holder

HMS - planning (agenda 8) personal – member of SCDC planning committee

- 5 Minutes** - the minutes of the meeting of 12 July 2010 were approved and assigned as a true record

- 6 Public Participation** – no member of the public was present.

- 7 Clerk's/Chairman's report**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan (PC5/03-10) – (comprising the Core Strategy, Site Specific Proposals Plan and supporting Proposal Map) had been formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government – dated 28 July 2010.

Affordable Housing (PC13/05-10) – report in October.

Tomkins Mead (PC5/06-10) – as a result of receiving a plan from the Land Registry the clerk's office discovered that part of a property was built on Council land some 20 years ago. The clerk would make the owners of the property aware. *Action: the clerk*

Community Care (PC9/07-10) – from C Clay SCDC: Barnabas Court – “qualifying persons from Milton should have priority so far as practicable.”

The last housing needs survey was carried out in November 2005 which identified a need for a further 75 affordable homes over the next 5 years - 19 of which were for sheltered accommodation. There had not been any affordable housing provision in the village since the survey was undertaken. A list of applicants was not available as it was data protected.

Horse grazing (PC10/07-10) – noted that the tenant was now keeping a pony on the field.

Mobile Library (PC12/07-10) new times received. These were published on the web and notice boards.

Footpath Baits Bite Lock to Horningsea (PC12/07-10) – Horningsea Parish bought the horticultural grit and the CCC arranged for it to be spread on the footpath.

From Horningsea Parish Council 06/08/10: “the gravel has not bedded down properly due to the ground being so hard. This is actually a footpath and not a cycle way so for the moment there will be a sign explaining this and asking people not to cycle along the footpath at present.

I will give you an update once we have had it inspected and let you know what further action, if any will be taken.”

Sport Lakes S106 Agreement (PC13/07-10) – noted that the proposed changes did not impact on matters that concerned MPC. Therefore SCDC would not consult upon the amendments.

Standards committee – noted that a vacancy had occurred for a parish council member on this committee. The closing date for receipt of nominations - Friday 24 September 2010.

Traffic Order A10 – Installation for “Variable Message Sign” to inform drivers travelling south of spaces available at the Park & Ride would take place 20th September to 15th October.

Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases – Council’s response:

Parish Councils should be excluded from the provisions for council tax referendums.

Milton Action for Youth - next meeting 13th September at the Milton Youth Centre 6.45pm.

Allotments – **AGREED** that the clerk could have an ongoing commitment to write to those allotment holders who have let their allotments get ‘out of hand’ reminding them of their tenancy agreement.

Police rep report – Neighbourhood Panel Meeting - JEC reported on the recent panel meeting.

Topics covered: **Parking on Kebab van area; Park & Ride crime figures; Youth / Community Centre; CCTV on bridge** – process to be checked; **Rowans / Froment Way** residents to be asked to tidy up; **Speed checks in Milton** (Speed checks in Milton were done on the 16th June all day: Cambridge Rd - All in limit, Ely Rd - All in limit); **Borrowing a CCTV camera.**

Bus shelter Landbeach Road – two glass panels damaged August 8/9 - reported to the police. Algar have replaced the glass with metal panels. The clerk had written to the insurance company.

Liaison meeting - up to two people could attend the next liaison meeting hosted by the District Council's Cabinet. When: 7.30pm on 18th October 2010 Where: South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne.

New Bin on towpath – had been installed. The clerk had asked SCDC for 50% of the cost.

8 Planning - the minutes of the planning meeting held on 26 July 2010 were received and noted.

Appeal:

Mr A De Simone land to the west of Lea Court Coles Road (PC) – against refusal of planning permission (both PC6/04 and P4/07-10) – to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an Inspector.

Decisions received:

N O'Connor next to unit 1 Sandy Park Chesterton Fen Road erection of enclosure to house wood fired boiler (PC7/06-10) – **approved. Land to be restored to its former condition or to a condition agreed in writing by the LPA on or before 30th April 2011. Various National Planning Policies, SCDC LDF Core Strategy and LDF Development Control Policies apply.**

(S/0661/10) Mr Mark Dwyer land to west of Enterprise Nurseries – change of use and excavation of land to form a fish stock pond (PC7/06-10) – **approved. To be approved: hard and soft landscaping scheme; scheme of ecological enhancement; implementation of programme of archaeological work; scheme for excavation and transportation of excess spoil from the site. No retail sales other than those permitted under Lawful Development Certificate S/1743/04/LDC.**

(S/0984/10) Mr Mark Dwyer Enterprise Nurseries Ely Road Landbeach – replacement of greenhouses with 3 polytunnels and excavation and change of use of land to form fish stock pond (PC5/07-10) - (adjacent parish) - **approved. Hard and soft landscape works to be approved. In accordance with various SCDC LDF Core Strategy and LDF Development Control Policies and SCDC LDF Supplementary Planning Documents 2009.**

(S/0985/10) Mr Mark Dwyer Enterprise Nurseries Ely Road Landbeach – change of use to agricultural machinery engineering unit, replacement building for B1 (c) use and formation of one bedroom tourist accommodation unit (PC5/07-10) - **refused. The proposal creates three additional independent employment uses that would utilise existing access point on to the A10. Application does not demonstrate that the proposal would not be prejudicial to the satisfactory functioning of highway safety upon the A10. Contrary to Policy DP/3 of LDF – proposed development would have an unacceptable adverse impact from traffic generated.**

(S/0866/10) Abcam 204 Science Park (P6/06-10) – erection of 2 x 5.5m high lighting columns and enclosure of bin storage area by a 2.4m close boarded wooden fence - **approved. Lighting scheme to be approved. In accordance with Policies DP/1-3 and NE/14 of LDF Development Control Policies 2007.**

(S/0717/10) Excelr8 Learning (UK) Ltd– change of use from general office to private tutoring learning centre (P6/06-10) - **approved. Premises to be used as a private tutoring learning centre only.**

(S/0721/10) 17A High Street – extension (PC7/06-10)– **refused. Unduly prominent; incongruous when viewed from High Street; would detract from the setting of a listed building; loss of sunlight/outlook to neighbouring dwelling.**

New applications:

C/05007/10/CC - land to the west of electricity sub-station Kings Hedges Road - erection of smartlife low carbon centre (use class D1) and associated works including provision of car and cycle parking facilities access and circulation areas and landscaping (P/6/06-10) – amended plans. [Received 19 August comments to be sent by 31 August. Noted – limited timescale and lack of plans].

S/1111/10/LB – Mr R Thompson & Mrs J Morrisey - remove rear lean-to for new entrance lobby/store (P5/07-10). Amended – for information only. Barge boards omitted; gable window reduced.

S/1178/10 Mr J Lindsay 17A High Street – part two and part single storey front extension – **no recommendation.**

9 Finance (taken at end of meeting)

10 Gritting Arrangements – Winter service - to consider response to County Council proposals

Citi 2 and X9 bus routes Landbeach Road and High Street

A10 footbridge and

Jane Coston bridge omitted from the proposed gritting schedule.

AGREED to invite County council officer to next meeting to discuss. Action: the clerk

11 To consider supporting the application by the Conservators of the River Cam for funding towards riverbanks improvements

AGREED to write a letter of support for this application. Action: the clerk

12 MCC update

Refurbishment: should be finished by mid November.

Bookings: All the regular groups will be returning after the school holidays and we have new bookings for Tumble Tots on a Saturday morning and badminton on Monday lunchtime. Saturday night enquiries remain fairly quiet, although with the refurbishment this is probably quite a good thing.

Youth Building: At the moment I am not sure whether the Youth Club will have one or two evening sessions this term and I am also not sure whether the Centre School at Cottenham will be using the facilities during the day. However, Young Carers will continue with their Saturday morning session.

Vandalism: Very little vandalism, although a bike was stolen from the cycle racks during the blood donor session on Thursday 29th July. The cycle racks will be relocated near to the Community Centre entrance during the refurbishment, which should help to keep cycles more secure. In addition, a car was broken into near the bowls pavilion on the afternoon of Sunday 29th August and the thief attempted to use the stolen cards at Dillon's and Tesco Garage cash points, where apparently he was captured on CCTV. The relevant victims reported both these crimes to the police.

13 County Councillor's report (attached to minutes)

Milton to Impington cycle route (PC12/07-10); anticipated cuts in services; Park & Ride "no right turn" signs.

14 District Councillors' reports (attached to minutes)

MH: Scrutiny meetings; cuts in services. It was suggested that after the SCDC October review when cuts could mean more responsibility on Parish Councils Council should look closely at budgets to see where savings could be made.
HMS: Environmental Health meetings; Satisfaction surveys; Hauxton remediation; blue bins; planning system online; Performance Indicators; Consultation Orchard Park and foodstore NW Cambridge; potholes.

15 Land update (taken at end of meeting)

16 Bills for Payment and Money Received

Note: cheque 100273 10/05/10 to CBS for photocopying in April went astray – although the clerk had put it through their letterbox personally. Cheque 100295 paid 12/07/10 included replacement amount of £31.73.

CONFIRMED payment of cheques 100301 - 100318

AGREED payment of cheques 100319 - 100326

17 Correspondence

ACRE - Notice of AGM Tuesday 28 September 5.30pm at St Ivo Centre St Ives
No Need for Nuclear Campaign Co-ordinator – requesting Councils to write to their MP

18 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning 27 September 7.00pm; Maintenance 27 September 7.30pm; Council 4 October 7.00pm

19 Items and Reports for October agenda (to be received by Monday 27 September)

Trolley Bus and Village View representatives; Tree warden and deputy.

15 Land Group

AGREED at 8.45pm [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business

The meeting re-opened at 8.55pm

9 Finance

AGREED at 9.15pm [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960] to exclude members of the public to this item as confidential employment issues were to be discussed

The minutes of the Finance & Staffing meetings held on 26 July, 9 & 24 August 2010 were received.

Noted that RHC had proposed that Council should employ a solicitor specifically for employment issues.

AGREED (Min F&S 2/08-10 refers)

a to accept the Client Care Agreement with Smith May Solicitors (SMS)

b to adopt the IT Policy

c to form a separate Staffing committee as recommended by SMS. This committee would deal with staffing matters as and when necessary.

AJC, TAD and RLEW were elected to this committee.

The meeting re-opened at 10.04pm.

External audit report (PC8/07-10)

"Level of free reserves very low compared to Council's expenditure. The Council needs to assure itself that this is adequate for operational needs as well as in respect of its assessment of potential risks.

The Council has now addressed this issue."

The meeting ended at 10.05pm.

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

6th September 2010

13 County Councillor's report

Milton to Impington cycle route (PC12/07-10) - an update is going to S Cambs AJC saying:

"It is proposed to build a shared use path on the south side of Butt Lane to link the Park and Ride site to the 30mph speed limit at Impington. This would provide an off road route along the section between the 2 villages that is subject to the national speed limit.

A Section 106 agreement requires the developer of the former poultry farm to build a 1.5 metre wide shared use path from the Park and Ride site to Mere Way which is the half way point of the overall scheme.

Survey and design work is ongoing along the route to ascertain how wide such a route could be built within highway land, and further discussions will take place with Parish Councils and local members who have expressed some concern about this scheme, once some more details are available.

I have asked Atkins to complete the detailed design on the scheme and get it costed up. The next stage will be to speak with you, Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Gymer and then to speak to Parishes.

Our programme of works is quite congested at present and this has been a lower priority than some other schemes for various reasons, but it is still our intention to try to get it build before 1st April next year."

There has been little activity to report since the last Parish Council meeting, since the County Council effectively goes into recess during August with no meetings.

Obviously the major issue affecting everyone is the reductions of expenditure that will have to be made. While details will not be completely clear until the publication of the government's spending review in October, the Council is already planning cuts in anticipation of what may come.

The Council has stated that its intention is to keep front-line services as unaffected as possible, and focus spending reductions on the back office functions. That is one of the reasons for the Shared Services project where resources will be pooled with Northamptonshire County Council in areas such as Finance and Human Resources. I have been active here is looking at the plans from the point of view of Scrutiny, and we are continuing to keep a close watch on progress.

Despite this intention to focus on back office functions, it is certain that there will be cuts in some of the more outward facing activities of the Council.

We have already seen the planned cuts in library services and their effect on local provision, be it the mobile library visits or the Waterbeach LAP. I have succeeded in persuading the newly formed Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee to look in detail at these plans before they go to Cabinet. I very much hope that a representative of the LAPs will be asked to give evidence to the committee.

It is also hard to see just what savings are still possible in the Highways budget where even white line repainting at junctions has been significantly reduced. It is clear that Parish Councils will have to take on many aspects of Highways improvement by financing schemes themselves.

It is also important to be aware of very significant cuts planned in the Youth Service with a cabinet paper proposing £1 million reductions over the next two years and the loss of 35 full-time equivalent posts. It is clear that the Youth Service will become more and more targeted on area of deprivation with areas such as Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach having to find more funds from other places.

The picture looks difficult and we will know more after October. I shall do my best to ensure that our Parishes do not suffer disproportionately, but we shall have to face up to the realities of life, I am afraid.

Park & Ride – new signs. Police care aware that some drivers are intentionally ignoring the "no right turn" from Impington on to the A10.

14 District Councillors' reports

MH: had attended Scrutiny meeting about sale of housing in Balsham. Housing sale was a way of raising funds for other council housing repairs etc. in readiness for the anticipated cuts.

HMS: There have been 2 Environmental Health meetings, in July and August, and one on Policy and Performance which I shadow.

The Tory manifesto action on **extra litter picking in 10 larger villages** which included Milton, is not now happening as it was being funded from LSP money (from the government), which has all been immediately cut. These cuts also stopped some funding to projects with voluntary organisations, and it looks as though SCDC may be about £80,000 out of pocket in money spent from this fund that will not be repaid.

Satisfaction surveys - the figures were not too bad except where an issue took more than one phone call, then most people (60%) got fed up waiting for something to happen.

The **Hauxton remediation** was discussed in passing. I also took this up afterwards with Susan Walford, the responsible officer, and she's quite amenable to giving a member briefing on this, which has now been targeted to take place sometime before the next full council in September. In some places they have dug down 5m to get to the bottom of the polluted subsoil.

The campaign to publicise the **blue bins** is all on schedule. The travellers on Chesterton Fen are not using their green bins and boxes properly and will not get the blue bins, which is something I am angry about. This has dragged on too long with little action from the council to put it right. People with small houses / gardens will have the option of sacks for recyclables if they make enough fuss. (they should be given the option of sacks for black bin rubbish which should be very little now). The contract for sorting it all has gone to ... Donarbon at Waterbeach! Bids came from companies from as far away as Northern Ireland! The 33 staff from Veolia (who collect the green box recyclables) will have the right to TUPE to the council; there may be some redundancies.

[Noted that Donarbon had now been sold].

In general the Environmental Health portfolio is underspent largely because of holding back on recruitment.

The **planning system online** is still causing problems. The service is much less convenient than before, and they have responded by taking out of commission search features which were not always working properly, so it is now even more difficult to use. This is an off-the-shelf system that has supposedly been used by other councils.

Although the previous system was user friendly staff found it difficult to upload information.

Performance Indicators

The worst was Cabinet attendance at other villages parish council meetings: only 12 to March 2010 and 42% of the target. Only 49% of staff 'feel well informed'.

Consultations 6 September to 18 October

Orchard Park and foodstotre NW Cambridge.

Potholes

Poorly repaired Hall End and Shirley Close. HMS to report to K Fauch CCC.