

# MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the normal monthly meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 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, 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. Clare Lachmann sent apologies
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

## **5.1 CCTV coverage for Milnthorpe (including lights) (5.1)**

- After discussion about the type of lights, bulbs etc. Cllr Bingham proposed that the lights in the Square are replaced. This was carried unanimously and it was **RESOLVED** that the CCTV and Lighting projects go ahead.
- Funds are available, but a new budget item needs to be created and a virement agreed. This will be done at the next meeting

## **5.2 Footpaths (5.4)**

- Cllr Robson continues his sterling work and has obtained agreement to accommodate a kissing gate on the footpath at West Coast Main Line. Cumbria County Council (CCC) are able to provide a kit, which will need to be fitted. Cllr Robson proposed that we accept the offer of the kit, this was carried unanimously and it was **RESOLVED** that the kit was requested from CCC. It was agreed that Council members will look at fitting the gate, however, if it was beyond the available skills, a skilled tradesman will be used to install the gate. The Clerk is to request the kit from CCC

## **5.3 LQF Grant**

- The meeting of the Quarry Fund Committee takes place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. An updated grant application has been submitted with a request for funding for 2 projects. Of the two projects, the replacement bench on Grislymires Lane is the priority.

## **5.4 Speed Limit on B6384/B6385 (5.8)**

- Cllr Adair has begun the agreed speed watch activity. The fastest vehicle observed was 46mph (in a 30mph limit area). Most vehicles slowed down to within the limit when the speed indicator was seen
- Cllr Hurst asked what could be done to make the area around Dallam School safer. A discussion took place with the consensus being that education of the school children and the school was critically important. D Cllr Audland has visited the school and feels that continued education is required. Because there is no option to create a crossing on the main road, children should be 'encouraged' to use the School entrance on Haverflatts Lane and not the one on the B6384

## **5.5 Vehicles using the square during the Friday Market (7.1)**

- A chain was put across both entrances and a number of Councillors spent time observing the reaction. It certainly stopped vehicles accessing the Square and no pedestrians appeared to be inconvenienced. Clearly, the chains reduced the risks for the majority of people using the Square, however, it added potential risks for a small number of minority groups. A Member of Public raised the potential difficulties for the visually impaired and the elderly and options were discussed to reduce these risks. A delivery driver had cut the ties holding the chains and entered the area in contravention of the Traffic Order that is in place.

Several suggestions were made and these will be progressed:

- A copy of the Traffic Order is to be given to all businesses on/around the Square
- A footpath is created around the barriers at the entrances
- More solid ties are used to secure the chains

#### **5.6 Missing Bin on Beetham Road (7.2)**

- A replacement bin is being sorted by D Cllr Audland

#### **5.7 The Remembrance Service (12)**

- A small group met to discuss the options for holding a Remembrance service and what the PC involvement would be. It was decided that Cllr Hurst would lay a wreath on behalf of the residents of Milnthorpe, Cllr Bingham would do the readings (names, poem etc.). The Clerk has liaised with a resident to arrange for the last post to be played. It is not known how many groups will wish to lay wreaths, but it was felt that the Green could be managed to ensure that all current guidelines/laws were met, e.g. groups of 6 or less and social distancing. The Clerk has drawn up a risk assessment to ensure that this happens. The proceedings will be recorded and placed on Social Media.
- The soldiers are to be put in place on 30<sup>th</sup> October

#### **5.8 Memorial Hall Artefacts (12)**

- The bell is with Atkinsons
- It is believed that the plaque is in the Memorial Hall

**Item to be removed from the agenda**

#### **5.9 Formal Decision re Clerk (15)**

- At the last meeting, Council said that the probationary period had been successfully completed and that a formal contract could be issued. Cllr Scroggum proposed that the probationary period was successfully completed and that employment of the Clerk is continued. This was carried unanimously and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk is offered a formal contract which will be signed by both the Chair and the Clerk

**Item to be removed from the agenda**

### **6. Public Participation**

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

- A letter has been received, from an Arnside resident, about the parking at the Milnthorpe traffic lights. C Cllr McSweeney will respond stating that there are no plans to change the position
- Later this week SLDC are meeting to vote re the proposed Unitary Authority and, in particular, whether SLDC wish to be part of a suggested Morecambe Bay Authority. There was discussion around the merits/demerits of the proposal and the outcome of the decision is awaited

#### **6.2 District Council**

- D Cllr Audland was asked about the 'overhanging' tree on Church Street. D Cllr Audland said that he had previously looked at the tree. It was not breaking any laws and was not considered to be a problem. Cllr Bingham and D Cllr will take a look to check that this is still the case

#### **6.3 Electors – No matters raised.**

### **7. New Matters for Consideration - None**

### **8. Planning Matters:**

#### **8.1 New Planning applications and SLDC decisions received:**

**New Applications** - None

**Decisions** - None

#### **8.2 Any Related Matters - None**

## 9. Financial Matters

### 9.1 Report on bank receipts, payments and closing balances

#### Receipts – September

Market Trader Rent - £370.05  
Precept - £13,999.86  
Parking Disc - £80.00  
Total - £14,449.91

Quarterly Interest to Deposit Account - £0.55

#### Payments – September

Market Electricity, E.ON, £8.17 (VAT £0.39)  
Toilet Maintenance, Healthmatic, £600.00 (VAT £100.00)  
Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £36.57 (VAT £6.10)  
Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £1,728.57  
Toilet Electricity, Npower, £17.69, (VAT £0.84)  
Clerk Allowance, £312.25  
Clerk Training, £350.00  
Clerk Expenses, 90.28 (VAT £11.00)  
Information Commissioner Fee, £40  
Jubilee Seat Preparation, KW Building & Roofing, £1,440 (VAT £240.00)  
Square Chains, Cllr Hurst, £100.42  
Square Parking Disc Signs, The Sign Man, £96.00  
Total - £4,819.95 (VAT £358.33)

#### Bank Balances at Month end

Current Account - £54,506.97  
Deposit Account - £22,045.04

All payments were **APPROVED**

#### **Half Yearly Report**

- Budget expenditure is almost perfectly balanced for the half year, though there has been overspend and underspend in some budget items. Much of this could not be anticipated as it is to do with Covid, the change in Clerk and improvements to the Square. The deposits and, therefore, the account balance is greater than anticipated. This is due to the grant of £10,000 and the early receipt of the second half of the precept. The receipts were reduced due to a fall in the market income. Currently we are in a healthy position, but increased expenditure is anticipated in the second half of the year. Spreadsheet is available if required

#### **9.2 Any Related Matters**

- To consider changing banking provider
  - The Clerk has identified a more suitable contact at the current bank and things appear to have improved. Changing bank has been put on hold pending satisfactory service from HSBC UK Bank
- To consider items to be included in the budget for 2021/22
  - Cllrs are to bring suggestions to the next meeting after chatting to residents
  - A request for resident suggestions will be put on social media
  - Cllr Hill will canvass local opinion on changing the grassed area on Ryleyfield Road

## 10. Market

### 10.1 Market Report

- It was suggested that a car boot sale is added to the market on the last Friday of each month. The Clerk will check that our public liability covers such an event. The number of tables would be limited to 10 and would be placed at the top end of the Square. Interest will be gauged via social media.

## 11. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies - None

## 12. To consider matters from around the Parish

**Cllr Bingham** – Mentioned that both he and the Clerk had been in correspondence with the Environmental Agency about the Marsh Sluice Gates and the potential flood risk. The EA had said that things were being looked at and a working party had been set up to establish the root cause of the problem. It is a slow process with a suggested re-contact date of 2 months hence. Cllr Bingham will continue to chase for an earlier update/resolution

**Cllr Scrogam** – Mentioned that 'The Hedge' had been cut back

**Cllr Baverstock** – Mentioned that young men are appearing on doorsteps of residents causing concern to many. He suggested that we consider setting up a 'No Cold Calling Scheme'

**Cllr Hurst** mentioned the disabled parking spaces on the Square. These have previously been discussed and it had been agreed that the spaces were not in an ideal position. A number of Councillors will have a look at how the spaces could be better sited.

## 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

- Market – Car Boot/Tabletop sale
- Ideas for budget for 2021/22
- Marsh Sluice Gates
- Disabled Parking on the Square

**16. Date of next scheduled meeting** – confirmed as Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. 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**  
**6<sup>th</sup> October 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](mailto:milnthorpeparishclerk@gmail.co.uk) for details on how to join the meeting