

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the normal monthly meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 9th January 2023. The meeting was held in the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane and commenced at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Steven Hurst (Chair), Roger Bingham, Peter Capasso, Pete Hill (Vice Chair), Craig Allen, Jim Robson, Barbara Adair, Paul Blackburn (Clerk) C Cllr McSweeney and District Cllr Audland.

1. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Julie Mulinga. Accepted
- The meeting was quorate

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th December 2022

- Minutes for the 5th December 2022 meeting were agreed and signed.

3. Announcements by the Chair

- The Parish Council would like to pass on their congratulations to Sheila Ashburner who has been awarded the British Empire Medal by HRH King Charles III. The award is thoroughly deserved and the work that Sheila has done for the village and The Royal British Legion is much appreciated by all
- The Chair read a further anonymous letter from a member of the public. It was the same person who had previously written anonymously. The members were disappointed that they are unable to respond because all points made could be answered very simply. The members would much prefer that correspondence is not anonymous

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

- None

5. Public Participation

5.1 County Council

C Cllr McSweeney

- Made the Members aware that the LGR is well on track. Some of the biggest areas of work are Adult Social Care, Child Care and Education. These areas will be shared by both the new Councils but it is believed that they will be separated in 12 months' time and Westmorland & Furness will have responsibility for their own work
- A flood warning has been issued for the coming week with considerable rain expected over the coming week

5.2 District Council

D Cllr Audland

- The members wished to give condolences to D Cllr Audland on the passing of his sister in December 2022
- He had had much feedback from local residents about the Christmas decorations and asked that all those who were involved are thanked. The members agreed with the comments. Cllr Hurst pointed out that 4 businesses in the village have not paid for their Christmas tree. This is unacceptable and leaves a significant hole in the finances of the Christmas Committee as the trees have been paid for.
- The Council Tax for 2023/24 was brought up and a lively discussion ensued. There is still a lot of work to be done in the handover of the finances from SLDC to W&F and funds previously available to Parish Councils is currently being discussed. The potential effect is that the income received by Milnthorpe Parish Council will be reduced. It was stressed by all members that they wanted to have a zero increase in the PC share of the Council Tax and the RFO was tasked with restructuring the budget to enable this to happen

5.3 Electors

None present

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 5th December 2022.

6.1 Plaque Project (6.1)

- Ongoing. A meeting to take place with a small group of Councillors to move the project forward

6.2 Trees (6.2)

- It was agreed that the required work can be carried out and this is to be instructed by the Clerk

6.3 Flagpole (6.6)

- Permission has been agreed by the Church Diocese to place a flagpole in the grounds of the Church
- An application for planning permission will be submitted shortly

6.4 Coronation (6.5)

- The Clerk provided a sample of bunting and it was agreed that the full amount should be purchased. 10kms was agreed. If this is too much then it can be used for future events
- The Members were made aware that there would be no cricket matches on the Recreation Ground during the weekend of the Coronation. It was agreed that the Recreation Ground would be used for some of the celebrations, however, it was essential that vehicles on the ground would not be acceptable
- If the village is to do the celebrations justice it will require input from a number of volunteers from the village. There are a small number who have expressed an interest in being involved, but more are required. Cllr Capasso is to make such a request via social media

7. New matters for consideration

None

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 – November

Market Trader Rent - £369.10

Interest - £23.23

Total - £392.33

Payments – November

Toilet Maintenance, Healthmatic, £700.70 (VAT - £116.78)

Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £1.20 (£0.20)

Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £1,209.01

Christmas Committee Grant, £1,200

Toilet Electricity, NPower, £47.79 (£2.32)

Market Rates, SLDC, £70.00

Market Electricity Pillar 3, Eon, £16.10 (£0.77)

Market Electricity Pillar 3, Eon, £15.32 (£0.73)

Market Electricity Pillar 2, Eon, £37.55 (£1.79)

Machinery Servicing, Dennis Barnfield, £617.06 (£102.85)

Toilet Water, Water Plus, £37.92

Bank Account Service Charge, £5.00

Total - £3,958.65 (£225.44)

Bank Balances at Month end

Current Account - £40,895.05, Deposit Account - £22,079.81
Total - £62,974.86

All payments were **APPROVED** and balances reconciled

9.2 Any other Financial Matters

- The proposed budget for 2023/24 needs to be reconsidered due to the late notification of the unavailability of an anticipated grant
- The RFO is to amend the budget to reflect this and to ensure that there is no increase in the Parish share of the Council Tax.
- A short extra meeting of Council will need to be called to ensure that the resolution to agree the budget is carried out properly

10. Market Report September 2022

- Rent received of £369.50

11. To consider matters from around the Parish

- Cllr Hill is to report the state of the path to Mainline . It is in poor condition. He will do this via the Highways website. He will also report a significant pothole on Ryleyfield
- Cllr Bingham is also to report the state of Smithy Lane
- Cllr Adair mentioned the poppies and said that she would remove. It was agreed that they would be recycled and used next year
- The Council would like to express their thanks to Lesley Salkeld for her work in clearing the beds around the war memorial

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

- None

13. Date of next scheduled meeting

- Monday 6th February 2023. This will take place at the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane and will commence at 7pm

The meeting closed at 20:25

Paul Blackburn

Clerk

January 2023

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