

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 12th November 2018 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Peter Capasso (Chair), Alan Baverstock, Peter Hill, Steve Hurst, Clare Lachmann and Jen Scrogam. Also D Cllr Audland, D Cllr McSweeney (item 6.2 onwards), Parish Clerk John Scargill, Market Supervisor James Lowther (up to and including item 10) and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs Adair (unwell), Bingham (hospitalised) and Robson.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2018** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed by Cllr Capasso’.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – at the invitation of Cllr Capasso, Cllr Baverstock provided an update on the progress of Cllr Bingham who was progressing well following his operation. He also, on behalf of all members, paid tribute to C Cllr Ian Stewart who had died on suddenly on 21 October and who would be remembered by all as a dedicated public servant at county, district and parish levels. Members joined in paying tribute to Cllr Stewart and in conveying condolences to his family.
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 October 2018.**
 - 5.1 **Draft Playing Field user licences (5.1)** – all clubs had now received copies of the new licences for signature. Ongoing.
 - 5.2 **Playing field boundary wall (5.2)** – it was agreed to invite Dallam Estate’s Mrs Villiers-Smith and her Estate Manager to a site meeting with lead MPC members to agree details of the proposed new wall prior to a specification for the required work being prepared and put out to tender.
 - 5.3 **WW1 end of war commemoration (5.3)** – village Remembrance Day 2018 events had been an outstanding success with everyone working together and an unprecedented attendance. Members passed a vote of thanks to Sheila Ashburner for her lead role here and her tireless work on behalf of the British Legion. Silent Soldier silhouettes and plastic poppy displays now to be dismantled as soon as practicable and stored for re-use on similar future occasions.
 - 5.4 **Milnthorpe Sign Survey (5.4)** – some progress with installation. Ongoing.
 - 5.5 **Village Defibrillators (5.6)** – **agreed** – MPC to fund the replacement of parts as and when required for this equipment at Milnthorpe Fire Station on the understanding that responsibility for installation and other maintenance work be with third parties – currently First Responders.
 - 5.6 **St. Thomas’s Church communications mast (5.7)** – in the absence of any response from the applicant to their earlier action, St. Thomas’s Church solicitors had sent a second letter requesting modification work to bring the installation into compliance with planning permissions. It may prove necessary to ask SLDC to enforce compliance by the applicant, following its December meeting.
 - 5.7 **Renewal of dog fouling signs on playing field (7.2)** – MPC awaiting confirmation from SLDC that MPC’s registration under the old Dog Control Order (DCO) could simply be transferred to the new Public Space Protection Order without the need for formal re-application. Existing MPC signs, bearing the old DCO logo, were no longer legally enforceable and would need to be replaced.
 - 5.8 **Village Christmas trees 2018 (7.3)** – the 2018 cost of trees from the supplier was understood to be £50 per tree, the same as in 2017, when the MPC contribution was £10 per tree and the take-up only 14 trees. An increased contribution from MPC would mean a lower cost to local businesses, which was likely to increase their participation in the scheme. **Agreed** – MPC to increase its financial input to £25 per tree for 2018 on the basis of a total cost of £50 per tree. Clerk to organise.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – report received and circulated. 59 incidents recorded in the wider area resulting in 17 crimes being logged with community impact/interest, five of which were in Milnthorpe.
 - 6.2 **County Council** – no report in the light of the death of C Cllr Stewart. In the absence of this important line of communication between MPC and CCC, D Cllrs Audland and McSweeney offered to act as a conduit for MPC questions on county matters until the election of C Cllr Stewart’s successor on 20 December. Some parish speed limit road markings and signs were known to be incorrect and required attention as soon as this could be organised with Highways.
 - 6.3 **District Council** – a welcome and effective road sweeping of village highways had been done

Market Supervisor's monthly report – Market running OK. Two new stalls last week. Plant stall attendance unreliable, particularly if preferred pitch unavailable. Fabric stall request to return (after long absence and previous unfulfilled orders) – turned down by Market Supervisor - endorsed by members. Same issues with regard to access (confirmed by D Cllr Audland) and need for more effective barriers. Suggestion to encourage attendance of a mulled wine stall at the Christmas market agreed by members.

A meeting arranged at the Market Supervisor's request to discuss clarification of market rules had been held on 1 November, attended by Cllrs Capasso and Hurst, the Clerk and the Market Supervisor. As a result, proposed changes were – i. to terminate the previous practice of treating small/weather-related market days as 'invalid' for the purpose of assessing the compliance of Regular Traders with their agreed terms of attendance, ii. to change the frequency of assessment of Regular Traders' 4 rent-free (previously described as 'holiday') weeks per annum – henceforth to be done half-yearly with 2 rent-free weeks being awarded following 26 weeks continuous attendance – (this in addition to their other rent-free entitlement on Good Friday and the Friday between Christmas and New Year), iii. to require all new starters to pay their full agreed rent from day one. These proposed changes were **approved** by members.

11. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies. On 24 October, Cllr Baverstock and the Clerk had attended the CCC/Environment Agency presentation of their report on the 2015 Storm Desmond-related local floods. The conclusion was that there seemed little prospect of early remedial action by these bodies, largely due to cost constraints. Communities were encouraged to set up their own community groups to tackle this problem, with local councils playing a leading role.

12. Parish Matters (for information only):

Cllr Hurst – some hedges needed trimming but overall the situation was better than last year. The owner of Refresh has asked for permission to place a medium-sized skip outside her shop for a limited period – **agreed**. Also thanks to Lesley Salkeld for keeping parish garden areas tidy.

Cllr Baverstock – one of the parking disk requirement signs was missing from the top of The Square. The well-known Park Road ceramic artist Maggie Angus Berkowitz had recently died.

Cllr Capasso – grates at the lower end of The Square had been damaged by the passage of vehicles and were in need of repair before they became the cause of a pedestrian accident. Cllr Hurst offered to inspect and deal with promptly.

13. General correspondence – none.

14. Reading Matter – none.

15. Notice of items to be included on agenda for next meeting, and additional to those referred to above.

15. Date of next meeting – confirmed as Monday 10 December 2018 at 7.30pm in Milnthorpe Catholic Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm