

**Minutes of the Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on
Monday 4 March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion**

Present: HM Smith (HMS) (Chair), J Coston (JEC), D Owen (DO), P Ellwood (PE), D Wildman (DW),
L Champion (LC), A Bradnam (AB)(arrived 8:13pm)

In Attendance: S Corder (Clerk),

1 Apologies for Absence:

R Farrington (personal)

2 To APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5 February 2024

DW Proposed to accept the minutes – DO Seconded ALL AGREED

To APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29 January 2024 (Deferred from January MPC meeting)

DW Proposed to accept the minutes – HMS Seconded ALL AGREED

3 Declarations of interest and dispensations:

To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda; **Item 6: DO - 26 Church Lane (friend of applicant), HMS – works next to 137 Cambridge Road.**

To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any); None

To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate: None

4 Public Participation – members of the public are invited to speak

No public in attendance

5 Clerk's/Chairman's Report and see Works Schedule

Local Project 2024/25 20mph Funding – Clerk has applied for 20mph through the village

Milton Brook Clearance (Ditch below Tomkins Mead): response to AB's follow on email for further information on works required: Awaiting quotes and advice from B Hefferman for further ditch clearance work to expose the culverts beneath the highway for a camera and a jetter to assess state of repair

The Rowans Safety Improvements – Awaiting installation date for extension of double yellow lines

Local Council Award Scheme – PE and DW to put together a Village Action Plan.

SCDC 6 Free Trees – Planted (Top of Humphries Way/A10 junction, Humphries Way and Froment Way play parks, The Rowans and Hawthorn Hedge play parks and The Sycamores recreation ground)

The Rowans Play Park Revamp – Order has been placed with Eibe – awaiting installation date **(Work to start around mid-May)**

Village Litter Pick – Carried out on Sunday 25 February 2024 - 11 people attended **(Clerk to email Tesco asking them to carry out a litter pick at the front of the store – planting behind bus stop and the pathway leading to The Sycamores)**

The PC met with Camcycle to discuss the proposed Waterbeach to Cambridge Greenway and the affects the proposal will have on Milton. The PC and Camcycle will walk the proposed route on 7th March 11:30

Works schedule: JEC is gathering information about the boundaries at Old School Lane.

A10 Trees: Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of the County Council as many trees by the A10 are in a dangerous state, and we have been lobbying for action for many years now. We have suffered trees falling onto our allotments and broken sections of our fence which have not yet been repaired.

6 Planning

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 19 February 2024 were received

Decisions:

23/04837/FUL – 191 Cambridge Science Park, Milton – installation of one set of external ductwork, extractor fan on base and discharge flue adjacent to existing pharmaceutical unit – **GRANTED PERMISSION**

23/04822/FUL – 29 Cambridge Science Park, Milton – Erection of new substation, switch room and UPS room, alongside relocated cycle stores and associated works **GRANTED PERMISSION**

New:

24/00530/FUL – 137 Cambridge Road, Milton – Two storey rear extension with added PV solar panels

OBJECT: 1. Overdevelopment of the site. 2. No provision for long term parking on-site – proposed agreement for parking for a 3 year term at Milton Country Park is temporary and development should provide for its own

parking for the life of the building. 3. The cycle parking will constrict a narrow entrance between two buildings leading to 2 entries with double doors

24/00577/FUL – Willow Lodge 37 High Street, Milton – Change of use from garage into ancillary meeting rooms for the sole use of Red Balloon **HAS NO RECOMMENDATIONS**

24/00613/HFUL – 26 Church Lane, Milton – Single storey rear extension, conversion of existing garage and room above. Installation of solar PV panels to rear roof and removal of 2no Sycamore trees
(AB arrived 8:13pm)

OBJECT: Unless further justification is given for the felling of two Sycamore trees (T7 and T8). The trees are in the conservation area

Brockton Everlast Inc and the long term future of 210-240 Cambridge Science Park and Trinity Hall Farm Industrial Estate – help identify local needs – **Does MPC have any comments on their proposals for the sites?**

(Presentation was given at the Planning meeting on 19 February 2024)

MPC has no comments until the planning application is received

Notification of Planning Appeal

EN/0039/22 – Grassy Corner Caravan Park, Chesterton Fen Road, Milton – Hardcore laid and mobile homes sited on agricultural land without planning permission – Planning permission was refused on 20 April 2023: Enforcement notice requires the following steps: (i) Cease the use of the land as a residential caravan site (ii) remove all caravans from the land (iii) remove all hardstanding from the land – The notice gave a compliance period of six months.

The appellant has appealed the Notice on the following grounds:

Ground (c) - that there has not been a breach of planning control, Ground (g) that the time given to comply with the notice is too short

Does MPC wish to make comments?

Milton Parish Council reiterate their objections from September 2022 – as below

STRONGLY OBJECT:

1. The local planning authority have a robust Green Belt Policy which will prohibit such development proposals on green belt land
2. The land is in the flood plain and should not be built on
3. It is in the River Corridor
4. The vehicular access over the railway crossing is insufficient to cope with existing traffic
5. The application should be referred to Greater Cambridge Planning Committee
6. Milton Parish Council will seek to have their Chairman (Hazel Smith) represent their views at Planning Committee meeting

Milton Parish Council supports the Enforcement Notice and actions required

Notification of Planning Appeal

EN/00198/23 – 76 Fen Road, Milton – Alleged construction of a building without the necessary planning permission having been obtained Enforcement notice requires one of the following steps: Step 1(a) Dismantle the steel framed barn and cladding. Step 1(b) permanently remove all the resultant building material waste and construction paraphernalia and other items from the land. Step 1(c) Permanently remove any base placed footing or concrete pad placed on the land to be used in association with the offending barn including and debris or materials resulting in that removal. The notice gives a compliance period of 6 months

The appellant has appealed the Notice of the following grounds:

Ground (a) – that planning permission should be granted for what is alleged in the notice. Ground (b) that the breach of control alleged in the enforcement notice has not occurred as a matter of fact. Ground (f) the steps required to comply with the requirements of the notice are excessive and lesser steps would overcome the objections. Ground (g) that the time given to comply with the notice is too short

Does MPC to wish to make comments?

Milton Parish Council supports the Enforcement Notice and actions required

Milton Parish Council objects to the building's presence due to it being 5 times the original size, with a bigger footprint 2-3 times in height and a bigger base with new surround

The scale, bulk and materials used are inappropriate for this greenbelt area

7 Bills for Payment and Money Received

To **CONFIRM** and **AGREE** bills for payment - **DW Proposed to pay vouchers 373-401 and tabled 402 to 405 - HMS Seconded ALL AGREED**

8 Review of Highways Operational Standards in Relation to Weed Management

To **CONSIDER** any concerns/views of reinstating the use of chemical weed management
Milton Parish Council has no objection

9 Parking of Container Trucks in the Village

To **DISCUSS** concerns of container trucks parking in residential streets and possible restrictions
It has been reported that container lorries have been parking up for the night on The Rowans, Ely Road and Coles Road – Clerk and County Councillor to ask County Highways for weight restrictions of 7.5 tonnes though the village except for access – signs could be placed just after the Tesco roundabout and Ely Road and Humphries Way entrances/exits

10 E-Scooter Trial

Current trial period to end 31 May 2024 – The DfT who lead the scooter trial have asked for an extension of 2 years and changes to the boundary. The map below shows a **working proposal for a revised boundary**, see <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1jL3w4sMC3-qSjfFwa5EukizYypR-PE&usp=sharing>

Response: The proposed extension would include North Lodge Park and the College of West Anglia. Where would the parking hub be on North Lodge Park? – consult their Residents Association.

Has the College of West Anglia been consulted?

What is the GPS accuracy – can it tell if the scooter is on the footpath or road?

Can you slow the scooters down when on a shared footpath?

Can the Parish Council be consulted on the parking hub locations – is it the intention for it to be only on public land?

We are surprised to see another trial extension as the longer this goes on without proper legislation the more illegal uninsured private e-scooters are being bought, and these put pedestrians in danger.

11 To Receive County Councillor's Report (Full report on MPC Website)

County Council Budget – 2024/25: The council agreed a Council Tax rise of 4.99%, 2% for Adult Social Services, and 2.99% for general services—raising £17.5M of local income to help maintain and protect critical services for the most vulnerable communities. For the majority of residents in Band A-D properties that will mean an extra 99p to £1.48 a week.

Councillor allowances: The council agreed to implement the council allowances scheme recommended by the independent panel set up for this purpose.

(Old) Shire Hall – back on the market: Bids have been invited for the lease or purchase of part of the Shire Hall site in Cambridge, after the previous preferred bidder was unable to continue their interest.

ADULTS AND HEALTH: Measles – cases of measles are rising throughout the country so the council is asking everyone to check their MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination status and get vaccinated if they are not up to date. More information at <https://www.cpics.org.uk/measles>
Individuals should check their vaccination status if possible **before** attending one of these clinics.

NHS Dentistry: The Adults & Health Committee will be scrutinising the provision of NHS dentistry in Cambridgeshire at its meeting on 7 March. Access to NHS dental care has declined dramatically in recent years and many practices no longer accept NHS patients. Dentists say that under the current contract, it is not financially viable to offer NHS procedures because of a lack of Government investment.

Have your say on Healthy Communities: A survey has been launched asking for views on access to healthcare services, inclusive and accessible green spaces, opportunities for active travel and healthy play and leisure, and the provision of affordable healthy food options.

The survey is at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WNC1CB/> and is open until **Monday 15 April at 5pm**. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy, you can pick one up from your local library. If you have any questions please email healthinalpolicies@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

COMMUNITIES SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC) : Free data SIM cards - A reminder that free SIM cards to those unable to afford internet access are available at 11 libraries in Cambridgeshire. They are available to anyone aged 18+ from a low-income household. Recipients can self-declare as eligible, and the support is available for a maximum period of twelve months. This offer is available at a range of libraries including Cambridge Central, Bar Hill, Arbury Court, and Barnwell Road. Ask library staff for more details.

ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INVESTMENT: Weekly Food Waste Collections - The Government is encouraging a move to weekly food waste collections, with financial support to District Councils for changes to **collection** of the waste. Milton was included in the trial run last year by SCDC to assess systems and viability. However the government has not given any support to County Councils for **disposing** of food waste.

Community Flood Risk Newsletter: The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Flood and Water Partnership (CPFloW) will start publishing a Community Flood Risk newsletter to help support residents, businesses, and communities in relation to flooding. This will include input from organisations such as the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and water companies.

Reporting Flooding: If you have experienced flooding, please report it. If there is a flood and a threat to life, call **999**. Report non-life-threatening flood emergencies to the Police on **101**. Outside those events, please report on the County Council's flood reporting page <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/report-a-flood>

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT: Gully clearing - The council has reinstated the programme of regular, cyclical gully clearing that the previous administration ceased; a decision which had contributed to many local flooding problems. The programme has not yet reached our area.

Highways Capital Programme – a draft programme has been sent to the Highways and Transport Committee for comment. Further work is needed to prioritise the use of this funding.

Guided Busway - Since February 2022, the southbound track has been closed between Cambridge Railway Station and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. The Council has been working with the bus operators and emergency services to risk-assess and design a fence to be installed along sections of the southern busway. It has been specifically designed with removable sections to allow for safe evacuation. Contractors are working seven days a week and the busway and maintenance track are currently programmed to re-open on Saturday 30 March 2024.

Rail upgrade at Ely – unclear - Investment in Ely was highlighted by government when it announced its target to grow rail freight by 75% by 2050.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY: Just after Mayor Nik Johnson announced a list of bus improvements which his precept would be able to fund, Stagecoach announced it would be drastically reducing the **Service 9** bus from Ely to Cambridge. Stagecoach say they can no longer support running buses empty on this loss-making route. Since the route was changed in September 2023, I have been regularly requesting restoration of the connecting service through the villages of Waterbeach, Landbeach and Milton. Instead, from 14 April, the service will be slashed to just four buses Monday to Friday, with fewer stops. The Combined Authority is considering next steps to provide a useable service.

Highways and Road works: Milton Interchange – another brief overnight closure

Works have been scheduled in **April** to survey the north end of the west overbridge. During recent resurfacing works a void was identified under the carriageway and temporarily repaired. The findings will help to determine a permanent solution. The interchange west overbridge will be closed overnight **8pm – 6am from 8 April until 10 April 2024**.

Traffic will be diverted to the A14 westbound to J32, Histon Interchange and return on the A14 eastbound towards Milton Interchange just north of the A14 overbridge. Traffic will be able to access Milton off the roundabout (near Tesco).

12 To Receive District Councillors Report (Full report on MPC Website)

South Cambridgeshire District Council Budget for 2024-25: On Tuesday 27th February SCDC voted to approve the administration's Budgets and Business Plan for the period 2024-25.

Council tax for the upcoming tax year was set with a 3% below inflation rise with a band D household paying an extra £5 per annum on the portion that goes to SCDC.

Youth Mental Health support: The next Wild Minds course begins on Sunday 17th March from 3pm –to 4.30pm at Milton Country Park. The programme is designed to help those between the ages of 12 and 17 with mild to moderate anxiety or depression. The programme encompasses a range of nature-based activities which help support young people's wellbeing, by enjoying being outdoors and engaging with peers who may be experiencing similar feelings. To get involved and to register to take part visit the Council's Nature based Wellbeing web page: <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/nature-based-wellbeing-programme/#form>

Easter bin collections: Collections in the 'Milton & Waterbeach' ward won't be impacted at all over Easter so continue to place bins kerbside for emptying on the usual day of the week (Wednesday or Thursday.)

24th February marked two years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Council continues to support refugees in settling here and also supports their host families. South Cambridgeshire residents have opened their homes and hearts to Ukrainians fleeing war.

We will continue to support our Ukrainian refugees to make a home here in South Cambridgeshire whilst hoping for an end to this conflict and for a day when those who wish to can return home.

13 To Receive Milton Community Centre Report

Maintenance/Improvements: General ongoing repairs have been completed across the 3 sites.

The majority of the car park at The Sycamores has been topped up with plainings and the potholes filled. We have also replaced the lights in the car park and the 5-side area with LED lights and replaced the time clock.

Bookings: The Annexe and the Main Hall remain popular for children's parties and the Main Building is now in use 7 days a week for regular bookings. We have seen a decrease in the number of attendees for some of our regular classes. This is thought to be due to people watching their money more.

Hard Courts: The Hard Courts are in use 7 days a week and Milton Colts have resumed their winter booking on the 5 aside court. Milton Tennis Club continue to use the 3 courts. The tennis courts have been professionally cleaned leading to a better playing surface.

Youth Building and Sycamores Pavilion: Eddies Artworks continue to use the building Monday to Friday and Youth Group on a Thursday evening.

Milton football club continues to use the Pavilion.

North Lodge: We still see very low interest in hiring the facility due to the main room being too small for exercise classes and the flooring not suitable for dance classes.

We have had issues with horses leaving the adjoining paddocks and damaging the football pitches due to the fence being removed. I am in regular contact with the owners of the land and the stable manager, and this should have stopped now.

Milton Colts and Milton Cricket are still the main users of the facility.

Vandalism and Crime: We have continued to have damage being caused to football pitches at NLP and the Sycamores by quad bikes. The damage has been reported to the police.

We continue to regularly receive complaints about dog owners not clearing up dog mess, not having dogs on leads, ignoring the signs regarding this particularly at Coles Road and The Sycamores.

We have seen a significant increase in litter at Coles Road particularly in the car park with fast food packaging left and tissues where people have cleaned their shoes before getting in to vehicles.

14 Correspondence

Question raised by resident: Is there any chance of having a bus shelter on Cambridge Road? The bus shelter is now on the wrong side of the road to go into town – **With the current Greenway proposal going through the village no locations can be considered. MPC are currently lobbying for a better Number 9 service. MPC are limited on what land is available**

Emailed to Councillors

Weed control regime information letter

Greater Cambridge Partnership Update February 2024

SCDC 4 day week report

15 Dates of next meetings

Monday 18 March 2024 – 7pm Planning – 7:45pm Maintenance

Monday 8 April 2024 – Parish Council

Wednesday 17 April 2024 – 11:30am Community Care

Meeting closed at 9:22pm Signed: Dated: