

Minutes of Meetings of Milton Parish Council held on 3rd October 1977 in Milton Primary School at 7.30 p.m.

Present: R.T. Summerfield (in the Chair), Mrs. M.E. Jones, Mrs. B.C. Waterson, M. Waggett, D.J. Cook, S.B. Poulter, P. Kiddle, H.W.H. Easy, G. Patten, Councillor K.P. Humphries and the Clerk B.K. Connor.

1. PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. 3379 The minutes of the Planning Committee of 5th September had been circulated and were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising

- 3380 Frontal Extensions at 17 and 19 Coles Road. The Clerk read a letter from (3350) Mr. E.J. Wilson, the Planning Officer, who explained that the decision to approve this application was not arrived at without a site inspection and lengthy discussions. The fact that both applicants were to carry out the work together had influenced the final decision.
3. 3381 County Structure Plan. The County Planning Officer circulated a notice advising that the consultative document will not be publicly available until November. A copy of the statement issued to the press was also included and the Clerk was asked to circulate copies to members with the minutes of the meeting.
4. 3382 Tree Preservation Order, Milton Hall. S.C.D.C. have issued a T.P.O. covering the trees in the grounds of the Hall adjacent to the boundary fence along the existing A10. It was noted that this area was the subject of a planning application earlier in the year for 20 houses (3241).

5. Decisions Received

- 3383 S/0716 & 7/77 - 17 & 19 Coles Road - extension to lounge and hall - approved (3350) subject to being constructed with the neighbouring application.
- 3384 S/0888/77/F - G.E. LEMIN, 87 Cambridge Road - demolition of sub-standard (3321) buildings/renewal with factory building - approved subject to various conditions - no advertisements being displayed - no outside storage other than for normal waste collection - no power driven machinery to be used, landscaping in accordance with LPA approval and also limitations relating to the disposal of foul drainage/effluent.
- 3385 S/0968/77 - D. Clark, Chesterton Fen Road - request for established use (3329) certificate for caravan (Pt. OSP 275) - approved.
- 3386 S/0782/77 - McGlinchey, Barry & Co. - Stokes Land/Milton Pits - industrial (3289) and warehousing development - refused on the grounds that the site is outside the development area in the Town Map and the site lies within the proposed green belt. The area is allocated for recreational purposes and should be reserved for that use and furthermore the application is premature in advance of the Structure Plan.

6. New Applications

- 3387 S/1371/77 - Trinity College - 4 small units on Cambridge Science Park - no comments.
- 3388 S/0064/77 - Pioneer Concrete, erection of concrete batching plant, Winship Estate - no comments.

Signed.....*R. Summerfield*.....Chairman.....*7th November 1977*.....Date

11. COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. 3389 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 September had been circulated and were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising

3390 Annual Grant to V.H.M.C. The Treasurer acknowledged the Council's grant of (3369) £800 for 1977 and expressed appreciation of the generous increase.

3391 By-pass Landscape Survey. G.P. had attended the site meeting on the (3373) 29th September to act as the Council's representative in examining the landscaping proposals.

- (a) Screening of Rectory Farm area - this was not discussed since being private land it would require special agreement between the owner and the R.C.U.
- (b) Butt Lane area - would not be planted so that there will be no obstructions to siting on the approaches to the junction.
- (c) Rear of Benet Farm, tree screen - it was noted from the interchange area that the existing line of trees provided an ideal screen for the Village from the road. There are however several gaps and the RCU would be prepared to offer suitable trees free of charge if the Council are prepared to plant them. G.P. proposed that the owner of the land in question, Mrs. Wilson, be approached for permission to carry out this suggestion.
- (d) Area of intersection Northern by-pass/Old A10 - G.P. was advised that the redundant stretches of the A10 would be terminated by means of "hammerhead" turning areas. The architect suggested that if the hammerheads were moved back 10 yards then the vacated area could be infilled with trees forming a continuation of the proposed line bordering the road towards the river. The Clerk was asked to write to the R.C.U. making this suggestion with the Council's approval.
- (e) Vacant strip (formerly part of sewage works area) - the City boundary line now created by the Northern By-Pass leaves a strip of land vacant from the A10 towards the river. The architect suggested that a tree planting exercise could be carried out in the area which is approximately 50' wide, and the Clerk was asked to write to the City Council as owners enquiring as to their proposals and to confirm that the Parish Council are prepared to coordinate a planting scheme if acceptable.

This concluded the report and the Chairman expressed the Council's thanks to G.P.

3392 Allotments. The Clerk had contacted Mr. T. Housden and agreement was (3374) reached for parts of Mr. Housden's 1 acre plot to be sectioned off to accommodate the new tenants as required. Mr. Coulson and Mr. Haycock wish to rent 40 pole plots each, but Mr. Cullum no longer wished to pursue his application, thus the waiting list will be cleared.

The Clerk reported that Mr. Housden has lost his entire stock of chickens and ducks, approximately £30 in value, following a theft on September 24th which was immediately reported to the police.

3393 Bus Shelter Repairs. The Clerk reported that the damaged brickwork in (3376) the Cambridge Road shelter has now been repaired and the removed litter basket will be restored during the next work request to Mr. Haird.

3394 Rubbish Dumping. The Clerk had written to the Department of Environmental (3377) Health, S.C.D.C., and subsequently discussed the situation with Mr. Hawes on 27th September. Little can be done at this stage unless the rubbish is of a domestic nature and Mr. Hawes intended to speak to some of the neighbours in an attempt to find further information and deter future offenders.

3395 Tree Planting Scheme 77/78. The Clerk confirmed that thanks to M.W. an (3378) order has been placed for the various trees required.

3. 3396 Proposed Closure of Milton Library. Mr. B. Dwyer attended on behalf of the County Librarian and explained the background of the decision which followed instructions given to the Leisure and Amenities Committee to make a 2½% cut in expenditure which represents a figure of £44,000. The last cut in expenditure had reduced the book fund by 22% and it was felt that there could be no further reductions in this area and thus the actual service points were then investigated.

The cost of issuing each book at Milton Library had been evaluated at 14p. which did not stand well against the 'average' cost of 6p. The population which the Library service served is on the borderline as far as a static/mobile service is concerned i.e. 1500, where the inhabitants of Milton are 1700. Mr. Dwyer explained that the proposed expansion of Milton in accordance with the Structure Plan recommendations is for 4-5 years time ahead while cost reductions are being examined now. The Structure Plan provides only recommendations at present and if the project does go ahead then the existing library facilities would be totally inadequate.

Mr. Dwyer gave an account of the estimated savings if the closure takes effect which would involve over £2,000 p.a. comprising staffing £800, running costs £685 and a book fund £710. Great doubt was expressed at these figures particularly the running costs which were reckoned to be only £216. The Chairman asked if it will be possible to offer a voluntary labour force to staff the library, but Mr. Dwyer felt that the Union would not approve.

P.K. reiterated his complaints in that the decision on the proposals was reached without any prior consultation and M.E.J. further commented that a bus fare to Cambridge and back would cost 48p. for anyone wishing to use the City facilities. P.K. felt that the best strategy is to find how the Council can assist in keeping the library facility open and to discuss ways and means by which help can be provided to achieve this objective.

Mr. Dwyer stated that the mobile library could visit the village but only during normal working hours and this would result in other villages currently using this facility having to face reductions since the service would not be expanded.

It was felt by the Council that it would be advantageous to have a further meeting if possible with a representative of the County Libraries who could identify the cost areas and be able to discuss possible ways of maintaining Milton Library. Mr. Dwyer then left the meeting and was thanked by the Chairman for his help. The Chairman would arrange to contact Councillor Crossman to discover if he could attend a meeting to discuss the matter before the final decision is made by the County Council on 22 November.

4. 3397 A10 Milton By-pass - Butt Lane. As instructed the Clerk had again written to the County Surveyor insisting that a meeting should be arranged with the R.C.U. to involve the Parish Council and also the petitioners. The reply received indicated that the R.C.U. would be contacting the Clerk as quickly as possible to arrange a meeting, but in spite of a reminder by telephone on 27th September there was no further news. Mr. F. Pym had been contacted by K.P.H. and in a letter of 23rd September he undertook to communicate with the County Surveyor himself.

At the Chairman's invitation Mr. J. Lapham joined in the discussions and requested that the Parish Council should write to Mr. Pym since he had been asked to be kept informed. This was agreed and the Clerk would explain that although the matter has been dealt with through the appropriate channels, there has been no progress whatever. It did seem promising in the earlier negotiations involving the County Surveyor that actions would be taken but now willingness to cooperate has disappeared completely and the numerous requests for meetings have been ignored.

5. 3398 Provision of Council Land for Scout Hut. Mr. R. Farrington, the Group Scout Leader, was invited by the Chairman to explain his requirements. It would be advantageous if the site could be near to a possible electricity supply and close proximity to the Village Hall would be preferable for convenience of use during the Friday evening meetings.

P.K. felt that there had been an earlier application for outline permission for a building and Mr. Farrington agreed to check this with Mr. M. Nurse who may recollect the negotiations.

Mr. Farrington agreed to consider the three possibilities.

1. A brick structure backing on to the new changing rooms on the recreation ground.
2. A wooden structure to be situated on the recreation ground between the end of the car park and the old changing hut.
3. A wooden structure in Tomkin's Mead behind the rear garden of No.83 Coles Road.

6. 3399 Tennis Hard Court on Recreation Ground. Mr. Sandford apologized before the meeting that the quotations which had been requested were not yet to hand.

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr. J. Lapham on behalf of a temporary committee of seven residents expressing gratitude on behalf of the village to the Council for offering to provide the finance for this amenity.

The temporary committee would exist until such time as the court is seen being constructed when it was felt that public interest would be forthcoming and a proper committee could then be formed.

7. 3400 Christmas Lighting. M.E.J. suggested that a string of coloured lights should be erected around the village green on stakes and a christmas tree should also be provided. P.K. commented on the safety aspect in that the tree would have to be approximately 20' high to ensure that the cables etc. were out of reach.

The Clerk at M.E.J.'s request had contacted Histon Parish Clerk to ascertain the source of the illuminations which Histon provide around their village pond. Two 100 metre cable runs had been purchased and a working party hung the lights through the trees surrounding the village green and a small company whose works border the green provided the electricity supply.

M.W. was asked to request permission to borrow the V.H.M.C. lights at their next meeting and the Clerk would ascertain details of cost and availability of a tree, and also contact the shop owner to request permission to use electricity which the Council would pay for. M.W. further suggested that the horse chestnut tree beside the bus shelter opposite the Waggon and Horses could also be decorated.

8. 3401 Milton Manor Allotment Holdings. Since the Council were not prepared to hand over the 4.44 acres of allotments farmed by Mr. H. Easy as requested by the County Land Agent, an official Notice to Quit has been served on the Council giving 12 months notice expiring 11.10.78.

The Clerk had discussed this situation prior to the meeting with the Chairman and a copy of the notice had been forwarded to the Land Agent George Comins to handle on the Council's behalf.

The Clerk had spoken to Mr. Legge who confirmed that he would serve a counter notice and the matter would then be referred to the Agricultural Lands Tribunal. No further news is to hand and the Clerk was asked to maintain contact with the Agent.

9. 3402 Bills for Payment. It was proposed by M.E.J., seconded by G.P. and agreed that the following bills be paid:-

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| 1. Scitech Publications - photocopying agenda and minutes for September | | £3-40 |
| 2. Mr. B.K. Connor - Clerk's salary for September | | £37-50 |
| 3. Mrs. J.R. Connor - Secretarial expenses - 14 hrs @ £1 | £14-00 | |
| | Posts, Telephone for September | <u>2-44</u> £16-44 |

10. 3403 Seat outside Cemetery - Landbeach Road. The Clerk had been contacted by Mr. D. Wallis of Milton P.C.C. regarding the condition of the roadside seat. The P.C.C. are about to place a contract for renovation work to be carried out to the cemetery railings and gates, and would be prepared to include the repair of the seat if the Parish Council are prepared to cover the expense. The Clerk was asked to convey the Council's approval to accept the costs up to a maximum of £10.

11. 3404 Allotment Rents. G.P. felt that since 12 months notice is required for any increase the Council should consider raising the rents for allotment holdings. The Clerk confirmed that the most recent increase took effect on Lady Day 1977 and this was instituted to cover the P.C.'s rent to the County Council plus an additional £5 for administrative costs. No further action would be taken.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 11.00 p.m. since there was no further business.

Signed.....*Blunniefield*.....Chairman.....*7th November 1977*.....Date