

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 25 April 2022 at 7:30pm in the Lounge – Milton Community Centre

Present: HM Smith (Chairman), J E Coston, R J Farrington, A Horne, D Owen, P Ellwood, A Latchem, A Bradnam

In attendance: S Corder (Clerk), J Barrett (Assistant Clerk), J Rippeth and P Bearpark (District Councillors)
4 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 Markham (Personal)
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 Monday 4 May 2021:**
AB Proposed to accept the minutes - JEC Seconded **ALL AGREED**. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 4 May 2021 were approved and signed.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2021/22**

This has been a busy year for the Parish Council as we get back to something like normal operation after the pandemic. Most of our meetings have been in person, but consultations from other authorities and our own committee meetings (and pre-meetings for discussion) have sometimes been held online. This is more convenient for many and will probably continue.

Parish Councillors and Staff

Our Parish Council members will all continue next year, after the election on May 5th, as we were a year ago (Don Wildman is rejoining us). So we have 10 councillors going forward and 2 vacancies at present. I would like to thank the team that has been working together this year – we have achieved a lot, improved the village and raised its profile in the local Press. Our Press Officer, my Vice-Chairman Jane Coston has worked hard this year, and we also launched our Facebook page.

Our Clerk, Sarah Corder, had Covid around Christmas time and whilst away from the office, studied for the Financial part of Local Council Administration qualifications. She has just taken us through a full review of all our policies, with a few left to be approved at the next meeting, and she has arranged our meetings and paperwork efficiently throughout the year. John Barrett has become our Assistant Clerk, and has been helping us with project work, like the Bus Stop Art project. Philip Adams our Village Maintenance Person and Cleaner continues his tours of the village, litter picking and checking play equipment, bus shelters and the cemetery. I would like to thank all our staff for their diligence. And Paul Ellwood for chairing the staffing committee for us, and conducting some staff appraisals.

Community Care

Our Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon has continued supporting around 20 older people living in their own homes in the village. This is recognised as valuable support by her clients and their families, and she also puts up information useful to us all on her Facebook page. She also acts as Community Navigator, a person able to give free advice about what services, funding, clubs and facilities are available in the village to help people get by. Sarah and I are DBS checked and available to provide short-term cover for Tracey as warden, and we have an agency we can call on for longer illnesses or holidays. The Mobile Warden Scheme is supported by a grant from South Cambs District Council, and from the Milton Charities.

Milton Trolley Bus

The regular minibus service to Tesco for our elderly and infirm has run more normally this year. Milton Charities/Jean Gallagher Trust have continued to support the service.

Youth

The Council continues to provide funding to support the youth activities run by the Connections Bus Project in Milton. They had met outside in the summer term, before youth clubs resumed in the Youth Centre for the rest of this year.

Recreation facilities

The larger sports pitches and indoor facilities at Coles Road, The Sycamores, and North Lodge Park are managed and operated by the Milton Community Centre and Recreations Grounds Management Committee (MCC). The Parish Council makes an annual contribution to subsidise their running costs, and I would like to thank their Trustees, drawn from the clubs and societies that use the facilities, and particularly the manager, Andy, for their work in keeping community facilities and play spaces open as much as possible over the last few years. The smaller open spaces are overseen by the Parish Council. These are at Humphries Way, Froment Way, The Rowans, The Oaks/Elms open space, the Hawthorn Hedge area, Edmund Green (on the corner of The Rowans) and Pond Green (in front of the Waggon and

Horses), and Tomkins Mead.

Play equipment improvements

The new equipment and some repairs and renovations at The Sycamores play area were completed last summer. These were jointly funded between MCC and the parish council. If you see any issues needing attention on our play areas, please notify the Parish Clerk, except for Coles Road and The Sycamores which should be reported to the MCC Manager. The North Lodge Park play area is maintained by their own management committee.

Other Village Maintenance

There is regular work to be done around the village which is organised and overseen by the Maintenance Committee and the Clerk. They direct our grass-cutting and grounds maintenance contractors who do work on our open spaces and unlet allotments and the cemetery.

Some strips of land between footpaths and garden fences are the responsibility of the house owners. The Clerk will also write to house-owners whose hedges need cutting back.

New Trees

This year we planted one more mature tree at the entrance to Humphries Way, through the South Cambs free trees scheme, and some sacks of daffodil bulbs on the bund opposite, where the bus shelter was moved along to improve disabled access. We also had several packs of trees provided by the Woodland Trust, which were added to the small wood in the old paddock (beyond the allotments on Ely Road). Many thanks to the volunteers who helped us plant the trees, and especial thanks to Adam Horne who has steered the work of the Maintenance Committee very ably over the last few years.

Capital Projects

A new committee has been set up to improve the village, through use of Arts funding and some general reserves, to improve our bus shelters, village signs and seats. The Bus Shelter Art competition was run over the Christmas holidays and we received 22 different designs. There was an exhibition, suitably spaced out and socially distanced, in January, and the 3 designs that people voted for were printed up and installed on our three refurbished bus shelters at Tesco and at One-Stop. We gave small prizes to the 5 children who had entered, and main prizes to the 3 winners. We hope you'll agree that the bus shelters are a feature we can now be proud of. I'd particularly like to thank Paul Ellwood for taking on chairing that committee this year. We have plans to refurbish the 2 brick bus shelters, and also to commission other artwork for village entry signs, a sculpture trail, and improved Christmas light displays in the village. The village pump on Cambridge Road, put in for the council houses there, in the 1920's has been cleaned up and needs some repair to take it back to its original shape. We plan more artwork there to illustrate to children what pumps around the village were used for in the past.

Cemetery

For the last 2 years a committee of councillors has met mostly online to review and amend our cemetery policy. We took into account many policies from other areas as well as the particular circumstances of Milton. The aim has been to remove the discretion that has in the past led to some people who lived as far away as Cottenham and Willingham being buried there because they had a village connection. We hope residents will understand that tightening up the criteria will make the cemetery easier to administer in the future.

The cemetery gate was taken away for repair and repainting and it now looks much smarter.

Ditches and drains

The cemetery flooded quite badly recently, and some work has been done to improve drainage further down that ditch in front of the allotments. It is the same ditch that the new police station will use, so we need to keep an eye on developments there to ensure they don't worsen the situation.

Land registry

We continue to try to regularise and register land that we own and maintain in the village. This year we achieved a register entry for the football pitch behind MCC, and there are a couple of other parcels our solicitors are working on.

Planning

We are consulted on planning applications in the village. Most are uncontentious, but some are quite unneighbourly and we do try to support neighbours objections if they are reasonable. I'd like to thank Rob Farrington for chairing the Planning Committee, and bringing us his personal insight having visited every local householder application site.

The gas main works all down Cambridge Road, the High Street and Ely Road last year was very disruptive to the village with one-way traffic for months. The developer responsible has paid the Parish Council £8,000 to acknowledge the inconvenience caused to villagers.

Air Quality Action Group

Air quality here is usually quite good now, and due to improve when the Cambridge Sewage Works moves, as is anticipated in a few years' time. For now the Group meets every 6 months with Anglian Water, and also with FCC who run Milton Landfill (due to close for tipping in 2026) and the associated gas generation company, Infinis. There are no significant issues. Thanks to Anna Bradnam for Chairing this group.

Highway and Cycleway schemes

We are still waiting for the County Council to improve the road surface and markings on the High

Street/Fen Road crossing by Pond Green used by many school children. This was funded from the Highways Agency, through the A14 Legacy Fund.

Various different authorities are planning cycleway improvements in and around the village. A new Road Safety committee embarked on a Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Strategy, that looked initially at Ely Road, the High Street and Cambridge Road. This is the route that Urban and Civic (U&C), the Waterbeach New Town developers, will be improving in the next few months. We were able to show them the ideas that we had adopted and they have promised to take some of them on board. There is further funding from U&C towards 'public realm improvements' in Milton which may allow more of our ideas to be implemented later.

There is to be a new Greenway funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (City Deal) from Waterbeach to Cambridge North station, which will run between Milton and the railway, and go through Milton Country Park, then under the A14.

A further Greenway will run close to the Mereway between Milton and Impington. It is not yet decided whether it will run west or east of Landbeach. This will also be a Public Transport route for a guided busway, and may link to Milton Park and Ride if it takes the eastern route.

I'd like to thank Alex Markham and Adam Horne for their work on pulling this Strategy together.

Parking and Pedestrian safety

We have had a number of representations from villagers about the increasing amount of parking in The Rowans, and the poor visibility for pedestrians trying to cross The Rowans near Tesco. We have a meeting tomorrow to show a Highways officer the problem, and consider whether to put longer sections of double-yellow lines there, and move the dropped kerb.

Mobile Vehicle-Activated Sign (MVAS)

The moveable traffic speed sign has been sent away for repair. This was originally bought to cover 3 villages, but Waterbeach have decided to buy their own, so Landbeach and Milton will share the sign going forward, and we should see it in the village more often.

Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We have agreed to decorate the village, and to support the picnics that are being organised by the Church on open spaces around the village, from 1pm on Sunday 5th June.

Finance

The Council requested a precept for 2022-23 the same as last years at £133,000.

Draft Accounts for the year April 2021 to March 2022

These figures have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis.

| Description | £ Last Year (2020-21) Restated | £ This year (2021-22) |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Balances brought fwd | 473,809 | 487,968* |
| Annual precept | 133,000 | 133,000 |
| Total other receipts | 35,275 | 27,565 |
| Staff Costs | 42,876 | 44,022 |
| Loan interest/capital repayments | 0 | 0 |
| Total other payments | 111,240* | 107,728 |
| Balances carried forward | 487,968* | 497,454 |
| Total Cash and Short Term Investments | 497,263 | 481,200 |
| Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments | 190,694 | 200,414 |
| Total Borrowings | 0 | 0 |

Note: The accounts for 2020-21 have been restated to incorporate changes requested by the External Auditor regarding the date of recording of invoices paid by Direct Debit. Items with * are corrected from those presented on 25th April.

Capital reserves are primarily to support acquisition of recreation ground and open space if land becomes available at appropriate cost.

Parish Office

The Office is open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 3pm. However, if you have an issue that requires direct contact, then please first telephone the Clerk on 01223 861447 or 07853 170646 so that we can arrange a way to help you whilst minimising direct contact. Further information is available on the website - <https://www.miltonvillage.org.uk>

Q: Does the MVAS do any good in the village?

A: Yes, it has been noted that cars will slow down when the speed they are travelling at flashes up as they approach

5. Milton Action for Youth 1 April to 31 March 2022

The balance in the pass-book remains as £74.21, and there is 7p more interest to add, total £74.28.

There has been no other change to the account.

Hazel Smith (Treasurer)

6. County Councillor's Report from Anna Bradnam April 2022 (Full report attached to the Minutes on the MPC Website)

The main headings:

Introduction: In May 2021, AB was immensely proud to be re-elected as your County Councillor, to serve you for another four years.

Strategy and Resources: The new Council inherited a budget gap of £22.2 million for this year (21/22). The Council managed to balance the budget this time, but the budget gap is set to rise to £86 million by 2027 and the peer challenge team identified this as an issue of 'significant magnitude'. The Council increased Council tax in February 2022 by 1.99% for general services and 3% for adult social care. We put £14 million into a 'Just Transition' Fund to tackle inequality, improve lives and care for the environment.

Adults and Health: The new administration decided to combine the work of two separate committees to link health provision and adult social care anticipating the government's Integrated Care System. Jyoti Atri is the new Director of Public Health.

Children and Young People and Corporate Parenting: The committee supported families over the school holidays with vouchers for those eligible for free school meals through 2021/22 and this has been guaranteed for 2022/23. The national shortage of HGV drivers has presented problems for home to school transport and school catering. A review of admission arrangements for all own admission authority schools has been agreed and we are proposing a review of the increasing need for specialist educational places.

Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion (CoSMIC): This committee has supported communities through Covid, made provision for refugees from Afghanistan and now Ukraine, assisting EU citizens in obtaining settled status and other services including libraries and mortuaries. It also drew up a Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy and provides the Household Support Fund which helps people in financial hardship with essential costs.

Environment and Green Investment: Has been exceptionally busy, responsible for Climate Change, renewable energy, planning for flood resilience, biodiversity, waste, antiquities and digital infrastructure and broadband. Plans to upgrade the recycling centres at March and Milton are in their early stages.

Highways and Transport: The Joint Administration is taking stock of the many challenges it has inherited from the outgoing administration. Lack of regular maintenance of some 100,000 roadside gullies contributed to flooding in winter 20/21. These are now being mapped and cleared. 50,000 potholes were repaired and £1.7 million was spent on new road re-surfacing to end Feb 2022. A further £1.4 million has been set aside for pot holes, paths and other improvements and the money set aside for paths and footways is starting to be used as you will have seen on path re-surfacing in Coles Road.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority: A new Mayor was elected in May 2021. He has scrapped the Cambridge Autonomous Metro. A new Chief Executive was appointed and the Combined Authority now has offices in Huntingdon.

LOCAL ISSUES

GCP Waterbeach to Cambridge - Following protests from Waterbeach residents, the GCP removed the Eastern route from the options it was taking forward, leaving only the Western option which runs north and west of Landbeach along the Mere Way. Residents of Landbeach were furious when the GCP also took forward a central option, which would cut across open fields through the village and threaten the peaceful view from the medieval Tithe Barn. We await the outcome of deliberations.

A10 – despite the reduction in traffic caused by people working more from home during the pandemic, the A10 has seen a lot of disruption this year. Firstly to install a commercial gas main and then for the works to improve the existing cyclepath between Milton and Waterbeach, required as part of the Waterbeach New Town approval. The speed limit has been reduced to 40 mph and the junction at Car Dyke made safer for cyclists and pedestrians. Works to install a Toucan crossing to Waterbeach Road have also started. The path is being widened northwards to Denny End Road first and then the very narrow section from Car Dyke Road southbound will be widened towards Milton.

A14/A10 junction roadworks, cones and north bound lane merge.

The dedicated lane from the A14 to the A10 is now working really well and road markings on the roundabout have been refreshed. Gas wells on the perimeter of the landfill site had to be modified and fenced so they could continue to be monitored safely.

Mere Way Cycle path – now that the A10 works are under way, works on this route have re-commenced. Like the A10 path, this section 278 project is a negotiation between designer and the Highways Authority.

A design has been submitted to County Highways and we await the results of the Road Safety Audit, at which point there will be an opportunity to comment.

Histon Road and Milton Road – The GCP-led Histon Road Bus Prioritisation Scheme is now complete and the Milton Road project is due to start Spring 2022.

Waterbeach Station Cycle Parking - Govia Thameslink Rail installed a two-tier cycle rack in place of the Sheffield stands, as part of the delivery of the Passenger Benefit Fund, which was set up to compensate passengers for the inconvenience and disruption caused by the last timetable roll-out.

East West Rail – the non-statutory consultation was completed June 2021.

At present only the southern approaches to Cambridge are being considered as EWR's preferred options, the northern route have been discounted so far. The following document explains why:

[EAS060 TechDoc Appendix Master DIG-1.pdf \(eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/EAS060_TechDoc_Appendix_Master_DIG-1.pdf)

Chisholm Trail – the new bridge over the railway has been installed and the jetty path under the railway and pedestrian bridge has opened. A dangerous bollard has been removed.

Voi electric scooters and electric bikes (a Combined Authority initiative) are popular and well-used. On 30 March the original trial was extended to 30 November to gather more information on their impact.

County Council's Coronavirus (Covid-19) Walking and Cycling Schemes

A Tranche 1 scheme delivered in Milton without consultation in May 2020 has now been removed. The southbound cycle lane on Cambridge Road, left too little space for vehicles to safely pass each other and caused dangerous last-minute avoidance actions. Milton Parish Council objected and it has now gone.

Verge Maintenance

In March 2021 the County Council acted on the advice of the Wildlife Trust and Natural England and resolved to reduce verge cutting frequency to twice a year. This being to extend flowering, to help our insect populations and biodiversity.

Anglian Water – Relocation of the Wastewater Treatment Centre

The proposed move to Honey Hill has caused huge concern for residents of Horningsea and Fen Ditton. AB has asked for direct access to and from the A14 to avoid the impact of traffic through the villages during construction and operation.

Flood Action Plan – The County Council, which is the Lead Local Flood Authority, has recently published its' Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Milton Household Waste Recycling Centre

The planning application for the expansion of Milton HWRC was validated a few weeks ago. It's on the website at <https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/> (search for CCC/21/259/FUL). The Neighbour Consultation expired on Wednesday 23 March 2022.

Covid – remain vigilant

Police and Crime Commissioner – AB is the Country representative on the Police and Crime Panel.

7. District Councillors' Report from Anna Bradnam, Judith Rippeth and Paul Bearpark April 2022

Milton: At the end of this municipal year we reflect back on a period with a degree of return to normality as we move hopefully to a more post Covid world. As a council we have continued to support the district the recovery of the community and businesses. Milton businesses benefited from some of the £43.9 million in government grants that the Council distributed to support their recovery from Covid. The Reopening the High Streets team handled over 1,500 in-person visits and around 300 enquiries or complaints, interacting with 3,000 businesses throughout the district.

The Wild Minds scheme is being run again at Milton Country Park. It was set up in response to the picture of young people's mental health in the UK, at a time when NHS mental health services have experienced increased referrals and wait times for specialist support, making it harder to access support. The scheme was developed in 2019 by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust (which runs Milton Country Park where the course was first hosted), it is supported by a clinical psychologist.

The ever popular Zero Carbon Community grant scheme is now open for its fourth round of grant applications with specific focuses on reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon, and on community engagement on climate change. If you have a project in mind do get in touch with any of us as local members for endorsement and support. In the last round of funding, Milton Cycling Campaign were successful in their bid for the maximum grant of £15,000 for cycle parking. The project has been supported throughout by Councillor Rippeth.

The Council continues to maintain a five year housing land supply which for the next year (April to April) is 6.5 years. This means that as a planning authority we have far more control over where development should go, in the right places with amenities provided, and in accordance with the adopted Local Plan. At the same time we continue to work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan which is at the First Proposal

stage in the process. Development will be close to jobs and good transport links, as new towns are built out (within the current Local Plan's allocation) and only nineteen new sites are being proposed, safeguarding villages. There are no new proposed sites within the ward.

District wide summary of the past four years

WE HAVE ACHIEVED: levels 1 and 2 of the disability standard,
WE HAVE SET UP: 7 new mobile warden schemes, a Lifeline service for vulnerable people a homes repair service, 19 Liaison forums and 9 community forums, covid groups in all 106 villages and towns with in the first 3 weeks covid.
WE HAVE ADOPTED: a new equality scheme, a Biodiversity strategy, Doubling Nature Strategy, ZC strategy, an Air quality strategy
WE HAVE MOVED: 10 council services online with a further 12 to follow
WE HAVE HELPED: 14 at risk councils to create flood management plans, set up local markets, 1000 people onto UC, 4 start-up businesses find premises, 3 Syrian refugee families a year find a home, 8 Afganistani families find a home, 2000 businesses with visits from our High Streets Team, 2000 Business receiving our Open for Business Newsletter
WE HAVE CREATED: a toolkit for community led plans, community recycling and waste reduction resource pack, the On Your Doorstep campaign to help local shops
WE HAVE RUN: 7 Wild Minds schemes to support young people with mental health issues, 9 webinars for business during the pandemic including on mental health
WE HAVE GIVEN: £43.9 million in government Covid grants, £78,000 to support work with young people, 70 grants to covid groups, £58,000 in Community Chest grants a year, ZC Community grants totalling over £300,000, free trees grants for almost 600 trees, £1.4 mil to 102 businesses and start-ups to help them grow, £164,000 to voluntary groups, 900 hot meals over the covid Christmas period
WE HAVE MADE: £5mil per year from our investments and saved £200,000 per year.
WE HAVE BOUGHT: Northstowe EZ and will develop it to create 500 jobs by 2025, A Plot Cambourne to build specialist offices for start up, Land in Cambourne to build over 200 energy efficient homes, 3 electric Bin lorries, mobile air quality monitors, spy cameras to reduce fly tipping
WE HAVE LAUNCHED a Visit South Cambs website
WE HAVE CHANGED all our streetlights to LEDs
WE HAVE BUILT 189 council houses
WE HAVE SPENT £1.5 mil to make council houses energy efficient
WE ARE GOING TO commit 10% of next year's budget to the environment, build a sports pavilion at Northstowe, a new community centre and the Civic Hub in Northstowe, further increase recycling rates and reduce food waste, set a balanced budget, install powered EV charging
WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation

8. Question and Answer Session

Are the fly tipping spy cameras in operation?

A: Yes between Cottenham and Landbeach, and there is a sign saying cameras in action

Meeting closed: 8:45pm

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