

Milton Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Parish Report 2018/19



We have had another extremely busy year. We have successfully installed £100,000 play area on Coles Road Recreation Ground, installed



3 new war memorial seats close to the war memorial, and a grit bin on school ground beside the footpath in Butt Lane, evicted a group of travellers who broke in and parked on football pitches at North Lodge Park, installed barriers and replaced the road access at the allotments for safety reasons as well as continuing to

provide a range of services. We also were successful in getting a grant of £7,000 to fund some highway improvements and we consulted you about the A10 bridge and listened to your views.

Additionally we are delighted to have been given an excellent report from our internal auditors. We are also very pleased to have been invited to apply for Five Star Status.

I hope the following will give you some idea of the sorts of activities the Parish Council are busy managing to try to ensure Milton remains a pleasant place to live.



Mobile speed indicator

We purchased this indicator jointly with the Parish Councils of Landbeach and Waterbeach. It is a battery operated sign and is moved by a small group of volunteers to various locations. We have been receiving data to review at our meetings. Thank you to everyone who is involved.



New Play Area in Coles Road

The new play equipment on Coles Road Recreation Ground was installed during July last year and continues to be extremely popular. We were delighted to be awarded grants and donations totalling £99,697 to cover the cost.



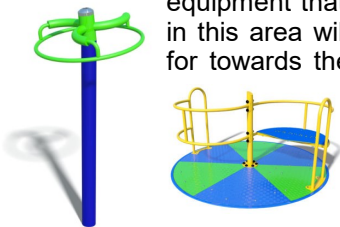
This is a fantastic achievement and is all down to the work of a small group of volunteers - Sarah Corder, Jane Coston, Will Munns, Edal Gower, Joelle Garden and Alison McKeegan who joined the Parish Council Play Working Party in 2016.

Our Clerk, Sarah Corder, also did a brilliant job gaining grants from WREN who awarded us £70,697 and Amey who awarded us £23,200 from the Amey Community Fund (both WREN and Amey are part of the Landfill Communities Fund). We also received private donations from E Gower and A McKeegan. Well done to everyone.



Play Area improvements - Froment Way and Sycamores Rec

More play equipment has been ordered for Froment Way to replace equipment that had become unsafe. The two ride on springers in this area will be repainted. Again a grant has been applied for towards the cost of this work. Installation is planned to go ahead before the school summer holidays.



The Clerk is also looking into grants for improving the Sycamores Recreation Ground play area with a new slide and some replacement equipment.

Youth Club

We have a contract with the Connections Bus Project to run a Youth Club at the Youth Building on the Sycamores Recreation Ground. Youth Club is Tuesday evenings during Term Time from 6.30pm – 8pm

Website

We now have a revamped Parish Website www.miltonvillage.org.uk designed by Cllr. Adam Horne. We hope you will find the content helpful. I would like to thank Adam for all his work managing the website.

Maintenance

The main areas that this committee has been working on are: making sure our play areas are maintained, repaired and updated and supporting the work of the Play Working Party. The Maintenance Committee also planned improvements on the allotments including arranging for safety improvements to the entrance and roadway. The maintenance contract was updated this year and tenders were sought for grass cutting, tree and bush maintenance on land we own or maintain. The group also review the policies of the cemetery and are looking into improving the entrance and road-way. Thank you to Cllr. Adam Horne for all his work as chairman of this committee.

A10 trees responsibility next to the Parish Council Allotments

When a tree on the A10 fell on our boundary fence by the allotments we contacted the County Council to ask them to remove it and also to repair the fence. We were surprised when they claimed it was our tree. Cllr Anna Bradnam, Cllr Adam Horne and I have spent a considerable amount of time meeting with the County Council and arguing with them over the ownership and responsibility for the trees. Eventually we engaged a solicitor and arranged for a survey to be done. We now have evidence that the tree was the responsibility of the County and hope that this issue will soon be resolved and they will cover the costs we have incurred. It is important that we are not held responsible for this tree and all the other trees on the A10 by our boundary as this would cause us to incur considerable costs maintaining them.

Local Highways Improvements

We were successful in getting £7,000 grant funding from the A14 fund to create a short length of footway on the line of the muddy path near Tesco roundabout, the new fencing along side the slip road and cycle improvements to Cambridge Road and Windship Road.

Planning

When a Milton planning application is received by South Cambs District Council they send a copy to us to consider and comment on. May I thank Cllr Rob Farrington who is Chairman of this committee as he often spends a considerable amount of time looking at planning applications and visiting the locations to help advise the committee when they are considering any comments they may wish to make.

Fen Road development

The development proposal for this site has not gone ahead due to the site being extremely important historically. Milton Parish Council were also successful in their application to Historic England to have the site registered.

Development at Waterbeach and the Sewage works

Although Milton is not directly affected by the proposed development of 11,000 new homes at Waterbeach and the huge similar sized proposed development on the sewage works site, we will be affected by any changes to the local roads as well as the impact of more people in the area. We are responding to consultations, unfortunately the A10 study is delayed.

Milton



Youth Building and Pavilion



Bus stops



Seats & bins



Jane Coston cycle & footbridge to Cambridge



Milton Community Centre and Annexe



Parish Council Office

Land and property owned and maintained by Milton Parish Council

Note - North Lodge Pavilion and Recreation Ground, The Sycamores Pavilion and Recreation Ground and Coles Road Recreation Ground and associated buildings are leased to Milton Community Centre Management Committee.



Community Care

We manage a community care scheme which is for elderly and vulnerable village residents. The Parish Council receives grants from both the Milton Charities and South Cambs District Council towards the running costs of this scheme. The users of the scheme also pay a small charge. There are not many villages in the area that run this type of scheme and we are very proud of the work that Tracey Ebbon, our Community Care Warden does to help residents who need support.

Milton Trolley Bus

We run a fortnightly minibus to Tesco for our elderly and infirm who need this service. This is a service that is valued by all those who need and use it and is supported by a grant from Milton Charities.

Contractors

We employ several contractors, some on a yearly contract and some for specific projects and advice. We have a grounds maintenance contract with Buchans who we are very pleased with. They maintain our open spaces, recreation grounds, allotments and verges. We also contract in some financial support from accountant, Griffith Kinsman who oversees pay and pensions for our staff and keeps us up to date on our spending trends and budgets. Our bus shelter windows are cleaned by another contracted service and we contract out our Youth Club service to Connection Bus Project. In addition we contract in legal advice including HR advice, cover for our Community Care Warden and a Surveyor when needed. Our councillors oversee and review the work of these contractors on a regular basis.

Parish Staff and volunteers

The Parish Council has four part time members of staff: our clerk Sarah Corder working 20 hours a week, Office Support, Elaine Taylor who has recently been appointed on an add-hoc basis, Village Cleaner Philip Adams who works 9 hours a week as well as a small band of volunteer village Litter Pickers who regularly meet and litter pick specific problem areas, and Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon who works 25 hours a week. I am grateful to all our staff and volunteers who do a fantastic job.

Meetings

Our main meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the month in the Bowls Pavilion - see our website and notice boards for a full list.

Thank you to all Parish Councillors including Colin Duff who stood down recently. Thank you also to all our councillors who I am pleased to say have stood for re-election this year. Also thank you to those who manage Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds. We are also very grateful to our County Councillor and District Councillor Anna Bradnam and District Councillors Hazel Smith and Judith Rippeth for all the work they do.

Future Challenges

- Updating more of our play equipment - finding grants to help fund this, planning and consulting on replacement equipment
- Sourcing additional recreation space - we are still under the standard for land for sports activities
- Spending 46,000 of ring fenced arts funding from a developer on art related projects. Ideas so far include putting more artistic signs at the entrances to the village, additional Christmas lights on the green area around the village sign and on the green at the entrance to the Rowans along with other improvements.
- Waterbeach and the sewage works developments including roads and infrastructure pressures - considering the planning details and responding.

Keeping Milton Special

There are so many benefits to living in Milton. We are a bypassed village close to the A14, the Park and Ride and the Guided Busway, the Cambridge North Railway Station and the Science Park. We are within easy reach of the beautiful city centre and the famous colleges, universities and grounds. We also have Milton Country Park and the river to enjoy.

We have local shops, fast food outlets, a doctors surgery a post office, two churches and four pubs as well as a Mobile Library. Milton Primary School is well respected and so is our local secondary school, Impington Village College, to which there is a free school bus for most Milton residents. There is also a local village magazine which is delivered free to all residents as well as the village website and news system, all run by volunteers.

The Parish Council owns Tomkins Mead Nature Reserve, the allotments, the cemetery and most of the open spaces and play areas. There is also a Community Care Warden and a minibus to Tesco for the less able. We have a well run Community Centre and 3 recreation grounds, tennis courts and a bowls green all managed for us by the Community Centre Charity. It is a very active village with many local groups and societies meeting in the village.

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

If you would like to help keep Milton special why not consider applying to join us on the Parish Council. In particular we have a whole new challenge coming as the huge developments take shape at Waterbeach and on the sewage site, each with more homes than Ely.

Future

Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary position. There was no election this year for Milton Parish Councillors as only 8 nominations were received by the District Council for the 12 positions (reduced this year from 15).

I am not seeking re-election as Chairman as I have now been Chairman for two periods of 5 years. During the past 5 years I have seen through many projects including the acquisition and development of the new pavilion and recreation ground at North Lodge Park as well as supporting and training a new clerk.

Jane Coston BEM

Chairman of Milton Parish Council



Parish Office Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday: 10am-12noon

If you wish to visit the Parish Office outside these opening hours, please

Telephone 861447 or email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Address: Parish Office, Coles Road, Milton, Cambs CB24 6BL

Website: <http://www.miltonvillage.org.uk/>

MILTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

Anna Bradnam, Jane Coston (Chair), Rob Farrington, Adam Horne,
Tom Leavens, David Owen, Hazel Smith, Don Wildman

Annual Return DRAFT Statement of Accounts as at 31st March 2019

		31.03.2018	31.03.2019
1	Balance brought forward	394,179.78	410,297.03
2	Annual precept	125,000.00	125,000.00
3	Total other receipts	49,943.51	161,515.75
4	Staff costs	35,491.67	41,107.23
5	Loan interest / capital repayments	nil	nil
6	Total other payments	123,334.59	248,457.30
7	Balances carried forward	410,297.03	407,248.25
8	Total Cash and Short Term Investments	410,297.03	407,248.25
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments	190,693.00	190,693.00
10	Total Borrowings	nil	nil