

PARISH OF MILTON

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on
Monday 16 May 2016 at 7.30pm in the
BOWLS PAVILION
COLES ROAD**

AGENDA

- 1 Introduction by Chairman and apologies for absence**
- 2 Introduction of Parish Councillors**
- 3 To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 April 2015
(Appendix I)**
- 4 Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2015/16**
- 5 Charities' report
(Appendix II)**
- 6 Milton Community Centre report
(Appendix III)**
- 7 County Councillor's report
(Appendix IV)**
- 8 District Councillors' reports
(Appendix V and VI)**
- 9 Question and Answer Session**

J E Coston
Chairman Milton Parish Council

APPENDIX I

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13 April 2015 at 8.00pm in the Bowl's Pavilion, Milton

Present: J E Coston (Chair), R J Farrington, G Heaney, H M Smith, R T Summerfield
S E Wilkin, Asst Clerk and David Geasor
County Cllr. M Leeke
6 members of the public

Apologies: A Bradnam – personal, D Stirrups – personal

1. **Introduction by Chairman and apologies for absence:** The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the meeting.
2. **Introduction of Parish Councillors:** The Parish Councillors introduced themselves. The Chair reported that the council are several members short and made an appeal for new members to join.
3. **To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 April 2014:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14 April 2014 were approved and signed.
4. **Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2014/15**
The Chairman's report was circulated and included the following: Your Parish Council needs you, hails and farewells, words of thanks, annual precept, finance and administration committee, helping to keep our village clean, maintenance committee, community care, youth, planning, Milton Community Centre (MCC), North Lodge Park , welcome packs, Parish Office, draft Annual Return.
5. **Charities' Report - Report for the Year to 31/12/2014**

A total of £2,892 was received in rent from tenants who farm on land owned by the Charity.

Investment Income amounted to £566.

The Charity administers 12 Lifeline Alarms for Milton residents and the holders of these alarms provided a total of £360 towards the cost of this facility.

The Charity donated £2,500 during the year to the Community Care Scheme, administered by the Parish Council and £500 towards the cost of tree maintenance within the village. These donations were actually agreed retrospectively, at a meeting held on the 12th March 2015.

Milton Parochial Charities is associated to The Jean Gallagher Trust, who provided the following donations:

- Senior Citizens £500
- Day Centre £600
- Trolley Bus £900

Again, these donations were agreed retrospectively at a meeting held on the 12th March 2015.

Andy Gray
Clerk, Milton Parochial Charities

6. **Milton Community Centre Report**

Bookings

These continue very much as in previous years, with the main building being used most of the time during the day and every week day evening. Saturday night bookings have increased during 2015 and May will be a particularly busy month, as we have a wedding, the Colts Presentation evening, a family party and a Christian gathering on successive Saturdays.

The Annexe continues to be fully occupied by either Cygnets Pre-School or Kids R Us, Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6.00pm, with additional groups using the facilities in the evenings and Saturday mornings. However, Cygnets will re-locate to a new building at Milton Primary School in September 2015. Children's birthday parties are held on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, on average twice a month.

The Youth Building hosts the Youth Club on a Tuesday evening, Young Carers use the facilities every other Saturday morning and Cavalry Chapel uses it in the evening on the first and third Friday of the month.

Maintenance and Improvements

The following work has been carried out during the last year:

- The 5-a-side court has been professionally cleaned
- Gutters on all the buildings have been cleaned out
- High level clean has been carried out in the main hall
- A spectators viewing area has been added to the 3 tennis courts

Milton Football Club have been the driving force behind a planned refurbishment to The Sycamores Pavilion. Hopefully, this work will be carried out within the next few months.

Staff

Besides myself, there are now only 2 staff members – Kevin and Ray, who share some of the cleaning duties and lock the buildings up in the evenings. Linda, our cleaner/key holder of many years, has recently moved on to pastures new, so we are in the process of finding a new member of staff, mainly for weekend duties.

Village Fayre

The new committee have been working tirelessly to ensure that this year's Village Fayre is once again a successful event. All the major attractions have been booked and the stall booking forms can be found in the latest Village View or online at www.miltonfayre.uk

Andy Gray
Community Centre Manager

7. **County Councillor's Report**

The main themes were: less money coming in whilst an increase in population, particular the elderly as well as the very young.

Specific items included:

The Milton to Impington cycle path - ML reported that the School bus for the children will be discontinued as of July. The Parish Council were shocked to learn of this decision and were disappointed at not being previously informed. Questions as to when/if an appeal will be lodged.

City Deal – There will be an emphasis on more public transport and cyclists, although (contrarily) the deal will cut funding for cycle schemes outside Cambridge.

JC thanked ML for his verbal report.

8. **District Councillor's reports**

Hazel Smith

Headings included: The Northern Corridor Area Transport Plan, A14 improvements, City Deal, Road Works on Milton Road, New pedestrian and cycle bridge across the River Cam, Chesterton sidings development, Local Plan Problems, Planning rules change, Section 101A of the Water Services Act 1991, Ermine Street Housing, Lorry Parking on yellow lines beside the cycle bridge, Zombies in the Country Park.

Anna Bradnam

Headings included: SCDC Planning, Tree Preservation Orders, Willow Tree in Recreation Close, Licensing, SCDC Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's Meetings, a TEEP (Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable) Assessment, SCDC Housing Portfolio Holder's Meetings, Milton Air Quality Working Party (MAQWP), Neighbourhood Police Panel Meeting, Speeding, Parking,

9. **Question and Answer Session**

Questions from the public included:

Cambridge North Railway Station: Frustration that planners did not adequately address parking and highways issues. The proposed car park for the station is too small. Road congestion problems already exist and will only be exacerbated.

North Lodge Park: JC gave a comprehensive update, including background, on the development. JC noted that the pavilion is nearing completion and the football pitches should be seeded shortly. JC noted problems with having South Cambs District Council enforce the terms of the S106 Agreement on the parish's behalf. JC also applauded the parish council's

decision to engage professionals to liaise with the developer concerning the football pitches and pavilion to ensure that the village receives the best possible facilities. Anomalies were noted concerning tree works and other landscaping issues in the lake area. HS, JC and the Clerk's Office to ensure that anomalies are brought to the attention of SCDC officers. It was also noted that maintenance for all areas other than the football pitches and pavilion will be conducted by a private management committee.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Signed.....Date.....

APPENDIX II

Milton Parochial Charities - Report for the Year to 31/12/2015

A total of £2892 was received in rent from tenants who farm on land owned by the Charity.

Investment Income amounted to £519.

The Charity administers 9 Lifeline Alarms for Milton residents and the holders of these alarms provided a total of £375 towards the cost of this facility.

The Charity donated £2500 during the year to the Community Care Scheme, administered by the Parish Council and £500 towards the cost of tree maintenance within the village.

Andy Gray
Clerk, Milton Parochial Charities
20th April 2016

APPENDIX III

MCC Managers Report for Parish Council APM, May 2016

Bookings

These continue very much as in previous years, with the main building being used most of the time during the day and every week day evening. Weekends are also very busy, even though Saturday night parties are not so popular.

The Annexe continues to be used by Kids-R-U's, before and after school or all day during school holidays. It is also used for children's entertainment (Mr Melody) on a Wednesday morning and for children's dance on Friday + Saturday mornings. Children's birthday parties are held on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, on average twice a month.

The Youth Building hosts the Youth Club on a Tuesday evening, Young Carers use the facilities every other Wednesday afternoon and Cavalry Chapel use it in the evening on the first and third Friday of the month.

Maintenance and Improvements

The following work has been carried out during the last year:

- The changing rooms at the Sycamores Pavilion have been completely refurbished
- The damaged high level barrier at the Sycamores Recreation Ground has been replaced
- There are new tables and chairs in the Annexe
- The 3 tennis/netball courts have been professionally cleaned

Staff

Besides myself, there are 3 staff members – Kevin, Ray and Philip, who share some of the cleaning duties and lock the buildings up in the evenings and at weekends.

Village Fayre

In the absence of a Village Fayre Committee, this event will not take place this year

Andy Gray
Community Centre Manager
20th April 2016

APPENDIX IV

County Councillor's Report to Milton Annual Parish Meeting 16/5/16

For my report this year I thought I would mention three very different topics.

Cambridge North Railway Station. Despite its name this new railway station will be almost entirely in Milton parish. Hazel Smith, Anna Bradnam and I visited the site last month. Work is progressing and is on course for the station to open in May next year. It will have three platforms which will be accessed by a bridge from the booking hall, served by stairs and lifts. The new lift shafts are the most prominent features that can be seen at present. When it is open it will have 450 car parking spaces in addition to spaces for 1,000 bicycles. It is anticipated that the London trains which currently terminate at Cambridge will terminate at Cambridge North when the station is open. Hazel Smith and I have been attending the meetings of the Liaison Group which has been considering the access arrangements for the station for the last 18 months.

County Council Budget. For several years the County Council's budget has been "capped". This means that the total the County Council was allowed to spend was limited by the Government. So the County Council could only decide how to apportion that total across different services – if it wanted to spend more on one thing, it had to spend less on something else. This year, at a marathon 12-hour meeting, the council has broken new ground by deciding to set a budget below the capping limit. Although we are six weeks into the new financial year it is still unclear quite how the council will manage to balance the books – with the detail of the cuts to road gritting and community transport, for example, not yet finally decided. While I expect that it will be the reductions in highways maintenance and road gritting that will be most noticeable to the majority of people, I fear that it will be cuts to personal care for older people and services for vulnerable children and their families that will have the greatest impact.

Devolution. Perhaps the most topical issue for Cambridgeshire local councils at the moment is devolution. This is the proposal that some of the things that the Government does at present could be decided upon closer to the people they affect. For over a year the Government have been talking to local councils in Norfolk and Suffolk about their idea for a combined authority for the two counties, with an elected mayor. This does seem a bit top-heavy to many people when there are already county, district and parish councils. To nearly everyone's surprise there was an announcement in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's budget that this devolution deal was to include, in a single combined authority with a single elected mayor, not just Norfolk and Suffolk but also Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. No twelve months of discussion for us ! To say that this has not gone down very well would be an understatement. Cambridge City Council has said that it doesn't want anything to do with it. The County Council voted nearly unanimously to say that it was unacceptable. Many councillors in Norfolk and Suffolk are also unhappy with the current proposal. It is not at all clear where this will all lead. One suggestion is that there should be two combined authorities, one for Norfolk and Suffolk and another for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with two mayors. Many people do not like the idea of elected mayors and the extra layers of local governance that they imply – suggesting that if it is decided to go down that route one layer of councils, counties or districts, should be abolished altogether. I think it is a case of "watch this space" to see what we end up with.

Maurice Leeke

APPENDIX V & VI

District Councillors' Reports – Annual Parish Meeting 2016 – Hazel Smith & Anna Bradnam

This year the work of the council seems to have taken second place to all the area-wide initiatives and partnership working that are being put forward by the government and brought in locally to save money.

The plan for **devolution** for the East of England is something the government would dearly like us to sign up to. They are pushing for a 4-county area with an elected mayor in charge, to deal with road and rail improvements and development planning over not only Cambridgeshire and Peterborough but also Norfolk and Suffolk. This huge area has nothing in common and the City council and local business representatives are not in favour. However, the Tory Leader of South Cambs District Council signed up to continue talking about it, and the decision will be made by a vote at a full Council meeting of South Cambs DC in June.

The other large issue is **boundary changes**. The Boundary Commission insisted that we reduce the number of councillors (in spite of the fact that we have massive growth in the area), so the number of councillors at South Cambs DC will go down from 57 to 45 in 2018 when we next have elections. All our elections will then be all-up elections of all the councillors together, a change from the current system of election-by-thirds. For us here it means our ward of Milton with 2 councillors will become part of a huge 3-member ward of Waterbeach and Milton, including also Landbeach and Chittering. The division for the County Council elections next year, 2017, is even bigger, including also Fen Ditton and Horningsea, to elect one County Councillor.

The **City Deal** has yet to achieve anything much: they are talking about improvements to Milton Road at the moment, and they have grand schemes for more guided busways out to Cambourne, and possibly also to Waterbeach once the new big development there starts.

Shared services

South Cambs has cut costs by sharing Building Control, Legal and IT services with Huntingdon DC and Cambridge City. Staff are not happy with the change, in which none of these 3 services will be headed up by SCDC. Our own Monitoring Officer will be employed by Cambridge City Council. Terms and conditions are different in the 3 councils and we are anxious that we have already lost long-serving and valued staff because of the way this is being handled.

Waste collection is integrated with Cambridge City, and Payroll and Internal Audit have been shared for some time. Planning is also in the melting pot, and South Cambs will be the lead authority in that difficult area.

The big plan for **A14 improvements** will include work to put in a third lane only as far as Milton and a dedicated left-turn lane from the A14 towards Ely, and to put in 3 lanes on the roundabout going South (only) across the A14. This got the go-ahead from planners last week.

In April Maurice, Anna and I visited the Network Rail office in Cowley Road, and walked down to look at the **new station** which we could see would be built quite fast with a long bridge across the railway to the further platforms. This is due to open in May 2017. Our parishioners on Fen Road Chesterton have got used to long closures of the railway while the work on the track is going on. There were 2 weekend closures in November and earlier this year, and Network Rail's agents Volker Fitzpatrick seem to have handled these pretty well, talking to the Travellers personally in advance.

The **new pedestrian and cycle bridge** across the River Cam just North East of the railway bridge at Chesterton Fen will be submitted for planning permission very soon. This will be part of the long-term project to build the 'Chisholm Trail' from the Science Park and new station across to the

Chesterton sidings development (CNFE)

Once the station comes there will be a big incentive to develop the rest of the Network Rail land that was Chesterton Sidings. We have heard no more of Anglian Water's plans to reduce the size of the sewage works, but they have installed new treatment tanks which should mean fewer foul smells from that direction.

Landfill Liaison Meetings

Anna and Hazel have continued meeting regularly with FCC who manage the landfill site: they have got their systems under much better control now, so the smells from that direction should also be consigned to history. The amount of material going to landfill is now so greatly reduced that they do not expect to have to extend their planning permission again, and will close before 2020, maybe even as early as 2018. FCC will continue to have responsibility for maintaining the site, and it will continue to generate electricity as it does now from the drawn-off landfill gas for some decades.

Local Plan Problems

The Cambridge and South Cambs Local Plans are still in the middle of their inspection phase. Last summer the inspectors from the Planning Inspectorate asked for more work to be done, which was completed in the autumn. There are now more sessions of the Inquiry. While the plan is waiting to be adopted it is a green light for developers to put forward plans which would not normally be approved, and a lot of this is going on. The idea that Waterbeach would only be developed from 2026 once Northstowe was well under way has been dropped and both Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield new towns may be started far sooner.

Ermine Street Housing is a new property management company, wholly owned by South Cambridgeshire District Council, which is buying selling and renting properties in the private sector. Following a £7m pilot scheme, the District Council agreed in November to put in another £100m. The idea is to make some money in order to support running council services in the long run, when government funding for local councils is expected to fall to nothing. As well as 30 ex-army houses at Waterbeach they are leasing over 100 at Brampton. They have also bought over 40 houses both in the area and further afield, so far.

The **Council house building** programme is slowing down massively: we had hoped to be able to use spare money from council house rents to be able to start building with an expectation of 30 council houses a year. However the government has thwarted this initiative after only 42 have been built, because instead of rents being raised gradually to the level of housing association property rents, council house rents must now reduce by 1% a year for 4 years. This means the spare money is no longer there in council budgets. In addition South Cambs DC will be forced to sell its most expensive council houses when they come empty in order to fund the 'right-to-buy' that is being extended to Housing Associations (reducing even further the numbers of affordable rented properties).

The house prices are so high around here, that what is needed is rented properties. At 80% of the 'market price' the government's much trumpeted Starter Homes will be unaffordable to most young people round here. They say that in Northstowe instead of 20% affordable (mostly rented) housing they will have 40% Starter Homes. We wonder who will be able to afford to buy them.

Cycle path widening beside the Jane Coston cycle bridge

The work on the cycle path is nearly complete now – once the new street lights have been put in there should be some bollards to go in, and some road markings to make the crossing safer.

One of the remaining initiatives from kinder times was the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership. The Council still has officers who enjoy this work and has bought 3 new digital **thermal cameras** which are available for parishes to borrow, to enable residents to look at their homes and improve their thermal efficiency, identifying gaps in insulation, draughts, etc. We borrowed a camera during one of the coldest weeks of the winter and 15 local people had a go at looking at their houses. The Council is also still working through a programme of improvements to insulation in council houses,

and has put in air-source heat pumps, and solar panels through a rent-a-roof scheme. If you have an issue that we may be able to help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If we can't help directly we are likely to know someone who can. We would like to thank all the serving parish councillors and others who help us, and the clerks for their help and cooperation.

Hazel and Anna

