

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 9th June 2014 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Jen Scrogam (Chair), Barbara Adair, Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, and Paul Troughton. Also Cllr Ian Stewart and Cllr David Ryder (up to and including item 6.3), Parish Clerk John Scargill, Market Supervisor Ann Johnston and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** from Cllrs Jim Robson (family commitment), Clare Lachmann (family emergency) and Cumbria Police.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2014** - 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** – Cllr Troughton declared an interest in planning application SL/2014/0532..

5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 19th May 2014.**
 - 5.1 **Military Service tankards (13.1)** – Cllr Bingham updated members on delivery/presentation of the tankards. A thank-you card had been received from Kingsman Jack Lashley.
 - 5.2 **Smithy Lane traffic (20)** – see item 6.2 below.
 - 5.3 **MPC lifebelts (20)** – only two of the original three lifebelts were now in place. SLDC had been advised of their precise locations with the request that ownership and continuing responsibility needed to be established as a matter of urgency. A response was awaited.
 - 5.4 **Public toilets (17)** – there had been significant progress. SLDC had now given instruction for a tender for the work involved to be prepared. A project manager had been appointed and would liaise with Cllr Robson (with Cllr Baverstock as reserve).
 - 5.5 **Milne Moser (21.31)** – in response to the Clerk's enquiry following the early retirement of Simon Rose, Milne Moser had confirmed that MPC business would, in future, be handled by Richard March. Clerk to press for progress on the preparation of leases for Playing Field tenants.
 - 5.6 **Survey of highway signage (14.2)** – ongoing.
 - 5.7 **Meals on Wheels service (14.2)** – currently only three Milnthorpe recipients of this now discontinued service. The Cross Keys Hotel were unwilling to take it on and it was suggested that Dallam School be approached for this purpose. An alternative supplier might be Wiltshire Foods.

6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – a report had been received on the day of the meeting and circulated to members (although too late for some to pick up before the meeting). Few reported incidents. The Clerk was asked to convey to the police the Parish Council's disappointment at their late reports and frequent absence at Council meetings.

6.2 County Council matters (Cllr Stewart) – reported new signs to be erected warning of the danger of quicksands in the estuary and asked the Parish Council to check where signs needed. Confirmed that MPC would be involved ‘as a consultee’ in any discussions on improved access to the B6385 to deal with traffic volume through Milnthorpe and in any future development of the Main Line Business Park (agenda item 14 below). Cllr Stewart offered to meet members on site to consider possible solutions to the traffic congestion in Park Road at the traffic lights, particularly on market days (agenda item 15 below). Following discussions by Cllrs Stewart and Ryder with Cumbria Highways on parking and traffic issues in Milnthorpe, Highways had prepared a summary of the actions they would undertake, which would be circulated to all members. Members reported that signage in the village re consumption of alcohol had become obscured and was no longer easily visible – Clerk to email Cllr Stewart with details..

6.3 District Council matters (Cllr Ryder) – suggested that the Park Road site meeting proposed by Cllr Stewart (6.2 above) could perhaps be expanded to include car parking problems in the vicinity. Despite the express wish of the Parish Council (meeting 19 May, min 21.15) to do so, Cllr Ryder had not invited Cllr Bowker, as nominated Parish Council representative, to join him in his discussions with Dallam on the subject of Parish Council proposals for the children’s play area on the Playing Field. Members expressed concern and disquiet at this omission on such an important Parish Council matter. Nonetheless, Dallam was apparently receptive to play area development and had asked to be kept informed at each stage. The short-term nature of the lease between MPC and Dallam could inhibit investment. Cllr Stewart offered to report on District Council issues during Cllr Ryder’s forthcoming absence on holiday.

6.4 Matters raised by members of the public – none.

7 Planning Matters :

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

June 2014 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/2014/0532 | No 17, Park Road | Fishwick | Removal of condition 5 (opening times) re SL/2013/0888 | 27/06/14 | Under consideration |

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

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Decisions received from SLDC

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SL/2014/0223 | Cicerone Press, Police Squ | Williams | Replacement windows & satellite dish | Approved with conditions |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : members were unanimous in their concern about the potential consequences of application SL/2014/0532 above, should it go ahead. The response to SLDC would be formulated after further detailed discussion, to enable it to be lodged before the response deadline.

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH – MAY 2014

MEETING – 9 JUNE 2014

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

| Date | Transaction | Payee/er | Detail | | Current a/c | Reserve Funds |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | | | | £ | £ |
| 01/05/14 | Opening balances | | | | 27,041.25 | 22,422.41 |
| 31/05/14 | Receipts: | | | | 849.00 | |
| | | Market | Rents collected May. | | | |
| | | Pony field | Rent 2014/15 | 600.00 | | |
| | | Corinthians | Field rent 2014/15 | 10.00 | | |
| | | Cricket Cl | - ditto - | 15.00 | | |
| | | Homing Scy | - ditto - | 10.00 | | |
| | | | | | 635.00 | |
| | Payments: | | | | | |
| | DD | SLDC | Business rates | | -130.00 | |
| 305 | DD | Texaco | Equip fuel | 51.17 | | |
| | | | VAT | 6.01 | | |
| | | | | | - 57.18 | |
| 306 | 227 | Burrow | Barrier gate | 730.00 | | |
| | | | VAT | 146.00 | | |
| | | | | | -876.00 | |
| 307 | 228 | SLDC | Play. Ins. 2014/15 | 320.00 | | |
| | | | VAT | 64.00 | | |
| | | | | | -384.00 | |
| 308 | 229 | Wright & L | Legal fees | 60.00 | | |
| | | | VAT | 12.00 | | |
| | | | | | -72.00 | |
| 309 | 230 | Dallam | Play field rent 6mths | | -2.50 | |
| 310 | 231 | Atkinson | Ground work etc | 805.00 | | |
| | | | VAT | 161.00 | | |
| | | | | | -966.00 | |
| 311 | 232 | Bowker | Trav. Exs for course | | -56.55 | |
| 312 | 233-238 | Payroll | May | | -1,441.12 | |
| 313 | 239 | Scargill | Expense allces etc | 233.72 | | |
| | | | VAT | 10.05 | | |
| | | | | | -243.77 | |
| | Total payments in month | | | | | |
| | | | | | -4,229.12 | |
| 31/05/14 | Closing balances | | | | 24,296.13 | 22,422.41 |
| 31/05/14 | Total funds all accounts | | | | | £46,718.54 |
| | Reserve Funds at 30/04/14 | | | | | |
| | | | National Savings Bank | 5,510.66 | | |
| | | | HSBC Deposit a/c | 16,911.75 | | |
| | | | Total Reserve Funds | £22,422.41 | | |

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

8.2 Other financial matters: none.

9. **Market** - rents for May £849 – total year to date £1,462 (2013/14 - £2,131).

Recent markets had been disappointing with fewer stalls, partly due to health problems of some of the regulars. As there seemed to be no immediate prospect of improvement it was agreed to use part of the advertising budget to have Milnthorpe market included in a published and widely circulated list of outdoor markets. Reported that, once again, a delivery vehicle had reversed into a nearby stall, causing significant damage.

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

- 11. Highways problems** – Cllrs Baverstock and Robson had had a very useful on-site meeting with the CCC Highways Officer and Milnthorpe's allocated Highway Steward to discuss local highways problems. Due to his professional expertise, Cllr Robson would, in future, be taking over the MPC lead on this subject.
- 12. Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Troughton** – was worried about a recent increase in the outdoor consumption of alcohol in the village, mainly by young men. This could easily lead to their objectionable behaviour towards other residents and was already adding to the litter problem. It had been made clear to Corinthians that any litter problem in and around their grandstand was their problem, regardless of who was causing it. Witnesses of unreasonable outdoor drinking were advised to notify the police direct. Clerk to alert the police to this unwelcome trend.
 - **Cllr Bowker** – reported that the live broadcast by Radio Cumbria from Milnthorpe Square had taken place as planned, although its timing was too late to catch the majority of people visiting the market on that day.
 - **Cllr Bingham** – observed that the hedge at Owlet Ash House was now showing seasonal growth and would soon become a problem again for pedestrians along Main Street. Also that grass on the verge of the B6384, by the milestone at the end of Paradise Lane, needed trimming.
 - **Cllr Baverstock** – gave advance notice of imminent improvements at 15 The Square, which would require the temporary siting of a skip in the vicinity. Also complaints that Spar employees were using the parish seat at the end of Candle Lane and the Methodist Church porch as places to smoke, resulting in litter in both places. Clerk to write to James Hall, Southport.
 - **Cllr Adair** – noted the ground work currently taking place in the verge at Dallam roundabout, but members generally unclear as to its purpose.
- 13. Current PC business:**
- 31 – Clerk to urge Milne Moser to make progress.
 - 12 – could now be removed.
 - 33 – Houghtons want to discuss the precise location of the new Church St sign.
 - 34 – ongoing.
- 14. Options for new access to B6385 – agreed** – that a new slip-road from the Kendal bypass was MPC's preferred option.
- 15. Park Road traffic congestion on market days** – Cllr Troughton would speak to Cross Keys landlord about parked brewery dray wagons, but it may be necessary to contact the brewery itself.
- 16. Correspondence:**
- 29/05/14 – resident's request for a grit bin in Candle Lane – declined as this lane already cleared by MPC contractors and there was an existing grit bin nearby (at Firs Green).
 - 02/06/14 – request by Rev Sue Wilson re Pentecost on the Green – **agreed**.
 - 05/06/14 – Simon Holding (United Utilities) had agreed to give a presentation at MPC's July MPC re UU's development plans for Milnthorpe.
- 17. Reading Matter** – none.
- 18. Notice of items to be included on agenda for July 2014 meeting** – nothing additional to those mentioned above.
- 19. Date of next meeting** – Monday 14 July, **7.00pm** at the Catholic Church Hall – a presentation by Simon Holding (UU) followed immediately (at around 7.30pm) by a normal monthly meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Members of the public and the press are welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council but may speak only during the Public Participation item on the agenda of that meeting, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair, to raise matters they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.