

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 11th November 2013 in the Methodist Chapel, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Baverstock (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Jim Robson, Jen Scroggum and Paul Troughton. Also County Cllr Ian Stewart (up to and including item 7.2), District Cllr David Ryder, Parish Clerk John Scargill and Market Supervisor Ann Johnston. Four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Clare Lachmann and Cumbria Police.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2013** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Baverstock.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – Cllr Baverstock commented favourably on the annual Armistice Day Parade, as being dignified and well attended, and asked that the minutes record the thanks of the parish council to Royal British Legion and Milnthorpe Methodist Church. Clerk to write special letters of thanks to Cumbria Police and the young lady musician whose presence was appreciated.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – Cllr Baverstock declared an interest in planning application SL/2013/0917 (agenda item 7.1) and took no part in subsequent discussions on this.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 14th October 2013:**
 - 5.1 **Lighting on car-parks link path (5.1)** – Terry Allen had been contacted and had agreed to undertake the installation work. Site meeting with Cllr Baverstock to be arranged.
 - 5.2 **Alternative meeting venues (5.4)** – the Clerk had inspected the Catholic Church Hall and found it to be eminently satisfactory. Arrangements had now been made to hold Milnthorpe Parish Council meetings there commencing January 2014. The Milnthorpe Methodist Hall had been notified and thanked appropriately for many years of providing this facility.
 - 5.3 **Bela Viaduct stones (5.5)** – Dallam had expressed concern at Atkinsons' failure to retrieve the stones whilst the weather had been favourable. The parish council shared this view and had already contacted Atkinsons, who were found to be unavoidably tied up with other contracted commitments. A spell of hard, frosty weather might provide another opportunity soon. Otherwise, there could be several more months delay.
 - 5.4 **Owlet Ash House hedge (12)** – the Clerk has asked the PCSOs to have a word with the owners because of related road safety issues, but no action so far.
 - 5.5 **Traffic lights adjustment (12)** – adjustments had now been made and, although better, the timing of light changes was still not 100% satisfactory.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – an emailed report from PCSO Boak had been received and circulated. Crime rate remained generally low in the wider area and mainly opportunistic theft from unsecured buildings. Members of the community urged to keep expensive items out of sight and secure. Some rural crime – of livestock and fuel. Limited number of local incidents.
 - 6.2 **County Council matters (Cllr Stewart)** – CCC members' discretionary funds likely to be agreed on 25th November, so MPC's allocation of £1,500 may be claimed thereafter. Staffing levels at Highways currently below agreed strength but recruiting in progress. Ineffective action by Highways had failed to cure flooding in the gully at Bela Bridge. Results of public consultation on budget proposals awaited. Cllr Stewart had received an invitation from Dallam to discuss the possibilities for improvements to the Crooklands road from Milnthorpe, particularly around the Main Line Business Park.
 - 6.3 **District Council matters (Cllr Ryder)** – Cllr Ryder was working with Cllr Stewart on the issue of extending double yellow lines within the village. The installation of temporary bollards at the top end of Main Street, following an accident, had successfully prevented vehicles parking there. Dog fouling was a constant problem and a public awareness (and warning) campaign was being proposed. Public health was an issue raised at a recent LAP meeting and parish councils needed to become involved, Tree work was being undertaken in the Owlet Ash area, with the suggestion that the resulting logs be made available free-of-charge to the public.

6.4 Matters raised by members of the public – concerns raised about planning application SL/2013/0917 (change of use of 5 The Square, also see agenda item 7 below), in particular with regard to proposed opening hours and the positioning of outdoor seats. Upkeep of the public toilets was also unsatisfactory (currently the responsibility of SLDC), although the parish council was regularly involved in reporting, urging and sometimes taking action to remedy. Drains and sewers in the Park Road area, as well as gullies, were identified as inadequate, particularly after heavy rain. Clerk instructed to bring to attention of CCC Highways (Victoria Upton) cc Cllr Stewart. The limits placed on Sandside Quarry lorries as regards the hours per day and the days per year that they may use local roads was questioned - to be on agenda for next meeting, after inspection of original planning application setting these restrictions. Clerk to check facts with SLDC.

7 Planning Matters :

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

November 2013 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

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

SL/2013/0917	5 The Square, Milnthorpe	Barton	Change of use – restaurant to take-away	19/11/13	Some concerns
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Decisions received from SLDC

SL/2013/0695	Land to rear of 20 The Square, Milnthorpe	Robinson	Single-storey garage & workshop	Earlier refusal now appealed
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(More planning information available on SLDC website – southlakeland.gov.uk)

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : - re SL/2013/2013 above – Clerk to cc Highways (Victoria Upton) with its detailed response to SLDC Planning Dept.
- SLDC's Local Development Framework - land allocations confirmation expected Dec.'13.

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH – OCTOBER 2013

MEETING – 11th Nov 2013

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

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Reserve Funds
				£	£
01/10/13	Opening balances				
31/10/13	Receipts:	Market	Rents collected Oct.	22,397.63	22,375.49
"	Payments:			844.00	
	255	DD SLDC	Rates	-127.00	
		DD Texaco	Equipment fuel	70.40	
			VAT	14.06	
	256	DD Eon	Pillar 1	18.77	
			VAT	.94	
				-84.46	
	257	DD Eon	Pillar 2	44.58	
			VAT	2.23	
				-19.71	
	258	DD Eon	Pillar 3	9.27	
			VAT	.46	
				-46.81	
				-9.73	
	259	163 Cum. CVS	Course fees	-20.00	
	260	164-169 Payroll	October	-1,476.36	
	261	170 R Br Legion	Donation	-30.00	
	262	171 Dallam	P Field rent (6mths)	-2.50	
			Total payments in month	-1,816.57	
31/10/13	Closing balances			21,425.06	22,375.49
31/10/13	Total funds all accounts				£43,800.55
	Reserve Funds at 31/10/13	National Savings Bank	5,469.64		
		HSBC Deposit a/c	16,905.85		
		Total Reserve Funds	£22,375.49		

Resolved – that the above payments be approved.

8.2 Other financial matters – Budgets/precept 2014/15 - SLDC's taxbase decision expected mid-December, with precept forms to be sent out to parishes by 31/12/13. MPC finance meeting early January 2014 (to be arranged). Deadline for submitting MPC precept to SLDC – 31/01/14.

- 9. Market** -rents for October £844 – total year to date £6,855 (= 1.50% up on 2012/13). When adjusted for the calendar variation of the Good Friday market (when two such markets fell into the one year 2012/13), 2013/14 totals are actually 6.5% ahead of their 2012/13 equivalents.
Market Supervisor reported – toilet door-lock not yet repaired, Salvation Army band to visit village on Friday 20 December for an open-air service on the Green. Additionally to be invited to attend on 13 December in return for an **agreed** £50 donation or, failing this, to play in the Square after the service on the 20th. Busker wishes to continue attendance on Farmers Market days. Many traders taking their rent-free holiday allowance in December, so rent takings likely to be low as a result.
- 10. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – Cllrs Baverstock and Ryder had attended the October LAP meeting: the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was on its way round the parishes which were to share its use (expected to be operating in Milnthorpe for one month from 16 December 2013), broadband installation gathering pace.
Cllr Bowker had appeared on Radio Cumbria to welcome buskers to Milnthorpe market.
- 11. Highways problems** – generally inadequate facilities for the disposal of surface water in Park Road (see also 6.4 above). Kerb on south side of Park Road, opposite entrance to Booths, broken and unstable due to being regularly driven over by vehicles (inc HGVs) at this narrow point in the road. Clerk to report to Highways (Victoria Upton) cc Cllr Stewart.
- 12. Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Baverstock** – reported a complaint received re contractor's vehicles parked outside Denture Studios during refitting work.
 - **Cllr Bingham** – was pleased with the cleaning work done on the war memorial but less pleased with a spate of fireworks on 10 November, and queried the legal restrictions for fireworks displays generally. He also queried what response, if any, there had been to his report to the police of a van parked suspiciously in Paradise Lane – Clerk to follow up.
 - **Cllr Troughton** – reported that the 'Entry to the Square' sign had been maliciously turned round to point in the wrong direction. Clerk to report this to Highways (Victoria Upton) cc Cllr Stewart.
 - **Cllr Dodds** – queried progress on repairing A6 footway by Dallam View. Clerk to follow up his original email to Highways (Victoria Upton) with a further email cc Cllr Stewart.
- 13. Play area development:** members discussed the proposal to change the status of the Play Area to that of a club, along the lines of other club users, as an important step to access development funding. This proposal was **agreed in principle**. Cllr Baverstock and the Clerk would be consulting with the parish council's solicitors on this matter, and also on the need to formalise the parish council's leases with its Playing Field sub-tenants.
- 14. Current PC business list:**
- 2 – Clerk had sent follow-up email to SLDC, cc Cllr Stewart, but no response.
 - 12 – Tree surgeon expected to complete work by end 2013.
 - 23 – Pig Lane not owned by Dallam, nor registered to anyone else
 - 30 – War memorial cleaning satisfactorily completed (& on time)
 - Noted that debris round tennis courts now removed by Atkinsons.
- 15. Parish sign survey** – list of items now reduced to eight which were urgent. Discussion deferred to the next meeting to allow members time to inspect these sites.

16. Application to Land Registry to register The Strands and adjacent land – the parish council had been made aware of this application, lodged by Dallam Estates. To be kept under observation, Noted – that vehicular access to this land was very important to users.

17. Correspondence

- A. Received and forwarded to members by email:** - none
- B. Items not circulated to all members;** - none.

18. Reading Matter:

- Clerks & Councils Direct – issue 90 – November 2013
- CALC – Annual Report 2013
- Market Times – August 2013

19. Notice of additional items to be included on agenda of December 2013 meeting:

- Change of status for MPC play area.
- Cllr Bingham's report on road signs
- No 5 The Square, change of use issues.
- Legal limitations on highway use by Sandside Quarry vehicles.

20. Date of next meeting – parish council meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 9 December 2013 at Milnthorpe Methodist Church: **This would be the last MPC meeting to be held at this venue.**

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

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.