

MINUTES OF MILTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, APRIL 14th 1976,  
HELD IN MILTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 p.m. UNDER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. R.T. SUMMERFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
PARISH COUNCIL.

Present: The Hall was filled almost to capacity by many residents, supported by members of the Parish Council: Mrs. M.E. Jones, Mrs. B.C. Waterson, Mrs. J.G. Chinnick, Mr. B.K. Connor, Mr. M. Waggett, Mr. H.W.H. Easy, and Mr. P. Kiddle, County Councillor W.H. Crossman and District Councillor K.P. Humphries (also Clerk to the Parish Council). Apologies were received from Mr. G. Patten (Parish Councillor).

The following business was transacted.

3238 1. Minutes and Accounts for 1975. These were presented in a brochure which had been previously circulated. The Minutes of the 1975 Annual Parish Meeting were confirmed and then signed by the Chairman.

3238 2. Report of the Chairman. The Chairman reported on the work of the Parish Council during the year.

Gravel Extraction. It was unlikely that gravel would be extracted from Milton Fen as tests had proved that the material was unsuitable. However, a further application had been made regarding the western side of the Milton By-Pass and a further meeting was to be held to discuss the planning application.

By-Passes. Tenders were out and work should start in June on both by-passes. Maps were available at the meeting. They would be under one contract. It may be two years before the Milton by-pass was open and which one would be completed first depended on the contractors as it was not determined on the tender papers.

Parish Allotments. The County Council were pressing the Parish Council for return of some of the land, but there was a waiting-list for allotments. The Milton By-Pass necessitated re-distribution of tenants and all had been given replacement holdings. Negotiations were proceeding for compensation; and the County Council's request for return of land was being resisted. Complaints of tenants mis-using Farm School land for access had been dealt with.

Parish Banks. Research had been undertaken during the year into the legal title of the parish banks. It was hopeful of soon being resolved and the precise areas of the village holdings determined.

Planning Matters. Approximately 30 planning applications had been commented upon during the year. Several alleged infringements of planning regulations had also been investigated.

Stokes Enquiry. The Parish Council supported enforcement of the Inquiry in July, 1975 as a result of which, in February 1976, Mr. Stokes had been given two months to take up the illegal roadway and demolish the buildings. The District Council's follow-up of this enforcement was awaited. Mr. Stokes did not attend the Inquiry hearing. The District Planning Committee were expected to take a decision as to High Court action.

Gypsy Caravan Site. In pursuance of its policy that any gypsy caravan site in the parish should be situated in Chesterton Fen Road, the Parish Council reiterated its view in a letter to the Inspector conducting an Inquiry into Mr. Cave's appeal against refusal of planning permission for the proposed site. The outcome of the hearing was awaited.

Changing Rooms. The building of the changing rooms had not proceeded as quickly as the Council would have liked, and some delay was due to keeping costs to a minimum. In order to achieve economies the building was put out to sub-contract. This meant costs were less but it took more time. However, the Changing Rooms were now nearing completion.

The Chairman dealt with the following points in question:

Dutch Elm Disease. The Parish Council had been alerted by the County Council to the widespread prevalence of this disease in late July 1975 and the village had been surveyed. The centre of infection seemed to be at the back of Shirley Close. Treatment by injection was expensive and not always successful, and it was best to cut diseased trees down and burn them. All owners of diseased trees are being asked to do this.

Tree-Planting. Under the County Council scheme of free trees for parishes the Parish Council had planted 85, 50 of which were along the Fen Road between the railway and the river.

Parish Pump. This was the last remaining pump in the village, dating from the 1920's. It had now been given to the parish by the District Council and we are restoring it for preservation.

Tenure of Offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Parish Council had reached unanimous agreement to place a maximum limit on holding either of these offices, of 3 years, on annual re-election.

Village Library. Although the County Council had purchased a site for the erection of a library, next to the Butcher's shop in Coles Road, the financial crisis prevented any work being commenced.

Parking at Agricultural Machinery Site. Better parking facilities had now been provided and the situation had improved.

Glass on Recreation Ground. Complaints had ceased on this nuisance arising from the Milk Bottle Recovery Services, but it is hoped that the Environmental Health Department will be able to take action under a recent (1974) Act, if the nuisance should re-occur.

Size of the Council. Increase in size had been discussed and the regulations allowed for up to 11, according to the population of Milton. It had been decided however to keep membership at 9 which covered the number of nominations usually received.

County Structure Plan. The County Council were due to publish a draft report in mid-1976 when public views would again be invited and the final Structure Plan would be submitted to the Government in 1977. Examination in public would then follow, before ratification.

Cambridge Road Lay-Bys. After considerable representations made to the County Highways Department the length of pavement between Coles Road and Bene't Garage was being made up to include 3 lay-bys, to relieve traffic congestion and for the convenience of the doctors' surgery.

3238 3. REPORT BY MR. P. KIDDLE, CHAIRMAN OF MILTON SCHOOL MANAGERS AND REPRESENTATIVE ON IMPINGTON VILLAGE COLLEGE GOVERNORS.

Mr. Kiddle referred to the Chief Education Officer's concern for better communication. He was happy to report that he thought this was being achieved at Milton School. Managers had visited

the school more and there was a closer relationship with staff and children. He also reported that the 'bus service from Milton to Impington was continuing as a successful proposition. The large increase in numbers made one 'bus inadequate and, through the Education Committee, a second had been arranged. It was regretted that bad behaviour had resulted in complaints of damage to one bus and this had had to be referred to all parents by circular.

Although financial problems were great it had turned out that cuts in Education were not as drastic as first thought they may be. Liaison between Milton School and Impington was good and news of the progress of former pupils was looked forward to.

Mr. Kiddle dealt with questions: regarding the effect of the proposed Butt Lane closure on the school bus, he said that diverting it via the Northern By-Pass would increase the distance over 3 miles, but for the purposes of the regulations he thought the distance would be measured as now which is less than 3 miles; regarding the bus leaving Milton at 4 mins. to 9, he would be only too pleased to act on this if required; he would also be available to help parents when problems occur.

**3238 4. REPORT BY MR. L. SANDFORD, CHAIRMAN OF MILTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE.**

Mr. Sandford gave a comprehensive report on the year's work of the Committee expressing satisfactory progress. They had had some concern over reduction in revenue from the Hall and, regrettably had had to increase booking charges - very largely due to inflation. 12 successful dances and other functions had been held throughout the year.

**3238 5. REPORT BY MR. K.P. HUMPHRIES, SOUTH CAMBS. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.**

The financial demands of Local Government re-organisation in 1974 had coincided with one of the worst economic crises the country had experienced for many years. 1975/76, the second year of re-organisation, had been a battle to reconcile development of services against rocketing inflation.

Planning. Some aspects of planning were satisfactory; over 2,000 applications had been considered and some 95% measure of agreement between Parish Councils' wishes and the District Council's decisions. Despite a 20% under staffing in the Planning Department (for economy) they had cut down the time taken to decide an application to less than 6 weeks.

Less satisfactory were the ominous prospects of the Community Land Act necessitating more staff with doubtful benefits. He had supported the Parish Council at the Stokes Inquiry; against gravel extraction and in trying for an appropriate gypsy site.

Housing. At least 8 2-bedroom units were to be built in Milton in the 1976/77 programme, catering for the elderly or couples with young children. In the District, as a whole, the target of 300 houses, for the year, was nearing achievement.

Rates. By commencing economies in 1974 the District Council had succeeded in restricting a Rate increase in 1975/76 to only 8p. in the £ - i.e. an 18% increase, while inflation was 25%/30%. For the year 1976/77, and with inflation still with us at 14%. the Rate had been reduced to 7.6p. in £ a decrease of 8%. The Council felt justifiably some pride in this achievement.

3238 6. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNT 1975/76. These were yet to be called for District Audit and were accepted provisionally.

3238 7. PAROCHIAL CHARITY ACCOUNTS for 1975. These were discussed and received by the meeting.

3238 8. QUESTION SESSION.

In a general question session, the following were the main queries dealt with:

Allotments - the apparent deficit between allotment income and expenditure (in Accounts) was due to holding vacant about 3 acres to accommodate tenants displaced by the Milton By-Pass.

Milton Charities - the Trustees held 21½ acres in Milton Fen and 9 acres at Chittering, totalling 30½ acres. They were very conscious of the urgency of a rent review and full market value rents will be levelled as soon as legally possible.

War Memorial - a request for this to be fenced, against it being used as public seats, was referred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Land at Corner of Butt Lane - this land (formerly owned by the Ministry of Transport) was now in private ownership and is to be made into a garden.

Retirement of Parish Councillors - the Chairman expressed his thanks to Mrs. J.G. Chinnick and Mr. B.K. Connor for their work as Parish Councillors.

Resignation of Clerk - he also expressed his appreciation of the excellent services rendered to the village by Mr. K.P. Humphries, while Clerk for the last 10 years.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the good attendance and interest shown by residents and closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

*R. Summersfield* (CHAIRMAN)  
26 April 1977