

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 1985 AT 8pm
IN THE VILLAGE HALL UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MRS. B.C. WATERSON.

Present: Mrs. B.C. Waterson, R. Day, W.D. Booth, A.D.J. Bull, H.A. Capitain, P. Harrold, K.P. Humphries, Mrs. L.M. Lock, G. Patten, P.D. Rice, Mrs. J. Westwood, approx. 80 residents and the clerk.

Apologies for absence were received from representatives of Dorther Properties and SCDC.

Minute 6369

1. The chairman extended a warm welcome to all present. She explained that the developers would not be attending as they had not finalised all the details of their supermarket proposals. The Planning Officer had therefore also sent his apologies.
The minutes of the 1984 APM were then confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising

Library. Council were still pressing for a library.

Cemetery. Council had taken on responsibility for the maintenance of the cemetery.

Village Sign. The sign was still in the process of being designed. There were difficulties with the practicalities of what was an unusual design. It had been described as being like a "wendy house on a pole".

Middleton's Pit. This filled in pit had been purchased. It was hoped in the long term to use this land as an extension to the recreation ground when finances permit.

Speed Limit. The County Council had agreed to reintroduce a 30MPH speed limit through the village. The sign at the northern end of the village would be moved beyond North Lodge.

Grass Cutting. Simon Shipp continued to cut the grass.

Footbridge. There had been concern about damage caused to railings on the by-pass footbridge. These had been repaired and the obsolete wooden fence removed.

3. Accounts and Charities' Report.

A provisional summary of accounts was presented to the meeting.

The rector explained that amounts of £500 shown in the charities' accounts had been donated to the church and the village hall, while £500 was held in reserve towards a shelter at the cemetery.

An electric wheelchair was available on loan. Any senior citizen who needed an alarm system at home could ask to have one installed.

4. The minutes of the Special Public Meeting of 13 September 1985 were confirmed and signed.

5. Chairman's Report.

The previous year had been extremely busy. In addition to the normal monthly meetings there had been a number of extra meetings about the community centre.

A45 Footbridge. Council had reopened negotiations for a footbridge over the A45. SCDC and the City Council had indicated their support.

State of Roads/Paths. There had been numerous complaints during the year about the surfaces of roads and paths. Council always took up these complaints with the divisional surveyor.

Fen Road Level Crossing. A long debate took place about the safety of the open crossing installed in 1984. Following assurances from British Rail that every care would be taken Council agreed to accept the crossing. As more cars were likely to use the road beyond the crossing the County Council had agreed to erect a sign warning drivers of the river.

Gypsy Site. The original plans had been abandoned because of costs and lack of demand. There was now a possibility that a low key site could be set up. Council would still insist on proper control and supervision.

Mr. Moss of Chesterton Fen Road was congratulated on increasing the size of his private site.

Planning.

1. Planning consent for ten dwellings off Willow Crescent had been granted. Although Council were concerned about the safety aspect SCDC felt that there was no problem.
2. Twelve dwellings in Butt Lane were now being built.
3. Milton Park. The houses were being sold rapidly-an expected fifty by January 1986. There was concern about the places in school. Both the governors and Council had asked the County to ensure adequate provision at the school. Proposals for extending the school were in the medium term plan.

Country Park. Money was earmarked for the purchase of Nicholas's land by the County Council. It was hoped that the purchase would go ahead. Mr. Nicholas was to be allowed one dwelling under the terms of the Milton Plan. SCDC had recently bought Dickerson's Pit. Their Planning Officers and insurers were satisfied about the safety aspects as it was unlikely to be developed for a long time.

Rabbits. Rabbits were causing problems for the allotment holders. After sorting out the responsibility for the ditches Council expected the rabbits to be dealt with soon.

Salvation Army. A donation of £25 had been made to the Salvation Army who led the Christmas Carol Singing round the tree.

Bus Passes. It had been agreed to maintain the reimbursement of bus passes at £4.20 per pass since Council were having to precept high already for 1985/86.

Playgroup. Council had debated fully whether to provide financial help to the playgroup which was running at a loss because there were not many children of playgroup age in the village at that time. Mrs. Lock had declared an interest and did not take part in the financial allocation. It was decided to pay the rent of the hall for one year rather than see the amenity close.

Youth Club. Again thanks were due to Mr. & Mrs. Martin for running the youth club. Council would consider any request for help towards equipment.

Tree Planting. Over 100 trees and 200 shrubs had been planted in the village. Thanks were due to R. Day and his team of helpers.

County Councillors. J. Brackenbury was thanked for his support and help. The new county councillor for Milton was Maurice Leeke.

BCW

Community Centre. A series of meetings including meetings with representatives of the VHRGMC had taken place. The public meeting of September 1984 had given the go ahead for the project.

Grants so far included	£	
	35,000	SCDC
	7,400	County Council
	8,000	VHRGMC
	30,000	Sports Council

To ease the burden on the rates every business in the village had been approached. To date £2970 had been received in donations. Council had to precept high for 1985/86 (£27,000 to which SCDC raised no objection). Rates would stay fairly high for a number of years. Council would look for ways to obtain donations.

Stan Poulter had helped with advice. In September 1984 Council accepted Johnson & Bailey's quotation for building the centre. By Spring 1985 Council had become increasingly dissatisfied with J&B who failed to answer important questions. The building with various amendments cost more per square metre than anticipated. Council though concerned that J&B had worked hard on their behalf therefore ended the association.

Willmott had since been engaged. They had provided detailed costings and were expecting to begin building in July and finish in early 1986. Test bores had shown the N.E. corner of the recreation ground unsuitable unless approx. £20,000 were spent on piling. Such a proposal pushed the J&B price to £250,000 and the Willmott price to £230,000.

After much discussion Council had decided against siting the centre on the car park because of the visual impact of such a building in Coles Road. The N.E. corner had therefore been chosen as the site. Council would endeavour to keep within the budget of £230,000.

The developers of Milton Park had put forward proposals for a 40,000 sq. feet Tesco supermarket with parking for 400 cars. If successful they would give £200,000 to the village. Council had not rejected the plan. There were however too many "ifs" at this stage.

Council would therefore proceed with the present project and if offered £200,000 would spend it on facilities at the new recreation ground.

It was possible that Council could do a deal with the developers over the land for the new recreation ground in return for financial help.

All organisations using the existing hall would have first choice of using the new centre although no assurances could be given about the rent. It was envisaged that there would be a system similar to that in existence viz. different rates for village and outside organisations.

The chairman concluded her report by thanking a number of people: All parish councillors for their hard work and support; the clerk and his wife; the VHRGMC for continuing to keep the village hall alive and those who ran organisations on a voluntary basis.

It was these types of people said BCW who made a community and it this type of spirit that needed encouraging.

6. Question and Answer Session.

In answer to R. Farrington the chairman explained that the present hall would not be demolished immediately although there were no finances to keep it going; also the hall may have to be removed eventually to make way for car parking.

Doug Jones agreed that the hall could not survive financially. He asked about the costs of the new hall.

R.D. answered that a meeting was due with the builders. Certain alterations were to be made but he expected that costs could be kept within £230,000 including piling. Costs of bar fittings were included in the price but not furnishings.

Mr. Langford ^{would} be concerned about the level of rates and the length of time it/remain at this level.

The period of repayment of the loan was set at 20 years to take into account the new homes. A 1p rate in 1985/86 raised £5359. In subsequent years that figure should increase and therefore the level of rate reduce. (In 1985/86 the village rate was 5.3p). Mr. L asked if Council were aware of the possibility of the science park becoming part of the city with the inevitable drop in rate income from the penny rate. There was no indication as yet of such a move but Council would fight any proposal of this kind.

The cost of maintaining the new recreation ground together with the present recreation ground would fall on the parish council through the rates.

Possibly financial assistance may be forthcoming from the developers to be invested for maintenance.

This KPH explained was legitimate "planning gain" whereas the £200,000 could not be tied legally to the supermarket proposal as planning gain. This money would need to be tied up in a private legal agreement with Council.

S. Poulter pointed out that the developers would hand over the £200,000 whether Council supported the scheme or not, providing the scheme went ahead.

L. Sandford could see no harm in the £200,000 being spent on a sports centre on the new recreation ground.

Mrs. Blackmore asked about the original shopping precinct as detailed in the Milton Plan.

This explained the chairman was still scheduled to go ahead.

In answer to queries the chairman stressed that a special public meeting would be called as soon as the supermarket proposals were officially put forward, in order to give the public the chance to vote.

Although in the past the APM had objected to a supermarket the developers were prepared to fight the Milton Plan. Council had taken no decision on the present proposals as no formal application had yet been made.

As there were no more questions the chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Signed.. *Beryl C. Waterson (Mrs)*..Chairman.. *13th May 1986*....Date