

MILTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held Wednesday 12th May 2010

In attendance 23 Members and Ward Councillors Maria Caunce, Jonathon Garston & Nigel Folkard

Min No

1 INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman Andy Atkinson thanked members and the Councillors for attending. He introduced the Councillors and Society Officers. . He welcomed Maria Caunce the newly elected Councillor and wished her well in her new post as Milton Ward Councillor.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting held 12th May 2009 were agreed and signed

3 CHAIRMANS ADDRESS

The Chairman thanked the last Chairman Phil Andrews, who had stood down just after the last AGM, for his contribution to the Society.

First of all the Chairman said how very sorry the Society and its Members were that Ann Robertson had died. She had been a friend of the Society ,was very popular and well liked and would be badly missed.

The Chairman outlined the routine work that the Committee undertake throughout the year with regular meetings every 6 weeks or so. This included regular contact with Council officers & Members including CWP, meeting with other Societies at the Southend Conservation Forum, meeting with residents to discuss their proposals, lots of letter & email writing.

He reported on developments in the last year including Barons Court School development approved, the construction of the houses at the rear of 14-16 St Vincents Road, a number of houses with uPVC windows having enforcement action taken against them, various other planning applications and smaller issues such as the street light in Park Crescent, the red telephone box on Milton road bridge, pier and a garden wall demolished in Park Road

The Chairman told the meeting that over the course of the past year it had been very difficult to obtain co-operation from the Council on what the Council considered minor breaches and in some instances the Council had not replied to letters/emails. The Society takes the view that whilst the loss of say a wall or brick pier may seem like a minor matter but when assessed together there is a significant effect on the character of the Conservation Area. This position was discussed with the Ward Councillors and it was agreed that a list should be compiled to take forward to the Council which the Councillors would pursue with Council Officers.

A further matter highlighted was the development at the rear of 14-16 St. Vincents Road. The Chairman pointed out that the Society had successfully ensured that instead of 6 houses 3 were allowed on appeal to the Secretary of State. However during building it was found that the houses were .8 metre too high and built in the wrong position. The Society reported and pursued this as a complaint to the Council and in November 2009 an email was received from the Council to say that there was a breach of planning control which would be reported to the Development Committee for authorisation to serve an enforcement

notice. The developer employed the services of a barrister to deal with the Council and in February 2010 a report was submitted to the Committee with a recommendation of “no further action” The present position is that the Society has submitted a Formal Complaint of maladministration to the Council on which a reply is outstanding but the probability is that the Society will refer it to the Local Government Ombudsman.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Civic Trust had disbanded but that a new organisation had been formed called the Civic Voice That the Society had affiliated to it because it was an information resource, offered support to Conservation groups and gave gravitas to the Society when it dealt with the Council and appeals to the Secretary of State.

The Chairman outlined the function of the Conservation Forum and explained the function of the forum in sharing conservation experiences with other groups and preparing matters for the Council’s Conservation Working Party which was working more positively under a new chairman Councillor Flewitt. He reported:-

- a) that the Society is still pressing the Council to deal with the appraisal of the Milton Conservation Area which the Council now say will be carried out in 2010 and that the Council have now agreed to carry out a street audit in association with the Society to encompass all highway matters – parking, lighting, street furniture, condition of roads and pavements etc.
- b) 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
- c) That the Design Awards for the Town have been re-launched

He concluded by saying that the Society wanted to try to push through some more positive issues this year including a street audit, a listed round-up of all minor conservation issues so that these have the best chance of being satisfactorily resolved, and a renewed response to the forthcoming appraisal.

The Chairman closed his address by inviting anyone interested to consider joining the Committee.

4 WEB SITE REPORT

Tony Brown (vice chairman) who has looks after web site (www.miltonconservationsociety.com) gave an overview of what we would like the site to become. As well as being our ‘shop front’ for non-members we are trying to make it a source of information for members covering a variety of areas of interest from local history to practical advice and sources of information on our houses and gardens.

Members were encouraged to suggest ideas for topics that they would like to see there or write their own contribution should they feel so enthused!

5 ACCOUNTS

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

6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers were proposed and accepted by the meeting

Chairman	Andy Atkinson
Vice Chairman	Tony Brown
Secretary	Jill Freeth
Treasurer	Paul Cavanagh

7 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

8 QUESTIONS

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.

A Member from Shorefields said that he was concerned about the amount of rubbish in the area because people put their rubbish out on the wrong day. Councillor Garston asked that he should contact the Council because there was a team of Officers who will visit and look through the rubbish to find out who was doing it. He said to contact him if it then continued.

A Member in St. Vincents Road asked if anything could be done about the street tree outside his house at no 36. The Councillors said that they would ask the Council to inspect it and to get it pruned back

The meeting ended with a raffle and refreshments