

Milton Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Parish Report 2017/18



There are so many benefits to living in Milton. We are a bypassed village close to the A14, the Park and Ride and the Guided Busway, the Cambridge North Railway Station and the Science Park. We are within easy reach of the beautiful city centre and the famous colleges, universities and grounds. We also have Milton Country Park and the river to enjoy.

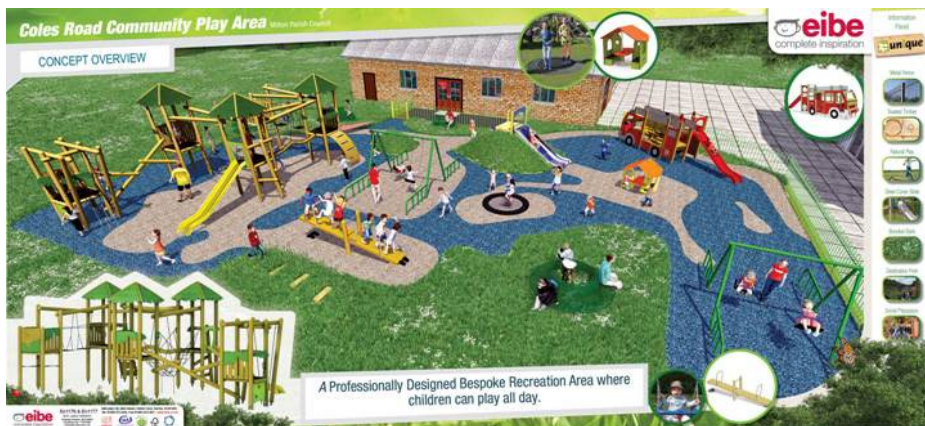
We have local shops, fast food outlets a doctors surgery and a post office as well as four pubs. Milton Primary School is well respected and so is our local secondary school, Impington Village College, to which there is a free school bus for most Milton residents. There is also a local village magazine which is delivered free to all residents as well as the village website and news system, all run by volunteers.

The Parish Council owns Tomkins Mead Nature Reserve and most of the open spaces and play areas in Milton. We have a well run Community Centre and 3 recreation grounds, tennis courts and a bowls green all managed for us by the Community Centre Charity. It is a very active village with many local groups and societies meeting in the village. I hope the following will give you some idea of the sorts of activities the parish council are busy managing to try to ensure Milton remains a pleasant place to live.

New Play Area in Coles Road to go ahead

I am absolutely delighted to announce that Milton Parish Council has gained grants and donations totalling £99,697 to cover the cost of replacing the play area by the Community Centre in Coles Road.

This is a fantastic achievement and is all down to the work of a small group of volunteers who joined the Parish Council Play Working Party in 2016.



Plan of new play area for Coles Road Recreation Ground

Our Clerk, Sarah Corder, has also done a brilliant job of applying for grants and liaising with the grant funders to achieve the best outcome.

The Play Working Party first started to review what was already on all seven play areas in the village and plan a program of improvements and replacements as much of the equipment is now over 30 years old. They decided to replace the play area at Coles Road first as this is the most used play area in the village, being next to the Community Centre and the centre of many activities. They drew up ideas and contacted companies for quotes and with the plans from those companies they carried out a consultation on three plans. This summer we will see the installation of this new exciting play area. Well done to everyone.



Joint funded mobile speed indicator

We were offered the opportunity to jointly fund a speed activated sign with Landbeach and Waterbeach for use in all three villages. I am pleased to say this has now been purchased and a timetable has been agreed for when it will be available in Milton. This is a battery operated sign and can be installed in various locations. You will soon see it in operation – watch for it.

War memorial cleaned

The War memorial is now looking clean as the Parish Council agreed to have a specialised contractor give it a clean and submit a report on its condition.

Youth Club

We now have a contract with the Connections Bus Project to run a Youth Club at the Youth Building on the Sycamores Recreation Ground. It has taken a huge effort by all involved and in particular, Cllr. Hazel Smith, to find a contractor to take on this work when the County Council announced that they were discontinuing this service. Without this work the Youth Club would have had to close. Youth Club is Tuesday evenings during Term Time from 6.30pm – 8pm

A10 trees responsibility next to the Parish Council Allotments

Cllr Anna Bradnam, Cllr Adam Horne and I have spent a considerable amount of time meeting with the County Council and arguing with them over the ownership and responsibility for the trees bounding our property alongside the A10. We are determined to prove that the trees are not our property and we are therefore not responsible for their maintenance. Recently a tree has fallen on our boundary fence and we contacted them to have it removed and to ask them also to repair our fence.

Milton Trolley Bus

We run a fortnightly minibus to Tesco for our elderly and infirm who need this service. This is a service that is valued by all those who need and use it and

is supported by a grant from Milton Charities.

Community Care

We manage a community care scheme which is for village residents. The Parish Council receives grants from both the Milton Charities and South Cambs District Council towards the running costs of this scheme. The users of the scheme also pay a small charge. There are not many villages in the area that run this type of scheme and we are very proud of the work that is done to help our residents who need the support.

Planning

When a Milton planning application is received by South Cambs District Council they send a copy to us to consider and comment on. May I thank Cllr Rob Farrington who is Chairman of this committee as he often spends a considerable amount of time looking at planning applications and visiting the locations to help advise the committee when they are considering any comments they may wish to make.

Fen Road development

The developers have now put in a planning application to build 36 affordable homes on land off Fen Road beyond Goding Way. The Parish Council considered this application and has raised several concerns, the main one being the historic importance of the site.

Waterbeach Development

Although Milton is not directly affected by the proposed development of 11,500 new homes and the proposed relocation of Waterbeach Railway Station, Parish Councillors are attending the Forum Meetings where they receive updates on the plans and feed back any comments or concerns. We will be affected by any changes to the A10 so we are keen to hear what is being proposed to deal with the extra traffic as well as ideas to improve public transport and cycling routes. Unfortunately the A10 study is not now due to report back until late 2019.

Website

We now have a revamped Parish Website www.miltonvillage.org.uk that has been designed by Cllr. Adam Horne. I would like to thank Adam for all his work designing the new look website and Paul Oldham (who has now left the village) for all his work over many years running our first website.

Maintenance

The main areas that this committee has been working on are: making sure our play areas are maintained and repaired, overseeing work on the allotments as well as grass cutting, and tree and bush maintenance on land we own. Cllr. Adam Horne is often out in the village looking into maintenance issues that have been raised with the council.

Income and Expenditure

■ Milton Community Centre grant
■ Staff & RFO
■ Play areas & Nature reserve
■ Grass cutting, allotments & tree work
■ Office subscriptions training
■ Other
■ Youth Club
■ Youth Building



We received £174,943 in precept, grants and fees and spent it in the areas shown as pie chart. (Net figures)



Youth Building and Pavilion



Bus stops

To Cambridge

The Sycamores
Recreation
Ground, Pavilion
Youth Building
Play Area and Fitness
equipment



Seats & bins

Jane Coston cycle &
footbridge to Cambridge



Parish Council Office



Milton Community Centre and Annexe



Land and property owned and maintained by Milton Parish Council

Note - North Lodge Pavilion and Recreation Ground, The Sycamores Pavilion and Recreation Ground and Coles Road Recreation Ground and associated buildings are leased to Milton Community Centre Management Committee.



Land owned by Cambridgeshire County Council (mostly grass verges) but maintained by Milton Parish Council under a contract arrangement.

Contractors

We employ several contractors, some on a yearly contract and some for specific projects and advice,

We have a grounds maintenance contract with Buchans who we are very pleased with. They maintain our open spaces, recreation grounds, allotments and verges. We also contract in some financial support from accountant, Griffith Kinsman who oversees pay and pensions for our staff and keeps us up to date on our spending trends and budgets. Our bus shelter windows are cleaned by another contracted service and we contract out our Youth Club service to Connection Bus Project. In addition we contract in legal advice including HR advice, cover for our Community Care Warden and Surveyor advice when needed. Our councillors oversee and review the work of these contractors on a regular basis.

Parish Staff and volunteers

The Parish Council has four part time members of staff: our clerk Sarah Corder working 20 hours a week, Office Support, John Barrett who has recently been appointed on an add-hoc basis, Village Cleaner Philip Adams who works 9 hours a week as well as a small band of volunteer village Litter Pickers who regularly meet and litter pick specific problem areas, and Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon who works 25 hours a week. I am grateful to all our staff and volunteers who do a fantastic job.

Committees

We meet in the Bowls Pavilion and our main meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the month - see our website and notice boards for a full list.

Finance Committee – Chaired by Hazel Smith

Planning Committee – Chairman Rob Farrington

Maintenance Committee – Chaired by Adam Horne

Community Care Committee – Chaired by Hazel Smith

Staffing Committee – Chaired by Anna Bradnam

Working Groups

Play Working Group, Milton Air Quality (Anglian Water Liaison Group, Landfill Liaison).

Specific Responsibility Roles

Footpath Officer, Press Officer, Tomkins Mead and Tree Warden, Trolley Bus

Representatives Appointed for these

Anglian Water Liaison Group, Landfill Liaison, Milton Charities, Patient Participation Group, Milton Primary School Liaison

Future Challenges

- Updating more of our play equipment - finding funding, planning and consulting on replacement equipment
- Sourcing additional recreation space - we are still under the standard for land for sports activities
- Spending £50,000 of ring fenced arts funding from a developer on an art related project(s)
- Waterbeach development including roads and infrastructure pressures - considering the planning details and responding
- Continuing to provide services over and above the minimum

Thank you to Richard Summerfield

Richard Summerfield has decided not to stand for re-election this year. Richard joined Milton Parish Council in 1967 and although he took a two year break from council some 30 years ago has served on the Parish Council for almost 50 years. During his time on the Council he was Chairman for two periods and for many years was Chairman of Planning and Chairman of Finance.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Richard for his knowledge of finances and his time and commitment to the Parish Council. Thank you Richard for all the work you have done over many years.

Thank you to all Parish Councillors including those who stood down during the past year and those who have not sought re-election this May. Thank you also to Gary Heaney who has stood down for his work as Chairman of Maintenance. Thank you to our Tree Warden Bob Waters who has been of great help over the years advising us where work needs to be carried out. Also thank you to those who manage Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds. We are also very grateful to our County Councillor and District Councillor Anna Bradnam and District Councillor Hazel Smith for all the work they do.

Future

There was no election this year for Milton Parish Councillors as only 8 nominations were received by the District Council for the 15 positions. I am confident these eight people will work hard to continue the good work on behalf of the village without which only a minimum service would be provided by the District Council. Please consider joining us so we can ensure the future of the council who with local volunteers and knowledge have served this village well over 124 years providing services at a local level.

Jane Coston BEM
Chairman of Milton Parish Council



Parish Office Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday: 10am-12noon

If you wish to visit the Parish Office outside these opening hours, please

Telephone 861447 or email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Address: Parish Office, Coles Road, Milton, Cambs CB24 6BL

Website: <http://www.miltonvillage.org.uk/>

MILTON PARISH COUNCILLORS (from 3rd May)

Anna Bradnam, Jane Coston (Chair), Rob Farrington, Adam Horne,
Tom Leavens, David Owen, Hazel Smith, Don Wildman

Annual Return DRAFT Statement of Accounts as at 31st March 2018

		31.03.2017	31.03.2018
1	Balance brought forward	369834	394179
2	Precept	129000	125000
3	Total other receipts	78977	49943
4	Staff costs	-29517	-35491
5	Loan interest / capital repayments	nil	nil
6	Total Other Payments	-154115	-123334
7	Balances carried forward	394179	410297
8	Total value of cash and short term investments	394831	410297
9	Total fixed assets plus long term investments	190693	190693
10	Total borrowings	nil	nil
11	Trust Funds	nil	nil