

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 15th April 2013 in the Methodist Chapel, Milnthorpe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Baverstock (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham (up to & inc. item 6.2), Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson, Jen Scrogam, Paul Troughton, C. Councillor Ian Stewart (for item 6.2 only) and D Councillor David Ryder (up to and inc. item 6.4), Clerk John Scargill and Market Supervisor Ann Johnston. PCSO Mark Hutchinson (item 6.1) and seven members of the public.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** none.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2013** - had been circulated, were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Baverstock.
- 3. Announcements by the Chair:**
 - the Milnthorpe PC leaflet, summarising activities of the parish council, had been distributed throughout the community and would probably be updated annually. Comments had been favourable.
 - under this agenda heading Cllr Bingham paid a fitting tribute to Market Supervisor Ann Johnston who completed 25 years service in the capacity on 1st April 2013. In return, Mrs Johnston thanked the parish council for their generous gift to mark the event.
- 4 Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – Cllr Bingham alerted members to his interest in any discussion there might be on county council matters, in view of the forthcoming elections when he would be a candidate.
- 5 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 11th March 2013:**
 - 5.1 Car parking at Booths (5.1)** – no further developments.
 - 5.2 Car parking generally in the village (5.2)** – Dist.Cllr Ryder had prepared a full report on the subject which would be circulated to all members via the Clerk. To include on next month's agenda.
- 6. Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 Police Report** – none received in advance, but PCSO Hutchinson presented a detailed verbal report on current events. Thefts of metal, fuel oil and farm machinery were prevalent. Additionally there had been instances of vandalism, break-ins and the circulation of counterfeit notes. The public were urged to report sightings of any suspicious vehicles (eg with obscured number plates) that might be carrying stolen metal. The mobile police station had visited Booths car-park and a drop-in arrangement had been agreed with Milnthorpe library. PCSO Hutchinson was asked to check the legal position with regard to fly-posting.
 - 6.2 County Council matters (Cllr Stewart)** – commented that the mobile police station might have been better located on the Square (rather than at Booths). This week's county council meeting would be the last of the present four-year cycle. Further budget cuts were needed. Due to many organisational changes in recent years, the operation of Highways had been less than satisfactory – and this was reflected in the state of the roads, which was a high-profile area that justified priority treatment. *Cllr Bingham left the meeting at this point.* Cllr Stewart was questioned about the results of the recent temporary installation of Speed Data Collection Devices in the village. Also a question about the feasibility of introducing of 20mph speed limits. Clerk to email Cllr Stewart for information on both issues – ref Victoria Upton.
 - 6.3 District Council matters (Cllr Ryder)** – felt that the introduction of fibre-optic data transfer facility would be very useful to the village and asked for the parish council's support in lobbying for this - which was given. He also agreed with a 20mph speed limit where possible, particularly on Park Road. Cllr Ryder asked for help in identifying those haulage firms whose HGVs used Milnthorpe as an alternative route, so he could make a direct approach for the practice to be discontinued.
 - 6.4 Matters raised by members of the public** – there was concern about the damage being done to the grass verge along the A6 going north out of the village, due to its use for the habitual parking of vehicles. This was actually a CCC responsibility, but Cllr Stewart asked

for suggestions from the public as to how this might best be dealt with. Agreed that shrubs planted along the verge could be the most effective deterrent. Clerk to email Cllr Stewart.

7 Planning Matters :

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

April 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 |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|---------------|
| SL/2013/0203 | 21 Beetham Rd | Davis | Two-storey extension | 12/04/13 | No objections |

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

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|---|----------|---------------|
| SL/2013/0164 SL/2013/0167 | Cross Keys Hotel | Robinson | Creation of games room between Nos. 1 & 3 Park Road | 01/04/13 | No objections |
| SL/2013/0173 | 10 The Flatts' Ryleyfield Rd | Henry | Two replacement windows | 17/04/13 | No objections |

Decisions received from SLDC

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------|----------|--------------------------|
| SL/2012/0865 | Land at Turnpike, Beetham Rd | Wesson | Dwelling | Approved with conditions |
| | | | | |

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : Cllr Baverstock had circulated to members his summary of the latest SLDC Local Development Framework land allocation proposals as set out on the SLDC website.

8 Finance.

| MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT | | MONTH – MAR 2013 | | MEETING – 15 th April 2013 | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 8.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances. | | | | | |
| Date | Transaction | Payee/er | Detail | Current a/c | Reserve Funds |
| | | | | £ | £ |
| 01/03/13 | Opening balances | | | 14,876.61 | 22,366.64 |
| 31/03/13 | Receipt | Market | Rents collected Mar | 995.20 | |
| " | " | HSBC | Bank interest to 28 Feb '13 | | 2.72 |
| " | " | MMHMC | Grant 2012/13 | 2,000.00 | |
| " | " | Texaco | Overcharge (Nov'12) for Guard Card | .60 | |
| " | Payments for March: | | | | |
| | 202 | DD Texaco | Guard – card | .50 | |
| | | | VAT | .10 | |
| | | | | -60 | |
| | 203 | 087 Hanafin | Timber (natural area) | 9.10 | |
| | | | VAT | 1.82 | |
| | | | | -10.92 | |
| | 204 | 088 Wicksteed | Playground equip. | 3,840.00 | |
| | | | VAT | 768.00 | |
| | | | | -4,608.00 | |
| | 205 | 090 Wicksteed | Equip. repair | 776.00 | |
| | | | VAT | 155.20 | |
| | | | | -931.20 | |
| | 206 | 091 HLM | Parish News leaflet | -50.00 | |
| | 207 | 092-097 Payroll | March 2013 | -1,863.67 | |
| | 208 | 098 J Scargill | Clerk's exs Mar | 49.86 | |
| | | | VAT | 9.65 | |
| | | | | -59.51 | |
| | 209 | 099 CCC | Road signs | -1,622.30 | |
| | 210 | 100 Durie | Payroll bureau (bal. '12/'13) | -125.00 | |
| | 211 | 102 Newsquest | Market advert | 212.00 | |
| | | | VAT | 42.40 | |
| | | | | -254.40 | |
| | 212 | 103 Miln. Copy | MPC leaflet | 120.00 | |
| | | | VAT | 24.00 | |
| | | | | -144.00 | |
| | 213 | 104 Atkinson | Various (inc gritting) | -751.88 | |
| | | | | -10,421.48 | |
| | Total payments in month | | | | |
| 31/03/13 | Closing balances | | | 7,450.93 | 22,369.36 |
| 31/03/13 | Total funds all accounts | | | | £29,820.29 |
| Reserve Funds at 31/03/13 | | National Savings Bank | 5,469.64 | | |
| | | HSBC Deposit a/c | 16,899.72 | | |

Resolved - that the above payments be **APPROVED**

8.2 Other financial matters:

- **MPC annual accounts 2012/13** – had been circulated in advance - **APPROVED**
- **MPC Annual Return 2012/13** – presented at the meeting - **APPROVED and signed.**

- 9. Market** -rents for March 2013 £995.20 (inc Good Friday). The Good Friday market, which offered the usual entertainment features, had been well-attended. New stall-holders had been pleased with the business generated and seemed likely to return. Some form of entertainment on Farmers Market days had been suggested as a way of attracting business; agreed as worth pursuing and enquiries to be made on what was available. The condition of the public toilets was again unsatisfactory – Clerk to report to SLDC.
- 10. Milnthorpe Fountain site** – Dallam had agreed that some of the old Bela Viaduct stones could be used for a Milnthorpe Heritage Trail Interpretation Plaque.
- 11. Children’s Play Area** – the new equipment was now in place and had been well-received. Repairs had also been completed. Great improvement all round. Litter had become a problem (likely to be ongoing, along with increased usage of the site). Regular litter collection, by the Playing Field Warden, was undertaken but anti-litter signs might be useful. Cllr Lachmann would keep under observation.
- 12. Village Planters** – were looking good at the moment. Clerk to raise the subject of possible help from Milnthorpe Allotment Society when replying to a request from them for permission to sell raffle tickets on the Square (see correspondence - item 20 below).
- 13. Lighting of car-parks link footway** - Clerk to remind Cllr Bingham to follow-up the possibility of a financial contribution from Clocktower.
- 14. Public toilets on the Square** – a letter had been received from NPS Group, SLDC’s property consultant, asking if MPC were interested in principle in taking over responsibility for the toilets. Absence of such interest was likely to result in closure of this important facility, as they were now the only ones remaining under SLDC direct management. Financial details etc to be worked out later.
Agreed – that MPC should indicate interest in principle and willingness to proceed to discussion of practical and financial details.
- 15. Neighbourhood Planning** – MPC had been advised of advantages in having a Neighbourhood Plan. Members were aware of the amount of work, and cost, involved but felt the advice should be taken seriously and the idea further explored. Heversham PC had recently prepared such a plan. Clerk to invite Peter Shaw of Heversham to speak to members on the subject.
- 16. Annual Review of MPC Standing Orders** – the Standing Orders themselves (SO33) provided for an annual review. The only SO considered to be in need of revision at this time was SO12f – ‘to appoint a Past Chair’.
Agreed – that this wording should be expanded to be more helpful where, for example, the immediate Past Chair was no longer a member or unwilling to be appointed. The revised wording of SO12f to be as follows – ‘To appoint a Past Chair - being the immediate previous Chair or, if not available or no longer a member, the next previous Chair who is.’

17. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.

18. Parish Matters (for information only):

- **Cllr Baverstock** – requested that, where possible, members communicate identified problems direct with the authority responsible eg the police (for crimes, law infringements etc) and Highways (for road surface problems – using the dedicated Highways Hotline), to speed up remedial action.
- **Cllr Scrogam** – had heard that vacant ex-council houses were being acquired by big commercial housing organisations for sub-letting to private tenants. To be checked with Cllr Ryder.
- **Cllr Troughton** – reported increased litter on the playing field and the continued presence of large plastic advertising placards on the Park Road empty houses at the entrance to Booths (already reported); similar placards had now appeared on Mirror Mirror.
- **Cllr Bowker** – noted that the SLDC recycling bins were not being emptied often enough Clerk to advise Cllr Ryder).
- **Cllr Lachmann** – reported litter around Corinthians pavilion. (Cllr Scrogam would take up with Corinthians).
- **Cllr Dodds** – had noted lack of grass-cutting on the banks at the entrance to Chestnut Way (Cllr Troughton would check that David Mason included this in his work list).
- **Cllr Baverstock** – repeated concerns about fly-posting (even **inside** the door of the old Spar building). Clerk to write to event organisers to remove.

19 Current PC business list – updates as follows:

Item 2 – approach from SLDC. MPC agree to consider taking over.

Item 7 – Cllr Ryder to speak direct to haulage companies.

Item 13 – more progress in April. Complaint re rats, but not an MPC problem.

Item 17 – Members to report misuse direct to police

Item 23 – Concerns re safety of field wall. Discuss with owner.

Item 30 – completed – delete from list.

20. Correspondence

A. Received and forwarded to members by email:

1. 20 Mar '13 – CALC – service offered by Trading Standards
2. 25 Mar '13 – CALC – introductory letter from new Police & Crime Commissioner
3. 27 Mar '13 – policy letter direct from Police & Crime Commissioner.

B. Received as hard-copy (so not forwarded):

1. 20 Mar '13 – Milnthorpe Allotment Assn - request to sell raffle tickets on the Square.
2. 22 Mar '13 – SLDC property consultants (NPS) – future of Milnthorpe public toilets.
3. 26 Mar '13 – Charles Haigh – A6 verge damage from car parking.
4. 31 Mar '13 – Milnthorpe Art Exhibition – request to sell raffle tickets on the Square

21. Reading Matter: none.

22. Notice of items to be included on agenda of May 2013 meeting:

- Car parking in village – Cllr Ryder's report.
- Farmers' Market entertainment possibilities.
- Public toilets – response to SLDC/NPS.
- Neighbourhood Plan consideration

23. Date of next meeting:

- Monday 20th May 2013 at Milnthorpe Methodist Church:
 - Annual Meeting at 7.00pm, followed by
 - monthly PC meeting, at approx. 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm

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.