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+ MINUTES OF MILTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, APRIL 29th, +
+ 1975, HELD IN MILTON VILLAGE HALL, at 7.30 p.m. +
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Present: The Hall was filled almost to capacity by many residents supported by Mr.L.M.Forbes, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council (in the Chair) and Parish Councillors Mrs.M.E.Jones, Messrs P.Kiddle and R.T.Summerfield and the Clerk of the Parish Council. County Councillor W.H.Crossman and District Councillor K.P.Humphries. Apologies from Mrs.J.G.Chinnick, Mrs.B.C.Watson and Mr.H.Easy.

2635.1 - MINUTES & ACCOUNTS - A brochure containing Minutes of the 1974 Annual Meeting and Parish Council and Charity Accounts was distributed. The Minutes & Accounts were accepted and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

2635.2 - REPORT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN - Mr.Forbes reported two resignations: Mr.Donald Pearson had retired as Chairman and member after some 29 years service with the Council; a tribute to his and Mrs. Pearson's services to the village was read. The Meeting wished Mr.& Mrs Pearson well on their retirement from public service and agreed that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent from this meeting.

Mr. Michael Nurse had also resigned from the Council on going to live in Shelford. The meeting, again, expressed its thanks to Mr. Nurse for his work while in the village.

Meetings - the Council had met monthly as well as special meetings making 24 altogether during the year. The Planning Sub-Committee met whenever necessary between Council meetings. 61 Planning applications had been considered during the year.

The By-passes - Latest information from the Dept. of the Environment indicated work was likely to commence in Autumn, 1975 on the Northern By-pass scheme which included the Milton By-pass. Special meetings between the Council and the Engineers had been held. The Clerk (Mr.K.P.Humphries) had attended the latest 'Side Roads' Inquiry and put forward suggestions for safety modifications. The decision of the Minister was still awaited.

Traffic - the Council were concerned at the number of accidents over the last few years after dark and very late at night near Butt Lane corner when lamp-posts and garden walls had been demolished several times and the Lion & Lamb frontage damaged. They had met, on site, representatives of the Police and County Highways who had agreed to keep closer observation on the village traffic, and, on the west side of the High Street (A10) nr. Butt Lane corner, to install efficient reflectors, large chevron arrow and adequate white-lines. At the same time, the Fen road junction was inspected and agreed to re-position white lines to prevent speeding across the junction.

Condition of highways - several submissions had been made through the year about the poor state of the pavement opposite Bene't Farm. The Highways Dept. had now agreed to a minor repair scheme pending construction of a lay-by.

Litter - the Council now employed a man to collect litter near the War Memorial and Village Hall. Litter baskets had been erected near the shops in Coles Road. The Chairman invited suggestions for siting one they had spare and added an appeal to all residents to encourage the general use of these litter baskets. The Headmaster was making a special appeal to schoolchildren.

Planning Applications- a well-attended Public Meeting had been held in August, 1974, called by 8 electors who objected to a proposal to extract gravel from Milton Fen. The meeting recorded strong objection and endorsed the Parish Council's decision to recommend refusal which had already been sent in to the Planning Authority. This was on

the grounds of the violation of the village's main amenity area, near the riverside, and of excessive traffic over several years, in Fen road. Final decision was still awaited from the County Council.

Another application firmly opposed by the Parish Council was that made by the Sports Advisory Council to create a rowing course in Milton Fen. The Council considered it would have similar consequences to the preceding and again recommended refusal. We already possess 100 acres of water-filled pits. The meeting shared the Council's abhorrence at the prospect of adding to these a 30-acre hole to be left indefinitely until enough money is found to build a rowing-course. Decision is awaited.

An Appeal against enforcement action by Messrs Stokes of Cambridge Ltd. was to be held in July, 1975. The meeting supported the enforcement action for which the Council had pressed and was opposed to this Company's continued flagrant contraventions of planning regulations.

Milton Village Plan - although a start had been made, including plans for residents to participate, it had now reluctantly been postponed until next spring pending co-operation with the County & City Planning Depts. over the Chesterton Fen Area.

2635.3 - REPORT ON MILTON SCHOOL Mr. P. Kiddle, Chairman of the School Managers, said the school was being very efficiently run by Mr. Whitton who had, this year, arranged successful musical evenings and sportsday. There had been very few staff changes. One of the requirements was a larger school hall. Two Managers had been lost, Dr. Hartley & Mr. Forbes. Mr. Summerfield and Mr. Bosley had joined. Mr. Kiddle offered his thanks to those members of the Committee formed to promote school transport to Impington College; it was still in being to deal with any problems which may arise.

2635.4 - REPORT ON THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE Mr. G. E. Patten, Chairman of that Committee, regretted that membership was not as strong as he would like but they had held seven meetings in the year with encouragingly increased attendances. Costs of running the Hall had also increased. Hiring fees to village organisations were lower than to those outside. The Hall had been licensed for Music & Dancing under the recent Act. He offered his appreciative thanks to the sub-Committee for organising the various social activities.

2635.5 - REPORT ON IMPINGTON COLLEGE Mr. P. Kiddle, the Parish Council representative to the Governors, said that, unfortunately, the move to comprehensive education had had to be accompanied by financial restraints. The village now had 3 members on the Governing Body. The GCE 'O'-level passes had risen from 50% to 58% and CSE Grade I passes from 43% to 77%. 34 students had taken 'A'-levels, with 64% successful. 10 students had gone to 1st Degree courses and 14 on to further education. The Warden hoped that streaming for Milton children would take place in the second year. By 1980 it is forecast that there will be some 1100 pupils when adequate 6th-form accommodation would become the problem. Mr. Kiddle said he was very happy with the way in which the first year of comprehensive education had gone.

2635.6 - REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Mr. K. P. Humphries said that South Cambs. District Council came into being on 1st April, 1974, being the amalgamation of the two former Rural Districts - Chesterton and South Cambs; the first year had been an extremely busy one. Almost the entire emphasis had been on coping with the financial burden. As the year went on it became evident that in order to keep solvent while trying to carry out the changes made necessary by re-organisation, rigid economies were called for. A number of services had been reduced. Leisure and amenity grants had been cut out completely and the District Council looked to encourage Parishes to make their own efforts - by voluntary effort where possible. The year was not without success, however: 238 new houses erected and many improved. Milton hoped to figure with 8 or 12 elderly persons units in the 1976/77 programme. Planning was going ahead with great benefit from the wider consultation with parishes. Waste paper salvage was successful under contract and all refuse services maintained. The District Rate for 1975/76 would be 8.25p in the £. The District Council felt satisfied with this as, although it was an increase on last year of 18%, current and expected inflation was some 25%.

2635.7 - REPORT ON CHANGING ROOMS Mr.P.Kiddle, Chairman of the Working Party, reported he would have liked to have seen more rapid progress but the Working Party were adopting sub-contract methods, hopefully cheaper but slower. The three phases of the work were: I - Footings, drains etc (now completed); II- Main building to, & inc., roof; III- internal fitting of services and fixtures. The ultimate cost forecast was at present running in the region of £8,000. Up to the present (Phase II) considerable savings had been made. Parents had been requested to co-operate by keeping children off the site during building operations.

The meeting was thrown open to Any Other Business and residents' questions; the following items were discussed:

2635.8 -PUB- LIC ELECTIONS The meeting agreed with the suggestion made by Mr.G.E. Patten that the Village Hall should be made available for local and national elections to save use of the school, and that a letter be sent to the District Returning Officer.

2635.9 - HAU- LAGE BUSINESS A resident of Butt Lane complained of the nuisance from an alleged illegal haulage business being carried on from a private house involving heavy vehicles calling late at night and on Sundays. The Clerk said this matter would shortly come before the Parish Council and the Chairman assured the complainant it would be carefully looked at.

2635.10 - PAR- ISH ALLOTMENTS The future of the allotments was sought by a questioner who was concerned that the Milton By-pass would cut through them. The Clerk stated that the Council still awaited the final decision of the Inspector and the Minister as the Milton By-pass was by no means yet a certainty. Following that, and if approved, the required land would be taken under Compulsory Purchase; this involved ourselves and the County Land Agent but the Clerk assured all tenants he would keep them informed as to the position and regarding the necessary Notice to Quit and compensation claims(if any).

2635.11 - RATE - PAYERS ASSOCIATION A move was made by a resident to get support for a Ratepayers Association. He claimed that Milton was the third highest rated village in the South Cambs. District, and asked if other residents were interested in joining with him in an association to guard ratepayers' interests, without response. The Clerk indicated that he was interested in the claim made and would appreciate further information.

2635.12 - LAND AT BUTT LANE CORNER In reply to a question it was explained that this piece of land owned by the DoE, was being sold privately and negotiations were still in progress.

2635.13 - CONDITION OF VILLAGE PAVEMENTS A number of places in the village where repair was necessary to the pavements were put forward by residents. It was agreed the appropriate authority be informed.

2635.14 - CYCLEWAYS PROPOSED FOR CAMBRIDGE The Chairman asked for support for the City Council scheme proposing a system of cycleways in Cambridge, covering easy travel to and from schools, places of work and recreation etc. A petition was available if any resident wished to sign in support.

2635.15 - TREES IN THE VILLAGE A questioner deplored the damage to some of the trees in the village, and the sentiment was generally shared. It was regretted that it was difficult to control this sort of thing. The suggestion that the Scouts and Cubs should help interested residents to maintain them was favourably received.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS AND THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING.

Signed *R. Sumner*Chairman *14th April 1976* Date.