

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the normal monthly meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 1st November 2021 at 7pm. The meeting was open to members of the public. The meeting was held at the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane, Milnthorpe

Present: Cllrs Steven Hurst (Chair), Cllr Jen Scrogam (Vice Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Peter Capasso, Peter Hill, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson, Paul Blackburn (Clerk). C Cllr Peter McSweeney, D Cllr Audland. One member of the public was in attendance (Clive Davidson)

1. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Julie Mulinga (illness)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of October 2021

- Minutes for both the 4th of October 2021 and 6th of September 2021 were agreed and accepted

3. Announcements by the Chair

- The Chair reminded everyone that as we were back to face to face meetings, members should raise their hands if they wished to speak during the meeting

4. Declaration of Interest by Members on items on the agenda

- None declared

5. Public Participation

5.1 County Council – C Cllr McSweeney was welcomed back after his short absence

- He requested that anecdotal evidence about the traffic light sequencing is passed to him. This evidence (including video) is to be passed to the Clerk who will collate and forward to C Cllr McSweeney
- There is a meeting of the local Pubwatch on the 30th of November. This will be held at the Coach and Horses. Cllr Pete Hill will attend
- The Chief Executive of CCC has resigned
- C Cllr McSweeney had hoped to update the Members about the numbers of Cllrs that will be in the area as part of the restructure of Cumbria into 2 Unitary Councils, but this was unavailable. He will update members by email when the information is received

5.2 District Council - D Cllr Audland

- Mentioned that a potential grant could be available for the Owlett Ash playground but it would need to come via the Parish Council. He will ask Polly Straker to contact the Clerk to discuss how this can happen
- A very brief update was provided on the SLDC Local Plan. A number of Councillors had attended a virtual meeting with the SLDC team. At that meeting it was clear that many of the plan themes were in line with the Parish priorities (for example - meeting housing needs, travel/traffic, health, Mainline). It was clear that the members wished to be involved in determining such things as housing styles etc

5.3 Electors

- Clive Davidson, from the Christmas Committee, updated the Council on item 7.1. 43 businesses will have Christmas trees and the trees will be put up w/c 22nd of November 2021. The lights will be switched on, on the 26th of November.
- There will be a small event on the Green and the Council formally agreed that the Green could be used for the event
- Cllr Hurst read an email from the Christmas Committee, thanking the Council for the generous grant towards the trees

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the informal meeting of July 2021.

6.1 Leasgill Quarry Fund (6.3)

- Grant request for 2021/22 has been agreed at £2,000. This is for the new signs that are to be put at the entry to the village
- The request for the payment of the 2020/21 grant was declined by the Trust

6.2 Lengthsman Role (6.1)

- It was felt that, if the Council is unable to link with other Parish Councils, the current process of using residents works well. Indeed many residents provide their time free of charge. The Clerk is look into the cost of providing a Lengthsman based on, say, work of 20 hours per month. A comparison between that cost and the current cost of outsourcing 'Lengthsman' tasks can then be made

6.3 Seat Painting Programme (6.2)

- Has commenced with the seat at the Clock Tower repainted
- The state of the seats around the village is to be looked at to see if there are any urgent requirements (Two seats close to the Church on the Green were mentioned)
- Consideration is to be given to replacing seats with plastic ones. The Clerk will have a look into cost and the 'look' of such seats. The use of such seats would substantially reduce maintenance costs

6.4 Remembrance Service (6.5)

- The parade, on the 14th of November, will commence at The Cross at the bottom of The Square, with participants meeting at 14:40.
- Cllr Hurst has received the Council wreath and will lay this on behalf of the village
- Cllr Bingham will read a poem and state the names of those who died in the cause

7. New matters for consideration

7.1 Christmas

- It was resolved that the Village celebrations, organised by the Christmas Committee, can take place on the Green,
- Please see item 5.3 for further details on this matter

7.2 Toilet Grant

- Cllr Robson and the Clerk attended a remote meeting with representatives from SLDC.
- The funding programme comes to an end in 2022 and SLDC were looking for an update on the progress made towards self-sufficiency.
- At this stage it is not possible for the Parish Council to fully fund the toilets but will look at what can be contributed and how a grant request from SLDC can be minimised.
- The Clerk will investigate how an adjoining Parish has gone on with the change of maintenance provider and provision of contactless payments. D Cllr Audland suggested that the Clerk contacts D Cllr Helen Chaffey
- It was also suggested that consideration be given to installing solar panels on the toilet block which could significantly reduce all electricity costs. Cllr Hill is to investigate and discuss options with the Clerk

8. Planning Matters:

8.1 New Planning applications and SLDC decisions received

- None

8.2 Any Related Matters

- None

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Report on bank receipts, payments and closing balances

Receipts – October

Market Trader Rent - £332.10
CIL (SLDC) - £1,803.38
Parking Discs - £95.00
Total - £2,230.48

Payments – October

Market Electricity Pillar 1, E.ON, £41.32 (VAT £1.97)
Market Electricity Pillar 2, E.ON, £13.02 (£0.62)
Market Electricity Pillar 3, E.ON, £8.26 (£0.39)
Toilet Maintenance, Healthmatic, £650.00 (£108.33)
Toilet Water, Waterplus, £57.40
Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £36.74 (£0.6.12)
Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £1,642.28
Market Rates, SLDC, £70.00
Meeting Room Hire, Christ the King Church, £75.00
Christmas Tree Funding, Village Christmas Committee £900.00

Total - £3,494.02 (£117.43)

Bank Balances at Month end

Current Account - £38,463.70
Deposit Account - £22,047.24
Total - £60,510.94

All payments were **APPROVED**

9.2 Any other Matters

- Half year report against budget distributed. Members were happy with the report
- Budget for 2022/23 needs to be prepared. Clerk has prepared a draft, but there are a couple of things that need to be known before it can be finalised (Amount of a couple of grants). It looks like a 6% increase in the precept will be required, this equates to 20p per month per Council Tax payer (though this will reduce if the Council Tax base returns to normal). The Council were all happy to progress at this level

10. Market Report

- Rent received - £332.10
- There have been a number of enquiries from traders to take a pitch on the market
- £95 received for parking discs
- A fresh stock of Parking Discs has been ordered

11. To consider matters from around the Parish

Cllr Robson mentioned that an 'audit' of headstones in the graveyard had revealed a number of wobbly headstones. A list of the headstones has been placed in the Church and the owners are being contacted. He stated that this is not a responsibility of the Parish Council but wanted the members to be aware of the position and the action that the church is taking. It had also been mentioned at the last PC meeting

Cllr Bingham mentioned that the drainage in Ackenthwaite is struggling to cope with the current heavy rainfall and that the resultant flooding will cause more damage to the roads

Cllr Lachmann mentioned that 3 lights on Firs Road are still not working despite being reported on many occasions. Whilst the Council had sympathy, they had no influence over the matter.

The Clerk asked Cllr Lachmann to provide him with the light numbers and he would see if he could do anything

Cllr Hurst mentioned that we had received two letters from a member of the public (not a village resident) via SLDC. The letters were asking that the Parish Council allow a small group of nurses, who work out of a doctor's practice in the village, access to free, unlimited parking. The remit of the Parish Council does not allow this. It was pointed out that two hours of free parking is available in many locations and that there are a number of pay and display car parks in the village if a longer stay is required. The Clerk, who had sent a holding letter, will respond appropriately

The Clerk had received an email asking that, if the old lights were removed from the toilet block, could they be recycled by allowing them to be used on the walkway from the Green to the Church. This came at an opportune time as, now that the CCTV is up and running, the Clerk is to ask that the brightness of the new lights on the toilet wall is 'turned down', the old lights to be removed and the lights besides the houses on the other side of the Square to be fitted with a 'plate' at the back to reduce the light into the houses. The Council were happy that the old lights were recycled.

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

- The Queens' Jubilee 2022
- 2022/23 budget

13. Date of next scheduled meeting –Monday 6th December 2021 at 7pm. The meeting will take place at the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane

The meeting closed at 20:20 and a Part B meeting was held. Members of the Public, who had attended the Council meeting, left at this stage. During the meeting a confidential staffing matter was discussed and a satisfactory resolution and way forward was agreed by all of the members

Paul Blackburn

Parish Clerk

3rd November 2021

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