

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the annual meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 18 May 2015 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Barbara Adair, Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Jim Robson, Jen Scrogam and Paul Troughton. Also District Cllr David Ryder (item 10 onwards), County Councillor Ian Stewart (item 14.2 only), Parish Clerk John Scargill and Market supervisor Mrs Ann Johnston. Two members of the public.

- 1. Election of Chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2015/16.**
Resolved – that Cllr Jim Robson be elected Chair for the council year 2015/16.
- 2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
Cllr Robson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the council year 2015/16. Countersigned by the Clerk.
- 3. Apologises for Absence:** Cllr Clare Lachmann and police representatives.
- 4. To appoint a Vice-chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2015/16.**
Resolved – that Cllr Jen Scrogam be appointed Vice-chair for 2015/16.
- 5. To appoint a Past-chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2015/16.**
Resolved – that Cllr Alan Baverstock be appointed Past-chair for the year 2015/16.
- 6. To appoint representatives on outside bodies.** Re-appointed as follows:
 - Heversham & Leasgill Quarry Fund – Cllrs Bingham and Dodds (res Cllr Troughton).
 - Local Area Partnership (LAP) – Cllr Robson.
 - Neighbourhood Forum – Cllr Bingham.
 - Memorial Hall – Cllr Baverstock.
 - Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) – Cllr Robson.
- 7. Appointment of members of committees, sub-committees etc.** Appointed as follows:
 - Planning – Cllrs Baverstock, Bingham, Dodds, Robson & Troughton (quorum of 3).
 - Finance Working Group – Cllrs Adair, Dodds and Robson (res Cllr Baverstock).
- 8. To consider annual subscriptions.**
Approved - CALC - £282 for 2015/16.
- 9 Inspection of deeds and investments,**
Deeds of the following properties in the name of Milnthorpe Parish Council were presented to the meeting and accepted as read:
 - Three areas of Milnthorpe Green adjoining Main Street (Title CU96091)
 - The Square, Green, Police Square, verges on Main Street & Beetham Road (Titles CU235662 & CU238216).
 - Lease of Recreation Ground, Milnthorpe (Title CU96624).

This concluded the business of the annual meeting and was followed by a normal monthly meeting of the Parish Council, at approximately 7.20pm, as follows:

- 10. Minutes of the previous meeting** – held on 20 April 2015 had been circulated. These were **approved** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Robson.
- 11. Announcements by the Chair** – congratulations to Cllr Lachmann on the birth of her daughter - Clerk to send an appropriate card. Also noting the commotion in the village which included a serious assault on Billy Morris – Clerk to send a letter wishing him a speedy recovery.
- 12. Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda:** Cllr Baverstock declared an interest in agenda item 17 (Refresh) and took no part in discussion of this item.
- 13. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2015:**
- 13.1 Licences for Playing Field users (5.1)** - ongoing with Milne Moser.
 - 13.2 Community-operated speedwatch proposal (5.2)** - a meeting between police representatives and MPC volunteers was planned as soon as a mutually convenient date could be found.
 - 13.3 Link path lighting project (5.6)** – some promised contributions remained outstanding.
 - 13.4 Public toilets (15)** – the first of five annual grant payments by SLDC had been received. The second quarterly maintenance invoice from Healthmatic, less cash entrance monies, had been received and would be paid next month.
 - 13.5 Community transport scheme (16)** – notices had been placed in McColls and the Parish News and had attracted interest.
 - 13.6 Wall beside Playing Field natural area (17)** – no further developments.
 - 13.7 Potentially dangerous trees (12)** – as referred to by Cllr Bingham, though not the direct responsibility of the Parish Council, needed to be inspected. Also suggested, and **approved in principle**, that a tree be planted in September to commemorate the Queen becoming the country's longest-serving monarch – next agenda for more detailed discussion.
- 14. Public Participation:**
- 14.1 Police Report** – a report had been received and circulated. Reference to a recent burglary and the assault (see 11 above) in Milnthorpe, although there had been a general reduction in crime in South Lakeland over the past twelve months. The majority of crime continued to be the opportunistic theft of higher value items from unsecured outbuildings. Members noted that a speed check by two PCSOs in Church Street over a half-hour period on Sunday 17 May had resulted in only one motorist being found to have exceeded the enforcement limit.
 - 14.2 County Council matters** – Central government's extra budget, planned for 8 July 2015, was expected to involve further cuts in financial support for local authorities and would result in the need for yet more cuts in their expenditure and services. An Ofsted report on CCC's children's services had rated one area as 'inadequate' despite significant progress elsewhere, particularly services for children in care. A CALC meeting in September would include consideration of how best to prioritise highways projects and it was important that the views of parish councils be fully represented. Clerk to email Cllr Stewart for information on when Haverflatts Lane might be resurfaced and what arrangements were proposed for traffic diversion during the work period.
 - 14.3 District Council matters** – nothing to report.
 - 14.4 MiPAD** – reported that its stall at the recent Dallam Open Garden event had been very successful. Permission requested, and granted in principle, for MiPAD to use of the Playing Field for a fund-raising event on bank-holiday Sunday 30 August and to have a crafts stall on the Green during the Milnthorpe Arts Festival (subject to the approval of the Men's Forum). The proposed Milnthorpe Community Transport scheme was welcomed by MiPAD.
 - 14.4 Matters raised by members of the public** – the skip being used by the Canton Chef had re-appeared on the Square and caused disruption on the 15 May market day. Cllr Robson would speak to the owner about this. Internal work was proceeding at these premises – Clerk to advise SLDC Planning Dept.

15. Planning Matters:

15.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

May 2015 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/2015/0419	Beggarside Hill, Haverflatts Lane	Parsons	General purpose agricultural building	14/05/15	No objections

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

SLDC ref	Address	Applicant	Development	Deadline	Response

Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC ref	Address	Applicant	Development	Deadline	Response

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

15.2 Related matters & correspondence : Canton Chef, interior work – Clerk to advise SLDC Planning Dept (see 14.5 above)

16. Finance

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT			MONTH – APL 2015		MEETING – 18 th May 2015	
16.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances.						
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail		Current a/c	Reserve Funds
					£	£
01/04/15	Opening balances					£
30/04/15	Receipts:	34 Market	Rents collected	April	3,281.46	22,474.21
		35 SLDC	Grant – Environmental P Fund (Park Rd)		866.11	
		36 SLDC	Precept 2015/16		300.00	
			Council Tax grant		21,071.15	
					2,024.75	
					23,095.90	**
		37 SLDC	Toilets grant (yr 1 of 5)		10,000.00	***
		38 Hev PC	LQF grant 2014/15 (play area seats)		1,260.42	
	Payments:					
	393 DD	SLDC	Rates (market)		132.00	
	394 DD	SLDC	Rates (public toilets)		174.00	
	395 DD	Texaco	Guard card	.50		
			VAT	.10		
					- 0.60	
	396 360	SLDC	Bin service '15/'16	364.00		
			VAT	72.80		
					436.80	
	397 361	Townley	Bench painting		420.00	
	398 362	U Utilities	Water 2015/16		123.34	
	399 363	CALC	Sub. 2015/16		282.00	
	400 364-369	Payroll	April		1,492.87	
	401 370	M Moser	Legal (re toilets)	506.00		
			VAT	100.00		
					606.00	
	Total payments in month					-3,667.61
30/04/15	Closing balances				35,136.28	22,474.21
30/04/15	Total funds all accounts					£57,610.49
Reserve Funds at 30/04/15			National Savings Bank (est)	5,550.66		
			HSBC Deposit a/c	16,923.55		
			Total Reserve Funds	£22, 474.21		
Notes	**	Precept overpayment by SLDC – to be repaid in June			£1,368.15	
	***	Healthmatic quarterly charge to pay in June (£2,750 less collections £454, plus VAT £459.20)			£2,755.20	

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

- 16.2 - MPC pension scheme** – now in place – direct debit for transfer to scheme provider (NEST) of employee's monthly contributions (deductions from pay) signed at meeting by Cllrs Baverstock and Dodds.
- **National Savings Bank account** – due to recent changes in the nature of this account and related access procedures it was **agreed** to close the account and transfer the balance (currently £5,550 or thereabouts) to the MPC's HSBC deposit account (number 81050222). Clerk to implement.

17. Market – rents for April 2015 £866 (April 2014 £613).

Mrs Johnston reported that attendance seemed to be picking up. There continued to be a problem with vehicles flouting the TRO by parking and/or driving through the Square on market day. This was acknowledged as being a complex area for identifying the appropriate responsible authority - enquiries ongoing. Cllr Ryder suggested that a firm proposal by MPC to the relevant authorities for the improvement of current arrangements might prove more productive than asking for their ideas.

The Refresh business was keen to locate tables and chairs outdoors, but again establishing the appropriate authority was proving difficult. **Agreed** - that Cllr Robson advise them to apply to CCC for a permit for this purpose at an annual cost of about £100. The Clerk reported that there had been no response from Natwest Bank to the invoice he had sent (at their request) for market rent agreed and due in respect of their mobile branch. Clerk to follow up.

18. Reports from MPC representatives on outside bodies – none.

19. Highways problems – none reported.

20. Matters from around the parish:

Cllr Bingham – on behalf of MPC, had received hand-delivered legal documents from the tenant of the Memorial Hall, with whom the Hall's trustees were in dispute. The Clerk had also received a copy of these documents. As only a 'holding trustee' of the Memorial Hall, MPC was not directly involved in this dispute and the documents concerned should have been delivered to the charity's solicitors. Also noted – that Margaret Jackson, the village's oldest resident, had died at the age of 104

Cllr Scrogham – reported that the timing sequence of the traffic lights was still unsatisfactory.

Cllr Dodds – had observed dogs on the Playing Field during Sunday morning activities and reported a resident's request that the Parish Council consider extra weather protection for bus shelter users by fitting side panels to the existing structures. He further commented on the delay in providing the promised new post-box by the new post office – Clerk to follow up.

Clerk – passed on a request that the lay-by beside the old post office be converted into a feeder lane for north-bound traffic leaving Park Road.

21. Current MPC business:

21.23 – Cemetery Lane still flooding after heavy rain but draining away fairly quickly. Regular drain clearance needed to keep it under control.

22. General Correspondence:

- 29/04/15 – SLDC – business premises survey 2014 – results.
- 06/05/15 – Taylors Funfairs – enclosing gratis entry tickets for Morecambe Super Bowl.
- 12/05/15 – Dallam Tower Estate – Milnthorpe Recreation Ground.

23. Reading Matter – Clerks & Councils Direct – May 2015 – Issue 99.

24. Notice of items to be included on agenda of June 2015 meeting – nothing additional to those mentioned above.

25. Date of next meeting – normal monthly meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 8th June 2015 at Milnthorpe Catholic Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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.