

# Milton Parish Council

## Chairman's Annual Parish Report 2015/16

Milton Parish Council is a group of elected volunteers who work at local level to try to keep Milton a pleasant place to live. I hope the following will give you some idea of the sorts of activities they are involved in.

### **New facilities at North Lodge Park**

Milton Parish Council has spent many years trying to gain additional recreation space. In 2008 we were successful in gaining a promise to provide the village with additional recreation ground and a pavilion at North Lodge Park as part of the planning permission. The new recreation ground and pavilion at North Lodge Park is now complete and will shortly be available to use. We hope you enjoy these new facilities.

### **Play Areas**

A group of parents is currently working hard to improve the equipment in our play areas. The first area they hope to improve is at Coles Road Recreation Ground. Their ideas and plans will shortly be available for consultation. The Parish Council own and manage play areas at the following locations: Froment Way, The Sycamores, The Rowans, Humphries Way, and a small area of tarmac at Faulkner Close. There are also play areas at Coles Road Recreation Ground and the Sycamores Recreation Ground which are managed by Milton Community Centre.



### **Open Space & Village Facilities**

Milton Community Centre and both the Sycamores Recreation Ground and Coles Road recreation ground are managed by a group of volunteers. The facilities belong to the Parish Council but are leased to Milton Community Centre Management Committee to run and are supported with a grant from the Parish Council. Thank you to everyone involved in making sure we have such a wonderful facilities.

The Parish Council also owns and maintains other open spaces such as the area at the entrance to The Rowans and the open area near the War Memorial in Coles Road. The Council arranges grass cutting on all the areas they are responsible for and additionally cuts the grass verges on behalf of

the County Council. We also maintain a number of trees and are grateful for the efforts of our volunteer Tree Wardens, Bob Waters and Roger Day. The Council is also responsible for the War Memorial.

### **Street Lighting Consultation**



During 2015 we were given short notice to respond to a consultation from the County Council who were planning to turn off most street lighting after midnight and dim most lights at certain times. We quickly alerted everyone in the village with a fact sheet and a questionnaire and were pleased to have an enormous response. This enabled us to send an accurate response to the County Council reflecting the views of residents. We were very grateful of the help of volunteers who spent many hours ensuring the leaflet was delivered to all households.

### **School Bus Campaign**

In early spring 2015 we were alerted to the threat of the possible loss of the school buses to Impington Village College. Parents valiantly took on the battle with the County Council to save the school buses and the Parish Council strongly supported and helped their campaign. We are pleased to say that all the efforts resulted in their appeal being upheld and the school buses being retained.

### **Street Cleaning & Volunteers**

We have a group of councillors and volunteers who regularly meet to target areas of concern and thanks to their efforts we have a much tidier village. The Milton Environment Group is chaired by Anna Bradnam. The council also employs Philip Adams who regularly checks our play areas and works hard to ensure the village is kept looking nice.

### **Bus Stops**

The bus stops in the village are provided by the Parish Council and we employ contractors to clean our bus stop windows. Recently we have been looking at improvements to our bus stops.

### **Cemetery**

The cemetery in Landbeach Road is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. The right hand side of the new part of the burial ground is maintained as flower meadow.



### **Allotments**

We have a large number of well-maintained allotments at the north end of the village. There are often allotments available. If you live in the village and would like to rent an allotment please contact the clerk.

## **Maintenance**

The Maintenance Committee of the Parish Council manages the allotments, the open spaces, play areas, the cemetery, grass cutting and general maintenance issues in the village. Gary Heaney ably chairs this group and oversees all the work they do on behalf of the village.



Allotments off Ely Road

## **Community Care**

The Community Care Committee oversees the work of our Community Care Warden Tracy Ebbon. There are around 20 people in the village who benefit from her support. The Parish Council receive 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 sort of scheme and we are very proud of the work that is done to help our residents who need the support of our Community Care Warden and are grateful for all her efforts. The Community Care Committee is lucky to have a very active Chairman, David Stirrups, who is ensuring the work of this group continues.

## **Milton Trolley Bus**

We organise and pay for a Dial-a-Ride mini bus to take elderly and infirm residents to and from Tesco each fortnight. This is a service that is valued by all those who need and use it and is supported by a grant from Milton Charities, which we are very grateful for.

## **Youth**

The village has had a Youth Club for many years. At first it was run by volunteers but in recent years the Parish Council has had to pay the County Council to provide a Youth Club service in the village on Tuesday evenings. This now looks under threat as the County Council are making further cutbacks and we are concerned as it is unclear how this service will be provided in the future, if at all. Hazel Smith is working hard to try to ensure youth work in the village continues.

## **Planning**

When a planning application is sent to South Cambs District Council and it affects Milton, it is sent on to the Parish Council for comments. We see and comment on many applications each year. Rob Farrington is chairman of this committee and he personally takes the time and effort to make sure councillors are clear on what is being proposed and has often visited the site

ahead of the meeting. As we can only comment we have no final say and it is the District Council who decide whether an application should be approved or turned down.

### **More Development?**

Milton Parish Council has had an approach from a developer who wishes to develop an area of land off Fen Road. They plan to hold an event in the village for residents to see their ideas.

### **Parish Office**

The Parish Office is next to the car park in Coles Road. Our Acting Parish Clerk is Mrs Susan Wilkin. We also have recently employed Sarah Corder as our Assistant Parish Clerk. Both the Parish Clerk and the assistant Parish Clerk work part time and are happy to help with any queries or concerns. Thank you to Susan & Sarah for all your hard work.

### **Staffing and Contractors**

The Parish Council has four members of staff: a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a Village Cleaner and a Community Care Warden. Anna Bradnam is the Chairman of the Staffing Committee and has spent many hours actively overseeing the work of this group.

We also have a contract with accountant Griffith Kinsman, who ensures our finances are kept in order and advises on financial issues. In addition to this we have a contract with Buchans who maintain our open spaces, verges etc. and a contract for cleaning our bus shelter windows. We have over the past

year occasionally contracted in other specialist advice such as HR advice, solicitors to act on our behalf, a building surveyor and a pitch consultant.



Grass cutting contractors

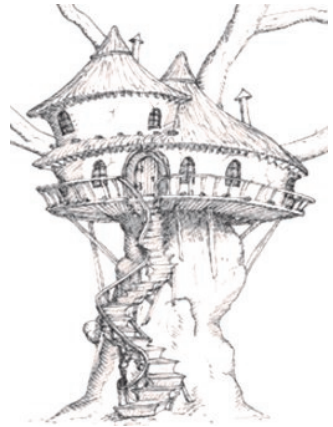
### **Christmas Tree Lights**

Thanks to Susan Wilkin, our acting parish clerk, and Rob Farrington for making a such a special effort to ensure we had Christmas lights again. A small working group will be considering how we can improve our

Christmas display in the future.

### **Committees, Working Groups and Specific Roles**

Most of our work is done by committees who then report to the Parish Council but we also have special responsibility roles and working groups.



Below is a list of the areas we cover with committees etc.

### **Committees**

Finance, Maintenance, Planning, Community Care, Staffing

### **Working Groups of the Parish Council**

Capital Projects, Land, Milton Air Quality, Milton Environment, Website & IT, Youth

### **Specific Responsibility positions on the Parish Council**

Footpath Officer, Milton Trolley Bus, Parish Plan, Press Officer, Tompkins Mead & Tree Wardens

### **Representatives appointed for these**

Anglia Water – (Cambridge Sewage Works), Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust, CPALC & SCDC, Landfill Liaison, Local Liaison Forum, Milton Charities, Milton Community Centre, Patient Participation Group, Police Neighbourhood Panel, Village View liaison.

### **How do we fund all this - Finance**

Each year we look at what we are likely to need to do and what we spent last year and produce a plan to cover our spending. This total is then sent to the District Council who add it to the rate demands for Milton along with the spending requirements for the County Council, the District Council, the Police and the Fire Service that all make up the total bill. Hazel Smith is Chairman of the Finance Committee and has diligently worked during the absence of a finance officer to ensure our finances were managed correctly.

### **History**

In 1894 Milton Parish Council was formed. The minutes of all our meeting since that date are available on our website. Initially your Parish Council consisted of a few elected volunteers who agreed small improvements and activities and funded them through the parish rate. In those days there were very few rules, the clerk would keep a few written notes and the finances were probably kept in a tin. Since then we have moved a long way and now as everywhere there are numerous rules and regulations we have to comply with. We provide many more services now and we often have to rely on the advice of experts and our activities are audited.

Decr. 1. th. 1894.

A Meeting duly convened by the Overseers to elect Parish Councillors, about 20 Parochial Electors being present.

On the proposition of Mr John Wilson seconded by Mr C. W. Webb - Mr W. M. Johnson was unanimously elected Chairman of the Meeting.

The Nomination Papers having been handed in of the following Gentlemen viz -

Ernest Carlton  
John Cook  
William Henry Goss  
Richard Edmunds  
Samuel Elston  
Charles William Webb  
George Wilson

and after the expiration of at least fifteen minutes, and finding that the Nominations Proposed were as follows -

A section of the minutes of Milton Parish Council in 1894

## How cuts in funding to County and District Councils directly affects your local parish rate

Unfortunately the County and District Council are finding they can no longer fund some services. We are now getting regular requests from them to fund or provide services that they once provided. Of course if we fund all the requests then we would have to increase the amount we raise from each household in Milton. Currently a band D property contributes £73.98 a year to the Parish Council to run local services.

If we do take on more services this would increase the pressure on our volunteer parish councillors. We would also have to increase our staff and contract in more expert advice. We will consider each request as we get it but we will also have to be mindful of our limitations as we do not have whole departments with expert advice to call on nor do we have enough volunteers to take on the extra workload.

## Meetings

We meet in the Bowls Pavilion generally on the first Monday of the month. Please see our web pages or notice boards for an up-to-date list of meetings.

## Councillors

We are a small group of volunteers trying to manage a wide range of increasing responsibilities. We struggle to find community-minded people with commitment to join us. If you feel you would like to help and want to see what we do please do come along to one of our meetings. If you would consider joining us we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Jane Coston  
Chairman of Milton Parish Council

## Annual Return DRAFT Statement of Accounts as at 31st March 2016

		31.03.2016	31.03.2015
1	Balance b/f	352250	267359
2	Annual Precept	129000	125000
3	Total Other Reciepts	58507	68925
4	Staff Costs	30575	39248
5	Loan Interest / Capital Payments	nil	nil
6	Total Other Payments	139348	69034
7	Balance c/f	369834	353002
8	Total Cash and Short Term Investments	369834	352250
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long-term Investments	190691	190691
10	Total Borrowings	nil	nil
11	Trust Funds	nil	nil



**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](mailto:clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk)

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

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

**MILTON PARISH COUNCILLORS**

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David Stirrups (Vice Chair)	470355	<a href="mailto:beggloops@gmail.com">beggloops@gmail.com</a>
Richard Summerfield	860715	<a href="mailto:richard@tsummerfield.freemove.co.uk">richard@tsummerfield.freemove.co.uk</a>
* - c/o Parish Office		

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

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Hazel Smith	860752	<a href="mailto:hazel.smith@miltonvillage.org.uk">hazel.smith@miltonvillage.org.uk</a>

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Maurice Leeke	441562	<a href="mailto:maurice16@ntlworld.com">maurice16@ntlworld.com</a>
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**PARISH CLERK (acting)**

Susan Wilkin	861447	<a href="mailto:clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk">clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk</a>
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