

MILTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held Sunday 10th May 2009

In attendance some 25 Members and Ward Councillors Ann Robertson and Jonathan Garston

Min No

276 INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman Phil Andrews thanked members and the Councillors for attending. He introduced the Councillors and Society Officers.

277 MINUTES

The minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held 15th June 2008 were agreed

278 CHAIRMANS ADDRESS

The Chairman announced that he had been Chairman for over 4 years and due to increased Church and family commitments he was standing down in two months time. He thanked Andy Atkinson Vice Chairman and Jill Freeth Secretary for their knowledge support and commitment to the aims and objectives of the Society and pointed out that members of the Committee give up their spare time evenings and sometimes weekends to ensure the conservation of the character and appearance of the area. Also to help educate people about conservation issues so that any changes made are sympathetic to the age of the properties and their original appearance.

A vote of thanks was given to the Councillors for their hard work in the wider Milton ward area and particularly for the support they give to the Society.

The Chairman said that he felt there had been real progress concerning conservation generally and enforcement particularly. That the Council have engaged in some lively debates on Conservation in the Conservation Working Party, electing a Heritage Champion (Jonathan Garston) and it was felt that there was a new readiness and desire to take Conservation issues more seriously. Something that the Society would pursue and the Vice Chairman would cover in more detail in his address.

He reported:-

- a) that the Society is still pressing the Council to deal with the appraisal of the Milton Conservation Area which is being done on all Conservation areas and further that the Society had requested that the Council in association with the Society should carry out a street audit to encompass all highway matters – parking, lighting, street furniture, condition of roads and pavements etc.
- b) that the Society continues to monitor development in the area commenting on consultations from the Council and emphasised that the Society always tries to be constructive rather than negative in its comments but this is not always possible.
- c) that the Society maintains vigilance on fly tipping graffiti etc but to a certain extent relies on members to keep it informed
- d) that the Society was still mindful to improve the traffic island junction of Park/Avenue Road but the Council's contractor had quoted £5,000 which is beyond the means of the Society – further negotiations will proceed to try to find funding

He reported with regret the loss of Janet Bull who died last year in France. Janet was one of the founding members 22 years ago who became Secretary and worked tirelessly to protect this area from greedy developers. A memorial service had taken place which was attended by members of the Committee

He drew attention to the Society web site and the news letter which he hoped kept members informed and finished by saying that he knew the Committee would continue to serve the membership to ensure that the area continued to be a pleasurable and developing place to live.

279 REPORT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Andy Atkinson reported that the Conservation Forum now comprised 5 local Conservation Groups which meet with the local Council and as a group MCS had pushed hard to get the Council to be more pro active on enforcement of planning control dealing with such issues as UPVC windows, unauthorised development, compliance with planning conditions etc.

He informed the meeting that the Forum is making a real difference and the following has resulted this year:-

- a **Heritage Champion Post** (Jonathan Garston) had been created; a role which the Forum would monitor.
- b **Design & Townscape Guide** – MCS the only Society to contribute to this Council document which is now comprehensive and includes our contribution.
- c **Human Rights** – MCS obtained commitment from the Council that this legislation would not in future be used in planning reports
- d **Appeal Decisions** – Department of Environment supported MCS appeal objections

That other issues were being pursued with the Council by MCS:-

- a Taking part in a street audit with the Council to assess all matters relating to the highway in our six roads
- b Regular meetings with the Council to discuss key issues arising from appeal decisions and the wording and enforceability of planning conditions
- c Education of the public not only in MCS area but also in Shorefields too
- d Improvement to the traffic island in Park/Avenue Road

280 ACCOUNTS

The annual statement of accounts was presented by the Treasurer and accepted by the meeting

281 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers were proposed and accepted by the meeting

Chairman	Phil Andrews
Vice Chairman	Andy Atkinson
Secretary	Jill Freeth
Treasurer	Paul Cavanagh

282 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following members were proposed and accepted by the meeting

Tony Brown Peter Fitzgerald Philip Giles Sally Harrup Neil Lands Matt Norfolk

284 QUESTIONS

A member queried whether the 3 houses being built on back land at the rear of 14/16 St Vincents Road were in accordance with the approved – in particular the positioning and the windows on the rear elevation. It was agreed that Andy Atkinson would visit the site and compare the development with the plans. Cllr Ann Robertson said she would ask the building inspectors to visit the site to check as well.

Cllr Jonathan Garston said that although he had managed to have the MCS area put on a list for review re highway works etc there were many areas in the town which had a higher priority because of road fatalities. He also had asked for a street audit to be done but funding is difficult. A member asked about the idea that St. Vincents and Avenue Terrace could both be one way in opposite directions and he confirmed that this would be considered as part of a street audit when done

A member queried the position regarding the former Methodist Church junction of Park/Avenue Road and was informed that preliminary consultations with the Society had taken place on conversion to residential flats but there was no formal proposal/plan yet.

Cllr Ann Robertson said that she had objected at planning committee to approvals being given for flat conversions with only one condition attached because this was a loophole for the developer

The meeting ended with a raffle and refreshments