

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 11th August 2014 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 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 Cllr J Scrogam (work) and Cumbria Police.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2014** - 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:**
 - Cllr Baverstock re second part of agenda item 9.
 - Cllr Bowker re 'hedgcutting'.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 14th July 2014.**
 - 5.1 **Survey of highway signage (5.3)** – ongoing. The sign on the old Spar building had been taken up separately with CCC (under Current MPC business - item 8).
 - 5.2 **Quicksand signage (5.5)** – an illustration of the proposed signage was shown to the meeting. Cllr Stewart would email copies to all members. It was noted that the signs were purely pictorial and there was a suggestion that wording should be added. The case for also having tide tables was discussed.
 - 5.3 **Park Road traffic congestion (5.6)** – Robinsons Brewery had responded to MPC's request (to change the delivery day of the week and/or point of delivery) to the effect that no alternatives were possible at present.
 - 5.4 **Crooklands Road (B6385)** – the Clerk was asked to again press Cumbria Highways to tidy the verges etc on this road prior to the County Show in September.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – a report had been received on the day of the meeting and circulated to all members – only one crime in Milnthorpe parish since the last meeting.
 - 6.2 **County Council (Cllr Stewart)** – CCC accepted the need for improved communication, both internal and external, particularly re Highways activities. There was some concern about the current increase in scam emails and residents were being encouraged to sign up to a Neighbourhood Watch-type scheme to combat this. Cllr Stewart's attention was drawn to overgrown vegetation around the litter bin at Marsh Road end by New Bridge, and to the variation in timing of the traffic lights in the village centre. It was explained that the traffic lights were now automatically sensitive to traffic volumes.
 - 6.3 **District Council (Cllr Ryder)** – drew attention to funding available (especially from housing) for parish developments under the Community Infrastructure Levy. To be able to utilise this funding a formal Parish Plan could prove to be not strictly necessary and it may be sufficient to prepare a less formal plan that included a comprehensive statement of need. This might include bringing back into use the old Spar building which, although currently in a poor state, was of historic significance. Shrubbery on Firs Close was likely to be removed by CCC, due to the cost of maintenance, unless MPC wanted to take it over. Members to report back.
 - 6.4 **Matters raised by electors** – none.

7.0 Planning Matters :

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

August 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/2014/0659	49 Beetham Road	Calland	Erection of single width tandem garage for rescue vehicle & boat	11/08/14	Some objections

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

SL/2014/0701 SL/2014/0702	Fishwick's Beetham Hall site	Fishwick	Change of use & extensive extension/alterations to create crematorium	26/08/14	Under consideration
SL/2014/0748	Crosby House, Ackenthwaite	Stewart	Minor amendment to materials in SL/2012/0396 & SL/2011/0318	28/08/14	Under consideration

Decisions received from SLDC

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : none

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT				MONTH – JULY 2014		MEETING – 11 th August 2014	
8.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances.							
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail		Current a/c	Reserve Funds	
					£	£	£
01/07/14	Opening balances					22,442.54	22,425.36
31/07/14	Receipts:	Market	Rents collected July			578.05	
		Junior F'ball Field	rent 2014/15			10.00	
	Payments:						
	320	DD SLDC	Business rates		-130.00		
		DD Texaco	Equip fuel	61.82			
			VAT	6.92			
					-68.74		
	321	DD Eon – P1	Market elec.	26.69			
			VAT	1.33			
					-28.02		
	322	DD Eon – P2	Market elec	38.18			
			VAT	1.91			
					-40.09		
	323	DD Eon – P3	Market elec	23.02			
			VAT	1.15			
					-24.17		
	324	260 A2A	Website mtce	65.00			
			VAT	13.00			
					-78.00		
	325	261 Baverstock	Plants	20.79			
			VAT	4.16			
					-24.95		
	326	262 MiPAD	Donation		-200.00		
	327	263-268 Payroll	July		-1,454.31		
	328	269 Scargill	Expenses July	14.25			
			VAT	1.66			
					-15.91		
	Total payments in month					-2,064.19	
31/07/14	Closing balances					20,966.40	22,425.36
31/07/14	Total funds all accounts						£43,391.76
Reserve Funds at 31/07/14			National Savings Bank	5,510.66			
			HSBC Deposit a/c	16,914.70			
			Total Reserve Funds		£22,425.36		

Resolved – that the above payments be approved.

- 8.2 Other financial matters** - annual insurance cover review – to be done at 2015/16 budget meeting (October 2014).
- alternative payroll bureau – **approved** - to accept Athena cost quote of £250pa (com. 01/04/15).

9. Market - rents for July £578 – total year to date £2,721 (2013/14 - £4,048).

Mrs Johnston reported that the first Milnthorpe market advertisement in the trade magazine would be in October at a total cost of +/-£330 – **approved**. Representatives of the publishers had visited the market and would be writing a double-page, illustrated article. As a strategy for reviving the declining stall numbers, they had also suggested a restructure of the present rent system to encourage casual traders to attend. The new rates proposed by Mrs Johnston were **approved**.

A new busker was expected to start in October. Clerk to remind Don Tallon of the importance of keeping the Friday market traffic barriers in place against all (except possibly emergency) would-be users. **Agreed** – that raffle tickets for the combined causes of MiPAD and Juvenile Diabetes Research may be sold at the market on 22 August 2014.

Refresh & Sue Barton's new shop at 5 The Square – detailed research had revealed that the footways in front of both premises appeared to be part of the highway round the square and, as such, not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Both shopkeepers had, therefore, been advised to approach Cumbria Highways direct for permission to provide outdoor facilities for customers in front of their premises. Cllr Robson was thanked for all his hard work in this matter.

10. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies – Cllr Robson had attended the last LAP meeting, including a presentation by Healthwatch. There had been discussion on proposals for an improved and consistent reporting system, both ways between Highways and parishes. The shared SID was broken and currently out of action

11. Highways matters – SLDC's discussion paper 'Highways Schedule' – ongoing.

12. Parish Matters (for information only):

- **Cllr Troughton** – commented on two confusing signs at the A6/Park Road junction, giving directions to the HGV testing station.
- **Cllr Dodds** – reported that trees at Harmony Hall were overhanging Main Street and forcing eastbound traffic into the centre of the road, often in the face of oncoming traffic. This problem normally dealt with by local contractor Mike Ward. Clerk to contact. Also serious vegetation overgrowth at the New Bridge/Marsh lane junction (see also 6.2 above). Owllet Ash House hedge continuing to cause problems for passing pedestrians. In this connection, the Clerk had received a written reply to his letter to the householder. This contained a number of questions and requests for information – Clerk to prepare a draft response for approval by Cllr Robson on behalf of MPC and refer the matter to Cumbria Highways forthwith.
- **Cllr Baverstock** – reported the welcome return to the village of a national cycle event – the Deloitte-sponsored Ride Across Britain, which would have a 'pit-stop' in Milnthorpe on 10 September 2014. Some 750 riders were expected and wanted to be able to use the usual facilities on the Square and Green – **approved**.

13. Current PC business:

Item 31 – draft leases approved by MPC. To be shown to Wright & Lord for informal comment.

14. MiPAD – children's play area development – members welcomed plans for a Family Fun Day on 24 August 2014.

15. Leasgill Quarry Fund – suggestion for grant projects – outdoor seats/benches for the Playing Field area at a cost of +/-£1,500, confirmed as the 2014/15 project to be undertaken. The deadline for submitting invoices to support the £1,400 grant promised for 2013/14 (Heritage Trail master-plaque) had been extended to 1 October 2014, as requested.

16. Milnthorpe Public Toilets – MPC to accept the proposed SLDC transfer of responsibility package and commit to an early lease with SLDC, as a basis for them undertaking the pre-transfer planned refurbishment – **agreed**.

17. Correspondence:

– 6 August 2014 - Post Office Ltd's response to MPC comments on relocation proposals for Milnthorpe branch. Clerk to reaffirm the need for a post box directly outside the new location, ideally in addition to the existing one.

18. Reading Matter – none.

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

20. Date of next meeting – Monday 8 September, at approximately **7.30pm** at the Catholic Church Hall, to be preceded at 7.00pm by a meeting of the Playing Field Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

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.