

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 10th February 2014 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Baverstock (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson, Jen Scrogam and Paul Troughton. Also Parish Clerk John Scargill, and four members of the public. Mr Donagh McKillop (Wings School head) up to and including item 6.4).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr David Ryder and Cumbria Police.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2014** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Baverstock.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – Cllr Baverstock had received a sympathetic response in discussion with a senior executive of the Spar organisation about the poor general appearance and condition of the old Spar building in the Square, which was largely vacant. The building is not classified as ‘dangerous’ and had important historical associations.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – Cllr Baverstock declared an interest in planning application SL/2014/0039 (agenda item 7.1) and took no part in subsequent discussions on this.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 13th January 2014:**
 - 5.1 **Pig (Cemetery) Lane flooding (11 & 12)** – the Chairman was presented with a petition from concerned village residents. Members agreed this long-standing problem was unacceptable. Although the Parish Council did not own the land and had no legal responsibility, it was accepted that it shared a moral responsibility for such an important and basic facility. Pressure would continue to be applied to CCC Highways to ensure that nearby drains and settlement tanks were kept clear, although this was unlikely to fully solve the problem and a permanent solution had to be found. If Highways failed to carry out the initial clearance work, the Parish Council would consider employing a contractor to do it. This problem was one of a number of outstanding highways issues on a list formally handed to Nick Raymond (CCC Highways) at a recent LAP meeting by MPC’s Chair and Vice-chair. This list would, in future, be updated and passed to CCC on a regular basis. It was reported that the Parochial Church Council of the parish church had also written to Nick Raymond about the Pig Lane flooding. (See also item 11)
 - 5.2 **Military Service tankards (12)** – these had been costed at £25-£30 plus engraving and it was important to check precise wording with the families of the servicemen concerned,.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – an emailed report had been received and circulated. 74 incidents, including 7 crimes, had been reported in the Milnthorpe area. Suspicious incidents had been dealt with promptly thanks to neighbourhood vigilance.
 - 6.2 **County Council matters** – no report in the absence of Cllr Stewart.
 - 6.3 **District Council matters** – no report in the absence of Cllr Ryder.
 - 6.4 **Matters raised by members of the public** – there was appreciation of the clearance work carried out along the A6 footway, just beyond the southern boundary of the parish. Vehicles mounting the pavement along the narrowest section of Park Road endangered pedestrians. Mr Donagh McKillop, the new Head Teacher at Wings School at Whasset, was introduced to members. He spoke about his own background and how recent events at the school had resulted in his appointment at Wings. He was keen to establish good relations between the school and the community and had gladly accepted the Clerk’s invitation to attend both Milnthorpe and the Beetham PC meetings. This was welcomed by members.

9. **Market** -rents for January £665 – total year to date £9,010 (2012/13 - £8,851).
Market Supervisor reported – she had spoken to the trader who had attended on Sunday 29 December (without permission and against the market rules) and had now apologised. Alternative arrangements had been made to collect and bank rents while the Market Supervisor was away on holiday.
10. **To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – Cllrs Baverstock had attended a recent LAP meeting - the introduction of fibre-optic broadband was moving ahead quickly and the SID-sharing arrangements between South Lakeland parishes seemed to be working well.
11. **Highways problems** – noted that the first point of contact for reporting problems should in future be the newly-appointed Area Steward (not Victoria Upton, as formerly). **Agreed** – that the proposed rolling list of matters reported to Highways should be adopted by MPC forthwith and published in the MPC notice board and on the website, as with Current Parish Business. One new item (re Paradise Lane – see 12 below) to be added to the content of the list as a result of this meeting .
12. **Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Troughton** – the RDK sign on the pavement outside their premises was a hindrance to pedestrians and in danger of blowing over in high winds. Clerk to write to RDK about this. A resident had asked informally for permission to plant shrubs in the verge on the western side of the A6, just south of Grisleymires Lane (for which CCC is responsible).
 - **Cllr Lachmann** – recent road work at the Park Road public car-park had left an unsatisfactory and dangerous road surface – Clerk to advise SLDC.
 - **Cllr Bowker** – had received a complaint about litter on the river bank (thought to be partly due to recent high water levels) and around the Corinthians stand on the playing field – but it was **agreed** not to extend the Playing Field Warden’s duties to cover this area. Clerk to check on the number of ‘hits’ on the MPC website.
 - **Cllr Bingham** – commented that the war memorial was looking good, warned about the current spate of cold-calling generally and noted serious erosion along the middle section of Paradise Lane (eastern side) – Clerk to report to Highways. The Crooklands road remained untidy. Suggested that MPC send a congratulations card to village residents currently celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary – **agreed** - Cllr Bingham to organise.
 - **Cllr Dodds** – asked about the missing litter bin by New Bridge (already reported to SLDC).
 - **Cllr Scrogam** – dog fouling was again noticeable in several areas in the village – Cllr Bingham to raise with SLDC and Clerk to raise with Cllr Ryder. Noted that SLDC had a poor record of prosecuting for this offence
 - **Cllr Baverstock** – noted the appearance of ruts along the A6 verges, caused by heavy commercial vehicles. Noted that MPC outdoor seats were in need of maintenance – **agreed** MPC to advertise in the Parish News for contractors interested in taking on this work.
13. **Current PC business:**
- 2 – further SLDC response now awaited.
 - 3 – now tidied up by members, continue to monitor.
 - 7 – check progress with DR
 - 13 – in hand.
 - 15 – development plans ongoing with input from residents/school.
Publicity needed – **agreed** - MPC to donate £200 for fliers.
 - 23 – MPC to act unilaterally if necessary
 - 30 – Clerk to contact contractor for estimate ASAP
 - 32 – remove from list until further notice
 - 33 – Cllrs Dodds and Bingham to complete ASAP.
Clerk to contact Houghtons again re Church St sign.
14. **Public toilets in the Square** – some progress with SLDC, with 31 March a possible deadline for reaching agreement.

15. MPC Standing Orders – agreed – that SO1 be amended to read ‘Meetings of the Council – shall normally be held on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm, to be determined in advance in the annual Calendar of Meetings, but can be varied with the agreement of members. Notice to members may be by email.’

16. Correspondence – request from Milnthorpe & District Allotment Association for permission to sell raffle tickets for their Annual Show at the Farmers’ Market on Friday 8 August 2014 – **agreed**. Clerk to keep a record of all such permissions to avoid more than one being granted for the same date.

17. Reading Matter – none.

18. Notice of items to be included on agenda for March 2014 meeting.

- Cemetery Lane flooding & ownership
- MPC military service tankards
- Public toilets – response from SLDC

17. Date of next meetings – Monday 10 March at the Catholic Church Hall:

- **Annual Parish Assembly at 7.00pm**, to be followed immediately by
- **Parish Council monthly meeting** (which could be earlier than the normal 7.30)

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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.