

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 13th July 2015 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Jim Robson (Chair), Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Jen Scroggum and Paul Troughton. Also County Cllr Ian Stewart (up to item 6.2) and District Cllr David Ryder (up to item 6.4), Parish Clerk John Scargill and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** from Cllrs Adair (ill), Baverstock (holiday), Lachmann (family priorities) and Market Supervisor Ann Johnston.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2015** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Robson.
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – none. Cllr Robson then introduced Paul Holdsworth of SLDC, who gave a presentation of the findings in his recent Milnthorpe Pedestrian Survey, based on a ‘walkabout’ with a small group of local residents. This included suggestions for making the village more ‘pedestrian friendly’. Cllr Robson thanked Mr Holdsworth for an interesting report.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – none.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 18th May 2015.**
 - 5.1 **Draft sub-leases for Playing Field users (5.1)** – no further developments, ongoing.
 - 5.2 **Community-operated speedwatch monitoring devices (5.2)** – a second demonstration on site by Michael Roberts (Police Liaison volunteer) had been held, which more Milnthorpe volunteers had attended. **Agreed** – that the project should be progressed and a reconditioned speed gun purchased with anticipated financial contributions from both County and District councils.
 - 5.3 **Link path lighting project (5.3)** – no further progress. Clerk to follow up earlier donation promises with letters to those concerned.
 - 5.4 **Community Transport Scheme (5.4)** – response to the Parish Council’s notices had been disappointing and public reaction limited, although such a scheme was generally thought to be helpful to those it was meant to serve. **Agreed** – that, without local volunteers, a locally organised scheme would not be viable but enquiries should be made about the possibility of taking part in an existing scheme run by Cumbria Community Transport. Clerk to implement.
 - 5.5 **Wall beside Playing Field natural area (5.5)** – resident owners willing to consider additional planting to replace the wall and felt it would be better to improve the level of maintenance of the existing natural area before trying to extend it. **Agreed** – maintenance of the natural area to be improved to ensure that rear access to properties not adversely affected by brambles etc.
 - 5.6 **Relocation of post-box** – Cllr Stewart agreed to do what he could to expedite relocation to The Square. Clerk to email Cllr Stewart with details.
 - 5.7 **Canton Chef** – internal and external building work continuing, without planning permission. Clerk to write again to SLDC on this matter, cc Cllr Ryder.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – none.
 - 6.2 **County Council (Cllr Stewart)** – budgetary problems were severe, with savings of £55 million needed over the next five years and resulting cuts to services in prospect. The recent proposed increase in the national minimum wage would increase costs for CCC’s contractors and, therefore, for CCC itself. CCC was looking to purchase its own equipment for white-lining and drain clearance. No plans to close Milnthorpe’s library or fire station but a likely reduction in the amount spent on highway maintenance..
 - 6.3 **District Council (Cllr Ryder)** – following the earlier presentation (item 3 above), Cllr Ryder would ensure that the views of MPC members and local residents generally on improved pedestrianisation were fully communicated to SLDC. It was noted that the disabled public toilet door was proving heavy and difficult for the intended users and Healthmatic had been advised. Less able-bodied pedestrians also found the short time-lapse at the traffic lights insufficient for crossing the busy roads. Waste bin collection times were due to change.
 - 6.4 **MiPAD** – no report. The proposed Fitness Trail presentation would be given at the September parish council meeting.

8.2 Other matters:

- **Annual Return 2014/15** – external auditors BDO had given a clear report and the Annual Return 2014/15 was duly **approved and accepted** by Milnthorpe Parish Council.
- **MPC accounts for the 3mths to 30 June 2015** – had been circulated. These were **approved and accepted**.
- **MPC's insurance policy** – renewal was now due. The Chairman and the Clerk to consider any necessary changes.

- 9. Market** - rents for June £780 – total for year 2015/16 to date £2,506 (2014/15 - £2,143).
Natwest Bank had confirmed they would pay in advance the rental for their mobile bank from 1 March 2015 to 31 March 2016 and the payment was understood to be imminent. **Approved** – that Sue Barton may use the newly-installed tap in The Square to take water for her snack bar, on payment of an appropriate charge to be agreed.
- 10. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – Cllr Robson had attended a recent LAP meeting, which he had found generally useful.
- 11. Highways matters** – Cllr Bingham drew attention to a pothole in Smithy Lane, Ackenthwaite.
- 12. Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Bingham** – the verges in Kirkgate Lane were in need of cutting. Clerk to write to South Lakes Housing to request.
 - **Cllr Troughton** – a sign on a lamp post in Park Road obscured visibility for HGVs exiting Grisleymires Lane.
 - **Cllr Scrogam** – a 'welcome' sign on the A6 southern approach to the village was obscured by vegetation.
 - **Cllr Dodds** – spilled silage along Main Street.
- 13. Current PC business:**
Item 29 – plinth now installed. Draft design for artwork now to hand.
- 14. Milnthorpe Tree Survey** - no progress – Cllrs Bingham and Dodds to organise as soon as possible
- 15. General Correspondence:**
8 July – Diane Smillie (Dignity in Dementia) – requesting information on (preferably free-of-charge) venues in Milnthorpe for holding training sessions for carers of dementia sufferers. Clerk to repond, suggesting Cross Keys Hotel and St Thomas's Church.
- 16. Reading Matter** – Clerks & Councils Direct – Issue 100 – July 2015.
- 17. Notice of items to be included on agenda for next meeting - August 2015** – nothing additional to those mentioned above.
- 18. Date of next meeting** - Monday 10th August 2015 at the Catholic Church Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm