



MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

A WORD OF 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. Four of our longest standing councillors will be stepping down this year: Phil Badley, Roger Day, Barry Jefferson and Bob Waters. (Bob and Roger are pictured here with me clearing a ditch in the village.) Together, these four councillors represent a staggering 67 years of service to Milton. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedicated service on behalf of the village. I am happy to report that other volunteers have stepped forward to join the council, and I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

I would also like to thank previous chairman Rob Chapman, who was a parish councillor for over seven years and chairman for 18 months. Thanks as well to the Charities and the Community Centre Management Committee and staff for all their support during the year, and to our local bobby PC Phil Shulver and Community Support Officer PCSO John Mason. Finally, I would like to thank Jane Coston, who stepped down as editor of the Village View, for all her work on the magazine over the last nearly twenty years. Tim Hall, a resident with 23 years of publishing experience, took over and set up a terrific new website (www.mvv.org.uk) with up-to-date news and information about Milton. Mary Ann Johnson has recently stepped up to take on the magazine.



RENEWAL OF QUALITY STATUS



I am happy to report that Milton Parish Council has been re-accredited as a Quality Parish Council. To be recognised as quality the parish council had to pass tests to show it went above and beyond the service offered by a standard parish council. The standard of the council's annual reports, communication with the public, accounts and ethical framework were among the categories assessed.

ANNUAL PRECEPT



We have set our parish precept this year at £125,000. The actual increase for a Band D house is £2 per year (from £70 to £72), an increase of 2.85%. In the current economic climate, 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.



MILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (MCC)

Refurbishment of the Community Centre is now complete and I think you will agree that it is a much needed improvement to the site. Many thanks to all who had a hand in the successful refurbishment, including Chairman Rob Farrington, Committee Member Colin Nunn and Manager Andy Gray. Why not make the most of this valuable resource which is right on our front doorstep by taking a class, joining a club or deciding to work off some extra pounds with the many sports activities available. You can also hire out the hall for special events. Remember, it is YOUR Community Centre, so why not use it? You can call Andy on 862763 or view a timetable of activities on the parish council website (www.miltonvillage.org.uk).



COMMUNITY CARE



Our Community Care scheme remains very active. This year, we received grants from Milton Charities as well as South Cambs District and Cambridgeshire County Councils. The scheme provides 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.

We have registered the scheme with Localgiving.com, which enables philanthropic giving to local charities and community groups in the UK. You can read more about the scheme and make a donation if you wish to at: www.LocalGiving.com/MiltonCommunityCareScheme



YOUTH

The parish council continues to provide financial support to the youth club. Milton Action for Youth, a charitable organisation which was set up in March 2009, supports additional provision of youth work in the parish, working with the County Council officers and youth team. It helps oversee the youth work in the village and activities which are held in the Milton Youth Centre adjacent to The Sycamores Recreation ground. Thanks to all for their valuable work with the youth of the village.



RECREATION LAND

Your parish council has been very active pursuing our longer term goal of securing additional recreation land for the village. We continue negotiations to purchase College of West Anglia land adjacent to Ely Road opposite the college campus. As Milton's sports clubs are very active and are expanding all the time, the acquisition of more recreation land is a high priority. 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.



PARISH CLERK'S OFFICE & WELCOME PACKS

I would like to thank our parish clerk, Jim Daniels, and his assistant, David Geasor, for all their hard work throughout the year. Thanks as well to our village cleaner, Philip Adams. As a reminder, the Clerk's Office has 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. I also recommend that residents visit our parish council website (www.miltonvillage.org.uk) for more information about the village, including a virtual parish notice board with up-to-date local events.



BUS CUTS

The recently proposed changes to both the Citi2 and No 9 bus services are of major concern for the village. Your parish council hosted a public meeting where residents expressed their views to both Stagecoach and Cambridgeshire County Council officials. As a result of the meeting, Stagecoach has agreed to run one late night bus service, but cuts to the other evening and Sunday services will still have a large impact on many village residents. A petition organised by District Councillor Hazel Smith has been signed by 320 people. It is clear from your reaction that residents care greatly about this issue and we will continue to emphasise the need for our buses.

OTHER ISSUES



I am happy to report that the improvements have been completed on the Winship Road/Cambridge Road junction (pictured here), a project which your parish council successfully lobbied for after it had been cancelled by the County Council. Following representations by your parish council, Milton Country Park and local business owners, double yellow lines have been installed on the Crane Industrial Estate. Work has also started on the Milton to Impington cycle route. I would like to remind you that the Environmental Group, led by Hazel Smith, organises numerous litter picks throughout the year. They are usually held on a Sunday and are advertised on the parish notice boards. I encourage all residents to lend a hand to help keep our village



looking its best. Hazel also continues to dialogue with the Tesco store manager to deal with litter and other issues that come up throughout the year.

CONCLUSION

Finally, I would like to say something about the current economic climate. Due to the financial challenges facing local government, we are experiencing an ever-expanding workload in the parish office due to increased requests from both district and county councils. I believe this is a trend which will continue in the future. However, on the bright side, these challenging times have also sparked at least one positive response: a local resident from Butt Lane has donated a sum of money to be used for the benefit of the youth in the village. In coming weeks we will advertise for youth-related clubs in the village to submit bids for a share of this generous gift. I believe this shows the true spirit of Milton at its best.

Richard Summerfield, Chairman Milton Parish Council

ANNUAL RETURN – Statement of Accounts at 31 March 2011

	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-11	
1 Balances B/F	185,085	204,427	Total balances at beginning of year
2 Annual Precept	110,000	120,000	Total amount of precept received
3 Total other receipts	25,731	23,430	Total receipts or income less the precept
4 Staff costs	42,324	40,645	Total expenditure made to all council employees
5 Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	Total payment of capital and interest
6 Total other payments	74,065	136,736**	Total expenditure or payments
7 Balances carried forward	204,427	170,476	Total balances & reserves at end of year
8 Total cash & short term investments	228,573	194,848	Sum of all bank accounts
9 Total fixed assets & long term assets	175,705	177,644	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

** includes £70,000 towards MCC refurbishment

MILTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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Parish Office Opening Hours

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays: 10am-12noon

If you wish to come to the Parish Office outside these opening hours, please contact us (Telephone 861447 or email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk) and we would be happy to make an appointment time convenient for you.

Jim Daniels, Clerk to Milton Parish Council, May 2011

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