

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 16th January 2017 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Jen Scrogam (Chair), Barbara Adair, Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Pete Capasso, Neil Dodds, Steve Hurst and Clare Lachmann. Also County Cllr Ian Stewart (up to and including item 6), District Cllr Rupert Audland (up to and including item 12), Market Supervisor Ann Johnston and Parish Clerk John Scargill. One member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Jim Robson.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed by the Chair.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – Cllr Scrogam wished all members a happy and prosperous New Year.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – none.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 12th December 2016.**
 - 5.1 **Draft licences for Playing Field users (5.1)** – awaiting agreement of Cricket Club – ongoing.
 - 5.2 **Storm Desmond (5.2)** – good progress – the subject had been discussed at a LAP meeting attended by Cllr Baverstock and the Environment Agency would soon be actively involved.
 - 5.3 **Pony field at Ackenthwaite (5.3)** – no progress.
 - 5.4 **Suggested fireworks display 2017 (7.2)** – Cllr Hurst had been in contact with the Fire Service and was awaiting further information. Costs likely to be +/-£1,500 for a half-hour session. Cllr Bingham still to report back.
 - 5.5 **Burning of rubbish (12)** – established as being on private land adjacent to the Dallam Estate allotments. Clerk to advise Dallam accordingly.
 - 5.6 **Damaged bollard compensation claim (mtg 14/11/16, 5.2)** – this matter had now been settled satisfactorily direct with the third party.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – a report had been received and circulated before the meeting. 36 incidents had been reported in the Milnthorpe area with 14 recorded crimes, mainly theft. Members noted other, subsequent, incidents not covered by the report.
 - 6.2 **County Council** – noted that 1.91% of the Council Tax charge was accounted for by the Police & Crime budget. New types of crime (eg historic sexual abuse) took up much police time – and cost. An investigation into the 2015 (Storm Desmond) flooding at Parsonage Fold, Beetham, was due to report next week and Cllr Stewart would raise the question of Milnthorpe's flooding problems. The organisation 'Active Cumbria' was working with primary schools on the '100 mile challenge', which members were urged to support. The possibility of a community bus to replace discontinued normal services in the area was being discussed. A decision was expected early February on whether the planned 2% increase in the county's portion of the 2017/18 Council Tax could be increased yet further to deal with the need to cover increasing costs of Adult Social Care, which might result in a further 2%, or even 3%, increase. Many (but not all) gullies had now been cleared. Potholes were a nationwide problem with an estimated overall £1 billion cost to put right. The lifting of the road surface in Main Street, by TT Carpets was referred to. Cllr Stewart had funding of some £2,000 available for essential road works.
 - 6.3 **District Council** – the replacement bollards on Beetham Road had been confirmed as reflective, not interior lit, but were considered to be a big improvement. The Square was currently quieter, with diminished youth-related noise. The Milnthorpe Economic Plan was progressing, with Michael Wilcock commissioned to undertake the study. MPC would be involved at the next stage. Clerk to forward to Dist. Cllr Audland an email he had received re the involvement of Robert Fleming of Inner City Solutions.
 - 6.4 **MiPAD** – nothing to report.
 - 6.5 **Matters raised by electors** – speeding traffic on Park Road (although not supported by evidence), questioning the accuracy of earlier speed check reports to the contrary. The ineffectiveness for night-time pedestrians of the new Beetham Road reflective bollards.

7. New matters for consideration:

7,1 – Christmas on the Green 2016 – Suzie Kavanagh had sent in a comprehensive written report on a highly successful event, held at Number 17, and producing favourable financial results. She asked for MPC members' views on the idea of an extra summer event to be held on the Green, for which MPC permission would be needed - members to consider, for discussion at next meeting.

8. Planning Matters.

8.1 Applications under consideration by MPC, and SLDC decisions

January 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.

SL/2016/1143	Highfield Farm, Haverflatts Lane	Parsons	Mono-pitch sheep housing	25/01/17	No objection in principle but some concerns re growing number of agricultural buildings and the need for improved screening.
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Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2016/0991	1A Candle Lane	Johnston	First-floor extension	Approved with conditions
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(More planning information available on SLDC website – southlakeland.gov.uk)

8.2 Related matters & correspondence: none.

9. Finance

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH – DECEMBER 2016

MEETING – 16th January 2017

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

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Reserve Funds
				£	£
01/12/16	Opening balances				21,944.66
31/12/16	Receipts:				
	82	Market	Rents collected December	471.30	
	83	ElecNW	Wayleaves	22.83	
		HSBC	Bank interest to 1 Dec		2.62
	Payments:				
	DD	SLDC	Rates (market)	133.00	
	DD	SLDC	Rates (public toilets)	172.00	
	558	DD	Texaco Equip. fuel	.50	
			VAT	.10	
				.60	
	559	582	Atkinson Frame for H plaque	310.00	
			VAT	62.00	
				372.00	
	560	583-587	Payroll December	1,119.83	
	561	588	Sal. Army Donation	50.00	
			Total payments in month	-1,847.43	
31/12/16	Closing balances			32,133.35	21,947.28
31/12/16	Total funds all accounts				£54,080.63

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

9.2 Other financial matters:

- **MPC budget/precept 2017/18** – circulated before the meeting, **approved and accepted**.

Exceptional expenditure (Storm Desmond, national pay scale changes etc) needed to be provided for, resulting in a 30% increase in the precept (£10pa increase for the average house).

- **Clerk's annual review** – conducted by Cllr Baverstock on 10/01/17. Satisfactory. **Agreed** – one Spinal Column point increase as from 01/12/16 (backdated as necessary).

10. Market - rents for December £471 – total for year 2016/17 to date £6,789 (2015/16 - £8,410).
Mrs Johnston reported that the market centralisation had been accomplished with good co-operation from stallholders generally and was working well. One local business owner had deliberately moved the traffic barriers at the top of the Square, to permit vehicle access, thereby breaking the law, but these had later been moved back to their proper position on her insistence. Mrs Johnston then read out a letter of resignation from her post as Market Supervisor as from 31 March 2017, and with regret after some 29 years of service, due to changed family circumstances. Her resignation was accepted with great sadness by members and she was thanked for the tremendous contribution she had made to the success of the market over these years.

11. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.

12. Parish Matters (for information only):

Cllr Lachmann – the return of ‘boy racers’, this time creating a nuisance on the car park at the end of The Strands, often used by football club vehicles. Also regular traffic congestion outside the pharmacy in Haverflatts Lane.

Cllr Adair – overgrown hedges, combined with an uneven footpath, in Church Street, making it difficult for pedestrians. Also an apparently faulty Speed Indicator Device elsewhere in the village, producing unreliable displays.

Cllr Dodds – noted that some Christmas trees on village buildings had still not been removed. Also fallen leaves making it dangerous, particularly for elderly pedestrians, to use the connecting path between Main Street and the churchyard at the north porch of the church.

13. Current PC business – no further updates.

14. Leasgill Quarry Fund grants:

In view of SLDC’s sudden and unexpected renewal of three of its more damaged litter bins, new litter bins to be purchased by MPC with the promised 2016/17 grant from LQF needed to be re-assessed. Strong contenders for renewal were the bins now outside Barclays Bank and Flowerden House and the one next to the Methodist Chapel. Also needed was an extra bin in the children’s play area of the playing field. The Clerk was instructed to order three new bins from Glasdon for £1,050, as per their quotation for SLDC and dated 30/11/16.

15. General correspondence – the timetable for loaned use of the Speed Indicator Device between 4 March and 18 November 2017 had been received, showing its allocation to Milnthorpe for 4 weeks commencing 27 May and a further 4 weeks commencing 21 October.

16. Reading Matter – Clerks & Councils Direct – issue 109 – January 2017.

17. Notice of items to be included on agenda for next meeting: items as referred to above, including progress with the search for a new Market Supervisor and the proposed extra (summer) event on the Green.

18. Date of next meeting – normal monthly meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 13th February 2017, to be preceded at 7.00pm by a now half-yearly meeting of the Market Traders Group, at the Catholic Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm