

Minutes of a Special Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th
September 1982 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Mrs. B.C. Waterson (in the chair), S.B. Poulter, A.D.J. Bull, R. Day, K.P. Humphries, G. Patten, R.T. Summerfield, Mrs. G. Tonks, M. Waggett, Cllr. J. Brackenbury, approx. 100 residents, the Clerk S.J. Daniels and Cllr. Miss Hatley as observer.

Apologies for absence from H.W.H. Easy and P. Kiddle.

5315 1a. Chairman's Report. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Milton Plan consultation period had ended approx. 18 months previously. The Structure Plan, which had been passed by the Minister of the Department of the Environment agreed that there should be development in Milton. The aim of the Parish Council was to reduce the number of housing and people.

The four options were described. Option B - the original plan - would mean medium to high density south of Butt Lane (about 12-16 to an acre) and low density north of Butt Lane (about 10 an acre). Option C would mean developing possibly 50% of Butt Lane and a second access to the school. The M.P.C. and S.C.D.C. had worked together to safeguard areas of natural beauty e.g. near the Church, Fen Road and if Option D were agreed upon the parish would have no formal standing to prevent development in such areas.

The Parish Council views at its August meeting were aimed at reducing the housing and making Milton attractive from the roads. This had already been turned down once by the S.C.D.C. Since permission for the development of the Bene't Farm site had already been granted the 100 metre strip if implemented would necessitate astronomical compensation. Maintenance and upkeep would fall under the parish.

Two developers had already shown an interest in the site and were seeking an increase in housing density. Certification would stop this.

S.C.D.C. had accepted M.P.C.'s views that small shopping units would be better for Milton than a large supermarket.

M.P.C. were very strongly in favour of retaining the Old Bovis Site as green belt and the Inspector's comments at the recent Hunting Gate Appeal would appear to support this view.

B.C.W. concluded that the village must accept development of some sort.

1b. District Councillor's Report. Probably 700 houses would be built within the next three years on the Bene't Farm site (this means 1700 people). The building would hardly begin before 1985/6 because of problems of water supply. This meeting would be the last opportunity to make limited influence on the final decision.

The Structure Plan entails a threefold increase to 4800 people by 1991. The parish had objected and the S.C.D.C. tried to limit the increase to 1700 people at K.P.H.'s instigation but the County Council had refused to certify.

There had been extensive consultation with the parish

from July 1980 to May 1981. The S.C.D.C. needed to agree with the County Council on an alternative growth figure since the Plan put before the County Council in April did not conform to the Structure Plan on the housing allocation. This was the reason therefore for Option C. The County may accept marginally less because of the shortfall of population growth of about 25%. If the County were satisfied the Minister would not intervene but in the case of a dispute locally the Minister would be likely to take a hard line and adhere to the Structure Plan.

Agreement was possible on Option C with the likelihood that the officers would recommend certification to the Development Control Panel of the County Council.

During the previous 14 months the full S.C.D.C. had consistently supported Milton although sadly the Planning Committee had voted for Option B on 15 July.

K.P.H. felt that with the support of the parish he may be able to plead more successfully for Option C at the full S.C.D.C. meeting.

He asked the meeting to put out of their minds any hope of the Parish Council proposal being approved as it had been turned down twice already! The cost of the strip of land would be more than £2 million excluding the trees and the County Council would not certify the Plan as it would mean a reduction in the population of about 1000 people.

The Options A-D were again presented. If Option B were followed Milton could have 3000 extra people and full development by 1991 although this seemed unlikely in view of the recession. If Option C, there would be no more than 2500 people by 1991 or even less again because of the recession. The parish could delay the 3000 people possibly till the turn of the century but not stop them.

If Milton could get a certified Plan on either Option B or C then a Public Inquiry could be held. Then would be the opportunity for the Parish Council to put forward its views on the strip.

K.P.H. reaffirmed the good points of the Plan namely the community facilities although he stressed that it was up to the parish to ensure these facilities materialised.

- 1c. County Councillor's Report. Although not on the Development Control Committee of the County Council, Cllr. J.B. was empowered to attend and speak. He would be able to act on behalf of the Parish Council when the decision goes before the County Council. He hoped that the S.C.D.C. would go for Option C rather than B and as District Councillor for the Histon/Impington area he would support Option C on 23 September.

2. Questions and Comments from the floor.

Mr. D. Jones congratulated the Parish Council on its efforts on the Green Belt but he was concerned that only 5 members voted on such an important issue at the August meeting. The Chairman explained that 5 members were away on holiday*, although R.T.S. pointed out that in November 1981 the voting had been 7 - 1.

*(Two of these councillors are disqualified from taking part in any discussion on the Milton Plan as they have declared an interest - Clerk)

Mrs. Kearney asked if the bank of trees between the development and by-pass was still to be included as in the original Structure Plan. K.P.H. answered that there would be a strip of trees 30 metres wide.

Mr. Langford asked what was the Parish Council's view of jeopardising a certified Plan by putting forward the 100 metre strip proposal since a certified Plan would guarantee proper planning and control of housing. S.B.P. explained the reasons for the M.P.C.'s proposal namely that Option C would not produce 500 fewer people because eventually the whole of Butt Lane would be developed. With the M.P.C.'s proposal therefore there would be 2000 extra people and no more. He felt that the failure of this proposal would not stop certification on Option C and that the compromise of 2500 people was not really a compromise. K.P.H. explained that in August 1980 the M.P.C. had asked for removal of housing north of Butt Lane. The S.C.D.C. had consistently worked to this Plan. Because the County Council had not certified that Plan a compromise to 2500 had been worked out.

Mrs. Jones was also worried about jeopardising the chances of Option C.

R.T.S. commented that there was no difference between B and C in the long term and that the Parish Council were trying to protect the long term interests of the village. He reminded the meeting that in the original Plan 500 people were to be housed in the Nuffield Road area and therefore an increase of 2500 in Milton itself was no compromise. K.P.H. agreed that there was no difference between B and C except C was a delaying action.

Cllr. Miss Hatley commented that K.P.H. had worked harder than anyone she had known from Milton and she asked the meeting to support Option C.

The Rector asked if the M.P.C. proposal would receive certification at County level. B.C.W. explained that outline permission had already been granted at Bene't Farm and that the County would not certify this proposal.

Mr. Heaton wondered if there was any way under Option C of limiting the increase to 2500 by making the area north of the development Green Belt for example. K.P.H. said this was not possible.

The Chairman asked for the comments of Mr. Maddox as he had been a regular attender at S.C.D.C. meetings and had therefore probably formed impressions of how the S.C.D.C. would react.

Mr. Maddox commented that he understood the Parish Council's wishes but their objections had been overruled by people who think they know better. He could not understand however how the Parish Council could achieve what they wanted because of the problems of cost and certification. Only Option B and C would be considered on 23 September and he concluded therefore, albeit reluctantly, that logically the parish should support Option C. He did not agree that there was no difference between B and C since the future is unknown.

The Chairman asked for a proposal from the meeting. Mr. Langford proposed that the meeting support K.P.H. in his request to back Option C. Mr. D. Maddox seconded. A large majority was in favour. K.P.H. commented that he would do his best to overturn the Planning Committee's decision. Cllr. J.B. would also be pleased to support K.P.H.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.23pm.

Signed Beryl C. Watson (D.S.) Chairman .. 26th April .. 1983. Dated