

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 24 April 2023 at 7:30pm in the Bowls Pavilion

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

In attendance: S Corder (Clerk), A Bradnam (County and District Councillor), J Rippeth and P Bearpark (District Councillors)

1. **Introduction by Chairman and apologies for absence:** The Chairman welcomed everyone present at the meeting.
Apologies: A Markham (Personal), D Owen (personal)
2. **Introduction of Parish Councillors:** 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 Monday 25 April 2022:**
RF Proposed to accept the minutes - DW Seconded **ALL AGREED**. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 25 April 2022 were approved and signed.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2022/23**
Capital Projects and Art Work

Following the success of our Bus Shelter Art competition last year, which led to 3 newly refurbished and decorated bus stops, we held another competition just for children. The 3 designs, themed on the Queen's Jubilee are now in place in the Landbeach Road bus shelter. We have also refurbished the 2 brick bus shelters, and commissioned artwork for 3 new village entry signs. Several new arty benches will be installed in the next few weeks.

The village pump on Cambridge Road, put in for the council houses there in the 1920s is being cleaned up and repaired to take it back to its original shape. The display board behind it illustrates what pumps around the village were used for in the past. There is also an original 2D sculpture of a woman and child collecting water, by Vanessa Morris. The Arts projects are all funded from a £50,000 contribution paid by developers in 2014 which must be spent by 2024.

Repton Gate

This wooden gate that stood beside the church from the 18th Century at the entrance to the Rectory grounds, was designed by Humphry Repton, who laid out the grounds at Milton Hall, including the ha-ha (a sunken wall), woods and lake that are there now. It was in serious disrepair and was stored for decades in a dry loft. Many thanks to John Harrold at Sunclose Farm for looking after it and to the Milton Parochial Church Council who owned it. With some of the Arts money we have arranged to have it restored, and we intend to hang it as a decoration at the North Lodge Park pavilion. One of the new iron benches, which will be on Pond Green, uses the design of this gate for its back, so everyone will be able to see this very special design. You can see it in the Milton Millennium Book (Milton 2000: A Daily Photographic Record, on 31/12/2000) for those who still have a copy.

Community Care

I have tremendous respect and gratitude for our Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon. She supports around 20 older people living in their own homes in the village, and their families every weekday. She also puts up information useful to us all on her Facebook page and 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 Corder, our Clerk, 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 to cover 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 minibus service to Tesco for our elderly and infirm runs once a fortnight. Milton Charities/Jean Gallagher Trust help us to support the service.

Youth

The Council continues to provide funding to support the youth activities run by the Connections Bus Project at Milton Youth Centre for age 11 up. The club moved to a Thursday and numbers have been growing.

Recreation facilities

The Parish Council makes an annual contribution to subsidise running costs of Milton Community Centre charity which provides for indoor and outdoor sport and recreation. The smaller open spaces are overseen by the Parish Council. These are at Humphries Way, Froment Way, The Rowans, The Oaks/Elms, 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

We have put ideas together for replacing the tired play equipment at The Rowans, and are awaiting final plans from play equipment companies, before we choose a design and apply for grant funding.

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, unlet allotments and the cemetery.

We held a meeting with allotment holders and the police following a number of cases of vandalism, and they are to patrol it more often. Edmund Green is intended to remain quite wild, but some tree maintenance has been done, and we have plans to improve it including adding a decorative bench.

New Trees

This year we planted six larger trees provided by SCDC on the bund beside the A10, replacing some that had died. A group of volunteers also planted 105 trees from the Woodland Trust in Paddock Wood (just beyond the allotments on Ely Road). Many thanks to these volunteers.

Litter picking

We had a very successful litter pick on a warm day in February, when 20 volunteers tackled the litter that had accumulated around the village. We try to organise a community litter pick, normally every half term, 3 times a year.

Cemetery

We have done some more revision of the Cemetery Regulations, and have ordered a notice board so these can be displayed at the cemetery. There are plans to improve the cemetery for wildlife. Many years ago now we decided to let the grass grow on the unused part on the right hand side, and seeded it as a wildflower meadow. Improving on this with areas of different habitats and better maintenance of the graves in the Lawn area, will, we hope, allow us to apply for the Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Bronze Award. Two new benches will be installed soon.

Ditches and drains

We are aware that the ditch through the centre of the village needs some clearance. Long-time residents may remember that South Cambs DC used to send a 'ditching man' along it every year to dig it out and keep it clear (in the 1970's). It runs from Recreation Close, through beside the Community Centre to Tomkins Mead, then behind houses in Old School Lane, Hall End, Fen Road and Goding Way to the lake in the North Lodge Park grounds. It is the responsibility of the neighbouring landowners to keep it clear, but clearance will need coordinating, otherwise a newly deepened part will just fill up with silt from upstream when it next rains. We have had advice from the County Council and they do have some grants available. However it is a huge job, and our likely contractor is advising on what it is feasible for them to do. We hope to make some progress in the next year.

Land registry

We continue to try to regularise and register land that we own and maintain in the village. This year we are about to register the land with trees on that we maintain in the middle of Willow Crescent.

Planning

We are consulted on all 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 Anna Bradnam our Tree Warden for advising on tree trimming applications.

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. Funding for cycle commuting from the Waterbeach New Town may also lead to further improvements for cycling through Milton.

20 mph in the village

If many more cyclists are using Milton High Street and Cambridge Road as a commuting route, it will be essential to improve cycle safety, particularly near the shops in the centre of the village, where cyclists have to be on the road because of the restricted width available. We have applied to the County Council to be one of the first villages to get a 20 mph speed limit under their new initiative. We have been told that there are over 200 eligible villages and only 6 to 8 will be granted this time, so fingers crossed!

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. County Highways have agreed a plan to put longer sections of double-yellow lines there, and move the dropped kerb, extending the footpath a little into The Rowans on the Tesco side. We have bid for funding to do this, and are waiting for a decision.

Mobile Vehicle-Activated Sign (MVAS)

The moveable traffic speed sign has been seen recently in the village. Landbeach and Milton share the sign, and we should see it pop up in the village more often.

His Majesty the King's Coronation weekend

We have supported the group organising the Coronation Tea on the Sunday 7th, 2:30 till 5pm. The Parish Council will have a table at the Tea and we are actively recruiting members. If you are interested in what

goes on in the village, please consider joining us. There are no elections for Parish Councillors until 2026, so we can co-opt new members.

Draft Accounts for the year April 2022 to March 2023

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

Description	£ Last Year (2021-22) Restated	£ This year (2022-23)
Balances brought fwd	487,968	499,421
Annual precept	133,000	133,000
Total other receipts	27,565	25,479
Staff Costs	44,022	46,270
Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
Total other payments	105,089	135,890
Balances carried forward	499,421	475,740
Total Cash and Short Term Investments	481,200	468,640
Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments	200,414	207,694
Total Borrowings	0	0

Finance

The Council requested a precept for 2023-24 the same as last years at £133,000.

Parish Councillors and Staff

We had a few resignations of councillors this year, leaving us with 8 councillors at the year end. I would like to thank the team that has been working together this year, and particularly Paul Ellwood who has pushed forward the Arts projects and chaired Maintenance, Don Wildman who has led on Finance, and Jane Coston who as Vice-Chairman keeps us on the right path.

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. Further information is available on the website - <https://www.miltonvillage.org.uk>

Hazel Smith, Chairman - Milton Parish Council

Milton Action for Youth The balance in the pass-book stands at £74.58. There has been no change to the account except 30p interest.

Hazel Smith, Signatory

Councillors will consider how to bring the Youth funds back into the Council accounts as an earmarked balance

5. County Councillor's Report from Anna Bradnam April 2023 (Full report attached to the Minutes on the MPC Website)

The main headings:

I think we will all remember 2022 as being the year in which HM Queen Elizabeth II died and in which the accession of HM King Charles III was proclaimed in Cambridge and Ely, and elsewhere in the county.

County Council

The composition of the County Council has changed, following the death of Independent Chair of the Council, Derek Giles and a Liberal Democrat being elected to that seat and a Conservative Councillor switching parties. The Council make up is currently

Conservatives 27 Liberal Democrats 22
Labour 9 Independents 3

I am the County's nominee to the Police and Crime Panel and on the Conservators of the River Cam, of which I am Vice Chair.

Council Finances

The high rates of inflation and the confusion caused by the Truss/Kwarteng mini-budget increased the cost of providing council services and the costs of capital projects, which increased the budget gap.

The Council increased its portion of the Council Tax in February by 4.99% (2.99% for general services and 2% for adult social care). This was to ensure we could continue to provide services for adults and children, roads, infrastructure and environmental projects

Adults and Health

Nationwide changes were made during the year, creating local Integrated Care Systems which are responsible for decision making across health and social care. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough created a joint Health and Wellbeing Board.

Children and Young People

The council has continued to fund vouchers for those eligible for free school meals over the school holidays, along with the Holiday Activity and Food programme. This is in recognition of the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on families.

The Council was praised by Ofsted for the work of senior leaders in Children's Services in responding to the challenge of Covid, and for maintaining continuity during structural change. Most children in need and those with a child protection plan were supported well.

Looking at local Primary Schools: Milton Church of England Primary School, after an Ofsted rating of Inadequate in Sept 2021, a monitoring visit in March 2022, reported in May 2022, found that "Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action towards the removal of the serious weaknesses designation. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose."

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

In a piece of good news for Cambridgeshire, the council and the Government reached agreement on the 'safety valve' process to resolve the escalating deficit in the cost of SEND education. The deficit had been expected to grow to over £90M by 2025/26 if left unchecked, and the council was not permitted to divert funding from other sources to fill the gap. Thankfully, Cambridgeshire has been awarded £49M which will be used to create 463 new special school places, with a further £11.3M in capital funding to support new SEND provision on mainstream school sites. Cambridgeshire has historically received less funding per child for education than other areas, whilst having a high proportion of SEND.

Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee (COSMIC) oversees the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship, to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment. COSMIC agreed to use some of the money from the fund to give a 'payment holiday' to pensioners in arrears with their water bills.

A Warm Hubs programme over the winter was funded by the Integrated Care System and administered by Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), with fantastic support from volunteers in local parishes including Milton and Landbeach.

Libraries - A review of the mobile library service resulted in a number of improvements, including more stops, more fuel-efficient routes, and local storage of vehicles. Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers were one of three voluntary organisations in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Waterbeach Independent Lending Library continued to offer children books and incentives to read through the Summer Reading Challenge, which keeps children reading over the summer holiday.

Photographic ID - The Government is introducing a requirement for voters to provide photographic ID at elections. Around two million voters in the UK do not have the right form of ID to enable them to vote—they can apply for free Voter Authority Certificates, but the application process for these is extremely slow and many people are likely to find themselves deprived of their right to vote on 4 May.

Environment

Council awarded the first spending from its Just Transition fund, including £2.175M to provide a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. £1.75M was also awarded for flood work and nature restoration. The County Council is working with district councils on energy retrofits in homes with poor energy efficiency.

Waste The waste disposal contract with Thalia (formerly Amey) at Waterbeach has taken a considerable amount of council time. Firstly the Environment Agency has required works to comply with new odour emission standards and secondly, in the new year, the EA enforced rules on persistent organic pollutants in waste upholstered domestic seating (POPs in WUDS).

Renewable energy - The first households in Swaffham Prior are now receiving renewable energy from the new energy centre. Interest in this project has been considerable. Other energy projects (solar panels on Park & Ride sites, North Angle solar farm, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council's own premises around the county) are continuing to progress. In conjunction with iChoosr the council ran another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

The Examination into the planning application by Sunnica for the large solar farm between Burwell and Red Lodge began in autumn 2022.

Water resources Anglian Water and Cambridge Water announced in autumn 2022 their preferred location for a new reservoir in the Fens, north of Chatteris, to come on stream in the late 2030s.

Trees The council has published an interim Tree Strategy, which it will revise once it has baseline information about what trees the council has, where they are, and how the council can expand and improve its tree assets. The Council persuaded National Highways to review the success of its tree-planting scheme along the new A14 route. They felled 400,000, replanted 800,000 but some 600,000 have died. Around 125,000 will be replanted.

Highways and Transport

The condition of Cambridgeshire's roads and pavements remains a serious challenge. The severity of the problem is far beyond our maintenance budget, so the council has been actively engaging with the Department for Transport to seek their support and funding.

Flooding - The council used a data interpretation and modelling tool to identify a 'Safe and Dry' programme of 115 locations where work was needed to improve flood resilience, and work began on the first fifty of these locations in 2022.

Street Lighting The council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3M a year on energy for street lights, and this sum will pay back within six years.

20 mph schemes - The new funding pot has attracted numerous applications.

Greater Cambridge Partnership

Making Connections - In autumn 2022 the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consulted on its proposals for improved bus provision and active travel in the Cambridge area, which in due course would be funded by a charge for driving in a 'Sustainable Travel Zone' between 7:00am and 7:00pm on weekdays. Requests for a referendum on the charge have been declined at both District and County Council, since it is not until the consultation responses have been analysed and responded to, that final proposals will be drawn up.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

The Combined Authority has had a somewhat turbulent year, including an attempt to depose the elected Mayor which was unsuccessful. Most significantly, the auditors (EY) wrote to the Authority in June expressing concerns about the functioning of the Combined Authority, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has become involved, setting some clear requirements for improvement. The Combined Authority has agreed an Improvement programme with a package of external support, and an Independent Improvement Board has been established.

Buses In September 2022 the main bus operator Stagecoach gave six weeks' notice of its intention to withdraw from a large number of bus routes. The CPCA pulled together a tender process at very short notice, and was able to find new providers for most of those routes, though there have been changes in frequency and extent of several of them. Additional funding was diverted to support these routes, and the Mayor decided to levy a precept which will be added to the council tax to ensure the stability of these services for a further year. The Service 9 route between Milton and Waterbeach was not part of that rescue package and despite my direct requests, Stagecoach refused to re-instate that part of the route. I continue to seek restoration of this vital village link.

6. District Councillors' Report from Anna Bradnam, Judith Rippeth and Paul Bearpark April 2023 (Full report attached to the Minutes on the MPC Webpage)

This report covers the last 12 months of activity by District Councillors Anna Bradnam, Judith Rippeth and Paul Bearpark and the Liberal Democrat-led District Council.

May election: One of the first things to happen in the past year, in May 2022, was district council elections. We were delighted to have been elected to represent our ward until 2026.

Homes for Ukraine: SCDC has been highly active in the local administration of the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. Communication with both hosts and guests has been key and we have issued a weekly community update for hosts and, recently, one for guests. The council is still looking for potential hosts, so if you feel you can help, please contact duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

Cost of living support: The cost-of-living crisis affects everyone and SCDC has been supporting residents throughout, providing a package of support to help South Cambridgeshire residents through the winter. We supplied more than 300 residents who are 'just about managing' with free electric blankets and slow cookers - low-cost methods of staying warm and cooking food. Extra funding was provided to support an extra 100 eligible families with housing costs through Discretionary Housing Payments, Discretionary Council Tax discounts and a Warm Hubs programme. A further £200,000 has recently been allocated for further support.

There are two sections: what help is available and offering support to others.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>

Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation: Two years ago, following a Lib Dem motion brought to Full Council with wide support, the Council signed up to complete its Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.

C3R – Cambridge Re-signalling, Re-lock and Re-control project: The stated aim the Cambridge Re-signalling Relock & Recontrol Project is to upgrade the re-signalling system to a 35-year life and improve the reliability and performance of the signalling system in the Cambridge interlocking area, and thereby improve the performance and reliability of the network. The project includes the re-signalling of the Cambridge station interlocking area and the upgrade of the relevant level crossings, and any other works and operations incidental or ancillary to such works. In our ward it impacts the crossings on Station Rd, Waterbeach and Fen Rd, Milton.

The Transport and Works Act Order application has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport to determine. South Cambridgeshire District Council is a statutory consultee and was invited to submit representations to the Secretary of State by 23 September 2022.

Waterbeach Greenway: Earlier this year the GCP has stated that the work on the Waterbeach Greenway would be paused briefly for a review. The recent GCP Joint Assembly report stated “The Waterbeach Greenway alignment was originally agreed by the Executive Board in February 2020. Since that time, a number of changes in the area including the development of the Urban & Civic Mere Way proposals, A10 footpath widening, the decision to relocate the Waterbeach Rail Station and the emerging Waterbeach Busway proposals. These interventions require a review of the Waterbeach Greenway proposals to ensure that a comprehensive network is delivered.”

“Green to our Core”: One of the Council’s ongoing Business Plan objectives is to be “Green to Our Core” and we have delivered a number of initiatives in the last year. Two electric refuse collection vehicles are now operating in the district, a third is on order and a fourth will follow soon.

Economic growth in the Greater Cambridge area is one of the main drivers of the GCP’s “Making Connections” proposals. Companies of all kinds want to move to the Cambridge area, creating jobs of all kind and the prosperity that goes with them. These companies need people, and those people have to have somewhere to live. This is the reason that the government requires local planning authorities (like SCDC and the County Council) to plan for greater numbers of houses and the infrastructure (schools, medical facilities, roads) to go with them.

Greater Cambridge Planning – Planning Compliance: As part of the review of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) officers reviewed the part of the service relating to ensuring compliance with planning controls. The rise in the number of complaints received reflects a national trend and it is important to respond efficiently and effectively whilst keeping people informed. The Council’s strategy is to promote a proactive approach to responding to breaches of planning regulations with appropriate interventions. Therefore, we have moved to the use of the term compliance. During 2022 work was undertaken to examine existing processes, to streamline them, adopt new IT systems to aid reporting, and to improve the information available on these matters.

From 2 August 2022 all the information on compliance with planning regulations has been updated and consolidated onto the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website

(<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/http://greatercambridgeplanning.orghttps://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/> with links available from the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils websites. There is written guidance on what is (and what is not) a breach of planning control.

Where it appears that there is a breach of planning control complaints can now be submitted using an e-form. This allows any documents and/or photographs to be uploaded which will help the compliance team with their investigations.

We hope that this will enable residents and others to understand the issues involved in securing compliance with planning regulations. We continue to seek improvements to the way we respond to complaints about unauthorised developments with the development of a new Enforcement Plan and restructuring of the Compliance Team.

Business Support

SCDC has a highly effective Business Support Team which provides advice and support, especially for small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups. The street-trading sector has been targeted for support. A new and improved policy was implemented to support the street trading sector across South Cambridgeshire. This policy will ensure high levels of safety compliance and enable the sector to thrive through the introduction of flexible trading models.

The Business Support Team supported over 100 businesses, is expanding the Visit South Cambridgeshire brand and provides space for growing small businesses or shared workspace for start-ups or micro businesses.

7. Milton Community Centre Report April 2023

Bookings: The Main Community Centre building is now in use 7 days a week and used by nearly 40 groups over the course of a week.

We have seen an increase in bookings for children’s parties in the Main Hall but a decrease in adult parties.

The Annexe is still used by Kids R Us Monday to Friday during term time for wrap around care and as a holiday club out of school term times. At weekends it is used for dance and drama on a Saturday morning and children's parties Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

The Youth Building is used by Eddies Artworks throughout the year Monday to Friday and by Youth Club on a Thursday.

North Lodge was used Monday to Friday for 6 months by The British Red Cross whilst they were seeking permanent premises and is now used by Milton Colts Football, Milton Cricket Club and Inland Water Ways.

Maintenance and Improvements: In addition to day-to-day maintenance the following work has been carried out during the last year:

- The solar panels at North Lodge are now working with the inverter having been replaced and battery storage has been installed
- The lights in the Main Hall and store room at the Community Centre have been replaced with LED lights.
- 5 Year fixed electrical test has been completed at all sites
- Bulkhead lights at the end of the Community Centre have been replaced with LED lamps
- The platform above the slide has been replaced at the Sycamores
- Following burst pipes and a collapsed ceiling in December at the Sycamores Pavilion extensive refurbishment works have been completed
- The basket ball court has been resurfaced at the Sycamores
- The Main Hall walls have been painted
- Separate electric meters have been installed for the tennis court lights
- The guttering at the Annexe have been cleared
- Repairs have been made to the Waste pumping station at the Community Centre
- The drains in the car park at the Community Centre have been cleared

Staff: I am the only full-time employee supported by 3 part time members of staff, Kevin, Rob and Philip, who share some of the key holder duties.

8. Question and Answer Session
None

Meeting closed: 8:16pm

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