

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Steven Hurst (Chair), Roger Bingham, Peter Capasso, Pete Hill (Vice Chair), Barbara Adair, Julie Mulinga and Jim Robson. Cllr Audland (part) Paul Blackburn (Clerk). One member of the public was in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Lachmann
- The meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of December 2023

- These were **APPROVED** and signed.

3. Announcements by the Chair

- Cllr Hurst wished all Members a Happy New Year

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

- None

5. Public Participation

5.1 Westmorland & Furness Council

- Cllr Audland confirmed that W&F will not be recharging the cost of footway lighting to MPC.
- He is to have a look at the Recycling area on the Park Road car park where there have been reports of inappropriate use.

5.2 Electors

- Kevin Jones attended the meeting and wished to raise a concern about the danger of crossing Main Street. This was not an agenda item, however, the Chair agreed that the point could be raised.
- The Members agreed with the points raised and pointed out that this has been raised previously and no appropriate location could be found because of the layout of the road.
- Kevin stated that he has made contact with Highways, who have responsibility for the road, and is awaiting a response.
- The Clerk said that he would send Members an email about the process to request a change in speed limit to 20mph.

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on the 4th of December 2023.

6.1 Councillor Vacancy (7.1)

- Michael Thompson was proposed to be Co-Opted onto the Parish Council. He was proposed by Councillor Bingham and seconded by Cllr Hill
- He was elected by a unanimous vote and signed the Declaration of Acceptance
- The Chair welcomed him to the Parish Council

6.2 Plaque Project (6.1)

- 2 new plaques have been ordered for delivery in January. The Council received a generous donation to help towards the cost of one of the plaques, this was appreciated by all Members.
- The siting of the new plaque for the Green has been delayed because of the time spent putting up the Christmas Tree and lights but, will be done shortly.

6.3 Toilets (6.2)

- The new, cashless entry door will be put in place shortly.
- Sign, outlining costs, contribution etc has been ordered.

6.4 Locality Board (6.3)

- An Expression of Interest has been submitted for the potential of a grant to provide a new play area. The previous request had been declined because of the lack of matched funding. An updated request has been submitted.

6.5 Area around the Memorial (7.2)

- Awaiting a response, Chair to chase

7. New matters for consideration

7.1 Overgrown hedge on Park Road

- Two Members will have a look to see what is required.

8. Planning Matters:

8.1 New Planning applications and SLDC decisions received.

- None

8.2 Any related matters

- The Beetham Road development was discussed. Two Members (Cllrs Hurst and Hill) are to attend the Planning meeting on Thursday 11th of January with Cllr Hurst having arranged to speak. He is to raise three points agreed by the Parish Council
- The Clerk continues to keep interested residents up to date with developments and some are to attend the same meeting.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Report on bank receipts, payments and closing balances.

Receipts – December 2023

Market Trader Rent - £372.80
Parking Discs (Local Businesses) - £17.50
Plaque Contribution (Village Resident) - £675.00
Interest - £204.75
Total - £1,270.05

Payments – December 2023

Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £0.60 (£0.10)
Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £1,326.80
Market Electricity Pillar 3, Eon, £43.75 (£2.08)
Market Electricity Pillar 2, Eon, £37.55 (£1.79)
Toilet Water, Water Plus, £42.19
Bank Account Service Charge, £5.00
Council Tax, W&F - £60.00
Remembrance wreath contribution, RBL - 50.00
Plaques, Leander Architectural - £2,616.00 (£436.00)
Toilet Electricity, Npower - £59.39 (£2.83)
Total - £4,240.60 (£442.77)

Bank Balances at Month end

Current Account - £23,905.85, Deposit Account - £42,662.52
Total - £66,568.37

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

9.2 Any other Financial Matters

- Clerk presented a final budget which was agreed.
- The requested Precept see a reduction of £200 (over 2023/24),
- There is an increase in Council tax base of 16 households (Band D equivalent), so the Precept request is reduced by an average of 2.8% per household (Band D average)
- W&F have confirmed that they will not be recharging the cost of street lighting so the reduction will be an average of 8.6%
- The Precept requested will be £31,024.19 plus the Council Tax Support Grant of £2,396.81
- It should be noted that the CT support grant will not be provided in 2025/26 so a Precept increase should be expected in the following years.

10. Market Report December 2023

- Rent received of £372.80.
- Parking Disc money of £17.50 received from local businesses.
- Karen the plant lady is retiring but her son will be taking over the business and will continue to attend the market.

11. To consider matters from around the Parish.

- Cllr Capasso wanted to ensure that the Memorial Bell is not lost. Cllr Hurst said that it had been repaired and that he would raise the subject of location at the next Memorial Hall meeting.
- Cllr Thompson stated that parking on Owlett Ash had become difficult and that the garages were no longer fit for purpose. He has written to South Lakes Housing and awaits a response.
- Cllr Adair mentioned that occasionally the SID on Main Street sometimes does not work. This follows a sustained period of days without sun.
- Cllr Robson mentioned that the builders were now present in the Church and that the clock was to be switched off. This means that the automatic bell chimes will not occur for the period of the work.
- Cllr Hurst mentioned that a resident had suggested an orchard on the playing fields. He thanked the Christmas Committee for their fantastic work, it was pointed out that Cllr Hurst was a very active member of that committee so thanks were given to him. He also pointed out that, despite the extremely wet December, the drainage work carried out at Dallam roundabout had been extremely successful with no flooding occurring.

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

- 20MPH speed limit

13. Date of next scheduled meeting

- Monday 5th February 2024. This will take place at the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane and will commence at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 20:10

Paul Blackburn

Clerk

January 2024

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