

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 13th January 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 Scroggum and Paul Troughton. Also District Cllr David Ryder, Parish Clerk John Scargill, and three members of the public. Police representative for item 6.1 only.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** none.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2013** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Baverstock.
3. **Announcements by the Chair:**
 - Amendment to Standing Orders – advice received from CALC that a parish council's Standing Orders should include provision for the notice of meetings to be given to members via email. **Agreed** – that, as per MPC's SO32, this amendment to its Standing Orders (SO1) be adjourned for discussion at the next (February 2014) MPC meeting.
 - South Lakeland Local Plan – land allocations Development Briefs Phase 1 – an important and substantial briefing document had been received from SLDC which required a response from MPC by 31 January 2014. Extension of this response date to mid-February had been granted. Clerk to forward the brief to all members (to respond direct to Clerk) - agenda for next meeting.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – Cllrs Dodds and Bingham declared an interest in planning application SL/2013/1151 (agenda item 7.1) and took no part in subsequent discussions on this.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 9th December 2013:**
 - 5.1 **Lighting on car-parks link path (5.1)** – a local contractor had agreed to provide cost estimates. Transfer this subject now to Current Parish Business.
 - 5.2 **Owlet Ash House hedge (5.3)** – useful work had been done although more severe cut-back in future justified on safety grounds. Clerk to write thanking property owner for his co-operation.
 - 5.3 **Playing Field sub-leases (5.5)** – Ongoing. Transfer this subject to Current Parish Business.
 - 5.4 **Repainting car-parking bays on Square (12)** – further inspection needed and decision deferred until next (February) meeting. Transfer this subject to Current Parish Business.
 - 5.5 **Street name-plate survey (14)** – a detailed list of required improvements had been prepared following inspections by Cllrs Dodds and Bingham. This had been passed to SLDC and had produced an excellent and prompt response. Clerk to write to Houghtons for permission to undertake work on one of the items. Transfer this subject to Current Parish Business.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – PCSO Park presented a comprehensive verbal report. Rural crime still mainly heating and diesel oil and opportunistic theft from farms and outbuildings. There had been 140 reported local incidents during the Christmas period including 19 classified crimes over a range of categories and 7 of anti-social behaviour. More police presence at Friday markets would be provided and more direct contact with the Market Supervisor. It had not always been possible to provide adequate manning of the 101 call centre over this same period due to staff shortages, resulting in many incoming calls not being answered.
 - 6.2 **County Council matters** – no report in the absence of Cllr Stewart.
 - 6.3 **District Council matters (Cllr Ryder)** – the Owlet Ash trees had now been cut down. Dog fouling continued to be an issue and work was progressing to deal with car-parking problems, including a proposal to offer discounts on normal charges for local residents. A small amount of money was available via Cllr Ryder for MPC projects. A parish that had even a basic Parish Plan was likely to have more influence on development planning and some financial advantages.
 - 6.4 **Matters raised by members of the public** – an email covering several points had been received from a resident who was not able to be present at PC meetings. This had been circulated to members, together with a proposed response – which was **agreed**. It was noted that Kendal Police Station had been closed for several days over the Christmas period, due to staff shortages – resulting in not all incidents being reported. The Christmas on the Green celebrations had been a great success, despite unfavourable weather.

7 Planning Matters :

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

January 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/2013/1151	Land adjacent to Crosby Lodge, Ackenthwaite	Melling	Detached dwelling and garage	06/01/14	Objections re design of house
SL/2013/1173	Creative Confectionery, Elmsfield Park Ind Est	Wilson	Extension of permitted working Hours	07/01/14	No objections

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

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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 – DECEMBER 2013

MEETING – 13th Jan 2014

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

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c £	Reserve Funds £
01/12/13	Opening balances			19,917.66	22,375.49
31/12/13	Receipts:	Market HSBC	Rents collected Dec. Bank interest to 5 Dec.	479.00	2.95
“	Payments:				
	271	DD SLDC DD Texaco	Rates Guard card VAT	-127.00 .50 .10	
	272	182-186	Payroll	-60	
	273	187	Scargill	-1,027.04	
			December Expenses VAT	256.50 1.14	
				-257.64	
			Total payments in month	-1,412.28	
31/12/13	Closing balances			18,984.38	22,378.44
31/12/13	Total funds all accounts				£41,362.82
	Reserve Funds at 31/12/13	National Savings Bank HSBC Deposit a/c		5,469.64 16,908.80	
		Total Reserve Funds			£22,378.44

Resolved – that the above payments be **approved**.

8.2 Other financial matters:

- Clerk's annual review – conducted by Cllr Baverstock on 09/12/13 – satisfactory – SCP grade raised by one point to SCP23
- MPC accounts for 9mths to 31/12/13 (previously circulated) - **approved**.
- Budget/precept 2014/15 – (previously circulated) – **approved**. Precept for £19,395 to be signed by Cllrs Baverstock and Dodds and submitted to SLDC by Clerk before 31/01/14.

- 9. Market** - rents for December £479 – total year to date £8,345 (2012/13 - £8,268).
Market Supervisor reported – market on 27 December abandoned due to very bad weather. One trader returned on Sunday 29 December, without permission and against the market rules. The sweet stall had been damaged by a delivery vehicle on 3 January but compensation sorted out between the parties. Metal post in pavement now loose as a result of the impact – Clerk to arrange repair. The subject of rent-free weeks for Farmers Market traders to be on agenda of next Market Traders Meeting in October.
- 10. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – Cllrs Baverstock had been interviewed by Lancashire Life magazine for a future article and taken the opportunity to publicise Milnthorpe.
- 11. Highways problems** - members were pleased with the high standard of work on repairs to the road surface between the Square and the Green – Clerk to send appreciative letter to Victoria Upton (CCC) for forwarding to those responsible. Flooding problem reported at property 21/13 Park Road due to road/footway levels and regularly blocked drains – Clerk to ask Victoria Upton to inspect personally. Persistent flooding continues in Cemetery Lane – Clerk to forward to members his most recent email correspondence with Victoria Upton on all road issues.
- 12. Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Lachmann** – reported news of a public petition about the flooding in Cemetery Lane. Clerk to make further enquiries about ownership.
 - **Cllr Scrogam** – reported an incident of toilet rolls (probably from the public toilets) strewn across the Square.
 - **Cllr Adair** – reminded members of the very poor state of the pony field wall (responsibility of tenant).
 - **Cllr Bingham** – suggested that, as the poppies from Remembrance Day had been ravaged by the bad weather, it was perhaps time to remove them from the war memorial. Also proposed a token gift from the parish council to recent war veterans – **agreed** a pewter tankard would be a suitable item but important that all such veterans were identified and treated equally – Cllr Troughton to conduct a census of qualifiers.
 - **Cllr Dodds** – asked about the lack of action from Highways re the A6 footway by Dallam View.
 - **Cllr Robson** – had observed the resumed encroachment of A-boards in the village – often discarded in the hedge or verge after the event being advertised.
 - **Cllr Troughton** – had observed a fallen tree by the Park Road car-park. He had also received complaints that No 17 was sometimes exceeding permitted opening hours – Clerk to advise SLDC Planning.
- 13. Current PC business:**
- 8 – quote from CCC requested for replacement with smaller version.
 - 12 – work on trees now begun.
 - 15 – further developments under consideration.
 - new items to add (see agenda item 5 above).
- 14. Public toilets in the Square** – an initial offer on behalf of SLDC had been received via its agent. In the light of MPC’s research this offer was far less favourable than those made to other parish councils in a similar position and was also unaffordable. On these grounds members **agreed** that the SLDC offer should be rejected and a realistic counter-proposal made by MPC (cc Cllr Ryder). In particular it was felt that the high cost of essential refurbishment was something that must be carried out before MPC might be in a position to take over future upkeep.
- 15. Correspondence**
- A. Received and forwarded to members by email:** - none (but see item 6.4 above).
 - B. Items not circulated to all members:** none.

16. Reading Matter – Clerks & Councils Direct – issue 91 – January 2014.

17. Notice of items to be included on agenda for February 2014 meeting:

- repainting of car-parking bays on Square (members to inspect in advance)
- amendment to Standing Order 1
- Land Allocations – Development Brief Phase 1
- Cemetery Lane flooding & ownership
- War veteran qualifiers for MPC tankards
- Public toilets – response to SLDC

18. Date of next meeting – parish council meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 10 February 2014 at the **Catholic Church Hall, Haverflatts Lane (and for future meetings).**

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

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.