

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 9th February 2015 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Jim Robson (Chair), Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, and Paul Troughton. Also County Councillor Ian Stewart and District Cllr David Ryder (up to and including agenda item 6), Market Supervisor Ann Johnston, Parish Clerk John Scargill, PCSO Martin Boak (Cumbria Police) and five member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** from Cllrs Adair (family obligation), Lachmann (ill) and Scrogam (work).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2015** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Robson.
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 12th January 2015.**
 - 5.1 **Draft sub-leases for Playing Field users (5.2)** – ongoing with Milne Moser and Wright & Lord. Clerk to check on progress and arrange meeting with the two solicitors if necessary.
 - 5.2 **Community-operated speed monitoring devices (5.3)** – two more volunteers (making five in all) had now come forward but at least ten needed. Review at March PC meeting.
 - 5.3 **Link path lighting (5.4)** – no further donations received. Cllr Bingham to chase promised donations from Clocktower and Wright & Lord. Clerk to approach Booths and No 17 again
 - 5.4 **Artwork for shop window of old Spar store (5.5)** – still no response from James Hall Ltd. Cllr Ryder had approached SLDC about this and found they were already considering general commercial issues for Milnthorpe as a whole, including the old Spar building. He would keep MPC updated with developments.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – an emailed report, covering period 12 January to 9 February 2015, had been received and circulated, with 46 Incidents (10 crimes) relevant to the Milnthorpe area. PCSO Boak provided additional information about these and answered questions. He advised using the 101 phone number to report incidents requiring swift police attention, including infringements of the market day TRO on The Square. PCSO Boak was thanked for his attendance and contribution.
 - 6.2 **County Council (Cllr Stewart)** – Reported that the number of persons in Milnthorpe who were claiming job-seeker's allowance was exceptionally low and only slightly higher in South Lakeland, which was gratifying. A significant factor in the County's need for an increase of approximately 2% in its 2015/16 Council Tax requirement was the reduced funding contribution received from central government, which was likely to reduce further in the future. A recent survey of potholes in the village had revealed a highly unsatisfactory situation, due to minimal remedial action as individual problems arose. A car-parking problem in Haverflatts Lane also needed to be dealt with.
 - 6.3 **District Council (Cllr Ryder)** – there had been a review of community involvement in the planning process and parish councils were encouraged to become involved in this process at as early a stage as possible. A response template for this purpose would be issued.
 - 6.4 **Matters raised by electors** – related mainly to the adequacy of Milnthorpe's pumping station in the light of the planned housebuilding programme. Mr Sayers had carried out extensive research on this and concluded that the various agencies involved seemed to be at odds and not providing adequate or accurate information in response to questions raised. He was thanked by members for his continuing efforts and asked to keep the Parish Council informed of all developments. As regards the relocation Milnthorpe Post Office into The Square and the earlier decision of Royal Mail not to relocate the main post-box, it had been reported in the Westmorland Gazette that this decision had been reconsidered and Royal Mail was now seeking planning permission to move the post-box to the new location. Clerk to write a thank-you letter to retiring post-master and wife.

7.0 Planning Matters:

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

February 2015 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	Response
SL/2015/0015	TravisPerkins units 7-8 Lakeland Estate, Miln.	Clark	Installation of signage	05/02/15	One multiple sign preferred.

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

SLDC ref	Address	Applicant	Development	Deadline	Response

Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC ref	Address	Applicant	Development	Deadline	Response

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : new exterior flue at Canton Chef brought to attention of SLDC Planning Dept – who agreed that regulations had been breached.

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT				MONTH – JAN 2015		MEETING – 9 th February 2015		
8.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances.								
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail		Current a/c		Reserve Funds	
					£	£	£	
01/01/15	Opening balances					12,693.15	22,431.26	
31/01/15	Receipts:	Market	Rents collected January			500.55		
"	Payments:							
	DD	SLDC	Business rates		-130.00			
	DD	SLDC	- ditto - (toilets)		-238.63			
	364	DD	Texaco	Guard card .50				
				VAT .10				
					-0.60			
	365	DD	Eon	Market elec. (P1) 40.30				
				VAT 2.02				
					-42.32			
	366	DD	Eon	Market elec. (P2) 26.61				
				VAT 1.33				
					-27.94			
	367	324	Allen	Link path work 1,890.00				
				VAT 378.00				
					-2,268.00			
	368	325	Milne M	Legal (Pig Lane) 54.00				
				VAT 10.00				
					-64.00			
	369	326	Higton	Xmas trees	-280.00			
	370	327-331	Payroll	January	-1,086.40			
	371	332	Scargill	Post & Staty 22.51				
				VAT 2.43				
					-24.94			
	Total payments in month					-4,162.83		
31/01/15	Closing balances					9,030.87	22,431.26	
31/01/15	Total funds all accounts						£31,462.13	
Reserve Funds at 31/01/15			National Savings Bank	5,510.66				
			HSBC Deposit a/c	16,920.60				
			Total Reserve Funds	£22, 431.26				

Resolved – that the above payments be approved.

8.2 Other matters - Staff pensions – research of costs proving complicated and difficult – ongoing.

- New transparency legislation (re published information) – found to have no implications for MPC.

9. Market -rents for January £500 – total year to date £6,239 (2013/14 - £9,010).

Mrs Johnston reported that the traffic barriers were being put away by 3.30pm on some market days. Clerk to instruct Mr Tallon to strictly observe the proper 4.30pm removal time. **Agreed** – that an advertisement for the Good Friday market be placed in the Westmorland Gazette on Thursday 2 April at a cost of £320, to include mention on the Westmorland Gazette web site. Radio Cumbria expected to refer to the event as usual. Mrs Johnston confirmed that the customary fair would be present and she would contact the farmers' market traders to remind them of the event (agreed rental to be £25 per stall, as last year). **Agreed** – that NatWest Bank be allowed to site their mobile bank at the Main Street exit to The Square between 11.15 and 12.15am on market days, for a rental of £25 per day. **Approved** – Mrs Johnston had had duplicate keys cut for the new outdoor tap cover, for use by herself and a limited number of regular traders. Also her request that arrangements had been made for the public toilets to be open from 6.30am on market days. Cllr Robson read out the Police and Crime Commissioner's response to MPC's challenge about the lack of policing of the Friday Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) which, in essence, was inaccurate and unhelpful. Clerk asked to reply to correct the inaccuracies. **Agreed** – Clerk to research the cost of purchasing an additional barrier from Glasdon, for use at the bottom end of The Square.

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

11. Highways matters – Cast-iron manhole covers in Park Road, near to Booth's entrance, were becoming noisy from passing traffic, due to erosion of surrounding road surface.

12. Parish Matters (for information only):

- **Cllr Baverstock** – was saddened that the war memorial garden had been used to deposit debris following poor restoration work by a utility company across a nearby footway. He had personally removed two barrow loads of this debris.
- **Cllr Dodds** – observed that the grass along the edge of the path across the green, up to the church steps, was rutted from vehicle usage. Also more car parking problems in Firs Road. The car-parks and footways generally needed cleaning (already requested of SLDC)
- **Cllr Troughton** – reported that vehicles parking in Church Street, towards Grisleymires Lane had caused deep ruts in the grass verge.
- **Cllr Bowker** – reported that running repairs to several items of playground equipment would soon be needed, although the situation was not yet dangerous.

13. Current PC business:

- Item 2 – now fully the responsibility of MPC
- Item 6 – delete.
- Item 15 – LQF grant to be claimed once seats installed.
- Item 17 – P&C Commissioner confirmed PCSOs unavailable to police.
- Item 29 – artist for designing master-plaque possibly identified.
- Item 30 – delete.

14. MiPAD – children's play area – Cllr Bowker reported that a MiPAD meeting on 2 February had been fruitful, but minutes not yet available. A meeting with Dallam on 9 February had been interesting and useful. Representatives of Dallam, MiPAD and MPC were to meet in late March.

15. Milnthorpe Public Toilets – individual finishing touches to building work being undertaken as needs identified. The Healthmatic service contract had now been finalised and exchanged. Milne Moser were generally happy with the proposed lease of the property and this could now proceed.

16. Treescapes tree survey (Jan 2015) – most trees seemed to be satisfactory with no urgent action needed. Noted - recommendation that grass not to be cut within an area of one metre around any tree.

17. Environmental Partnership Fund grants – applications for the two agreed MPC projects had been submitted to SLDC on 1 February 2015.

18. Community Transport Scheme for Milnthorpe – the proposal for such a scheme was supported in principle by MPC. Further enquiries to be made regarding operational considerations.

19. Correspondence:

- 15 Jan 2015 – emailed request from Kath Craig for permission to sell raffle tickets on behalf of the Allotment Association at the Farmers' Market on 14 August 2015 – **approved**.

20. Common Land legislation – no further action at this time **agreed**, pending the result of enquiries re a similar situation in Kendal.

21. Reading Matter – a CALC practical guide for parish councils on Rural Housing.

22. Notice of items to be included on agenda for December 2014 meeting – nothing additional to those mentioned above.

23. Date of next meeting – Monday 9th March 2015, at the Catholic Church Hall:

- at 7.00pm – Milnthorpe's Annual Parish Assembly.

- following on immediately from the above, at approximately 7.30pm, a normal monthly PC meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm