

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 14th October 2013 in the Methodist Chapel, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Baverstock (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson, Jen Scrogam and Paul Troughton. Also County Cllr Ian Stewart (up to and including item 6.4), District Cllr David Ryder (items 6.3 & 6.4), PCSO Martin Boak (for item 6.1 only) and Parish Clerk John Scargill.. Four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** none.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2013** - 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 that the new MPC website had attracted good publicity in the Westmorland Gazette and the Parish News.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – none.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 12th August 2013:**
 - 5.1 **Lighting on car-parks link path (5.3)** – Cllr Robson's research into lighting hardware had revealed a very wide variety of available equipment and cost. This needed to be narrowed down for a choice to be made of equipment suitable for this particular purpose. His view was that two lamps were required to provide adequate illumination..
Agreed – that a sum of £1,500 be allocated for this project. Some funding contributions from local businesses had already been promised - suggested that No 17 also be approached.
 - 5.2 **Ownership of Pig (Cemetery) Lane (5.6)** – enquiries showed that this was not land registered with the Land Registry. Further enquiries to be made. The wall along the lane was a serious problem, being in a bad state of repair and basically unstable. The use of heavy equipment in the immediate vicinity might destabilise it altogether and result in the need for extensive and costly rebuilding. **Agreed** – MPC should do nothing for the time being.
 - 5.3 **White line refreshing (6.3)** – Cllr Lachmann had made a detailed survey of requirements, with photographs committed to disk and forwarded to Highways.
 - 5.4 **Alternative meeting venues (20)** – enquiries ongoing.
 - 5.5 **Bela Viaduct stones (15.29)** – no progress on moving stones to the Square. Atkinsons to be urged to complete as a matter of urgency.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – PCSO Boak read his report, as circulated by email 14 October. Crime rate generally low in the wider area and mainly opportunistic theft from unsecured buildings. Members of the community urged to keep expensive items out of sight and secure. Some rural crime – of livestock and fuel. Limited number of incidents reported in Milnthorpe area..
 - 6.2 **County Council matters (Cllr Stewart)** – more stability in Highways hoped for following completion of its restructuring, but not all vacancies yet filled so some delays may occur until fully functioning. Long term reduction in Highways services not expected. Cllr Stewart explained in detail the laborious and unavoidable process before new yellow lines could be agreed and installed. CCC currently examining expense proposals for inclusion in their 2014/15 budget and active response from the public is urged, bearing in mind that more substantial savings needed. The cost of childcare in Cumbria is abnormally high which impacts on other departments. It seems likely that Cumbria could follow other counties in introducing on-street parking charges, which currently it did not have. All these matters had Council Tax implications.
 - 6.3 **District Council matters (Cllr Ryder)** – one local study was now complete and the other (public consultation) ongoing. Suggestion had been received for discounted parking charges for regular users of public car parks. Also utilisation of available space on local business premises to help relieve the car parking problem. Possibility of adapting vacant business premises for affordable housing, for which grants could be available.
 - 6.3 **Matters raised by members of the public** – suggestion for a survey of local businesses to establish their individual car-parking needs for employees and to identify any vacant spaces that may be used, for a fee, by other car users, as well as exploring possibilities for the wider use of car-sharing schemes. A survey of local car parking problems already underway

7 Planning Matters :

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

October 2013 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.

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Decisions received from SLDC

SL/2013/0588	Bela House, Beetham Rd	Fisher	Extension of internal access road to Bela Cottage	Approved with conditions
SL/2013/656	Barclays Bank, Flowerden House	Barclays Bank	2 non-illuminated signs	Approved
SL/2013/695	Land to rear of 20 The Square	Robinson	Single-storey garage & workshop	Refused
SL/2013/0712	Houghton Parkhouse site	Houghton Parkhouse	Major development inc relocation of Travis Perkins Sandside.	Approved with conditions

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : none

8. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2013

MEETING – 14th Oct 2013

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

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Reserve Funds
				£	£
01/09/13	Opening balances			21,776.70	22,372.54
30/09/13	Receipts:				
		Market Leasgill QF	Rents collected Grant 2012/13	864.30	
		HSBC	Bank Int. to 5 Sept.	1,450.00	2.95
	Payments:				
		DD SLDC	Rates	-127.00	
	252	DD Texaco	Equipment fuel	54.97	
			VAT	11.00	
				-65.97	
	253	156 Lymefield	Spring bulbs	46.67	
			VAT	9.33	
				-56.00	
	254	157-162 Payroll	September	-1,444.40	
			Total payments in month	-1,693.37	
31/09/13	Closing balances			22,397.63	22,375.49
30/09/13	Total funds all accounts				£44,773.12
	Reserve Funds at 30/09/13				
		National Savings Bank		5,469.64	
		HSBC Deposit a/c		16,905.85	
		Total Reserve Funds			£22,375.49

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

8.2 Other financial matters - MPC accounts for the 6 months to 30/09/13 had been circulated
 - MPC 2014/15 budget/precept meeting now deferred until December
 - NALC revised rates for Clerk's pay, effective 1/04/13 – **accepted**.

9. **Market** -rents for September £864 – total year to date £6,011 (1.25% down on 2012/13). When adjusted for the calendar variation of the Good Friday market (when two such markets fell into the one year 2012/13), 2013/14 totals are actually ahead of their 2012/13 equivalents.
10. **To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – Cllrs Bingham and Dodds had attended a Leasgill Quarry Fund meeting. at which MPC had been awarded a grant of £1,400 towards the cost of completing its Heritage Trail project. Cllr Baverstock had attended the CALC AGM later in September but nothing significant to report.
11. **Highways problems** – nothing to report.
12. **Parish Matters (for information only):**
- **Cllr Troughton** – riverside walk in need of tidying and overgrowth of hedges etc in the ginnel between Church Street and Ryleyfield needed attention (Cllr Scrogam to enquire)..
 - **Cllr Bingham** – commented on the attractive new Bull's Head sign on their car park, but adversely about the fact that overgrown verges on the road to Crooklands had not been trimmed by Highways, despite being reported months ago. Ackenthwaite Lodge owner will tackle its vegetation overgrowth.
 - **Cllr Robson** – voiced concerns about the unsafe condition of the paddock wall. It may be appropriate for Clerk to write a suitably worded letter in due course..
 - **Cllr Dodds** – the footway along Beetham Road, in front of Dallam View, was in urgent need of repair (already reported to Highways). Clerk to ask Victoria Upton (cc Cllr Stewart) if CCC's £1,500 amenity grant (via Cllr Stewart) could be used for this purpose. Also reported that over-parking by the church in Main Street by legitimate blue-badge holders did sometimes impede traffic flow.
 - **Cllr Adair** – the hedge at Owlet Ash House (owner already written to) had still not been cut back and was now dangerous, forcing pedestrians to the very edge of the footway, or even into the busy road. Cllrs Dodds and Adair would try to speak personally to the owner.
 - **Cllr Scrogam** - commented on the traffic lights, where the rapid change from green to red was dangerous for road users - Clerk to email Highways (cc Cllr Stewart).
13. **Play area development:** Cllr Baverstock had had discussions with Cllr Bowker about this and introduced the subject, with Cllr Bowker contributing detail. Their conclusion was that serious consideration be given to formally changing the status of this area, from a parish council-run facility to that of an independent club renting space from the parish council, This would provide access to sources of much needed funding that would, in turn, enable significant development of the facility. Nearby residents would need to be consulted.
Agreed – that the above strategy be adopted in principle.
Also agreed – to accept a local contractor's quotation for the repair/replacement of safety tiles.
14. **Current PC business list:** - discussion deferred to the next meeting
15. **Christmas on the Green 2013** – a definite decision had now been made to hold this event on a Saturday. Detailed plans were progressing well.
16. **Parish sign survey** – discussion deferred to the next meeting. In the meantime, members to examine on site the problems identified by Cllr Bingham.
17. **Correspondence**
- A. **Received and forwarded to members by email:** - none
 - B. **Items not circulated to all members:**
 - 1. 8 Oct '13 – Milne Moser pp Bindloss Almshouses – requesting permission to advertise a tenant vacancy in the MPC notice board – **Agreed.**
19. **Reading Matter** – none.

20. Notice of additional items to be included on agenda of November 2013 meeting:

- Road repair requirements noted in month.
- Change of status for MPC play area.
- Cllr Bingham's report on road signs
- Alternative venue possibilities for MPC meetings (Clerk to investigate)

20. Date of next meeting – parish council meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 11 November 2013 at Milnthorpe Methodist Church:

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.