

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 29 April 2019 at 7.30p.m in the Bowl's Pavilion, Coles Road, Milton

Present: J E Coston (Chair), R J Farrington, H M Smith, A Horne, D Owen, D Wildman, T Leavens, A Bradnam (arrived 7:55pm), J Rippeth (District Councillor - arrived 7:55pm)

In attendance: S Corder (Clerk), E Taylor (Office assistant)
3 members of the public

1. **Introduction by Chairman and apologies for absence:** The Chairman extended a warm welcome to everyone present at the meeting.
Apologies: None – all present
2. **Introduction of Parish Councillors:** The Parish Councillors introduced themselves. The Chair reported that the council now have 8 members of the 12 needed and made an appeal for new members to join.
3. **To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 April 2018:**
RF Proposed to accept the minutes - DW Seconded (TL Abstain). **AGREED.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 30 April 2018 were approved and signed.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2018/19**

Chairman's Annual Parish Report including draft accounts 2018/19 - Jane Coston BEM

We have had another extremely busy year. We have successfully installed £100,000 play area on Coles Road Recreation Ground, installed 3 new war memorial seats close to the war memorial, and a grit bin on school ground beside the footpath in But Lane, evicted a group of travellers who broke in and parked on football pitches at North Lodge Park, installed barriers and replaced the road access at the allotments for safety reasons as well as continuing to provide a range of services. We also were successful in getting a grant of £7,000 to fund some highway improvements and we consulted you about the A10 bridge and listened to your views. Additionally, we are delighted to have been given an excellent report from our internal auditors. We are also very pleased to have been invited to apply for Five Star Status.

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.

Mobile speed indicator - We purchased this indicator jointly with the Parish Councils of Landbeach and Waterbeach. It is a battery-operated sign and is moved by a small group of volunteers to various locations. Report received and noted: typical average speeds are 25mph and speeding rates are 1%. At village boundaries, typical average speeds are 26mph, but speeding rates are 9%. Average speeder is 38mph. Peak traffic hours are typically 7-8am and 4-5pm. Thank you to everyone who is involved

New Play Area in Coles Road - The new play equipment on Coles Road Recreation Ground was installed during July last year and continues to be extremely popular. We were delighted to be awarded grants and donations totalling £99,697 to cover the cost. This is a fantastic achievement and is all down to the work of a small group of volunteers - Sarah Corder, Jane Coston, Will Munns, Edel Gower, Joelle Garden and Alison McKeegan who joined the Parish Council Play Working Party in 2016. Our Clerk, Sarah Corder, also did a brilliant job gaining grants from WREN who awarded us £70,697 and Amey who awarded us £23,200 from the Amey Community Fund (both WREN and Amey are part of the Landfill Communities Fund). We also received private donations from E Gower and A McKeegan. Well done to everyone.

Play Area improvements - Froment Way and Sycamores Rec - More play equipment has been ordered for Froment Way to replace equipment that had become unsafe. The two ride on springers in this area will be repainted. Again, a grant has been applied for towards the cost of this work. Installation is planned to go ahead before the school summer holidays. The Clerk is also looking into grants for improving the Sycamores Recreation Ground play area with a new slide and some replacement equipment.

Maintenance - The main areas that this committee has been working on are: making sure our play areas are maintained, repaired and updated and supporting the work of the Play Working Party. The Maintenance Committee also planned improvements on the allotments including arranging for safety improvements to the entrance and roadway. The maintenance contract was updated this year and tenders were sought for grass cutting, tree and bush maintenance on land we own or maintain. The group also review the policies of the cemetery and are looking into improving the entrance and roadway.

A10 trees responsibility next to the Parish Council Allotments - When a tree on the A10 fell on our boundary fence by the allotments we contacted the County Council to ask them to remove it and also to repair the fence. We were surprised when they claimed it was our tree. 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. Eventually we engaged a solicitor and arranged for a survey to be done. We now have evidence that the tree was the responsibility of the County and hope that this issue will soon be resolved, and they will cover the costs we have incurred. It is important that we are not held responsible for this tree and all the other trees on the A10 by our boundary as this would cause us

to incur considerable costs maintaining them.

Fen Road development - The development proposal for this site has not gone ahead due to the site being extremely important historically. Milton Parish Council were also successful in their application to Historic England to have the site registered.

Development at Waterbeach and the Sewage works - Although Milton is not directly affected by the proposed development of 11,000 new homes at Waterbeach and the huge similar sized proposed development on the sewage works site, we will be affected by any changes to the local roads as well as the impact of more people in the area. We are responding to consultations, unfortunately the A10 study is delayed.

JEC also covered the following Committees and activities: Community Care, Planning, Youth Club, Website, Milton Trolley Bus - minibus to Tesco for our elderly and infirm.

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 a Surveyor 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, Elaine Taylor who has recently been appointed on an ad-hoc basis, Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon who works 25 hours a week and 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. I am grateful to all our staff and volunteers who do a fantastic job.

Thank you to all Parish Councillors including Colin Duff who stood down recently. Thank you also to all our councillors who I am pleased to say have stood for re-election this year. 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 Councillors Hazel Smith and Judith Rippeth for all the work they do.

Future Challenges - Updating more of our play equipment, sourcing additional recreation space, spending 46,000 of ring-fenced arts funding, Waterbeach and the sewage works developments.

Keeping Milton Special – JEC mentioned some of the benefits of living in Milton and close to the City: bypassed village, the Park and Ride, the Guided Busway, the Cambridge North Railway Station and the Science Park, Milton Country Park, the river, local shops, fast food outlets, a doctors surgery, a post office, two churches and four pubs, Mobile Library, Milton Primary School, Impington Village College with free school bus for most Milton residents, local village magazine, village website and news system, Tomkins Mead Nature Reserve, the allotments, the cemetery and most of the open spaces and play areas, the Community Care Warden, minibus to Tesco for elderly and infirm. Also, the Community Centre and 3 recreation grounds, tennis courts and a bowls green all managed for us by the Community Centre Charity. Many local groups and societies meet in the village.

Could you be a Parish Councillor? - If you would like to help keep Milton special why not consider applying to join us on the Parish Council. We have a whole new challenge coming as the huge developments take shape at Waterbeach and on the sewage site, each with more homes than Ely.

Future - Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary position. There was no election this year for Milton Parish Councillors as only 8 nominations were received by the District Council for the 12 positions (reduced this year from 15).

I am not seeking re-election as Chairman as I have now been Chairman for two periods of 5 years. During the past 5 years I have seen through many projects including the acquisition and development of the new pavilion and recreation ground at North Lodge Park as well as supporting and training a new clerk.

A full copy of this report will be printed in the Milton Village View.

JEC thanked the Parish Councillors, including those who stood down during the past year for all they had done over the last year and recent years as it had been a very busy time. JEC also thanked those who manage Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds. JEC also made a plea for more people to join the Parish Council.

5. Charities' Report - Report for the Year to 31/12/2018

A report was received from Andy Gray, Clerk, Milton Parochial Charities as follows:

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

Investment Income amounted to £508.

The Charity no longer provides any Lifeline Alarms for local residents

The Charity donated £2000 during the year to the Parish Council Community Care Scheme, £500 towards the cost of tree maintenance within the village and £257 for the Community Café room hire, which is run by Milton Surgery PPG.

6. Milton Community Centre Report

Milton Community Centre report received from Andy Gray, Community Centre Manager as follows;

Bookings: These continue very much as in previous years, with the main building being used most of the time during the day and every weekday evening. Weekends are also very busy, although 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 every evening Monday to Thursday + Saturday mornings by various different groups.

Children's birthday parties are held on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, on average twice a month.

The Youth Building is home to Eddies Artworks (part of Edmund Trust) every weekday from 9.00am to 4.00pm, the Youth Club is on a Tuesday evening during term time and Young Carers use the facilities every other Wednesday evening.

North Lodge Pavilion is used by Milton Colts and Milton Cricket Club at weekends. It is also used on Wednesday mornings by IVC for an adult French Class, Inland Waterways hire it every couple of months for evening meetings and occasionally it is used for birthday parties (adults and children) at weekends.

Maintenance and Improvements: The following work has been carried out during the last year: The Annexe windows have all been replaced as they were showing signs of rot, All the lights in the Annexe have been replaced with LED's, which are safer, brighter and more efficient, Loft insulation has been installed in Community Centre rooms 1 & 2 with the aid of a grant from SCDC, The spotlights in the Community Centre have been upgraded to LED's

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.

RF reported that the facilities are very well used. North Lodge and The Youth Building room hire is available. JEC thanked the MCC for running the centre for the village.

7. Milton Action for Youth

The Accounts for the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 were tabled with a report from The Connection Bus Project.

HMS reported that the Youth Club accounts at CBS has £73.93 balance left as of 1 April 2019. Note: Youth Club expenses are now provided for by the Connection Bus Project who run our Youth Club. They bill the Parish Council termly.

Reports: Activities included playing chess, the cube, table tennis, pool, air hockey, making cookies, toast, burgers and pizzas.

Conversation topics included: school, music, relationships, drink & drugs, sleep, showering & personal hygiene, diets, staying safe and the police.

Overview: Attendance figures are disappointing this term, but the session has clashed with the Generation Game course that has been running in Histon (week 2 to week 11) that some of the young people attended. We will be contacting the primary school at the beginning of the summer term to help promote to the year 6s and allow them to start attending as soon as possible. This should then give us a good cohort ready for the return after the summer holidays.

The lower numbers have meant that the young people have more opportunity to spend time in conversation with youth workers which is reflected in the personal nature some of these have taken.

8. County Councillor's Report from Anna Bradnam

The County Councillor's report was tabled, the main topics being: **Structure of the County Council:**

County Council responsibilities: Social services to children and young people, older people, people with mental health problems, physical and learning disabilities, planning of school places, coordinated Early Years provision, nurseries etc; libraries, road maintenance, road safety measures, overall transport strategy, growth and wider development issues, trading standards, waste disposal and recycling centres. **Council Tax:** For the coming year 2019/20, the Council agreed on 2% increase for adult social care plus 2.99% for other services.

Services for older people: The Council aims to enable more people to live longer in their own homes and to be supported there, rather than going into sheltered accommodation or residential care.

Communities: The unpopular charge imposed for using computers in libraries has now been scrapped. The council has engaged a group called CIVIC to work on repositioning Cambridgeshire libraries at the centre of local communities. **Transport and Highways:** Road and footpath maintenance and repair are a source of concern and complaint from residents. Whilst really dangerous potholes are repaired quickly, those not meeting the criteria are put onto rotational review. **Planning:** Amey has recently submitted an appeal, which will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate and a recommendation made to the Secretary of State. The county council has also been moving forward with its consultation on the review of the Minerals and Waste Plan. **Education:** All secondary schools in Cambridgeshire are now academies which means that the Council has no jurisdiction over them. The funding which previously came to the County, now goes directly to the academy trusts but the County still has a responsibility to provide enough school places.

School meals continue to be provided free for all infant school pupils. **Combined Authority:** Since May 2017 there has been a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority with James Palmer (Con.) as Mayor. The CPCA comprises Peterborough City Council (a unitary authority), the District Councils of Huntingdonshire, Fenland, East Cambs and South Cambs as well as Cambridge City, and the County Council. **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** The GCP undertook its Choices for Better Journeys consultation in 2019. This seeks views on public transport, and on options to reduce traffic congestion in Cambridge, to improve public transport capacity and to reduce air pollution. **Local Government:** The structure and funding of local government is changing. We have recent evidence of this; Northamptonshire County Council collapsed financially, and Cambridgeshire CC imposed a 1.2% salary cut on its employees last year by requiring unpaid leave over the Christmas holiday. There is clearly an expectation that services will be 'transformed' and local groups (parish councils and voluntary groups) will come to the rescue of those people in the greatest need.

The Future? The County Council has started work on assessing the risks of leaving the EU and is putting in place measures to minimise them. The County Council's Audit and Accounts Committee has considered a report on the potential local impact. It listed 16 potential risks, of which 10 have been scored as having potentially high or very high impact should they come into effect. The highest risk issues are: Workforce recruitment and retention, Ensuring EU citizens are fully informed, Community reactions, including increased community tensions, Impact on council finances should there be a negative national financial reaction, Interruption to supplies and services, including medicines and fuel, Impact on travel and road infrastructure caused by disruption to and from ports

Q: What has the Mayor delivered in the last 2 years:

A: AB – Could not give a definitive answer

9. District Councillor's reports from Anna Bradnam, Hazel Smith and Judith Rippeth 2018/19

The main headings: **District Council** – The political landscape changed in May 2018 when the Liberal Democrats won control of the Council. Milton & Waterbeach now have three district councillors, down from four. It is more work for us, but costs residents less. Hazel is the Lead Cabinet Member for Housing and Health, and Anna is Vice-Chairman of Council, and chairs the Licensing Committee. In the spirit of co-operation, we appointed an Independent Councillor as Council Chairman, and for good governance, appointed a Conservative as Chairman of the Scrutiny Group.

We have created a very ambitious 5-year **Business Plan** for 2019 to 2024. Handy versions are available online here <https://www.scams.gov.uk/businessplan> and in hard copy. The four key priority areas for us are: **Growing local businesses and economies, Housing that is affordable for everyone to live in, Being green to our core, A modern and caring Council.**

"My South Cambs Portal:" web-based customer portal has gone live. It will enable resident to access council services easily and quickly, enabling us to save money on printing papers and postage.

The budget: that we inherited for the 2018/19 year had a £450,000 hole in it. We have been able to restore that funding without reducing services. The council no longer receives any money from central government, so has to raise its own funding to provide services. In summary, the total service expenditure for 2019/20 is projected to be £20.2 million, of which £9.1 million will be raised from council tax. Housing and the cost of it continues to be a challenge. We are aiming to meet this by building 70 **new council houses** a year, and more where possible. We have drafted a new Housing Strategy, looking at provision of variety of types of housing including for downsizing, single people etc. We're also supporting self-builders and making plots available: the first was at Benet Close, Milton.

Local action

JR and AB worked tirelessly in combination with the Waterbeach Cycling Campaign to press County Highways to carry out essential improvements to the **A10 cycle path** between Milton and Waterbeach. The path was 'sided-back' in October which has in places doubled its width.

Waterbeach Greenway project: which completed its consultation last year and received much public support will provide far more pleasant routes into Cambridge.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to make it more pedestrian and cyclist focused, supported by far improved public transport connections. It is essential that we make these truly viable alternatives to using private cars, especially for short journeys.

South Cambs Local Plan: since this was adopted in September, we have been able to demonstrate a Five Year Land Supply which helps to ensure that developments happen in the right places, reducing the threat of speculative and inappropriate development, although sadly this has come too late for Waterbeach.

Residents from surrounding villages have been invited to attend and contribute to the regular **Waterbeach New Town Community Liaison Forum** meetings, which AB chairs.

The Waterbeach SPD was adopted by Cabinet in February 2019 which provides another level of guidance and holds legal weight but sits underneath the Local Plan. Urban and Civic's Outline Application for the western half of the new town is due to be heard at Planning Committee in May.

Landbeach Tithe Barn Trust has recently signed a lease with SCDC and has been granted listed building consent for essential repairs. The Trust now has legal status and is able to apply to larger grant funds.

Reducing our use of plastics: JR recently visited Milton CE Primary School to teach Years 4-6 pupils about the importance of reducing our use of plastics and also to pass on the message about more effective recycling.

Cambridge North railway station is now well-used, and the area between the railway and Milton Road is to become a new high-density quarter of Cambridge. Cycling routes will be improved when the **new bridge over the River Cam** is built later this year, linking the new station to Newmarket Road. The Cambridge Science Park is also being redeveloped at a higher density, and a new way of living, with less reliance on the motor car is going to be important here. Government funding has been secured to move the sewage works and we expect a public consultation this year to decide on a new site.

Liaison meetings with FCC who run the Milton landfill. The site has been in the spotlight in 2018, with the sad and ultimately fruitless search for the body of Corrie McKeague, and then the landfill fire in October. Close liaison with the Environment Agency has ensured that odour control had been a lot better this year. The operator has planning permission until 2020 but as recycling rates increase and less waste goes to landfill, they are asking to extend this to 2026, in order to complete filling the void to restore it to a smooth shape.

Amey Liaison Forum AB, HMS and JR attend regular meetings as do representatives of your parish councils.

Farmland Museum: South Cambs awarded the farmland Museum £8,500 to support its upkeep and maintenance.

We'd like to acknowledge the **hard work of parish council clerks and councillors** during a year of turbulence and intense pressure to develop. We appreciate how much you care, and we thank you for your vital local input. In turn we would like to reassure you that we too mind enormously about the life and health of all our villages and continue to represent your interests at every opportunity.

10. Question and Answer Session

Questions from the public included:

Q: The NE fringe of the sewage works development will part of that fall into the Milton Parish boundary and how does that affect the Fen Road site?

A: HMS – yes part of the development will fall within the Milton boundary. The reason why part of Fen Road is the Milton boundary is due to the land being cut off from the railway line. There is green belt land by the site, and this will not be included in any future planning.

JEC thanked those who attended and the Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors for all their hard work over the last year.

DO and AB thanked JEC for all her hard work carried out over the year as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.25p.m.

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