

Minutes of the Milton Annual Parish Meeting held on April 3rd 1979 in Milton Village Hall under the Chairmanship of Mr. R.T. Summerfield, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Present: approximately 25 residents, S.B. Poulter, H.W.H. Easy, P. Kiddle, Councillor K.P. Humphries, Mrs. M.E. Jones, M. Waggett, Councillor W.H. Crossman and the Clerk B.K. Connor.

Apologies for absence received from Mrs. B.C. Waterson and Mr. D.J. Cook (both Parish Councillors).

4333 1. Following a proposal the Minutes of the meeting held in 1978 were taken as read with full agreement from the floor.

4333 2. Matters Arising

(10a) Mr. Sandford reported that the footpath in Coles Road is still in an unsatisfactory condition as is the footpath in Walkling Way. K.P.H. agreed to follow this up.

M. Waggett was added to the list of those in attendance of the meeting and the minutes were then confirmed and signed.

4333 3. Chairman's Report

The year had again been a busy one involving 27 meetings in total dealing with important issues and involving close cooperation with our District Councillor Ken Humphries and our County Councillor Paddy Crossman. Grateful thanks were extended for their efforts. A great deal of time had been spent discussing planning matters with over 50 applications receiving consideration.

On the Moss/Shirley Close Development - a special meeting had been held which was attended by 35 residents and following this views were submitted at the Public Enquiry and as a consequence the density of the housing was reduced to 28 dwellings. The Stokes Land also went to the Public Enquiry stage following the refusal of planning permission for industrial use. The Parish Council feel that the land is needed for the Country Park Scheme.

Eastern Electricity have agreed to close the Church Lane access and planning approval has now been given to a new location on to the former A10. Although it is pleasant to move about the village without the heavy volume of traffic taken away by the bypasses the problem existed of the schoolchildren crossing the Milton bypass on their way to Impington Village College. The Council have continued to press for improved facilities with Mr. Francis Pym and the outcome was awaited from the latest Department of Transport assessment of the situation.

The Country Park Scheme is close to realisation with a Working Group having been formed to plan the scheme.

On the question of allotments the Parish Council have been asked to give up land for extending the Farm School facilities, but the decision was made to refuse permission and the matter will now be decided at a hearing by the Agricultural Land Tribunal.

It was pleasing to be able to report that at last some action was taking place on the clearing of ditches in the parish particularly so in view of the problems caused by the water coming from the bypasses.

Cooperation has continued between the Council and the Village Hall Management Committee, and consideration had recently been given to a special request for financial help which resulted in the purchase of a tractor to pull the gang mowers, repairs to the gang mowers and also the erection of a permanent storage building for the equipment.

The Chairman concluded by thanking his fellow Councillors for all their help and support throughout the year and also the Clerk for the enormous amount of work which he has to put in.

At this stage the Chairman asked those in attendance for a show of hands in favour of pressing on with the case for a bypass crossing since there is a minority view in the Parish Council that a footbridge is not in fact necessary because there are sufficient gaps in the traffic to enable children to cross. It was unanimously agreed to continue the campaign.

4333 4. Report on Behalf of Milton School Managers by Mr. D. Bosley.

Mention was made last year of the decline in decorative order and this year had seen no advance, but improvements were in the pipeline. Caretaking, gardening and maintenance had all been carried out through the recent dispute. The influx of children from the Bovis site had caused no problems. Discussions with I.V.C. have progressed this year. Six classes have been maintained although the numbers are dropping and in the short term there is pressure to reduce the number of classes, but in the long term the population increase should counteract this tendency.

4333 5. Report on Impington Village College by Mr. P. Kiddle.

On the bypass campaign the Education Department and Governors had given their support. The College had just managed to survive the winter on its oil supply - the Warden commented that tempers had been short and patience strained and the staff and pupils deserved praise. P.K. thanked the parents for managing to get the children to school during the exceedingly bad weather conditions.

The attendance record fell, but this was still better than many other schools in the County. O level Maths results were disappointing and changes have therefore been made whereas O level English results were good. 6th form numbers are increasing and a high percentage of leavers are being found jobs. As far as buildings are concerned, there is lack of finance.

The new Warden is well established and as may be predicted there were inevitable staff changes, but the situation had settled somewhat. 3 villagers sat as members of the Curriculum Advisory Group - liaison with local industry had been very useful.

Concern was expressed by Mr. Sandford on the number of student teachers being used which had provided obvious continuity problems - P.K. agreed to take this up.

4333 6. Management Committee Report by Mr. H. Easy.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for the money to finance the tennis court project, and the other equipment. The Committee raised nearly £1400 over the past year, and had saved approximately £500 by repairing inside the Hall and installing new fencing all of which was carried out by members of the Committee. The Hall as always is very busy and cleaning was a problem, but it was hoped to resolve this in the near future.

4333 7. Report by the District Councillor K.P. Humphries.

K.P.H. felt that the Structure Plan would be an extremely long term project since he considered that Milton could not accommodate the 3,200 increase in population by 1991. Boundary decisions would soon be available. It was doubted that the drainage through Milton Fen would be sufficient to cope with expansion - both primary and secondary schooling would be insufficient. The plan for an increase of 2,600 by 1986 would mean 4 houses per week for the first five years of the plan.

On planning the Public Enquiry decision on Stokes Lane will influence the Country Park Scheme and the Secretary of State's decision is awaited. As a member of the District Committee on Gypsy Sites K.P.H. had objected to Milton sites.

On housing in the district there are 110 properties being built per year, but the District Council own no land in Milton, but there is a short waiting list for Council houses, so there is no problem as yet. A maintenance plan has been introduced.

K.P.H. also expressed concern about the awarded water courses and the S.C.D.C. is the responsible body having approximately 430 miles of ditches to maintain, and a cleaning machine had recently been purchased.

- 4333 8. The summary of the accounts for 1978/79 were accepted provisionally.
- 4333 9. The Milton Parochial Charity Accounts for 1978 were received by the meeting.
- 4333 10. Question and Answer Session
- a) Ownership of Milton Pits was queried, and the Chairman confirmed that at present these are privately owned. Mr. Nicholas has served a compulsory purchase order on the Council for his area, but this was still to be resolved.
- b) A complaint was made regarding dogs fouling footpaths, but it was confirmed that it is almost impossible to implement a by-law to prevent this.
- c) Comments were made that the Milton interchange was proving to be difficult for both pedestrians and cyclists to negotiate. It was also reported that people are crossing the A45 Northern Bypass by climbing the fence.

The meeting was closed at 10.20 p.m.

Signed. *B. J. ...* ..... Chairman ..... Date