

MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

During the past year, your parish council has dealt with numerous issues which directly affect the village. I would like to remind you that parish councillors are all volunteers who generously devote their time and energies to make Milton a better place to live and work for residents and visitors. As you may be aware, there are fifteen seats on the parish council. We have not been up to full strength for some time now, which puts a strain on existing councillors to complete all the work necessary for the smooth running of our parish. I encourage all residents to consider joining us. Just a few hours a month is all that is required to make a significant contribution to village life. A number of councillors are stepping down this year, so the need is greater than ever for new members. As you read this report, you will see how much the parish council does for the village. Please keep in mind that this work cannot be done without the support of residents and our volunteer parish councillors. For more information about being a parish councillor please see our website www.miltonvillage.org.uk/opus211.html. Or better still, come along to a parish council meeting (in the Bowls Pavilion on the first Monday of each month except August; dates and times are advertised on the parish notice boards and website) or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job.

HAIL & FAREWELL

Ian May stood down this year after nearly twenty-five years of service on the parish council as he had moved out of the village. Ian had served as vice-chairman for many years, as well as chairman of the Community Care Committee. He had also been on the Land Group and liaised with the Football Association concerning the new sports pitches and pavilion at North Lodge Park. We thank Ian for all his hard work on behalf of the village and wish him and his family all the best for the future. Our Rector, David Chamberlin, is also standing down this year, as are councillors Mark Hersom (who has also moved away), Jim Mowatt and Ian Tyes. I would like to thank David for all his work on the Community Care Committee and Ian for his terrific efforts on behalf of youth work in the village. We welcomed two new councillors, Milton residents David Stirrups and Adam Dark. Unfortunately, Adam has had to step down due to study commitments.

A WORD OF THANKS

Thanks to Milton Charities and the Community Centre Management Committee and staff for all their support during the year, and to Safer Neighbourhood Officer PCSO John Mason and village cleaner Philip Adams. Thanks also to previous councillors Roger Day and Bob Waters for their work on tree issues in the parish. These are just some of the many individuals who contributed to the smooth running of the village during the past year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



ANNUAL PRECEPT

Although your parish council increased the precept to £129,000 for 2015-16, our tax base has increased over the past year, so this actually represents a *decrease* for a band D property in Milton. We trust that this will help residents and families in the current economic climate.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

I would like to thank councillor Hazel Smith, who chairs the Finance & Administration Committee, for all her work during the past year. This committee, in addition to making a recommendation for the annual village precept level, is responsible for overseeing all the finances for the parish in its day-to-day running. Hazel has spent a considerable amount of time on this work and her efforts are greatly appreciated.

HELPING TO KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN



The Milton Environmental Group again conducted regular litter picks throughout the year to ensure that our village looks its best. Please consider joining them on one of their litter picks which are advertised on the parish notice boards. We are also very grateful to Parish and District Councillors Hazel Smith and Anna Bradnam for their work to clean up the verges on the southern approach to the village. Hazel also continues dialogue with the Tesco store manager to deal with

litter and other issues that come up through the year.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

I would like to thank councillor Gary Heaney who chairs the Maintenance Committee as well as all the committee members for their work during the past year on behalf of the village. This committee oversees the grass-cutting and tree work for the entire village as well as maintaining all the various play areas, in addition to the allotments and the village cemetery. They certainly have had their work cut out for them this year, and we are very grateful for all their time and effort.

COMMUNITY CARE

Our Community Care warden Tracey Ebbon continues to do fantastic work with elderly residents in the village who want to maintain their independence and live in their own homes. I would like to thank Tracey as well as the Community Care Committee for all their work on behalf of our elders in the village. This year, our Community Care Scheme, which is one of the largest in the county, received grants from Milton Charities and South Cambs District Council.

YOUTH

The parish council continues to provide financial support to the youth club, and Milton Action for Youth (MA4Y) helps oversee youth work in the village. Thanks to parish councillor Ian Tyes and MA4Y for their valuable work with the youth of the parish.



PLANNING

I would like to thank parish councillor Rob Farrington and the Planning Committee for all their work during the previous year. This committee reviews all the planning applications for the village and provides comments to South Cambs District Council, which makes the final determination. Rob studies all the plans and visits the sites to determine what effect the proposals may have on adjacent properties. The committee also notes any concerns from neighbours.

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/mcc/

NORTH LODGE PARK

May I take this opportunity to welcome all the new residents of North Lodge Park. We understand that all the homes in this new development are now occupied. Your parish council has been working over many years with various developers of this site to get the best for the village in the legal agreements. The legal agreements cover various items and include a sum for public art. Your council are considering what to spend this on, as a wide range of options could be considered public art. We are also awaiting the handing over of the new pavilion and sports area, which will have two football pitches. A large part of the open space, the new play area and the Repton Lake will remain the responsibility of a management company and will not be passed on to the parish council.

WELCOME PACKS

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.



PARISH OFFICE

This has been a transitional year for the parish clerk's office. Our clerk, Gemma, resigned recently and we welcomed our new Assistant Clerk, Susan Wilkin. Susan has stepped into the breach and is doing a terrific job in dealing with the day-to-day running of the parish office. She has had assistance from Dianne Marshall, an experienced clerk from Cheveley Parish Council, who is helping support the office in the interim. Our thanks to Susan and Dianne for all their hard work, as well as to councillor Anna Bradnam who chairs the Staffing Committee.

Jane Coston, Chairperson, Milton Parish Council

ANNUAL RETURN: DRAFT Statement of Accounts at 31 March 2015

	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-15
1 Balances B/F	220,750	267,359
2 Annual Precept	125,000	125,000
3 Total other receipts	32,976	68,925
4 Staff costs	40,544	39,248
5 Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL
6 Total other payments	70,823	69,034
7 Balances carried forward	267,359	353,002
8 Total cash & short term investments	273,286	352,250
9 Total fixed assets & long term assets	190,684	190,691
10 Total borrowings	NIL	NIL
11 Trust Funds	No	No

MILTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

(The following have stood for re-election in 2015 and are uncontested)

Anna Bradnam	862364	anna.bradnam@btinternet.com
Jane Coston (Chair)	c/o 861447	chair@miltonvillage.org.uk
Rob Farrington	860160	rob.farrington@btopenworld.com
Gary Heaney	690317	heanball@hotmail.com
Hazel Smith	860752	hazel.smith@miltonvillage.org.uk
David Stirrups	470355	beggloops@gmail.com
Richard Summerfield	860715	richard@tsummerfield.freeserve.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Anna Bradnam	862364	anna.bradnam@btinternet.com
Hazel Smith	860752	hazel.smith@miltonvillage.org.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Maurice Leeke	441562	maurice16@ntlworld.com
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Parish Office Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday: 10am-12noon

If you wish to visit the Parish Office outside these opening hours, please contact us (Telephone 861447 or email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk).

Susan Wilkin, Asst Clerk to Milton Parish Council

April 2015

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