

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the normal monthly meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 8th April 2024. The meeting was held in the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane and commenced at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Roger Bingham, Peter Capasso, Pete Hill (Vice Chair), Barbara Adair, Julie Mulinga, James Robson and Michael Thompson. Cllr Audland (part) and Paul Blackburn (Clerk). Three members of the public was in attendance. In the absence of the Chair, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Hurst sent his apologies.
- The meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of March 2024.

- These were **APPROVED** and signed.

3. Announcements by the Chair

- None
- Because of the absence of the Chair the meeting was chaired by Cllr Pete Hill (Vice Chair)

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

- None

5. Public Participation

5.1 Westmorland & Furness Council (Cllrs Audland and Chaffey)

- The work carried out on the bridge has been very successful.
- The Harri bus is to attend Milnthorpe market on the 17th of May.
- There is a Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus (BSIP+) forum taking place with an option to take part via an online consultation. It will last until the 30th April

5.2 Electors

- Three members of the public attended the meeting.
- One asked that the Parish Council works with Hartland House to minimise the impact of the development during the building work. This will happen. It was pointed out that a link to the Oakmere 'Construction Statement' had been placed on the Parish Council website.
- It was suggested to the second speaker that he puts his question(s) in writing, and he will receive a response.
- The third member of the public spoke passionately about the problems of sewage and the apparent lack of work from United Utilities since the Beetham Road land was officially designated as development land in 2014. He was made aware, by a County Councillor, that United Utilities are not answerable to Councils, but to the Environmental Agency. The Parish Council Members have raised similar concerns on several occasions.

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on the 8th of January 2024.

6.1 Plaque Project (6.2)

- To be put in place.

6.2 Locality Board (6.3)

- Still awaiting feedback from W&F re 'Community Assets'
- To be removed from the agenda until things can progress.

6.3 20MPH Speed Limit (6.5)

- Awaiting response from W&F, this is now expected within the next 2/3 months.

6.4 D-Day 2024 (7.1)

- It was agreed that a flag be purchased.

6.5 Village Fete June 2024 (7.2)

- Marquee going up (NOWHERE near cricket or football pitches). Disco background music. Children's Kite flying, FREE bouncy castles, Fire engine, Wildlife Oasis critters, lots of craft and food stalls, KEY (Kent estuary youth) sports areas, ice cream stalls, lots more to be organised.

6.6 Lights on path towards Park Road Car Park (7.5)

- Councillors to consider options.

6.7 Review of Standing Orders (12)

- Upon review there is no entry in the Standing Orders that allows public participation. They are not allowed to contribute without express permission of the Parish Council. I don't believe that this is a problem because there has been a specific agenda item for well over 10 years. However, it would be sensible to include an item in the Standing Orders that confirms this. Agreed entry at item 26 is as follows:

It is agreed by the Parish Council that an agenda item is included whereby members of the public may participate in the meeting. This is only regarding matters included on the agenda. This contribution is limited to 3 minutes per participant. This item, entitled 'Public Participation' should include any reports from County Councillors.

6.8 Elections 2024 (12)

- It is not yet known if an election will be required.

6.9 Tasks for David Mason (12)

- Strimming of overgrown bushes including the gorse bushes on the Playing Field
- The Ivy on the Playing Field walls.
- The 'suckers' near the tennis court on the playing field
- To keep the area behind the Cricket Club in a tidy state.
- Ensure entry signs are visible.
- To keep road signs clean

- It was agreed that if Councillors spot things that need to be done, they will email the Clerk who will forward to the Chair for action.

7. New matters for consideration

7.1 Seats on the Green

- An update to be requested from Cllr Hurst. This was received following the meeting and was: 'Seats on the green have been mended and look great, big thank you to Doug.' This did not take place during the meeting but it is added as an addendum to the minutes.

8. Planning Matters:

8.1 New Planning applications and SLDC decisions received.

- No new planning applications.

8.2 Any related matters

- The Beetham Road development was discussed at item 5.2.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Report on bank receipts, payments and closing balances.

Receipts – March 2024

Market Trader Rent - £259.10
Parking Discs (Local Businesses) - £35.00
LQF Grant - £1,200
Total - £1,494.10

Payments – March 2024

Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £0.60 (£0.10)
Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £3,155.79
Room Hire, Christ the King Church, £75.00
Toilet Maintenance, Danfo, £870.00 (£145.00)
Toilet Water, Water Plus, £37.54
Bank Account Service Charge, £5.00
SID Service, Pandorra - £216.00 (£36.00)
Clerk 6 months allowance, Clerk - £312.50
Toilet Electricity, Npower - £60.64 (£2.89)
Toilet Doors, Danfo - £4,920.00 (£820.00)
Electricity Pillar 3, Eon - £166.46 (£7.93)
Electricity Pillar 2, Eon - £37.55 (£1.79)
Total - £9,857.08 (£1,013.71)

Bank Balances at Month end

Interest into deposit account - £206.35
Current Account - £10,102.76 Deposit Account - £42,868.87
Total - £52,971.63

All payments were **APPROVED**, and balances reconciled.

9.2 Any other Financial Matters

- First draft of accounts produced.
- Internal Audit to be carried out later in April.
- AGAR to be prepared and signed off at May meeting.
- VAT refund requested.

10. Market Report January 2024

- Rent received of £259.10.
- Parking Disc money of £35.00 received from local businesses.
- The Nat West bus has asked to attend the market for the next 12 months.

11. To consider matters from around the Parish.

- Cllr Capasso stated that the Grey Walls Ginnel is poorly lit because of an overgrown tree. It is to be referred to W&F.
- Cllr Bingham mentioned that the traffic lights in the village remain haphazard and variable in their timings. A response from Highways is to be chased.
- He also mentioned that some new windows on a residential property are not in keeping with other properties and wonders if the area has certain restrictions as he believes that it is a conservation area. The Conservation team at W&F will be contacted.
- Cllr Adair asked for an update on the sale of the old Spar building. It has failed to sell at auction having not reached the reserve price.
- Cllr Robson stated that the work on the Church should be completed by early May.

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

- AGAR

13. Date of next scheduled meeting

- Monday 13th May 2024. This will take place at the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane and will follow the Annual Meeting which will commence at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 20:15

Paul Blackburn

Clerk

April 2024

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