



MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

THE END OF AN ERA...

Jim Daniels is retiring on the first of May 2012 after serving as parish clerk for over thirty years. On behalf of all parish councillors and residents of Milton, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim for the tremendous work he has done for the village during his tenure. Jim has overseen



many changes throughout his long service. For the first twenty-five years or so he conducted parish business from his own front room! The internet hadn't yet caught on and Jim was using a typewriter to prepare the Minutes of parish council meetings. (He vehemently denies rumours that, for his first set of Minutes, he had actually used a quill pen.) Times have certainly changed. Jim has had a custom-built parish office since 2006 and now uses a computer like a pro. But some things remain the same. Jim has been the first point of contact for parishioners for more than

three decades, and during that time Milton residents could be assured that village affairs were in good hands. Of the many accomplishments that mark Jim's term as clerk, I would like to single out one in particular: the designation of Milton Parish Council as a Quality Council. I am confident in saying that we would not have received this prestigious distinction had it not been for Jim's tireless efforts to provide a superior level of service which went above and beyond that of a standard parish clerk. His dedication and professionalism have been an inspiration to us all and we wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement as he indulges his passion for train journeys, cycling (on his new electric bicycle) and – of course – bowls. Jim, I'm sure the whole village would want me to wish you a long and happy retirement!



...AND A WORD OF WELCOME

Your council has confirmed the appointment of Milton resident Sue Humphreys as the new parish clerk. I would like to thank councillors Jane Coston and Ian May for all their work during the interview process. We welcome Sue on board and wish her all the best in her new role. I would like to welcome the new parish councillors who have joined us this past year: David Chamberlin, Gary Heaney, Jim Mowatt, Michael Perkins and Ian Tyes. I would also like to thank departing councillors Gerda Covell and Mandy Winnington for their service.



Thanks as well to the Charities and the Community Centre Management Committee and staff for all their support during the year, and to our local bobby PC Phil Shulver and Community Support Officer PCSO John Mason. These are just some of the many individuals who have contributed to the smooth running of the village during the past year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

ANNUAL PRECEPT

Your council voted to keep the village precept at the current level for 2012/13. We trust this will help residents and families in the current economic climate. For a full run-down on the budget please see the final page of this report.



MILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (MCC)



Why not make the most of this valuable resource which is right on our front doorstep by taking a class, joining a club or deciding to work off some extra pounds with the many sports activities available. You can also hire out the hall for special events. Remember, it is YOUR Community Centre, so why not use it? You can call MCC Manager Andy Gray on 862763 and view a timetable of activities at www.miltonvillage.org.uk

COMMUNITY CARE

Our Community Care scheme remains very active. This year, we received grants from Milton Charities as well as the District Council and the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. The scheme provides vital services for many Milton residents. Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon is doing excellent work and I commend her on her service and dedication.



YOUTH

The parish council continues to provide financial support to the youth club. Thanks to the resident from Butt Lane whose donation has helped Milton Action for Youth as well as two other village clubs – the Milton Scouts and the Milton Badminton Club – continue their work with young people. Milton Action for Youth, a charitable organisation, helps oversee youth work in the village and activities held in the Milton Youth Centre on The Sycamores Rec. Thanks to all for their valuable work with the youth of the village.



MILTON COUNTRY PARK

At our February meeting, we had a comprehensive report from Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust director Mick Woolhouse on the status of Milton Country Park. The park is a terrific asset for the village and I would like to thank Mick and his team for all their hard work to make it a success. Read more about the park and browse a list of events at www.miltoncountrypark.org



EMERGENCY PLAN



We had a good response from residents about the Emergency Plan for the village. A working party is coordinating efforts to formulate a plan to identify local risk assessments, skills and resources, contact points and emergency centres in the event of an emergency. Thanks to councillors Jim Mowatt and Hazel Smith for taking the lead on this.

RECREATION LAND

Our search for more recreation space for the village continues. We were disappointed that the land deal with the College of West Anglia fell through. Elsewhere, the change in the proposed development off Ely Road from a retirement village to general housing has prompted a re-negotiation of the S106 Agreement and we have been keen to safeguard the parish's interests whether we, in the end, choose either to accept a one-off payment of £200,000 or to lease land on the new development for village recreation use. As we explore other options for recreation land, we also seek to enhance existing areas and have secured a grant to purchase outdoor fitness equipment for the Sycamores Recreation Ground. I am sure this equipment will be a welcome benefit for all residents who use the Sycamores Rec as well as the many village sports teams who play there.



PARISH CLERK'S OFFICE & WELCOME PACKS



I would like to thank our assistant clerk, David Geasor, for all his hard work throughout the year. Thanks as well to our village cleaner, Philip Adams. As a reminder, the Clerk's Office has produced Welcome Packs for new residents, so if you know of anyone who has moved into the village recently please send them along to the Parish Office to pick one up. I also recommend that residents visit our parish council website (www.miltonvillage.org.uk) for more information about the village, including a virtual parish notice board with up-to-date local events.

HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN

I would like to remind you that the Environmental Group, led by parish and district councillor Hazel Smith, organises numerous litter picks throughout the year. They are usually held on a Sunday and are advertised on the parish notice boards. I encourage all residents to lend a hand to help keep our village looking its best. Hazel also continues a dialogue with the Tesco store manager to deal with litter and other issues that come up throughout the year.



CONCLUSION

As predicted in last year's report, we are experiencing an ever-expanding work-load in the parish office due to increased requests from both district and county councils due to the financial challenges facing local government. I believe this is a trend which will only continue in the future. So we will definitely have our work cut out for us in the coming years. Although we say good-bye in May to Jim, I believe we have an eminently qualified successor in Sue and I look forward to working with her and my fellow councillors in the months ahead.



Richard Summerfield
Chairman, Milton Parish Council

ANNUAL RETURN – Statement of Accounts at 31 March 2012

	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-12	
1 Balances B/F	204,427	170,476	Total balances at beginning of year
2 Annual Precept	120,000	125,000	Total amount of precept received
3 Total other receipts	23,430	26,278	Total receipts or income less the precept
4 Staff costs	40,645	40,755	Total expenditure made to all council employees
5 Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	Total payment of capital and interest
6 Total other payments	136,736**	75,474	Total expenditure or payments
7 Balances carried forward	170,476	205,525	Total balances & reserves at end of year
8 Total cash & short term investments	194,848	206,126	Sum of all bank accounts
9 Total fixed assets & long term assets	177,644	178,184	Recorded book value of all assets
10 Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	Outstanding capital balance of all loans
11 Trust Funds	No	No	Council is responsible for managing trust funds

** includes £70,000 towards MCC refurbishment

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Parish Office Opening Hours

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

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

Jim Daniels, Clerk to Milton Parish Council, May 2012

Published by Milton Parish Council