

# **COTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2006, in the W.I. Hall, High Street,**

**Commencing at 8.00pm**

**Present:** Messrs G. Kinsey (Vice Chairman), R. Chandler, J. Lewis, Mesdames B. Smart, P. Brown, R. Darling, Dr N. Baumgarten, Dr W. Connolley, Councillor R. Page (South Cambs District Councillor), Mrs D. Wilson (Clerk) and 14 parishioners.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were from Mr G. Diplock, (Chairman), Councillor D. Baldwin (County Councillor), and PC Misik (Community Policeman).

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Diplock sent in his written report(having to send apologies at short notice due to wife's illness).

The Parish Council have held 10 ordinary meetings, 4 special meetings, 9 extraordinary meetings, the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council also a Precept Meeting.

It has been a very busy year for the Parish Council with more meetings than usual and many issues have been discussed.

Benny's Way Play Area is still causing concern for a few residents.

The bus shelter at Silverdale Avenue is still being used as a goal for football.

The condition of the roads and footpaths is still an ongoing problem.

The name of Major Sell has been put on the East end of the War Memorial for 1939-45.

We have been getting reports from the Cambridge Preservation Society to update the Parish Council on the progress at the Countryside Reserve.

I am pleased to report that after many years of speculation the Coton Sports Pavilion has now been refurbished and is due to be officially opened on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> April. The success of this is due to the hard work and enthusiasm of the Project Co-Ordinator Mr Ross Chandler to whom we owe our grateful thanks.

The Council is still supporting the Village Hall Project as you will hear in the Finance Report.

During the year we have dealt with 30 planning applications and the majority were all supported by the Parish Council.

Meetings have been held with SCDC and the architects re Airey Houses and Granta Housing Society.

Lastly I would like to thank our Clerk, Dot for all that she does for the Council and my fellow Councillors for their help and support throughout the year.

### 3. WORK PARTY REPORTS

- a) Finance The Finance Work Party after much deliberation recommended to the Council a precept of £20,000 and this was accepted. This is an increase of £2,000.

This amount includes several large annual sums we have to pay such as insurance, grass cutting approx £2,000, £5,000 shortfall for the Sports Pavilion, £3,000 for the Village Hall Project, Community News and contingencies.

- b) Footpaths (Public Rights of Way)\_ Mrs Smart reported all paths are in good condition. There are now new permissive paths and bridleways in the Countryside Reserve but these are not the parish's responsibility.

A grant has been applied for but as yet we have not heard about our applications.

Twelve months ago I reported that the kissing gates work had been completed but at an inspection after the report it was found to be unsatisfactory. After discussions with the C.P.S., the County and the Green Belt Project organising the work, it has now been decided to leave the gates on the C.P.S. land for them to do any work and the kissing gate on the land which was owned by the Silks will be completed. I am waiting to hear from the green Belt Project re this work. The new landowner has been contacted.

- c) Allotments Clerk reported there are 10 vacant allotments, most tenants have cleared their allotments of weeds, just one or two needing attention. Some vacant ones need clearing for new tenants. Triangle now back with Cambridge Preservation Society.

- d) Trees Mr Lewis reported all work outstanding now done.

- e) Recycling Mrs Smart reported Cambridge County Council have had a higher percentage of recycling material than any other county. For the past year we have received £336.78 for recycling but in future will not receive any money due to SCDC being capped.

The response to recycling batteries has been very good and the number of batteries collected is increasing.

4. SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT Dr Connolley reported there is an issue with the Reception class 1 – the mobile classroom can only be in position for 2 more years – will have to move down into Community area.

Looking to possibly build an IT area, - probably roofing over the courtyard.  
Still more children applying than can be admitted.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Councillor Baldwin had sent his apologies.

6. COUNCILLOR PAGE'S REPORT Councillor Page reported the year at SCDC had been an absolute disaster- he couldn't report many good things.

There was a move to get rid of council houses from South Cambs this year – he voted against and won it. – will remain though pressure will be increased to sell them.

Semex claimed the action in Cement Works suspended – might rear its ugly head again- danger of pollution we don't understand.

Things are so bad he is seriously considering to stay or not – after 36 years depresses him enormously – standard of services has dropped so markedly. People playing political games not serving the people. SCDC capped because it didn't face up to responsibilities of services.ie.

Lamps – Parish Councils to take over or they go out.

Resident Wardens for Sheltered Housing – being charged.

Bus Passes – a fiasco – Government said over-60s would get free travel – SCDC not enough money to provide that service.

Want to end Milton Park – sad- been run well.

Recycling money going to disappear.

Call centre doesn't work particularly well

Cambourne monstrosity costing £200,00 a year more to run.

Mr Kinsey thanked Councillor Page for his report.

7. ACCOUNTS

Accounts to year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 seen by all present. Question asked about amount of donation to Village Hall and answered satisfactorily.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS for information only.

Catrina Campbell gave an update on the Wildlife Reserve - Main works and Spine Routes coming to a close – still some fencing and grass seeding to do. Consultation evening held two weeks ago re meadow along Bin Brook and pedestrian entrance from Brookfield Road. 32 responses. Not able to say what they are going to do yet. Piece will go in Community News.

Bob Lloyd gave an update on the progress of the Parish Plan – will shortly go to Parish Council acceptance and then to village.

Mr Mason gave a report on the progress of the Village Hall. After consultation – quite a lot of feedback – internal adjustment made to kitchens

and toilets. Want to push ahead. If Planning Application granted fully -  
costed scheme in June/July.  
Have raised £60,000 so far. Grants to be applied for.

If someone needed to plough allotments , suggested Mr Badcock be asked.

MEETING CLOSED 8.55PM