

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
held on Monday 4 May at 7p.m via Zoom on-line**

**Present:** D Wildman (Chair), J E Coston, R J Farrington, H M Smith, A Horne, D Owen, A Markham, P Ellwood, Andrew Latchem, J Rippeth (District Councillor - arrived 7:17pm)

**In attendance:** S Corder (Clerk)  
2 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: A Bradnam (SCDC Business)
2. **Introduction of Parish Councillors:** The Parish Councillors introduced themselves. The Chair reported that the council now have 10 members of the 12 needed and made an appeal for new members to join.
3. **To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 April 2019:**  
RF Proposed to accept the minutes - HMS Seconded (A Markham, P Ellwood and A Latchem - Abstain).  
**AGREED.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 29 April 2019 were approved and signed.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2020/21 – D Wildman**  
**[includes information from 2019/2020]**

This is my first Chairman's Annual report in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The report is unusual in that it is two years since we were last able to hold an Annual Parish Meeting. Although legislation was introduced that allowed online Council meetings, legal guidance in 2020 was that it was not permitted to hold Annual Parish Meetings other than face-face which was not possible because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The past year has been difficult for us all in many ways but has also shown the strengths in our community. Many thanks are due to the volunteers who quickly came together to help people required to isolate in their homes. Recently the Doctors and surgery staff, more volunteers, the Community Centre Manager and Committee members ensured the smooth running of the Vaccination Centre in Coles Road opening often at short notice whenever vaccine is delivered.

**Parish Councillors and Staff:** Parish Councillors are all volunteers, and I would like to thank them for their efforts for the Village, and especially their patience and persistence in dealing with the challenges of online meetings. We welcomed Paul Ellwood, Andrew Latchem, and Alex Markham as Councillors, Our staff have also had to cope with vastly different working conditions for over a year and have ensured that the administration and services have worked smoothly throughout. Our Clerk, Sarah Corder recently achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification and continues to keep us up to date with the required policies and procedures. Our previous Assistant Clerk resigned as she moved away from the Village. John Barrett has stepped ably into the position despite distancing requirements making use of the office more restrictive. Philip Adams continues his tours of the Village including additional regular inspection and cleaning of play equipment as part of COVID-19 precautions.

**Community Care:** Our Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon had to make significant changes to working practices to cope with social distancing and other precautions yet still provides the same valuable support to our elderly and vulnerable residents who wish to remain in the own home. Sarah and Hazel have also provided additional support as backup to Tracey. The scheme continues to receive high praise for the care and support provided.

**Milton Trolley Bus:** The regular minibus service to Tesco for our elderly and infirm was not much used in recent months but should pick up again as distancing restrictions are eased. Milton Charities have continued to support the service at the reduced level.

**Youth:** Council continues to provide funding in supporting the Youth Activities run by the Connections Bus Project although unfortunately the service has had to work in different ways because of the need for social distancing. A recent online session providing Babysitting training was well received.

**Recreation facilities:** The smaller open spaces at Humphries Way, The Rowans, Froment Way, and Hawthorn Hedge are overseen by Parish Council. New equipment has been installed on Froment Way including a wheelchair accessible roundabout. Following inspection reports the Motorbike Springer on Froment Way has been replaced as although it was safe to use, the mountings were beginning to wear, and we were not able to source replacements. New equipment and some repairs and renovations have been ordered for The Sycamores play-area. Installation is due to begin in mid-May.

**Defibrillators:** Two new AED units have been acquired, one funded by a grant and the other by Parish Council. Thanks to Pro-Serv for contributing the installation work.

**Other Village Maintenance:** There is always work to be done around the Village which is organised and overseen by the Maintenance Committee and the Clerk.

**General grounds maintenance:** We employ contractors for general grounds maintenance including grass cutting and tree/shrub management of the open spaces owned by the Parish including the Cemetery on Landbeach Road and cut grass areas within the Village that are owned by the District and County Councils.

**Tomkins Mead :** Minor repairs were carried out to the boardwalk and boot scrapers were installed at both ends to help visitors keep mud clear of the walkway.

**War Memorial area:** Roots were removed from around the two memorial benches and the area seeded. The Golden Jubilee tree is showing good growth where the intruding bushes and ivy were removed.

**The Rowans:** Bluebells and snowdrops have been planted between the trees in the area at corner of The Rowans and Cambridge Road near to Edmund House although the other growth has overtaken that area early this year and will need some attention.

**The Cemetery:** The front section of the Landbeach Road Cemetery remains the responsibility of the Church, but the Parish Council support the general maintenance. In addition to grass cutting, repairs are being made to the Cemetery gate. Regular topple testing is organised to check for stability of the older headstones and some remedial work is being organised in conjunction with the relevant families where possible.

**New Trees:** Council took advantage of an offer from SCDC for a voucher valued at £60 covering the purchase of up to 3 mature trees for planting on Parish land. Planting the trees social distancing challenge. A Mountain Ash was planted on the Hawthorn Hedge area, and two Flowering Cherry trees at The Rowans play area. Several packs of trees were provided by the Woodland Trust. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped plant the trees, and especial thanks to Adam Horne who spent several days organising and supporting the planting over a damp weekend. The Orchard with the mixture of wildlife friendly and fruit trees will be a significant asset once established.

**The Bund:** A survey of the Bund is planned to identify areas needing attention and possibly replanting as some grants may be available to support this work.

**A10 Trees responsibility next to the Parish Council Allotments:** I am pleased to report that the matter has been resolved with County Council confirming their ownership and responsibility. All Parish costs have been recovered and remedial work is being planned and organised by the County Council.

**The Little Library:** Following on from the success of the Little Library project on Coles Road organised by volunteers and provided by The Parish Council agreed to support the project by funding the purchase of a second unit from The Phoenix Trust. Thanks to the volunteers for organising the scheme and to those providing the space for the units.

**Milton Country Park:** Parish Council agreed to provide one-off grant of £10,000 from reserves to Cambridge Sports Lake Trust as an emergency payment during the Covid-19 pandemic to help keep the park open.

**Public Phone:** Council received a proposal that the payphone on Coles Road be decommissioned and adopted by the Council. Council objected as it is the only public phone in the Village and as such BT has a responsibility to maintain it. It was agreed that the service will continue and the kiosk has been cleaned by BT/Openreach.

**Highways:** You can help by reporting new Highways issues online at

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

Council has successfully applied for a grant from the A14 Parish Legacy fund to improve the road surface and markings on the High Street crossing by Pond Green. The work will be delivered by CCC and their contractors, but final design and implementation has been delayed because of distancing requirements. We await a timescale for the work to be completed.

**Traffic Calming and Parking:** Parking is an ongoing challenge around the Village. Many people have raised concerns about the junctions of The Rowans with Cambridge Road, and Fen Road directly opposite the junction with Coles Road. Double yellow lines were suggested to visually reinforce the existing Highway Code restrictions. A questionnaire published on the Parish Council website and in the Village View showed a significant majority of respondents in favour of the proposed schemes, so the project was passed to the CCC Highway Services Team for costing for TRO proposal. The costs have now been confirmed and accepted at the April meeting of the Parish Council. We await confirmation of implementation.

**Illegal encampment:** Travellers set-up camp with caravans and other vehicles on the Coles Road Recreation Ground. Arrangements were made for them to be moved on.

**Planning and Consultations:** Alongside the activities that have immediate visible effect in the Village, we also receive copies of all planning applications for properties within Milton and those in the neighbourhood that may affect the Village.

**Finance:** After a detailed review of the income and expenditure Council set a precept of £133,000 for the financial year 2021/2022 unchanged from the current year

## 5. Milton Community Centre Report 2021

**Bookings:** Due to COVID, the Community Centre and associated buildings have been closed to most of our customers during the past year. However, COVID vaccinations have been held at the Community Centre since January and these have been a great success. Kids R Us has operated at various times, initially providing a service for children of key workers and they opened fully (using the Annexe and North Lodge Pavilion) once the schools returned in March 2021. Eddies Artworks have used the Youth Building at various times when COVID restrictions have allowed.

If the Government Road Map goes to plan, then hopefully we will be able to open up fully on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, when we can welcome back all our existing customers.

**Maintenance and Improvements:** The following work has been carried out during the last year:

- The 5-a-side court surface has been replaced
- Additional lighting has been installed at the rear of the Community Centre, primarily due to COVID vaccinations
- Improvements have been carried out to the surface of The Sycamores car park

**Staff:** After over 12 years, the Community Centre Manager Andy Gray retired at the end of March and has been replaced by Andy West. The 3 part time members of staff, Kevin, Ray and Philip, who share some of the cleaning and key holder duties, have all been furloughed for most of the year, but will hopefully return to work on the 17<sup>th</sup> May

## 6. Milton Action for Youth 1 April to 31 March 2021

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2019 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

INCOME	£
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 balance	73.93
Interest Dec 2019	0.18
Interest Dec 2020	0.10
EXPENDITURE	
... none ...	
BALANCE (Cambridge Building Society) at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	74.21

Note: Youth Club expenses are now provided for by the Connections Bus Project who run our youth club. They bill the Parish Council termly. This account remains available for Youth Club expenses when required. The signatories are Hazel Smith and Linda Henderson.

Clubs ran on Tuesday evenings as usual during 2019, and shut down in March 2020 due to Coronavirus restrictions. The Connections Bus Project had its AGM on October 26<sup>th</sup> 2020, and there Anna Bradnam and I learnt that they were running some successful online courses, supported by parish councils, and a couple of Milton's club members had already attended. The Parish Council agreed to support a babysitting course in early 2021, which we were billed for (bill shared with other parish councils). Connections will be restarting face to face youth work outside or in the Milton Youth Centre when this is possible.

Hazel Smith (Treasurer)

## 7. County Councillor's Report from Anna Bradnam April 2021

### The main headings:

I would like to thank the Clerks, Parish Councillors for their hard work supporting our communities. Thank you too to District Councillor Judith Rippeth for her involvement in the meal delivery scheme and to Hazel Smith as part of the Covid Support Team. My special thanks go to Hazel for 17 years' service in this ward and for her practicality, for having an eagle eye on the numbers and the words and for her wisdom.

**The political balance of the Council:** The political composition of the 61-member Council now stands as: 35 Conservatives, 16 Liberal Democrats, 7 Labour, 2 'St. Neots Independents', 1 Independent. The Council has seven decision-making committees, with every Committee chaired and vice-chaired by a Conservative and a majority of Conservatives on each committee. The committees are: Adults, Children and Young People, Commercial and Investment, Economy and Environment, Health, Communities and

Partnerships and Highways and Community Infrastructure.

**Council officers and Council offices:** The Chief Executive, Gillian Beasley, is shared with Peterborough City Council as part of the policy of reducing back-office costs and several other senior posts are also shared with Peterborough. The CCC HQ building, Shire Hall, has been closed since March 2020 and has been emptied prior to being re-developed for other purposes.

**What the Council provides:** Social services to children and young people, older people, people with mental health problems; physical and learning disabilities; Planning of school places and some support for schools (although the funding for day-to-day running comes from central government); Coordinated Early Years provision, nurseries etc.; Libraries; Road maintenance and road safety measures; Growth and wider development issues; Trading standards; waste disposal and recycling centres. The former responsibility for overall transport strategy is gradually being taken over by the Combined Authority.

**The key issues faced by Cambridgeshire County Council: reduced funding, increasing costs, increasing demand and Covid :** Central government continues to reduce general grant funding except that some extra money has been made available for Covid measures. The Local Government Association, a cross-party organisation, has been raising concerns recently about the greater financial burden being placed on local councils; several have become insolvent, e.g. Northamptonshire.

**Council Tax:** The government has again capped the levels by which local councils can increase tax for 2021-22. The maximum increase allowed is 3% over two years towards Adult Social Care and 1.99% towards other services. Cambridgeshire CC has decided to limit the social care increase to 1% in 2021/22 (followed by 2% next year) and 1.99% for other services.

So, for the coming year 2021-22, the total 2.99% increase will cost a Band D household an extra £54.22 per year.

**Services for older people:** More and more people are living longer and, mainly healthier lives. When people do become dependent, the cost to the Council is considerable. The Council's aim is to enable more people to live longer at home and be supported there, rather than going into sheltered accommodation. The Council policy of 'Transformation' is based on reducing the number of staff, delegating more responsibilities for care to volunteers and making an assumption that those needing that care are happy with that. While it is important to seek cost savings, it seems obvious that provision will get worse for some and this is a worry both locally and nationally.

#### **Transport and Highways**

- a. Road maintenance and footpath repair are the most frequent concerns raised by residents along with the length of delay and the quality of work done.
- b. The decision by the County Council ruling group two years ago to reduce the twice-yearly drain clearance to a reactive response has unfortunately contributed to local incidents of flooding.
- c. In Milton, Landbeach and Waterbeach I've worked with Highways officers to get gullies and drains cleared, road markings refreshed and speed reduced.
- d. Highways England is responsible for the maintenance of motorways and trunk roads but most A and B roads are maintained at the expense of the local authority which is designated as the 'Highways Authority'. The Highways Authority receives a grant from central government towards those costs.

**Education:** All Cambridgeshire secondary schools are now 'academies' which means that the Council has no jurisdiction over them. The disruption of Covid has caused the suspension of Ofsted inspections and of conventional examinations so it is not possible to make a comment on the success of Cambridgeshire schools against national benchmarks. Only a small minority of primaries have become academies.

The County Council retains responsibility for the 'well-being' of children in academies though it has no formal role in intervening if things go wrong.

**Climate Change:** The County Council, along with the Districts, is beginning to take this seriously and is beginning to develop a strategy to reduce energy consumption. The particular problem for Cambridgeshire is the massive expansion of housing and population.

**Combined Authority:** Since May 2017 there has been a 'Combined Authority' for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with James Palmer (Con.) as Mayor. The combined authority comprises: Peterborough City Council (a unitary authority), the District Councils of Huntingdonshire, Fenland, East Cambs, South Cambs along with Cambridge City, and Cambridgeshire County Council. The Mayor has a Cabinet comprising the Council Leaders from all the constituent councils, i.e. five Conservatives, one Labour and one Lib Dem, and there is also a scrutiny panel.

#### **Villages – Milton, Landbeach and Waterbeach**

- a. I attend monthly Parish Council meetings where I report on current issues and answer questions from parish councillors. I liaise with the Parish Clerk and/or Chairman between meetings if and when required.
- b. Some pot-hole and pavement repairs have been done but many more are needed. I have asked for gullies to be cleaned out and drainage pipes (e.g. Landbeach crossroad) to be cleared out and repaired.

- c. Flooding or the risk of it, has been a major concern. I have engaged with County and District Councils, Anglian Water and the Internal Drainage Board to attempt minimise harm to properties in future.
- d. I have asked the council to maintain and cut back vegetation on the cycle paths on Butt Lane, Landbeach Road and the A10.
- d. Our area is subject to proposals for numerous strategic projects: the A10, Cambridge Autonomous Metro, emergency active transport measures, public transport proposals, relocation of the Anglian Water Wastewater Treatment Plant and East West Rail. I have responded to consultations and supported parish councils.

**The future for local government services and the implication for communities:** It is becoming increasingly clear that the structure and funding of local government as we have known it for many years has changed and will continue to change. Central government has been decreasing its grants to local councils with the expectation that services will be 'transformed' and local groups (parish councils and voluntary groups) are expected to take on more responsibility for supporting people early on. The County Council has continued to make savings in its procedures and in increasing income. For example, it has set itself up as a property company and is trying to sell off some of its land holdings for housing.

## 8. District Councillor's reports from Anna Bradnam and Judith Rippeth April 2021

The main headings:

We would first like to thank Hazel Smith for her excellent and unstinting service for her constituents over the past seventeen years, and for her dedication to her role as Cabinet lead for Housing since 2018, and on a personal note, for her friendship and inspirational guidance.

**Community Volunteers:** One of the most heartening things that has come out of the pandemic has been the terrific volunteer community response. It was estimated that, at the height of the Covid emergency, over 4,500 people were engaged across South Cambridgeshire in helping their fellow citizens get through the worst of the crisis. Milton, Landbeach, Waterbeach and Chittering were blessed with excellent groups, which were well organised and highly effective. We would like to record our thanks to all of those who stepped up and made such a difference.

**Pre-cooked meal delivery scheme:** SCDC continues to work in partnership with C3 churches with delivering a weekly meal to local residents who are isolated or facing financial difficulty. Locally we currently support 25 households and I would personally like to thank Revd Paul Butler for helping me with the bulk of the delivery of these meals and also other volunteers who have stepped in on occasion.

**Covid Recovery Grants for Villages:** SCDC has just launched an additional Community Chest grant programme specifically for Covid Recovery and has put £30,000 in the pot. The aim is to help local community groups and parish councils resume activities that might have been stopped due to Covid or which have tailed off in recent months.

**Mobile/Community Wardens:** In the last 12 months SCDC has increased the number of district Mobile/Community Wardens schemes by 7 and 20 are now operating across the district. The schemes support elderly residents to live in their homes for longer. Each scheme employs a warden who helps the service user by lending practical support through shopping for essentials, collecting prescriptions, filling out forms and administrative tasks and with emotional support of a daily phone call and a weekly visit to the home which hopefully once again will soon incorporate a cup of tea and a chat on the sofa. These schemes continue to be invaluable in supporting some of our most vulnerable residents.

**Covid Business Grants:** As of 9/4/21 SCDC has paid out a total of **£11,159,317** in Government business grants to **4,653** businesses since November. SCDC has paid **£3,889,284** out of their £4,594,889 discretionary/hardship allocation to 1,469 South Cambs businesses and we are awaiting details of what further monies we can expect and what activities and businesses it will be able to help.

We have very recently received **£5.8 million** of re-start grant money for all closed businesses. **It will go live on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.** We will contact businesses for them to update details/reconfirm eligibility.

For any new businesses who have not applied previously, look out for an application link on the website.

**Business rates relief:** On 25 March, the Government announced £1.5 billion further funding for councils to provide additional targeted support to those businesses that have not already received business rates relief. The funding will be allocated to councils based on the stock of properties in the area whose sectors have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak and they will use their knowledge to make awards to local businesses. The Government will work with and support local government to enable ratepayers to apply as soon as possible this year.

**Construction of new council housing:** We have a policy of increasing the number of council properties available for people on lower incomes and are really pleased to have built 66 new council homes in the last 12 months (the target was 50). These are built to a high specification and some of the properties have solar panels and air-source heat-pumps.

**SCDC 5 Year Housing Land Supply.:** Prior to May 2018 SCDC did not have a 5 year housing land supply which led to a number of speculative and often inappropriate developments which were often won on appeal by developers. We have been concerned that Covid crisis might have slowed down the building of new homes and hence threatened the supply. The very good news is that the Greater

Cambridge area (S Cambs and Cambridge City) can demonstrate a supply of 6.1 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

**Being 'Green to our core'** One of the main priorities for the present administration at SCDC was a commitment to being 'Green to our core'. In early 2021 we released details of our 'Doubling Nature' strategy. Some of the projects that we have in the pipeline have, inevitably, been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic but we have still delivered on a number of our commitments:

All SCDC street lighting is being replaced by low energy LED lights. We have purchased an electric bin lorry – one of the first local authorities to do so – and with an option to purchase others. At the start of last year, Milton was selected along with one other area in Cambridge to trial a weekly food waste collection scheme. Initially the scheme was run on a very small scale and following positive results on decomposition of the liners and good uptake, the scheme was expanded to the whole village in December 2020. We await the results of this larger pilot which hopefully will mean the scheme can be rolled out across the district.

**Consultations:** To give your views on the East West Rail consultation please visit [eastwestrail.co.uk](http://eastwestrail.co.uk) Although a Southern route has been selected it is still important to take part, as there is a lot of lobbying by residents in the South of the district for a Northern route through Landbeach and Milton

### 9. Question and Answer Session

Questions from the public included:

Q: What can be done about speeding throughout the village from 6:30am onwards

A: A working Group is looking into the possibility of a 20mph speed limit along Cambridge Road/High Street

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

