

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 14th April 2014 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Baverstock (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Jim Robson, Jen Scroggham and Paul Troughton. Also Parish Clerk John Scargill, Ann Johnston (Market Supervisor), Cllr Ian Stewart (up to and including item 6.2), Cllr David Ryder (up to and including item 6.3) and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** (received later) from Cllr Clare Lachmann and Cumbria Police.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2014** - 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 on the proliferation of fly-posters attached to telegraph etc poles in the village and urged members to remove them whenever possible in an effort to keep the village tidy.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – Cllr Baverstock declared an interest in planning application SL/2014/0352 and took no part in discussions on this.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 10th March 2014:**
 - 5.1 **Pig (Cemetery) Lane flooding (5.1)** – CCC Highways had now inspected the site and discovered additional drains in the area, which they had cleared, since when the standing water problem had much improved. Future regular (at least six-monthly) monitoring of the situation was agreed.
 - 5.2 **Military Service tankards (5.2)** – four qualifying servicemen had now been identified. Estimated cost of the engraved tankards would be rather higher than first estimates at a total of £291. **Agreed** – that this important village tradition should be continued and the tankards ordered.
 - 5.3 **Litter bins (12)** – Cllr Baverstock had met with Keith Hartley (SLDC) on site. Seven SLDC bins needed renewing, to be funded by MPC at an estimated installed cost of £400 per bin for SLDC-approved Glasdon Jubilee bins. However, this would be combined with the car-park link path lighting project in applying for an SLDC grant under the New Homes Bonus scheme. Clerk to implement.
 - 5.4 **MPC planters (12)** – David Craig had agreed to continue to plant and maintain the village planters in 2014 for the sum of £400, as last year. Clerk to implement.
 - 5.5 **MPC outdoor seats (13-34)** – Several contractors had been invited to quote for regular maintenance of the seats. **Agreed** – that the quote from Neil Townley be accepted, with the work to be scheduled on a rolling programme of six seats per annum. Clerk to implement.
 - 5.6 **Milnthorpe old tennis courts misuse (17)** – a strong metal lockable gate, to prevent unauthorised use, was currently under construction. The key would be held by Cllr Baverstock with copies available for use by authorised users. Clerk to advise users.
 - 5.7 **Christmas Market 2014** – Mrs Kavanagh was invited to outline plans for the 2014 market. Format would be generally as for 2013 but would incorporate a craft market and be extended to cover more daytime hours. **Agreed.**

6. Public Participation:

6.1 Police Report – no report available for the meeting (but circulated later). A large Highways vehicle had been witnessed entering the Square on market day after the driver moved the barriers to visit the snack bar. To be taken up with the PCSOs at the first opportunity.

6.2 County Council matters (Cllr Stewart) – at the suggestion of Cllr Stewart, **agreed** that the Clerk would advise SLDC (cc Cllr Ryder) of the precise locations of the new litter bins to ensure continued regular emptying. In Kendal, the Chamber of Commerce had agreed a set of rules for A-board use and was monitoring its application, which Milnthorpe might find useful. Any recurrence of the flooding in Cemetery Lane should be photographed and logged and emailed to Cllr Stewart, for him to take up with Highways. As regards white-line refreshing, Cllr Stewart was assured that all work requested for Milnthorpe had been done. Members were asked to conduct a survey of road signs in the parish, including village name signs, to identify where cleaning or repainting was needed, as CCC funding of £1,000 for 2014/15 was available towards costs. Car-parking remained the single biggest problem for Milnthorpe and an HGV ban was needed. Clerk to email Cllr Stewart a note of thanks for facilitating the excellent resurfacing work done by Highways in Milnthorpe Square (Highways having already been thanked for this work). Clerk to include Cllr Stewart in the circulation of the regularly updated MPC list of highways problems. Clerk to write to Wings School re their overgrown hedge, encroaching on the B6384 at Whassett.

6.3 District Council matters (Cllr Ryder) – a refurbishment of South Lakes Housing properties was in progress, but management of the project had been widely criticised by residents. A meeting with the contractor had been helpful in identifying shortcomings and improvements had been promised. Cllr Ryder was continuing to monitor the situation and any further problems to be reported to him.

6.4 Matters raised by members of the public – yet more parked vehicles on Church Street as some previously empty properties had become occupied. Post Office vehicles often taking up space. An invitation to MPC members to attend the official opening of the new Milne Moser offices in the Square on Thursday 24 April 2014.

7 Planning Matters :

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

April 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/2014/0244	39 Church St	Kavanagh	Rear extension & alterations	01/04/14	No objections

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

SL/2014/0338	Leyland, Station Yard, Ackenthwaite	Leyland	Two-storey office extension to replace portacabin unit	30/04/14	Under Consideration
SL/2014/0352	Plot 1, Bela House, Beetham Rd	Sherrington	Dwelling	29/04/14	Under consideration

Decisions received from SLDC

SL/2013/1009	Stoneleigh, Main St.	Young	External signage for new dental practice.	Approved
SL/2014/0089	Houghtons Parkhouse	Houghton	Minor material amendment to prev. permitted SL/2013/0712 (Travis Perkins move to site)	Approved with conditions
BE/2014/0007	23 Owlet Ash Fields	Bond	Large rear extension	No SLDC objections
TR/2014/0031	3 Harmony Hill	Flynn	Three small plum trees to be crowned	No SLDC objections

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : none

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT				MONTH – MARCH 2014		MEETING – 14 th Apl 2014	
8.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances.							
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail			Current a/c	Reserve Funds
						£	£
01/03/14	Opening balances					17,641.42	22,419.46
31/03/14	Receipts:	Market HSBC	Rents collected Mar .			818.00	
			Bank interest to 6/3/2014				2.95
	“ Payments:						
	286	DD	Texaco	Guard card	.50		
				VAT	.10		
						-60	
	287	204	Durie	Payroll bureau 2013/14		-250.00	
	288	205	Baverstock	Padlock for gate	14.15		
				VAT	2.83		
						-16.98	
	289	206	Catholic Ch	Meeting room rent		-75.00	
	290	207	Cocker TC	Course fees		-30.00	
	291	208	SLDC	Emptying 2 bins	346.92		
				VAT	69.26		
						-415.58	
	292	209-214	Payroll	March		-1,806.01	
	293	215	Scargill	Clerk's exs. March	20.10		
				VAT	2.73		
						-22.83	
	Total payments in month					-2,617.00	
31/03/14	Closing balances					15,842.42	22,422.41
31/03/14	Total funds all accounts						£38,264.83
Reserve Funds at 31/03/14		National Savings Bank		5,510.66			
		HSBC Deposit a/c		16,911.75			
		Total Reserve Funds		£22,422.41			

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

8.2 Other financial matters:

- **New mowing machine** – had been delivered and was already in use, invoice to follow.

- **MPC annual accounts 2013/14** – had previously been circulated.

Resolved - that the MPC annual accounts 2013/14 be **APPROVED**.

- that the MPC Annual Return 2013/14, presented at the meeting, be **APPROVED**. This was then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk on behalf of Milnthorpe Parish Council.

- **Employees' holiday entitlement** – it had been confirmed that there was no accruing financial liability to MPC as a result of holidays not taken as there was no entitlement to payment in lieu and that holidays not taken could not be carried forward to the next financial year.

9. Market -.rents for March £818 – total year to date £10,479 (2012/13 - £10,583).

A letter had been sent to Refresh, as agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Robson had since met with the proprietors to discuss the financial aspects of their proposal to place tables and chairs outside their business premises, but no agreement had been reached. Cllr Robson to follow up.

It had been established that Jehovas Witnesses had every legal right to hand out their leaflets to members of the public on Milnthorpe Square, as requested, so this was approved by members subject to the condition that this would not be done through direct approach. It was also understood that this group would like to advertise their presence via a simple board, to be used as a base during their times on the Square; this was also **agreed**. Market Supervisor to advise the group accordingly.

The Market Supervisor reported that 14 traditional market stalls (at NIL rent) and 13 Farmers Market stalls (at a rent of £20) had promised attendance at the Good Friday market. Fairground attractions, Morris dancers, a busker and a link to the usual church service were all also planned.

- 10. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.**
- 11. Highways problems –** no name or contact number for an Area Steward for Milnthorpe had yet been established. The refreshing of the white lines at the Dallam School roundabout to be added to MPC's rolling list of jobs requiring the attention of Highways.
- 12. Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Dodds** – cars parked beside Mirror Mirror (probably by tenants of the flats above) were causing problems for pedestrians using the public footway along the main road. Clerk to refer to PCSOs.
 - **Cllr Troughton** – was unhappy with the poor state of the public phone box by the traffic lights.
 - **Cllr Bingham** – commented on the disruption caused by traffic control lights associated with highway work on country roads in Milnthorpe and nearby parishes. Also about the continued incidents of damage to Crooklands bridge.
 - **Cllr Adair** – was pleased to see that The Pasture wall had now been repaired.
 - **Cllr Bowker** – reported a malfunctioning streetlamp at Harmony Hill Close. He had also received complaints from residents about smoke from the burning of garden waste.
 - **Cllr Scrogam** – was pleased with the excellent show of daffodils in the village this year
- 13. Current PC business:**
- 9 – could now be removed.
 - 12 – could now be removed.
 - 33 – only two name-plates now remained to be done under present plans.
 - 34 – note that an acceptable tender for continued maintenance had now been received
- 14. New Homes Bonus (SLDC) –** all necessary information now to hand. Clerk to prepare and submit grant application for combined pathway lighting and replacement litter bins projects.
- 15. Old Spar building on the Square –** now being decorated internally although new tenant/use not known. Clerk to enquire of SLDC and also report the possibly dangerous state of its exterior wall along Main Street, in particular the protruding chimney breast (cc Cllr Ryder). This item to remain on future agendas, at least for the time being
- 16. Correspondence:**
- 15/03/14 – Frank Sanderson – asking for MPC's support re need for a new link road to improve access to Main Line Business Park, before further expansion undertaken. Clerk to respond in affirmative.
 - 21/03/14 – SLDC – asking for suggestions for their Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.
 - 10/04/14 – Ken Blenkharn (Chair, Beetham PC) - for an outdoor seat at Dallam School roundabout – Clerk to respond 'not justified'.
- 17. Reading Matter – none.**
- 18. Notice of items to be included on agenda for May 2014 meeting –** nothing additional to those mentioned above.
- 19. Date of next meetings – Monday 19 May, 7.00pm at the Catholic Church Hall –** MPC Annual Meeting, followed immediately by a normal monthly meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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.