

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the normal monthly meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2020 at 7pm. The meeting was held remotely via a video conference. A virtual meeting protocol was circulated to all attendees prior to the meeting. The meeting was open to members of the public

Present: Cllrs Steven Hurst (Chair), Jen Scrogam (Vice Chair), Barbara Adair, Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Peter Capasso, Peter Hill, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson, C Cllr Pete McSweeney (part), D Cllr Rupert Audland and Mr Paul Blackburn (Clerk). No members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence** –C Cllr McSweeney had to leave part way through the meeting to attend another Parish Council meeting.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2020** - had been circulated by email and were **APPROVED**. The Clerk will obtain the signature of the Chair
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – None
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – None
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 10th August 2020.**

5.1 CCTV coverage for Milnthorpe (5.1)

- Wayleave sourced (if required). Now looking at standalone quote. Consideration to be given to CCC fitting the camera as part of the lighting project at item 5.2

5.2 Market Square Improvement Plan (5.2)

- Costs received and are to be sent to all members for a decision to be made.
 - The Jubilee seat has been fitted
- This item is to be removed from the agenda and updates on lighting to be included in item 5.1 – CCTV coverage for Milnthorpe

5.3 Milnthorpe Local Plan Review (5.3)

- The Planning Committee has met and a summary of the Clerk conversation with Dallam Estate was provided
 - A discussion took place about the production of a neighbourhood/local plan. A major concern was to ensure that only appropriate style of buildings are built in the village. A stand alone design statement/guide was considered a minimum requirement. It was decided to revisit this area when Council is able to resume physical meetings
- Item complete, but to be added back onto the agenda when physical meetings resume

5.4 Footpaths (5.5)

- Cllr Robson is having useful contact with Dallam Tower Estate Manager, the squeeze above the Laking steps has been repaired and a number of things continue to be discussed.
- 3 fingerposts have been cleared/repaired. Cllr Robson will send details of the posts to C Cllr McSweeney to ask for an inspection to see if they should be replaced
- The footpath to the West Coast Main Line footbridge should be made more visible and more defined and could continue to follow either its existing route or a proposed improved route which would require a legal diversion at extra cost.

5.5 Update on removal of hedge trimmings from the Cross Keys hedge (5.5)

- A formal letter has been sent to the brewery expressing the Council concerns and asking that the trimmings be removed. No reply has been received. The trimmings are now covered in weeds and almost rotted down. Given the lack of response/action there is little that can be done other than treat the weeds as normal. Item complete

5.6 Toilets update (5.6)

- The Clerk had investigated provision of water to Sue's Snack bar and the payment was considered fair. Item complete

5.7 LQF Grant (7.1)

- Grant application sent, but quote for Laking Steps more expensive than anticipated. Updated grant application to be sent. Annual Meeting of LQF is 8th October 2020

5.8 Speed Limit on B6385 (7.2)

- It was requested that the Clerk requests that a CCC Crash Team carry out a survey on the traffic that uses the road. This was considered an urgent request given that there was an accident involving a pedestrian in September 2020.
- It was pointed out that there is nowhere, that would satisfy regulations, for a pedestrian crossing to be placed between the Dallam roundabout and the A6
- It was also requested that Cllr Adair resume her speed watch activity. D Cllr Audland is to ask the local Police Sergeant for permission for this to restart

6. Public Participation

6.1 County Council – C Cllr McSweeney made a number of points

- Cllr Hill represented the Parish Council at a Police Commissioner meeting on 1st September. A useful report was provided to Council
- The crossroad traffic lights' phasing is wrong causing long queues, anger and poor driver decisions. It was acknowledged, by Highways, that this needed to be corrected. The control box was not working properly. This is to be addressed as a matter of priority
- Traffic lights continue to be placed at Levens causing long tailbacks (made worse by increased traffic diverted away from the A590). The lights are placed by United Utilities as they draw water at Levens Bridge. They have a legal right to do this and do not need permission to put the traffic lights in place.

6.2 District Council

- D Cllr Audland asked that residents be asked to only put out 1 green bin for collection. Collections have now return to fortnightly, as soon as the backlog is cleared the collections will be as previous

6.3 Electors – No matters raised.

7. New Matters for Consideration:

7.1 Vehicles using Market Square during the Friday Market

- Numerous incidents have been witnessed recently and was considered to be a major hazard and the activity could potentially invalidate the Council insurance. It was agreed that a small working group should consider the options. The Clerk is to move this forward
- It was also mentioned that SLDC Parking Enforcement Officers will shortly recommence duties in the Square after a period of inactivity due to the lack of parking discs. These are available from most businesses around the Square

7.2 Missing bin on Beetham Road

- Despite investigation the bin has not been found. It is suspected that it has been stolen! D Cllr Audland was asked to source a new one

7.3 Observed disregard of Government Guidelines by businesses around the Square

- D Cllr Audland has spoken to offending businesses and things appear to have improved

8. Planning Matters:

8.1 New Planning applications and SLDC decisions received:

New Applications

SL/2020/0617, Red Barn, Harmony Hill, Moving shop door/window, deadline 28th September, No objections

Decisions

None

8.2 Any Related Matters - None

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Report on bank receipts, payments and closing balances

Receipts – August

Market Trader Rent - £200.40
Govt Business Grant - £10,000
Total - £10,200.40

Payments – August

Market Electricity, E.ON, £7.91 (VAT £0.38)
Market Electricity, E.ON, £37.84 (VAT £1.80)
Market Electricity, E.ON, £24.51 (VAT £1.17)
Toilet Maintenance, Healthmatic, £600.00 (VAT £100)
Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £12.69 (VAT £2.11)
Annual Play Area Inspection Fee Playsafety, £132.60 (VAT £22.10)
Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £1,598.33
Toilet Electricity, Npower, £20.00 (VAT £0.95)
Total - £2,433.88 (VAT £128.51)

Bank Balances at Month end

Current Account - £44,877.19
Deposit Account - £22,044.19

All payments were **APPROVED**

9.2 Any Related Matters

- New pay rates for salary grades have been agreed for staff on the National Joint Council for Local Government Services model contract. This will be applied to all affected employees
- The Clerk has completed ILCA and will now embark on the Certificate in Local Government Administration with the cost borne by the Parish Council

10. Market

10.1 Market Report – Report provided, highlights being

- Most traders now pay rent by bank transfer
- Pet stall now started, cut flower stall now started on a trial basis
- Local MP has attended on 2 Fridays

11. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies – None

12. To consider matters from around the Parish

Cllr Bingham – Expressed concern about the overgrown garden beside the old police station. It was pointed out that the house has just been put on the market

Cllr Robson – Mentioned the forthcoming Remembrance Service. The Clerk had circulated a document outlining minimum expectations. It is essential that the service complies with Government Regulations. The Clerk will liaise with Cllrs Hurst and Bingham to make arrangements. It was suggested that a particular member of the public is involved. It was also suggested that the service be recorded and/or live streamed

Cllr Adair – Mentioned that problem with 'The Hedge' was being addressed and in the process of being cut back. She also mentioned that the path from the car park to the playing field was overgrown, it was suggested that the bushes were cut back, but the cuttings must NOT be removed, but placed on the land where the offending bushes grow

Cllr Baverstock – Wanted to ensure that 2 artefacts (Bell and Plaque), belonging to the Memorial Hall are not lost as they are not currently displayed where intended. Cllr Hurst, who is the Council representative on the Memorial Hall Committee, will raise the matter.

He also mentioned that the only remaining gas light is out of action and needed some TLC, this will be reviewed at the same time as considering the style of lights in the Square

13. General Correspondence – None received

14. Reading Matter – Continues to be sent via email on a regular basis. It is generally updates from District and County Councils on the Coronavirus situation. The Clerk will continue to send out appropriate matters that are received

15. To receive notice of items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting

- Remembrance Sunday
- Bell/Plaque from Memorial Hall
- Formal decision on Clerk

16. Date of next scheduled meeting – confirmed as Monday 5th October. This will be via virtual technology. As always members of the public are welcome to attend, please contact the Parish Clerk for joining details

Paul Blackburn

Parish Clerk
16th September 2020

The next meeting will be a remote, virtual meeting. If members of the General Public wish to attend, please can they contact the Clerk, milnthorpeparishclerk@gmail.co.uk for details on how to join the meeting