

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 10th August 2015 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Jen Scrogam (Chair), Barbara Adair, Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Neil Dodds and Paul Troughton. Also County Cllr Ian Stewart (for item 6.1 and 6.2 only) and District Cllr David Ryder (up to item 6.4), Parish Clerk John Scargill, Market Supervisor Ann Johnston, PCSO Hutchinson (up to item 6.1) and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** from Cllrs Robson (holiday), Lachmann (family priorities) and Bowker (unwell). It was noted that this was the fifth consecutive meeting that Cllr Lachmann has been unable to attend but members were sympathetic to her family circumstances, **agreed** that these should not prejudice her continued membership of the Parish Council and looked forward to her early return.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2015** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Scrogam.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – none.
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 July 2015.**
 - 5.1 **Draft sub-leases for Playing Field users (5.1)** – no further developments, ongoing.
 - 5.2 **Community-operated speedwatch monitoring devices (5.2)** – **agreed** – to accept the offer by Kendal traffic officers of the loan of a speed-gun for a one month trial period. Clerk to determine trial dates after consulting local volunteer operators.
 - 5.3 **Link path lighting project (5.3)** – One promised donation had now been received. A further promised donation remained outstanding.
 - 5.4 **Community Transport Scheme (5.4)** – it had been established that Cumbria Community Transport would be prepared to cover the Milnthorpe area using Levens-based drivers if no Milnthorpe volunteers emerged, but users of the service would incur an additional est. £3 per journey due the extra mileage involved. **Agreed** – to proceed along these lines. Clerk to implement.
 - 5.5 **Milnthorpe Pedestrian Survey (3)** – a hard-copy survey report had now been received from Paul Holdsworth (SLDC) and circulated. It was pointed out that the decision to implement any of the report's recommendations was the responsibility of SLDC (not MPC).
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – received and circulated before the meeting – six incidents/crimes relating directly to Milnthorpe since MPC's July meeting. Police were asked to consider placing traffic cones in The Ashes to prevent obstructive car parking until such time as road lining in the area could be modified. Obstructive car parking generally raised as an ongoing issue. The locations for speed cameras and, eventually, the use of community-operated speed guns were tightly restricted for safety reasons.
 - 6.2 **County Council (Cllr Stewart)** – highlighted the problem of an ageing population, with a high proportion of those over normal working age, and particularly those needing support. This was particularly evident in South Lakes and predicted to become worse in the foreseeable future, representing a major financial burden for County social services. Also noted was a marked difference in call-outs over the last three years between the fire stations at Milnthorpe (54) and Arnside (22). Road resurfacing at the bottom end of Main Street had been completed with little traffic disruption and was welcomed by all, although modification to the new road lining was needed. Traffic light sensor installation imminent. A new proposal for a Lyth Valley water control body (similar to the one rejected in 2011) was now on the table, with little change from the original and with no public consultation provision. Previous arguments against had not been addressed. Clerk to circulate details.
 - 6.3 **District Council (Cllr Ryder)** – with central government's decision to re-introduce the 'right- to- buy' for council houses and with a limited number of suitable sites for new builds, the supply of local affordable housing would continue to fall well below what was needed.
 - 6.4 **MiPAD** – no report. The proposed Fitness Trail presentation would now be given at MPC's October meeting.

Resolved – that the above payments be **approved**.

8.2 Other matters:

- **MPC's insurance policy** – renewal with Zurich **approved**.
- **NSI funds** – form for transfer of balance to HSBC (previously approved) signed by Cllrs Baversotck and Dodds.
- **Strimmer** – purchase of new higher-grade strimmer **approved** – Cllr Robson to be instructed to purchase from Barnfields against trade-in for existing strimmer if possible.

- 9. Market** -rents for July £1,057 – total for year 2015/16 to date £3,563 (2014/15 - £2,721).
No rent for mobile bank unit (as agreed) yet received from Natwest Bank and long overdue – Clerk to contact Natwest to expedite and facility to be withdrawn in the event of further delay. Public toilet supplies not being maintained as per contract with Healthmatic – Clerk to lodge complaint. New snack bar (No 5, The Square) request to undertake gas installation improvements on Friday 14 August (farmers market day) to be resisted in favour of an alternative date, if at all possible. Three specific cars continuing to park on The Square, overnight Thursday into Friday market day and in contravention of TRO – police to be advised. Market electricity supply from Eon now on 3-year fixed contract, replacing previous standard variable rate with 15% saving on usage costs.
- 10. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – none.
- 11. Highways matters** – none. Clerk to copy Highways schedule updates to Cllr Stewart in future.
- 12. Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Bingham** – verges and gullies along the B6385 (Milnthorpe to Crooklands road) in need of attention before the County Show in September.
 - **Cllr Dodds** – Milnthorpe entry signs on both sides of the A6 to the south of the village obscured by vegetation overgrowth (Clerk to instruct Atkinsons) plus similar problem with cemetery sign. Asked for postbox relocation to The Square to be retained on MPC agenda until completed. Dogs being allowed to run on Playing Field, sometimes by user club member owners. The bench at New Bridge becoming overgrown with vegetation. Owllet Ash House hedge obstructing pedestrians with seasonal overgrowth. Complaints received about lack of weather protection in the two bus shelters (a deliberate design feature to combat anti-social behaviour).
 - **Cllr Baverstock** – road surface and gutters on A6 south from village centre in need of attention.
- 13. Current PC business – agreed** - that the Heritage Trail master plaque artwork be the subject of MPC's 2015/16 application for a Leasgill Quarry Fund grant, the plaque itself to be sited on the new base in The Square, which in 2013/14 had benefited from a LQF grant. Clerk to submit 2015/16 grant application ASAP.
- 14. Milnthorpe Tree Survey** - no progress.
- 15. General Correspondence:**
- SLDC – July 2015 - routine playground equipment inspection – some necessary work identified.
 - Npower – July 2015 – request to take extra meter readings of public toilets electricity usage (**agreed** in principle – but Clerk to investigate possible savings from switching supplier – to Eon).
- 16. Reading Matter** – none.
- 17. Notice of items to be included on agenda for next meeting - September 2015** – nothing additional to those mentioned above.
- 18. Date of next meeting** - Monday 14th September 2015 at the Catholic Church Hall at approximately 7.30pm, to be preceded at 7.00pm by the annual Market Traders meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm