
MILTON BRYAN PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Milton Bryan Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 24th February 2021 via Zoom Video Conference

Present: 9 members of the public, Peter Horrocks – Chairman,
Karen Barker – Clerk, CBC Cllr John Baker

637 **Apologies:**

Apologies were given from Jenny Birch, Clare Francis and John Harris

638 **Minutes of previous meeting:**

David Nicholls proposed, seconded by John Hinton to accept the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 28th October 2020, agreed by all those present. The minutes to be signed by the Chairman as a true record of events at the next meeting in person.

639 **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

640 **Reports and Representations:**

640.1 CBC Cllr J Baker
CBC Cllr Baker gave an update.

CBC Budget:

The Council are likely to approve a budget increase of general council tax by 1.95% and a 3% increase for social care.

Drains:

A request has been submitted to clear all drains but some need more intensive work which will require additional works orders.

Signs/hedges/road cleaning:

The graffiti on the sign at South End has been cleaned off. Hedges have been cut back at the junction of London Road. This should now be on a regular schedule. The road sweeper has been in operation in the village.

Schools:

CBC is progressing with the conversion of local schools from a 3 tier to a 2 tier system. Woburn School, Ridgmont School and Husborne

Crawley School will be combining as one school on a new site to be determined.

CBC road resurfacing:

CBC recently undertook a new technique for resurfacing rural roads in Battlesden by using recycled road material. This created a mud road which survived only 2 months and was washed away. This was very costly and now needs to be put right. CBC are urged to use the correct method of resurfacing in the future.

Fly tipping and rubbish:

There has been a lot of fly tipping in the area, particularly on the road between Milton Bryan and Toddington. This is thought to be exacerbated due to the issue of having to book slots at the tidy tips. Incidences of fly tipping can be reported online on 'fix my street'.

Robin Friend said that there is broken glass around the Village Hall car park and rubbish left by the bin. There is a black bin in the car park and he said that he will put it out for emptying.

Rural crime:

CBC Cllr Baker will be attending the Police and Crime Commissioner conference and will ask how they are dealing with rural crime. There are reports of drug dealing in laybys.

641 Open Forum:

A resident asked whether CBC would be willing to change a wooden stile to a metal swing gate to make it more accessible. CBC Cllr Baker said that CBC's policy now is to only put in metal swing gates but they will not replace a wooden stile until it needs replacing. Peter Horrocks said that this may be an issue for the Woburn Estate.

Resident John Hinton spoke on behalf of John Harris. He said that there are two trees on the corner of Church End which need their lower branches cut to give them a better shape and more light. The Parish Meeting agreed to the request.

642 Village Matters:

642.1 Covid-19

Nothing to report

642.2 Luton Airport consultation

Peter Horrocks said that he coordinated with other parishes including Tingrith when drawing up the response. The response was circulated to village residents for comments prior to submission. He said that he has now submitted the response to the consultation. CBC Cllr Baker said that CBC agreed to object to the consultation and have put forward their objections.

642.3 Speed limits

Robin Friend suggested that there are 3 areas that could benefit from a speed reduction to 10mph – South End, Church End and Pond Lane. CBC Cllr Baker explained the process that needs to be followed to request a reduction in speed. A petition of 10 or more local residents will need to be drawn up and submitted to the Traffic Committee along with full details of the request. The Traffic Management Committee will then have to discuss this request at their committee meeting. Robin Friend said that he would look into it further with a view to drawing up the request.

642.4 Verges

Robin Friend said that the grass by the pond at South End is usually maintained by residents but a lot of vehicles have been parking on it this winter and ruts are forming on the grass. It was suggested that big logs could be put along the edge to prevent vehicles parking there but allow for the grass to be cut. The Clerk said that the area is rented from the Woburn Estate and suggested that they should be contacted. Peter Horrocks agreed to contact the Woburn Estate.

642.5 Gritting and salt bag scheme

CBC Cllr Baker said that he has asked for the road between Milton Bryan and Eversholt to be added to the gritting schedule. CBC have refused the request as it apparently does not meet their criteria. He said that he does not think it was assessed adequately and he will email a copy of the criteria to Peter Horrocks.

Peter Horrocks said that CBC offer a yearly free 1 ton or ½ ton salt bag to parishes and he did not request one this year as it is not normally used up.

642.6 Military Intelligence Museum

John Hinton gave an update. The heritage sector is in crisis and it has not been possible for the Museum Trustees to make any progress. They are fortunate to have an existing Museum that is not dependent on paying visitors but the year has been tricky and they are currently closed. They await the aftermath of the pandemic crisis to decide how to proceed.

643 **Finance:**

643.1 Accounts to 31st January 2021

| | £ |
|---|-----------------|
| Barclays Current Account | 1,932.37 |
| Barclays Savings Account | 2,330.66 |
| Less unpresented chq no's 644,647,648,649,650 | 193.50 |
| TOTAL | 4,069.53 |
| | |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| B/F 2019/20 | 3,202.45 |
| Receipts to 31 st January 2021 | 2,861.01 |
| Payments to 31 st January 2021 | 1,993.93 |
| TOTAL | 4,069.53 |

643.2 Allotment income/expenditure and Parish Meeting reserves
 Craig Gibson raised the point of the surplus funds from the allotment rent and he suggested that the allotment rent could be reduced. The Clerk said that the allotment income exceeds what the Parish Meeting pay in rent to the Woburn Estate plus the water bill per annum by a small amount. She said that she could make a note of this accumulation on the budget each year.

Peter Horrocks said that consideration could possibly be given to a village project as there are some reserves available.

644 **Planning:**

Nothing to report.

645 **Correspondence:**

No correspondence

646 **Date of next meeting:**

Meetings will be held in October, February and May each year.
 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 starting at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed: (Chairman) Date: