

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 12th January 2015 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 County Councillor Ian Stewart (for item 6.2 only), District Cllr David Ryder, Market Supervisor Ann Johnston, Parish Clerk John Scargill and four member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** from Cllr Scrogam (work), Cumbria Police.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 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** – none.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 8th December 2014.**
 - 5.1 **Draft sub-leases for Playing Field users (5.2)** – ongoing with Milne Moser.
 - 5.2 **Community-operated speed monitoring devices (5.3)** – so far three volunteers had come forward to man the scheme but at least ten needed. Review at March PC meeting.
 - 5.3 **Link path lighting (5.4)** – lamps now installed and operating satisfactorily. Clerk to thank contractors when settling their invoice. One £100 donation actually in hand from a local business; other promised donations to be followed up.
 - 5.4 **Artwork for shop window of old Spar store (5.5)** – still no response from James Hall Ltd. Clerk to email SLDC, cc Cllr Ryder, for details of SLDC scheme for such artwork.
 - 5.5 **Christmas on the Green 2014 (17)** – judged to be a big success all round, helped by reasonable weather. Members congratulated organisers. Net financial surplus of £127. More advertising suggested for future.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – an emailed report, covering period 8 December 2014 to 12 January 2015, had been received and circulated. Two crimes reported in Milnthorpe
 - 6.2 **County Council (Cllr Stewart)** – the CCC budget for 2015/16 did not make good reading, with severe cuts in services - and more to come in the future. Highways funding under threat. Budget currently out for consultation and widespread response urged. Council Tax increase would be limited to 2% central government cap. Business rates being challenged by local businesses so pressure on CCC income from this source.
 - 6.3 **District Council (Cllr Ryder)** – SLDC was currently busy with its 2015/16 budget. Cllr Ryder congratulated all involved in Milnthorpe's Christmas on the Green 2014 on a well organised and successful event. Also suggested that Milnthorpe might consider taking whatever steps might be reasonably practicable to become known as a 'disabled-friendly' village, with the co-operation of local businesses.
 - 6.4 **Matters raised by electors** – an additional grit bin was needed for Ryleyfield Road – Clerk to request from CCC. Natwest Bank had enquired about siting a mobile bank on Fridays at the Cross Keys car park but other sites, such as the Market Square, may be more suitable. It was pointed out that the present Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) may prevent this, although it may be possible to amend the TRO - Clerk to email Cllr Stewart to initiate further enquiry on this point. It was essential for any change to be both legal and safe. Church Street residents welcomed an approach by CCC to resolve their car-parking problem. Cllr Ryder thought annual permits for parking on SLDC car parks were likely to be introduced. Clerk to email Cllr Stewart about the refusal of Royal Mail to relocate the post box when the post office branch moves into the Square.

7.0 Planning Matters:

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

January 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

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

SL/2014/1189	3 Bela Avenue, Milnthorpe	Travis	Single-storey rear extension	27/01/15	Under consideration

Decisions received from SLDC

SL/2014/0980	1 Sycamore Grove, Ackenthwaite	Arrowsmith	Single-storey extension and alterations	Approved with conditions
SL/2014/1008	No 17, Park Road, Milnthorpe	Cook	Variation of business hours limitation	Approved with conditions
SL/2014/1100	20-21 The Square	Robinson	Erection of detached garage and store	Withdrawn

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : - doubt still existed in some peoples' minds about the adequacy of the pumping station to cope with the increased volumes that would result from current housing development plans. Cllr Ryder to check out with SLDC.
- the submission of a planning application for an alternatively-sited crematorium (in an adjacent parish) was noted.

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT			MONTH – DEC 2014		MEETING – 12 th January 2015		
8.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances.							
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail		Current a/c	Reserve Funds	
					£	£	£
01/12/14	Opening balances					15,495.53	22,428.31
31/12/14	Receipts:		Market	Rents collected December		335.25	
			HSBC	Bank interest to 4 December			2.95
	29		Elec NW	Wayleaves		22.25	
	Payments:						
		DD	SLDC	Business rates	-130.00		
	351	DD	Texaco	Guard card .50			
				VAT .10			
					- 0.60		
	352	308	Robson	Expenses (keys etc) 15.17			
				VAT 3.03			
					-18.20		
	353	309	Sal. Army	Donation	-100.00		
	354	310	Cath. Ch.	Mtg. room rent	-75.00		
	355	311	Barnfield	Strimmer repair 58.25			
				VAT 11.66			
					-69.91		
	356	312	Barnfield	Blower repair 49.63			
				VAT 9.93			
					-59.56		
	357	313	Glasdon	2 outdoor seats 775.42			
				VAT 155.08			
					-930.50		
	358	314	Zurich	Add'l insurance prem	-85.82		
	359	315	Barnfield	Mower service 417.93			
				VAT 83.58			
					-501.51		
	360	316	Lymefield	Daffodil bulbs 52.23			
				VAT 10.45			
					-62.68		
	361	317	Miln A&C	Market posters 40.00			
				VAT 8.00			
					-48.00		
	362	318-322	Payroll	December	-1,060.40		
	363	323	Scargill	Post & Staty 16.51			
				VAT 1.19			
					-17.70		
	Total payments in month					-3,159.88	
31/12/14	Closing balances					12,693.15	22,431.26
31/12/14	Total funds all accounts						£35,124.41
Reserve Funds at 31/12/14			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 - Clerk's annual review for 2014 – conducted by Cllr Robson on 16/12/14. Recommendation that Clerk's SCP rating increase by 1 point as from 01/12/14 as a result of one more year's satisfactory service – **agreed**.

- **Finance Group meeting re budget/precept 2015/16** – **agreed** – the Finance Group's budget recommendations (subject to increasing the figure for professional fees to ££3,300) and for a precept of £19,703 (an increase of 1.59% on 2014/15).

- **Staff pensions** – one qualifying employee had indicated the wish to join an MPC-run pension scheme. Clerk to research costs.

- **New transparency legislation (re published information)** – Clerk to research the implications for MPC.

9. Market -rents for December £335 (low due to holiday entitlements) – total year to date £5,739 (2013/14 - £8,345)

Caravan-site poster completed and **approved** by the meeting. Members to place posters at caravan sites and other approved locations. **Agreed** – to place an advertisement for the Good Friday market in the Westmorland Gazette, size as in previous years. Ann Johnston to confirm Good Friday funfair with owner. In answer to a question raised with Mrs Johnston, confirmed that the specification for the public toilets was SLDC-approved and comparable with other similar facilities in the area. Cllr Robson now had the means for controlling when the new water tap would be available for use. The unauthorised skip had reappeared outside the former Spar shop frontage.

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

11. Highways matters – the traffic lights remained a problem and the cause of many complaints. Site meeting with CCC engineer to be arranged. The red-painted zone on the road between the Natwest Bank branch and the old Spar shop gave a false sense of security to pedestrians; confirmed that it was not an official pedestrian crossing and its intended purpose was simply to warn motorists of the likelihood of pedestrians crossing the road at that point.

12. Parish Matters (for information only) – none.

- **Cllr Bingham** – a pothole in Main Street by the junction with Haverflatts Lane. The poppy wreaths round the war memorial now needed to be removed. No artist had yet been found to undertake the artwork for the master panel of the heritage trail project.

- **Cllr Lachmann** – reported potholes reappearing in Firs Road.

- **Cllr Adair** – the gate at the Playing Field car-park was being regularly left open by user clubs, although no unauthorised par parking had been reported as a result. Clerk to write to user clubs to remind them to ensure that the gate was kept locked at all times except during club events.

- **Cllr Dodds** – commented on the poor, and sometimes dangerous, state of many village footways as a result of compacted fallen leaves and felt that MPC should take the initiative to deal with this.

- **Cllr Baverstock** – felt that the most efficient way of clearing footways within the 30mph zone would be for the work to be done by SLDC's mobile sweeper, as used to clear their public car-parks annually in the autumn. Clerk to contact Highways for clearance now of accumulated tree droppings in the car-parks. Also noted further restriction of the opening days of Barclays Bank's Milnthorpe branch and feared this could signal the branch's eventual closure

13. Current PC business:

Item 15 – two new seats delivered and awaiting installation. LQF grant to claim.

Item 17 – Cumbria Constabulary's inability to police TRO challenged with Commissioner.

Item 30 – project now satisfactorily completed.

14. MiPAD – children's play area – no formal MiPAD meeting had been held since September.

MiPAD had participated in the successful Christmas on the Green 2014 event. MiPAD to provide an agenda for its next scheduled meeting on 27 January 2015, in time for circulation to MPC members before the next MPC meeting on 9 February 2015.

15. Milnthorpe Public Toilets – a cover was needed for the outside water tap. Separate lighting switches had now been installed in each store room. Mrs Johnston to ask stallholders if an opening time for the facility of 7.00am on market days was a problem. Healthmatic contract about to be finalised. Both this and the SLDC lease for the toilet block presently with MPC solicitors.

16. Correspondence:

- Jan 2015 – email correspondence between Mrs Kavanagh and Cllr Stewart re traffic lights – circulated to all.

17. Common Land legislation – no further developments. **Agreed** – that MPC should seek further legal advice on this matter (provided for in approved budget 2015/16 – item 8.2 above).

18. Reading Matter – none.

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

20. Date of next meeting – Monday 9th February 2015, at 7.30pm in the Catholic Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm