

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 11th January 2016 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Jim Robson (Chair), Barbara Adair, Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Clare Lachmann, Jen Scrogam and Paul Troughton. Also County Cllr Ian Stewart & District Councillor David Ryder (up to and including item 6), Parish Clerk John Scargill, Market Supervisor Ann Johnston and five members of the public. Wm Bancroft (Dallam School headteacher) for item 3 only.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Kathy Watts-Jones (MiPAD).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2015** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting, subject to correction as follows re min. 9 ('Eight regular traders would be attending the Market rent-free on 11 & 18 December under the terms of their arrangement with MPC, which would be reflected in total rents collected in the month') and signed as a correct record by Cllr Robson.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – Cllr Robson introduced William Bancroft, Dallam School Head Teacher, who gave a short address. This covered changes in the nature and size of the school over recent years to become one of the largest in the area with some 1000 pupils, about half from the wider local area (North Lancs & South Cumbria) and the remainder from further afield, including overseas. Quality had also been significantly improved and there was now a flourishing sixth form. It was the school's aim to work closely with the local community. Mr Bancroft then answered questions from those present and invited further questions at any time by phone or correspondence. He was thanked by the Chairman for his interesting presentation.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – none.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 9th November 2015.**
 - 5.1 **Draft licences for Playing Field users (5.1)** – ongoing.
 - 5.2 **Community-operated speedwatch monitoring devices (5.2)** – following earlier agreement to proceed with this project, grant availability was now confirmed (see below 6.3 & 6.4).
 - 5.3 **Replacement of bollards on the Square (5.8)** – the replacement bollards had now been bought and were awaiting installation.
 - 5.4 **Repair to damaged bollard** – the cost of repair had now been fully recovered (see item 8).
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – received and circulated before the meeting. Since the December report, 39 recorded incidents (including 7 crimes) in the wider area, with five of these crimes linked directly to Milnthorpe. The Clerk was asked to enquire why the report made no mention of recent nuisance attributed to pupils of Wings School.
 - 6.2 **Storm Desmond** – had seriously affected land and property in the parish, particularly along the course of the River Bela. Urgent discussion was needed with Dallam Estate, as the principal local land owner, on various issues including responsibility for repair. A resident with rescue work experience had reported that the footpath alongside the river was now in a dangerous state and should be fenced off - Clerk to report this to the CCC footpaths officer. It was hoped to preserve important heritage items damaged or uncovered by the event.
 - 6.3 **County Council (Cllr Stewart)** – the recent floods had dominated County Council activity over the last month. The list of resulting damage, to be submitted to central government, seemed set to reach an estimated total cost of some £15 million. Cllr Stewart could offer the MPC a sum of £500 from his budget as a contribution towards Speedwatch equipment. MPC should seek advice on possibly permanent changes to the course of the River Bela between the two bridges as a consequence of the storm. The Parish Council was advised to consult CALC on its own responsibilities arising from the storm. On other matters – recent temporary closures of Milnthorpe library had been due to staffing problems and there were no plans to terminate this service. The proposed closure of Arnside Fire Station was currently in consultation. Adult Social Care was a very high area of expense (£10s of millions) in the CCC budget. The overall budget was still some £1m short of funding for the current year and some £20m short for 2016/17 as things stood at present. A serious impact on Council Tax, both for 2016/17 and in the longer term, was inevitable as central

government grants to local councils were slimmed. The large disparity of these grants between London and the shire counties, particularly Cumbria, was being challenged,

6.4 District Council (Cllr Ryder) – MPC was urged to submit its views on the proposal for three-member electoral wards, presently in consultation. Clerk to email Cllr Ryder on its intended use for his £300 grant - namely towards the cost of MPC Speedwatch equipment.

6.5 MiPAD – no report.

6.6 Matters raised by electors – continued car-parking problems for Church Street residents (expected to be alleviated within the current financial year by new traffic regulation orders), too few police on the ground in the general area so unable to respond adequately to all emergency situations (although their action had certainly saved lives over the recent flooding emergency), confusion over new 'Bus Stop' road markings at the top of Main Street (due to delay in 'Bus Stop' sign re-location).

7. Planning Matters.

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

January 2016 meeting

Type A applications – SLDC response deadline precedes next PC meeting – Clerk to respond. (Members to email Clerk ASAP & before deadline) - none.

Type B applications – SLDC deadline falls after next PC meeting – Members to discuss at mtg - none.

Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2015/0895 /0896	St.Anthony's Tower, Hilltop	Dallam Estate	3 additional dish antennae	Approved – listed building
SL/2015/0936	Ackenthwaite House, Ackenthwaite	Easton	Rear extension to create annex	Approved with conditions
SL/2015/0954	10 Firs Road	Cleasby	Two-storey extension	Refused

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : it was noted that the Flames retrospective application re its new extraction flue and shop front had been refused by SLDC (official notification in the pipeline).

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH – DECEMBER 2015

MEETING – 11th January 2016

8.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances.

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Reserve Funds
				£	£
01/12/15	Opening balances				21,929.45
31/12/15	Receipts:	57 Market	Rents collected December		
		58 HSBC	Interest to 3 December 2015	412.30	
		59 ElecNW	Wayleaves	22.83	3.72
		59 Cookson	Bollard repair re-imb. 80.00 VAT 16.00		
				96.00	
	" Payments:				
	DD	SLDC	Rates (market)	132.00	
	DD	SLDC	Rates (public toilets)	170.00	
	454 DD	Texaco	Equip. fuel 9.66 VAT .56		
				10.22	
	455 444	Atkinson	Bollard repair 80.00 VAT 16.00		
				96.00	
	456 445	Sal Army	Donation	50.00	
	457 446	Atkinson	Various (inc storage) 743.00 VAT 148.60		
				891.60	
	458 447	Barnfield	Kubota reps & mtce 208.47 VAT 41.69		
				250.16	
	459 448	Glasdon	Two new bollards 378.84 VAT 75.76		
				454.60	
	460 449-453	Payroll	December	1,037.90	
			Total payments in month	-3,092.48	
31/12/15	Closing balances			20,057.59	21,933.17
31/12/15	Total funds all accounts				£41,990

Resolved – that the above payments be approved.

8.2 Other financial matters - Clerk's annual review - conducted on 7 December by Cllr Robson. Satisfactory on all counts
Agreed – that the Clerk's SCP grading should rise by one SCP point, in line with his grading with Beetham PC.
- MPC budget/precept 2016/17 – draft figures had earlier been considered and approved by the MPC Finance Group and circulated to all members before the meeting. On the Finance Group's recommendation these figures were **APPROVED and ACCEPTED** unanimously by members. The related precept request to SLDC was signed by Cllrs Robson and Baverstock and the Clerk with the Clerk to submit to SLDC before the 31 January 2016 deadline.

9. **Market** - rents for December £412 – total for year 2015/16 to date £8,410 (2014/15 - £5,739).
The low rents figure for December was due to some traders taking their annual free-rent entitlement in that month - see min 2 above for corrections to the December minutes. The market was now seasonally quiet.
10. **To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – none.
11. **Highways matters** – no extra items.
12. **Parish Matters (for information only):**
 - Cllr Bowker** – vehicles parked in the loading bay at the bottom end of the Square, by the opticians, were a real hazard to pedestrians (hopefully to be rectified by the forthcoming revised traffic regulations/re-lining).
 - Cllr Lachmann** - the street lamp just outside the Catholic Church in Haverflatts Lane, was currently out of action, although was it later confirmed to be privately owned (by the church).
 - Cllr Adair** – echoed confusion over the bus stop indicators at the top of Main Street and reminded members of the now almost non-existent road lining at Dallam roundabout.
 - Cllr Dodds** – a noticeable increase in litter along Hincaster Road from Ackenthwaite. Also flooding at the entrance to Pig Lane, currently impeding access to the cemetery.
 - Cllr Baverstock** – agreed that current situation re the Main Street bus-stop was confusing, although the bus-stop sign needed to be relocated onto a new (bus company) pole from its present MPC –owned speed indicator device (SID) pole.
 - Cllr Bingham** – commented about a large truck recently parked in the Square, although this had proved to be connected to a contents clearance from the old Spar building – so tolerable for the short time it had lasted.
 - Cllr Robson** – reported a recurrence of the previous large potholes on the A6 outside Mirror Mirror and at the cross-roads.
13. **Current PC business** – item 29 – Heritage master plaque nearing completion.
14. **Milnthorpe Economic Plan** – the plan proposals had been circulated, together with the Pedestrian Survey done in June 2015. SLDC requested agreement from MPC or suggestions for modified proposals. MPC welcomed the proposed plan, broadly supported the proposals arising from the Pedestrian Survey and hoped to work with SLDC towards a successful outcome.
15. **Christmas on the Green 2015 report** – Mrs Kavanagh presented a comprehensive and up-beat report. Due to adverse weather predictions, a last-minute decision had been taken to transfer the whole event to an indoor location (at the Cross Keys). As a result the event had proved to be a tremendous success, with a good range of stalls, an abundance of customers and an excellent seasonal atmosphere – which may well have set the pattern for the future. Another welcome result had been a healthy financial surplus to carry forward for Christmas 2016. Mrs Kavanagh was thanked by all those present for her quick-thinking and outstanding organisation of this event.
16. **General Correspondence** – none.
17. **Reading Matter** – Clerks & Councils Direct, issue 103 – January 2016..
18. **Notice of items to be included on agenda for next meeting** - February 2016 – nothing additional to items mentioned above.
19. **Date of next meeting** - Monday 8th February 2016 at the Catholic Church Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm