

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 10th April 2017 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Baverstock (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Pete Capasso, Steve Hurst and Clare Lachmann. Also County Cllr Ian Stewart (for item 6.2), District Cllr Rupert Audland, Parish Clerk John Scargill, Market Supervisor James Lowther and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Jen Scrogam (ill), Cllr Jim Robson (holiday) and Kathy Watts-Jones (MiPAD).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2017** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed by the Chair.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – Cllr Baverstock noted with regret the resignation of Neil Dodds as a Milnthorpe Parish Council member with effect from 20th March and reminded members of his long and dedicated service on the parish council; Clerk to send a letter of thanks and good wishes to Mr Dodds. The resignation and resulting MPC vacancy had been published as required by law in the MPC notice board over a period of fourteen days without any call for an election. As a result, remaining members would now take steps to co-opt a replacement. Clerk also to send an appropriate letter to Cllr Scrogam who had recently undergone knee surgery.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – none.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 13th March 2017.**
 - 5.1 **Draft licences for Playing Field users (5.1)** – awaiting agreement of Cricket Club. Milne Moser, acting for MPC, instructed to contact Ian Gunby, acting for the cricket club, to expedite conclusion of this matter. Ongoing.
 - 5.2 **Pony field (5.2)** – now awaiting a response from the Land Registry. Clerk to follow up with Milne Moser as necessary.
 - 5.3 **Suggested fireworks display 2017 (5.3)** – Cllr Bingham had concluded his research and reported that Health & Safety and site selection were both important issues. Clerk to enquire of MPC's insurers on the cost of cover for such an event. The cost of the fireworks incurred by a neighbouring parish had been in excess of £2,000, much of which had been raised by voluntary subscription with an added contribution from its parish council.
 - 5.4 **Memorial Hall Charity (5.4)** – Cllr Baverstock, as MPC's nominated representative, reported on good progress with the prospective new tenants, although no signed agreement as yet.
 - 5.5 **Cemetery Lane (5.5)** – Dallam had responded to MPC's detailed proposals for remedial work with a request for more information, which had been provided. A meeting with Dallam to be arranged to secure approval for the long-awaited commencement of work.
 - 5.6 **Healthmatic shortcomings (7.2)** – Clerk to arrange a meeting between MPC and Healthmatic to discuss various issues of poor service and to include simplification of the service contract.
 - 5.7 **Sheila Tauber memorial seat (7.3)** – Cllr Bingham in ongoing discussions with the Tauber family about siting and a possible contribution to the cost. Clerk to email Cllr Bingham with details of some alternative suppliers/models.
 - 5.8 **Heritage Trail tribute panel (7.5)** – Cllr Capasso was working on this with Leander – good progress to date.
 - 5.9 **The Strands access restrictions (12)** – related to an area between The Strands footpath and the River Bela, the main entrance to which had now been sealed off with a locked gate. Clerk to write to Dallam for comments.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – a report had been received and circulated before the meeting. 49 incidents had been reported in the wider Milnthorpe area with 11 recorded crimes, five of which related to shoplifting in Milnthorpe. Report on first night of joint police/volunteer observational action – several vehicles stopped and checked, no arrests, favourable public feedback.

- 6.2 County Council** – the meeting between local parish councils and the Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner had been postponed due to his other priorities at the time – to be rearranged. The Public Health Committee’s annual report had been published showing a lower than average number of breast screening procedures carried out in South Cumbria. Local emergency mobile services to be reviewed with possible enhanced provision for Milnithorpe. There was also a need to reassess the strategy for providing proper end-of-life care. Road works on the A591 in the Brettargh Holt area and related deployment of large numbers of traffic cones were questioned - estimated completion date of 24 April, 2017.
- 6.3 District Council** –the Milnithorpe Economic Plan had not yet been published but was expected imminently. Procedures to secure the establishment of a No Cold Calling Zone for Milnithorpe were underway. MPC’s application for an LIP grant to provide ‘smiley’ type traffic speed detection equipment on the main approaches to the village had been unsuccessful.
- 6.4 MiPAD** – Trim Trail signage was now satisfactory. MPC will supply and install matting under one, additional, Trim Trail unit. The Cricket Club had expressed concern about safety when the use of Trim Trail equipment coincided with a cricket match – Clerk to arrange meeting at Cricket Club premises to discuss. Grass in the Trim rail area was due to be cut this week and would certainly be done before the Fun Day event on 1 May. An MPC member would attend the MiPAD AGM on 27 April.
- 6.5 Matters raised by electors** – the need for an increase of 32% in MPC’s 2017/18 share of Council Tax funding via the precept was questioned and accepted as a very important issue. The increase had been considered necessary to cover the exceptional anticipated high cost of repairing damage caused by Storm Desmond in December 2015 and, although high in percentage terms, represented less than £10 for the year (19 pence per week) for Band D properties. This had been regarded as a prudent measure to cover a known but not precisely quantifiable future liability and would be reduced to normal levels at the earliest opportunity. To make residents aware of its decision, MPC published the full details and circumstances of the increase in the Westmorland Gazette at the time.

7. New Matters for consideration:

- 7.1 Annual review of MPC’s Standing Orders** – copies of the Standing Orders had been circulated to members before the meeting. No changes were considered necessary at this time.

8. Planning Matters.

8.1 Applications under consideration by MPC, and SLDC decisions

April 2017 meeting

Type A applications – SLDC response deadline precedes next PC meeting – Clerk to respond. (Members to email Clerk ASAP & before deadline)

SLDC ref	Address	Applicant	Development	Deadline	MPC Response

Type B applications – SLDC deadline falls after next PC meeting – Members to discuss at mtg.

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Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2017/0008 SL/2017/0009	St Anthony’s Tower, off Church St.	H3G & EE Ltd	Replacement of Flagpole etc	Approved with conditions

(More planning information available on SLDC website – southlakeland.gov.uk)

- 8.2 Related matters & correspondence** – Flames take-away infringement of planning regulations – SLDC Planning Dept. response dated 30 March 2017 to earlier complaint by MPC. This had been circulated to all MPC members at the time. Clerk to forward copy to D Cllr Audland for further enquiry.

12. Parish Matters (for information only).

Cllr Bingham – the continued use of Smithy Lane, Ackenthwaite, by HGV's as a place to turn in accessing Main Line Testing Centre when approaching from Crooklands. D Cllr Audland offered to speak to nearby landowner about possible solutions – Clerk to agenda for next meeting.

Cllr Lachmann – a steadily enlarging pothole in Park Road with loose surface material that could potentially damage vehicles and injure pedestrians. Urgent (even if temporary) repair needed.

Cllr Baverstock – annual servicing of mowing equipment behind schedule this year, normally done in winter season. Cllr Hurst to organise.

D Cllr Audland – the need for overdue grass-cutting generally in the village (partly due to delay in mower servicing). Also suggested consideration of a surfaced pathway from the foot of the church steps towards the library (but severe limitations on what changes can be made to village greens).

13. Current PC business – no changes.

14. General correspondence:

- 31/03/17 - CALC - Flood Recovery Workshop on 27/04/17.
- 31/03/17 - CALC - current wave of malicious damage to public toilets in Kirkby Lonsdale – circulated.
- 04/04/17 - SLDC - Council Plan 2014-19 update – circulated.
- 09/04/17 - Nikita Dobson requesting permission to organise a Family Fun Day on the playing field in aid of charity. Clerk to send positive response but pointing out that the agreement of user clubs and insurance provision would be needed.
- Cumbria Highways – guidance notes re new 'Report a Highway Fault' system.

16. Reading Matter – none.

17. Notice of items to be included on agenda for next meeting: any items so referred to above.

18. Date of next meeting – on Monday 15 May 2017 - in Milnthorpe Catholic Church Hall - MPC annual meeting at 7.00pm, followed at approx.. 7.30pm by a normal monthly meeting of the parish council.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

The above meeting was followed at 9.05pm by a 'closed' meeting of the Parish Council at which members considered the consequences of Cllr Dodds's resignation.