



PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10



THANKS

First of all, I would like to thank our parish councillors for all the time and effort they devote to their duties. I would like to remind you that they do this on a completely voluntary basis. I believe every councillor is concerned for the well-being of the parish and has the best interests of the village at heart. I would also like to thank Jane Coston for her five years as Chairman of the parish council and effecting such a smooth transition of office. Thanks as well to the Charities and the Community Centre Management Committee and staff for all their support during the year. Finally, I would like to thank Richard Summerfield, who is stepping down after fifteen years of service as district councillor, for all his hard work and dedication to the village.

PRECEPT

We have set our parish precept this year at £120,000. For a Band D house, that means an increase of just over eleven pence per week (or £5.81 per year). We believe this represents great value for money as Milton is an extremely active parish and provides a number of vital services for village residents. We are also experiencing an ever-expanding workload in the parish office due to increased requests from both South Cambs District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

RECREATION LAND

Your parish council has been very active during the past year dealing with a whole range of issues which affect our village. One of the most pressing issues is the provision of additional recreation space. Milton's sports clubs are very active and are expanding all the time, which is a very positive sign of the health and robustness of our village. However, this expansion, added to the general pressure of use on limited recreation area, has meant that the acquisition of more recreation land is a high priority.



We have been looking for suitable land for ten years now, ever since the parish council sold recreation space for the Barnabas Court sheltered housing scheme. One option is to lease recreation land from the proposed retirement village on Ely Road. Another land option has come forward recently concerning fields owned by the College of West Anglia. The fields are adjacent to Ely Road opposite the college campus.



Although it is still very early days of negotiations, one option may be to swap the parish's allotment and horse grazing land for these fields. The allotments would then be relocated onto the newly purchased fields. Although this would be a great inconvenience to village allotment holders, the parish would gain a significant parcel of land for recreation use.

I have made a great effort to keep the village informed of these various options. I have met with clubs affiliated with the Milton Community Centre as well as with the parish allotment holders to apprise them of the situation and discuss the potential consequences of the various deals. In addition I also discussed these matters with all concerned residents at the Annual Parish Meeting. It is important to keep in mind that all land deals involve quite sensitive negotiations and the end results are often unpredictable, particularly considering the current economic climate. Finally, I would like to thank our Assistant Clerk for all his work on these land matters throughout the year.

OTHER ISSUES



The widening of the A14 is another issue we are monitoring. Although the parish council agrees in principle to the scheme, we are actively pursuing the provision for offsite planting along the Milton stretch of the road to enhance the visual impact and also hopefully mitigate noise pollution over the longer term.

The parish council has also facilitated negotiations between the County Council and local business owners and representatives from Milton Country Park to install

double yellow lines in the Crane Industrial Estate to address parking and traffic safety concerns. A Traffic Regulation Order is currently being drawn up.

Thanks also to our parish and district councillors who lobbied successfully to dismiss the appeal for the proposed construction of a hotel on the field between the A14 and Tesco. And special thanks to District Councillor Hazel Smith, who continues to dialogue with the Tesco store manager and deal with issues that come up throughout the year.



NEW PCSO



I would like to welcome PCSO John Mason, the new Police Community Support Officer for Milton. John replaces PCSO Claire Whiteman. On behalf of the village, I have thanked Claire for her hard work and commitment to Milton and wished her every success in her new placement. Your parish council continues to liaison with the local police authority, which has resulted in more patrols throughout the village to combat anti-social behaviour.

PARISH CLERK'S OFFICE

We have made a number of improvements to the parish office and have had all the archive Minutes of the parish council meetings scanned onto disc for safe-keeping. I would like to thank our parish clerk, Jim Daniels, and his assistant, David Geasor, for all their hard work throughout the year. I would also like to thank CBS Office Solutions for agreeing to rent the parish a photocopying machine at a greatly reduced rate.



Thanks as well to our village cleaner, Philip Adams.

PARISH PLAN



The various working parties continue to address the concerns you raised in the parish plan questionnaire and which are now part of the Action Plan. The Environmental Group conducts regular litter picks which are advertised on the parish notice boards, and I encourage all residents to take part. The Police Liaison Group has now set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which has its own website (www.milton-neighbourhood-watch.org.uk). The Clerk's Office has also updated the parish council website (www.miltonvillage.org.uk) to reflect the information in the Guide to Milton. I recommend you visit this website for the most up-to-date information about the village, including a virtual parish notice board. The Clerk's Office has also produced Welcome Packs for new residents, so if you know of anyone who has moved into the village recently please send them along to the Parish Office to pick one up.

YOUTH

Milton Action for Youth was set up some time ago to help oversee the youth work in the village and activities which are held in the Milton Youth Centre adjacent to The Sycamores Recreation ground. They have received a grant from Awards for All (the Lottery grants scheme), which has been applied to providing First Aid training, a Babysitting Course, and a Youth Work Course for the Girls Club. A girls group now meets weekly in addition to the junior and senior clubs.

COMMUNITY CARE

Our Community Care scheme received grants from Milton Charities, South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridgeshire County Councils and continues to provide vital services for Milton residents. Our clerk, Jim Daniels, is very proud of this scheme and believes it is one of the largest in South Cambridgeshire. Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon and her assistant Linda Harding are doing excellent work and I commend them on their service and dedication.

CONCLUSION

Milton is a very active village, and I believe we have an excellent team working for us. I think it is important to remember that the parish council is responsible for representing the entire village, and I encourage all residents to make your views known to us.

Rob Chapman, Chairman Milton Parish Council

ANNUAL RETURN – Statement of Accounts at 31 March 2010

	31-Mar-09	31-Mar-10	
1 Balances B/F	168,064	185,085	Total balances at beginning of year
2 Annual Precept	101,000	110,000	Total amount of precept received
3 Total other receipts	24,988	25,731	Total receipts or income less the precept
4 Staff costs	33,296	42,324	Total expenditure made to all council employees
5 Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	Total payment of capital and interest
6 Total other payments	75,672	74,065	Total expenditure or payments
7 Balances carried forward	185,085	204,427	Total balances & reserves at end of year
8 Total cash & short term investments	197,038	228,573	Sum of all bank accounts
9 Total fixed assets & long term assets	172,433	175,705	Recorded book value of all assets
10 Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	Outstanding capital balance of all loans
11 Trust Funds	No	No	Council is responsible for managing trust funds

MILTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

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ELECTION NEWS

We have just been through a general election. Next year May 2011 we shall be holding Parish Council elections.

Are you interested in what is going in the village? Do you want to help make Milton an even better place to live?

We would love to see more villagers become involved especially you younger ones. Please think about it and if you are interested let the clerk's office know –

Tel: 01223 861447 Email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Jim Daniels

Clerk to Milton Parish Council May 2010