

MINUTES OF MILTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY
26th APRIL 1977, HELD IN MILTON VILLAGE HALL AT
8.00 p.m. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. R.T. SUMMERFIELD,
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

Present: Approximately 25 residents.
 Mr. G. Patten, Mr. D.J. Cook, Mr. P. Kiddle, Mr. M. Waggett,
 Mrs. B.C. Waterson, Mr. S.B. Poulter, Councillor K.P. Humphries,
 County Councillor W.H. Crossman (part-time).

Apologies were received from Mrs. M.E. Jones, Mr. H. Easy (both Parish Councillors).

3529 1. The minutes and accounts for 1976 were presented in a brochure which had been circulated and these were then confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3529 2. Matters Arising

The question of fencing the War Memorial to prevent it being used as a seat was further discussed by the Council and the decision was reached to relocate two of the disused wooden seats from the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Management Committee. Mr. Harvey thanked the Parish Council for the action on behalf of the residents.

3529 3. Report of the Chairman

The last year was again busy involving 27 meetings, 14 of the full Council, 10 of the Planning Committee and 3 of the Planning Sub-Committee. 48 planning applications were commented upon during the year and it is pleasing to note that the District Council take considerable notice of our observations.

Stokes Enforcement Proceedings. This area still gives cause for concern since last year it was reported that action was about to be taken to enforce compliance with planning regulations, but since then it has been discovered that all previous action has been taken in the wrong name. More recently further applications have been made on the Stokes land and refused by the District Council and taken to Appeal by Mr. Stokes. It seems that the legal processes are all wrong again and it will be a long time before anything is resolved. The Chairman's own personal view is that some compromise should be sought.

By-Passes and Bovis. Construction work is well under way and at the present time there does not seem to have been too much inconvenience caused to the Village.

Following representations by the Parish Council concerning traffic dangers the County Council reduced the A10 road markings from 3-lane to 2-lane adjacent to the Bovis site entrance.

The question of the Butt Lane junction with the Milton By-pass has been the topic of discussion, correspondence and a meeting with the County Council. The decision reached was that the lane would be closed on the Village side so that only pedestrians, cyclists and agricultural vehicles will be able to cross over into the western end of Butt Lane. The Parish Council recommended that access from the by-pass into Butt Lane towards Impington should be restricted to vehicles for access only. The final decision is being left in abeyance until the opening of the by-pass, and at that time consideration will also be given to a school crossing patrol.

Drainage. Considerable concern has been expressed on the amount of water discharged into existing ditches in the Parish from the by-passes, and the Parish Council are indebted to the local farmers for bringing this matter to our attention and also for their attendance at the relevant special meetings with the Road Construction Unit, District Council and the Anglian Water Authority.

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Structure Plan, Cambridge Sub Area. In the public report there are two alternative strategies for Milton the first of which proposes an additional 6,000 population between 1981-1991, and the second an extra 4,000 people in the same period. Even more disturbing, both strategies suggest that the area between Waterbeach and Milton should be developed in the longer term. The result of this would be that each Village would lose its identity.

The Parish Council have objected to both strategies in the strongest possible terms, and suggest that any development which is to take place should be restricted to the land between the Village and the Village Bypasses, and that the population should be restricted to a maximum of 3,000 this representing an increase of just over 1,000.

Fortunately the District Council have also rejected both strategies and suggest an increase in population of 1500 for Milton. However the City Council do not share our views and are glad to give their overspill to the surrounding villages.

Local Issues. (a) Accidents in the High Street - the situation seems to have improved following the introduction of the new road markings and the street lights have been switched on all night. Hopefully when the bypass is opened further worry should be removed.

(b) Changing Rooms - these have now been completed and handed over to the Village Management and Recreation Ground Committee. The Parish Council are grateful to the organising committee and especially Mr. M. Gray for all the work involved.

(c) Trees - further trees have been planted around the Village, but damage by vandals has made the Council rather despondent of success.

(d) Silver Jubilee Celebrations - the arrangements are now well advanced in the hands of the very energetic committee and it was hoped that the Village will support the events to the full. The Parish Council have agreed to pay for the commemorative mugs for all the children and also to underwrite any loss which may be incurred.

(e) Administrative Matters - at the beginning of the year the Council decided to try and help communication with the District and County Councils by inviting the appropriate Councillors to all meetings. This has worked well since Councillor Humphries attends all our meetings and Councillor Crossman also attends if available to discuss matters involving the County Council.

A new and larger Parish Notice Board has been erected to keep everyone better informed.

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting Mr. Connor has been appointed Clerk and the Chairman expressed his thanks for the work carried out over the past year.

The Chairman dealt with the following questions:-

Closure of A10. The question was raised whether or not there would be a tunnel or pedestrian access provided along the A10 near the sewage works once the road has been closed. Mr. Waggett had already queried this matter and confirmed that there would be no access but footpaths are to be provided ~~along the Milton Bypass~~ ^{from the Milton to Cambridge}. Mr. G. Patten added that trees could be planted along the border in consultation with the road engineers.

Street Lighting - Butt Lane. Mr. R. Rose had written to Councillor Crossman asking why the lamps were switched on all night. The query was handed over to the Council to investigate. Mr. Harvey commented that some of the light covers were half full of water and might represent a danger - this would be investigated.

Speed Limit. It was hoped that when the A10 is finally de-trunked the speed limit could be reduced to 30 m.p.h. if possible and hopefully the road markings should be retained for safety purposes.

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4 & 5. Report by Mr. P. Kiddle on behalf of Milton School Managers and representative of Impington Village College Governors.

Mr. Kiddle confirmed that a closer relationship now existed between the two establishments. At Milton school there are no indications of redundancy in staffing and Mr. Crossman as Chairman of the Education Committee should be thanked for his efforts in this respect. Mrs. Whitton has left the school and there is one less class in the Infants Section, but the situation has now settled. A welcome return to Mr. Clark was recorded to teach music. There have been obvious setbacks from the financial restrictions but credit is due to the dedicated staff for adjusting to the problems. Mr. Whitton offered the school sports day to the Silver Jubilee Committee to help with celebrations and Mr. Kiddle expressed his thanks publicly for this gesture.

Some concern was expressed about the car parking outside the school by parents delivering or collecting children and Mr. Kiddle asked for parents to think carefully when involved in this situation.

Other activities have been introduced namely Badminton in association with Impington Village College and the cubs now use the school football pitch.

As far as Impington is concerned everyone is well aware of the situation concerning the ability level of Milton school children over the others in the catchment area. Also on the question of discipline the College does not have the same standards and it is not sufficient to say that this is because of a larger school or a more difficult problem. The people at the College are aware of the situation. The staff quality at the College is as good as anywhere in the County and any parents who are concerned should use the P.T.A. local representative or refer directly to Mr. Kiddle.

The bus system is still in operation but this has been reduced to one during this term. There have been 4 accidents in Butt Lane none of them serious and the Council would keep very close surveillance on the situation.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Kiddle for an interesting and comprehensive report.

Questions. Mr. Waggett asked who the School Managers are and was advised that two members of the Parish Council, Mr. Summerfield and Mr. Kiddle (Chairman), the Rector, and another church representative, a C.C. representative, and also Mr. Rawlinson who acts as administrator.

It was queried why there is no P.T.A. at Milton School and Mrs. Waterson replied that such a good relationship exists with the parents that a P.T.A. is not felt to be necessary.

3529 6. Report by Mr. L. Sandford Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Mr. Sandford reported that the year had been a good one and that everyone had worked hard raising more funds to meet the heavy rise in expenses and maintenance. Dances, Discos, Bonfire Party, Children's Christmas Party, additional play equipment have all been organised and Mr. Sandford also wished to add his thanks to the Chairman's to be passed to Mr. Gray for all his work on the Changing Rooms project.

Mr. Sandford continued to state that the Hall is taken so much for granted by the Village and that there is very little support from residents, and unless the effort required is realised in the fairly near future the Committee will inevitably suffer and the Hall will be run down.

The Chairman added that the Parish Council certainly appreciate the Committee's efforts and hope that a crowd will attend the Annual Meeting next week. Thanks were also conveyed to Committee members for all their support.

3529 7. Report by Mr. K.P. Humphries, South Cambs. District Councillor

Councillor K.P. Humphries reported that all councils have been directed to cut back on public spending. The South Cambs. District Council were in fact about £55,000 underspent this being achieved by cutting out grants to voluntary bodies and resisting staff increases. This involved the existing staff in extra duties and thanks are due for the co-operation which exists.

The District Council rate has been stabilised but the County rate has been increased because of the Government not increasing the Rate Support Grant. Thanks to the Parish Councils economies in the Parish Rate Milton Ratepayers suffer only an increase of 10.4p/£.

The Housing Programme continues to suffer from the stop-go procedure brought about by the Minister's cut back in public spending on housing. In Milton 12 x 2-bedroomed units have been proposed and will hopefully be approved by the Minister. Also the sewage embargo dating from 1970 should be lifted this year.

On the question of the Structure Plan, Councillor Humphries and the District Council have given the situation very careful consideration and view with horror the proposals as they affect Milton, Waterbeach and also Fen Ditton. Suggested modifications to the plan have been submitted.

Finally on the question of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal the District Council have been allotted the task of raising £11,653 from the villages and Milton's share is £215.

Questions

Mr. J. Wagstaff queried where the drainage from the proposed new houses in the Village will go since he felt that the required outlets were not covered in the minutes of the general meeting which was held. Councillor Humphries confirmed that the original engineer involved has now been transferred but the Director of Operations Mr. H. Lawrence would carry out a review and report back both to the Cambs. Conservancy and the District Council to see if proposals are satisfactory.

Mr. Moule queried the raising of £215 from Milton for the Silver Jubilee Fund. The British Legion are looking for volunteers to organise their collection and Mr. Cullum or Mr. Wallis of 12 and 14 Shirley Close should be contacted.

3529 8. Parish Council Accounts 1976/77 - These were to be called for district audit and were accepted provisionally.

9. Parochial Charity Accounts for 1976.

The meeting received the accounts. Mr. D. Bull queried the rent on the land and Councillor Humphries as Clerk said that increases in rents were the subject of a 3 year limitation and the matter is in the hands of the County Council Agent to bring them into line.

Charities

3529 10. Report by County Councillor W.H. Crossman

Councillor Crossman expressed his horror at the proposed development of the Milton/Waterbeach corridor. The Structure Report notices should be looked at very carefully since the proposed changes for Milton are quite drastic. Councillor Crossman wholeheartedly supported the Parish Council in their efforts to reduce the development to an acceptable level.

The Rate Support Grant has been reduced considerably and hence the rate demand we are seeing is affected by national policy.

3529 11. Question and Answer Session - 1. Jubilee Committee Meeting

After some discussion it appeared that there had been some confusion regarding the original letter circularised by the S.C.D.C. concerning the Appeal Fund. It was understood that the British Legion would be organising the house to house collection within the Village and the Chairman confirmed that any surplus from the Silver Jubilee celebrations would be added to the Appeal Fund. Mr. Moule commented that all support will be appreciated.

2. Mrs. K. Edwards reported that the pavement by the Chapel is in a dangerous condition.
3. The water pump situation on the allotments was queried and the Clerk was able to confirm that two new wells will be sunk to provide a water supply on the land each side of the by-pass.
4. Mr. K. Wilson proposed that the Council should monitor the heavy plant using Butt Lane, but Mr. Patten felt that this would be a temporary situation while the levelling off is carried out. The Clerk was asked to refer this to the Council at the next meeting.
5. Dr. Booth then raised the question of why Milton and Waterbeach should have been pin-pointed for development. This led to discussion and it was agreed by all that a united front should be adopted against the proposals laid down in the Structure Plan and once again Councillor Crossman pledged his support.

Mr. Harvey then proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the residents to the Chairman for the excellent way in which he had conducted the meeting.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for their support and closed the meeting at 10.15 p.m.

Signed... BlumenfeldChairman..... 11th April 1976Date