

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the normal monthly meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 6th December 2021 at 7pm. The meeting was open to members of the public. The meeting was held via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Steven Hurst (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Peter Capasso, Peter Hill, Jim Robson, Julie Mulinga, Paul Blackburn (Clerk). C Cllr Peter McSweeney, D Cllr Audland.

1. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Jen Scrogham (Vice Chair),

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

- Minutes for the 1st of November 2021 were agreed and accepted, they will be formally agreed at the January meeting (face to face)

3. Announcements by the Chair

- The Chair announced that unfortunately the role of Playing Field Warden has been made redundant. Tom finishes on 31st December, though he is currently on garden leave. He wished to formally thank Tom for his 10 years at the Council and wish him all the best for the future

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

- None declared

5. Public Participation

5.1 County Council – C Cllr McSweeney

- Milnthorpe Matters has been slow in progression, mainly to due to the long term illness of the main organiser. Hopefully a meeting will take place before Christmas
- The maintenance of the surface of Public Right of Way footpaths is the responsibility of CCC with the boundary hedges/fences being the responsibility of the landowner. CCC has 25% responsibility for stiles/gates, they will provide new stiles/gates free of charge for someone else to put up.
- Lighting on the Square. Nothing can be done about the brightness, but other points (removal of the older lights and add a back panel) can be addressed. C Cllr McSweeney is awaiting further feedback, in particular about costs and the responsibility for them.
- Parking in the loading bay on the Square continues to be an issue. C Cllr McSweeney continues to raise the parking issues with the enforcement team

5.2 District Council - D Cllr Audland

- The CCTV has had a positive effect on some of the activities that were taking place on the Square, however, some of the antisocial behaviour has moved to other parts of the village.
- A member of the public had mentioned the possibility of creating a support group for the village residents who are considered vulnerable during a time of crisis (weather, virus etc). The Council Members thought that there were a number of such groups within the village but were happy for the MOP to bring it to the attention of the Council at a future meeting and the item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting

5.3 Electors

- None present.

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 1st November 2021.

6.1 Lengthsman Role (6.2)

- The Clerk produced a cost comparison of using a Lengthsman or using existing resources. The cost of using existing resources was considerably lower. Furthermore it was felt that a small number of jobs that are currently outsourced could be done by existing staff. Cllr Hurst is to approach a member of staff to ask if he would take on extra maintenance on Parish Council land around the village (hedges, overgrown areas etc). There is no compulsion for the member of staff to agree

6.2 Seat Painting Programme (6.3)

- Wood effect plastic seating was researched and costs are almost identical to wooden seats with the advantage of needing no maintenance, save an occasional clean.
- There are 2 seats on the Green that have lost wooden slats, the Clerk is to research the availability of wood effect plastic slats
- One seat will need to be replaced over the next 12 months and the Council agreed that up to 2 seats could be replaced (if and only if necessary) by using the maintenance aspect of the budget

6.3 Toilet Grant (7.1)

- Papers had been sent out about the options available re the toilet grant. SLDC are looking for the Parish Council to become self-sufficient and not require any funding. A provisional plan was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk continues with the research and asks for feedback from an adjacent Parish, who made some changes 12 months ago
- Solar panels were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Hill would look further into this, in particular they were asked to check the situation re using panels in a conservation area

7. New matters for consideration

7.1 Queen's Jubilee

- Cllr Bingham mentioned that he is to produce a book and some photographs had been offered to him. All proceeds from the book will go towards funding permanent celebratory items
- No one is sure who owns the land on Firs Road opposite the Primary School. South Lakes Housing say that it is not them. It might be SLDC but the Clerk will obtain details from Land Registry
- Cllr Hurst has had tentative quotes for the limestone village signs. The quote is approximately £1,600 per sign, dependent upon the amount of wording and the work involved in siting the signs. The Clerk stated that he already has earmarked funds/grants totalling £5,300

7.2 Nolan Principles

- There has been lots of bad press recently about the conduct of Councillors and their motivation for taking the role. Therefore, the opportunity was taken to remind all of the Nolan Principles. These are the principles that all holders of public office must follow and are published on the Gov.uk website
- It was reassuring to note that, without exception, all principles were followed by all Councillors.

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 - £342.50
Parking Discs - £39.00
Total - £381.50

Payments – November

Toilet Maintenance, Healthmatic, £650.00 (VAT - £108.33)
Parking Discs, Brunlea, £1,078.80 (£179.80)
Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £10.86 (£0.66)
Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £1310.45
Market Rates, SLDC, £70.00
Remembrance Wreaths, British Legion, £40.00
Balancing Payment, ICO discount, -£5.00

Total - £3,155.11 (£288.79)

Bank Balances at Month end

Current Account - £35,690.09
Deposit Account - £22,047.24
Total - £57,737.33

All payments were **APPROVED**

9.2 Any other Matters

- A draft Budget for 2022/23 was distributed. In its current form there will be precept increase of £2,800 which is circa £4 per annum per band D property. This will be reduced if the tax base returns to its previous level.
- Awaiting news of tax base and SLDC toilet grant so that so that the final budget can be proposed for formal acceptance in January

10. Market Report

- Rent received - £342.50
- £39 received for parking discs
- A fresh stock of parking discs has been received

11. To consider matters from around the Parish

Cllr Bingham mentioned it looks like one of the toilet door windows is broken (next to the disabled parking space). This is to be investigated

Cllr Bingham also mentioned that he has again reported the state of the road at the end of Smithy Lane. It would appear that work previously carried out needs to be redone!

Cllr Mulinga pointed out that there are a number of large containers on land at Owlett Ash. These containers relate to work to be carried out on Firs Road. It would appear that one of the containers has created a large pothole in the road

Cllr Hill had attended the 'Bar Watch' meeting and came away in a positive frame of mind. The group has been set up to solve major problems caused by customers. Information will be shared between a number of pubs in the area, but with no blanket banning order. It is hoped that the group will be of help to all members and customers and will avoid personality clashes in one establishment impacting on other outlets. Cllr Hill will attend the next meeting on the 25th of January 2022

Cllr Adair mentioned that a light between the Cross Keys and the Playing Field has disappeared. Cllr Hurst is to investigate. She also mentioned that the gate to the old tennis courts is often left open

Cllr Robson related the saga of the church Christmas tree which was 4 feet too big and needed to be cut and moved into the church. This was too big a task for the couple of church members, so an SOS was put out for help. Cllr Robson wished to state his thanks to those that responded and solved the problem

Cllr Capasso is to remove the Corinthians sign from the fallen fingerpost sign which is to be replaced

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

- Support Group Activities for vulnerable village residents

13. Date of next scheduled meeting –Monday 10th of January 2022 at 7pm. The meeting will take place at the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane

The meeting closed at 20:30

Paul Blackburn

Parish Clerk
8th December 2021
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