

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the annual meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 19 May 2014 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson, Jen Scrogam and Paul Troughton. Also Cllrs Ian Stewart and David Ryder joined the meeting from items 10 to 14.4 inclusive, 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 2014/15.**
Resolved – that Cllr Jim Robson be elected Chair for the council year 2014/15.
- 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 2014/15. Countersigned by the Clerk.
- 3. Apologises for Absence:** Cllr Barbara Adair and police representatives.
- 4. To appoint a Vice-chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2014/15.**
Resolved – that Cllr Jen Scrogam be appointed Vice-chair for 2014/15.
- 5. To appoint a Past-chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2014/15.**
Resolved – that Cllr Alan Baverstock be appointed Past-chair for the year 2014/15.
- 6. To appoint representatives on outside bodies.** 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 - £273 for 2014/15.
- 9 Inspection of deeds and investments,**
Deeds of the following properties in the name of Milnthorpe Parish Council were presented to the meeting:
 - 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 14 April 2014 had been circulated. These were **approved** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Robson.
- 11. Announcements by the Chair** – none.
- 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 14 April 2014:**
- 13.1 Military Service tankards (5.2)** – the four engraved tankards were displayed at the meeting and unanimously approved. Cllr Bingham reminded members that the tradition of such gifts by MPC went back to the Boer War and he was thanked for his work in arranging things on this occasion.
- 13.2 SLDC New Home Bonus (5.3)** – the application for this grant funding (for link path lighting and new public litter bins) had been submitted on time and a decision was expected by the end of June 2014.
- 13.3 Milnthorpe old tennis courts (5.6)** – the new gate was now in place and all Playing Field tenants had been supplied with a key for use of the area for car parking on organised sporting events. Regrettably, the gate was being left unlocked after many such events, resulting in the continuation of unauthorised parking. Such misuse constituted a serious breach of the lease conditions and grounds for termination by the prime lessor – which would be a tragic consequence for all legitimate users. Clerk to send very firm letter to all tenant clubs reminding them of this risk and urging compliance with agreed conditions by ensuring that the gate was locked at all times when organised events were not taking place.
- 14. Public Participation:**
- 14.1 Police Report** – a report had been received at the very last minute (and circulated) but probably not received by members before the meeting. The majority of crime continued to be the opportunistic theft of higher value items from unsecured outbuildings. In all, 13 more crimes had been reported in Milnthorpe in 2013/14 than in the previous year – against the improving trend in the wider South Lakes area.
- 14.2 County Council matters** – Cllr Stewart congratulated Cllr Robson on his appointment as Chair of Milnthorpe PC. He went on to remind members that South Lakes remained one of the safest places in the country in which to live. He reported the withdrawal of CCC funding for the Meals on Wheels service, for which there were currently only seven users in Milnthorpe, and suggested that the Parish Council might wish to advise Cllr Stewart of needy elderly persons in the village as a starting point for seeking alternative arrangements. Highways had produced a list of their road improvement priorities for 2014/15 which, disappointingly, made no mention of Haverflatts Lane and other roads in the village where work was needed. Clerk to distribute this list to members. Funds were available for a survey to identify village highway signs in need of refurbishment or replacement and further funding to progress improvement in traffic regulatory measures (eg double yellow lines). As a useful step towards resolving the existing problem of HGV traffic through the village centre, particularly between the traffic lights and the Dallam School roundabout, the Parish Council should consider their preference from the two principal access improvement options – a new bridge over the canal at Crooklands or a new access road from the Kendal Bypass to the B6385. Such access improvement was already mandatory for any expansion of the Main Line Business Park.
- 14.3 District Council matters** – Cllr Ryder congratulated Cllr Robson on his appointment as Chair of Milnthorpe PC. He agreed with Cllr Stewart's comments re HGV traffic. South Lakes Housing was undertaking a significant refurbishment of its housing stock and the performance of its contractor had improved. He understood that there were no plans in the pipeline for alternative uses for the old Spar building, but this might be explored with interested parties. He also advised keeping Dallam Tower Estate informed at an early stage of any plans to develop the children's play area on the Playing Field and offered to represent the Parish Council in this context.
- 14.4 Matters raised by members of the public** – concerns were expressed about the impact on nearby residents of development of the children's play area on the Playing Field, in particular as regards noise levels. Also questions about the source of funding any developments. Market Day traffic, particularly in Park Road due to the regular presence of brewery delivery wagons near the traffic lights, was causing unacceptable delays for other road users – include on agenda of next PC meeting for discussion and possible solutions.

15. Planning Matters

7.1 Applications under consideration by MPC and SLDC decisions

May 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/2014/0404	Low Crag Yeat, Ackenthwaite	Staff	Dining room extension	30/04/14	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	Response
SL/2014/0244	39 Church St	Kavanagh	Rear extension & alterations	Approved with conditions
SL/2014/0039	Bela House, Beetham Rd	Edmenson	Demolition of garage and erection of detached dwelling.	Approved with conditions.

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

7.2 Related matters & correspondence : none

16. Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH – APRIL 2014

MEETING – 19th May 2014

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

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Reserve Funds
				£	£
01/04/14	Opening balances			15,842.42	22,422.41
30/04/14	Receipts:	Market	Rents collected Apl .	613.25	
		SLDC	Precept 2014/15	19,395.37	
		SLDC	Parish grant 2014/15	1,854.63	
	Payments:				
	294	DD SLDC	Business rates	-125.25	
		DD Texaco	Guard card .50		
			VAT .10		
				-125.35	
	295	DD Eon	Elec - Pillar 1 29.86		
			VAT 1.49		
				-31.35	
	296	DD Eon	Elec - Pillar 2 58.75		
			VAT 2.94		
				-61.69	
	297	DD Eon	Elec - Pillar 3 17.01		
			VAT .85		
				-17.86	
	298	203 UU	Water – yr 2014/15	-116.38	
	299	216 Barnfield	Mower (net cost) 6,610.00		
			VAT 1,610.00		
				-8,220.00	
	300	217 CALC	Sub. 2014/15	-273.00	
	301	218 Hartley	Internal audit 2013/14	-50.00	
	302	219 Baverstock	Padlock keys for gate 16.67		
			VAT 3.33		
				-20.00	
	303	220 Hogarth	Tankards 244.67		
			VAT 48.93		
				-293.60	
	304	221-226 Payroll	April	-1,454.69	
			Total payments in month		
				-10,664.42	
30/04/14	Closing balances			27,041.25	22,422.41
30/04/14	Total funds all accounts				£49,463.66
Reserve Funds at 30/04/14		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**.

17. Market – rents for April £613 (including farmers £140).

Mrs Johnston reported a reasonable month's results, given that it had been decided to allow all traders a rent-free day on Good Friday. This had been much appreciated by those traders attending, although many of Minthorpe's regular traders had attended the Cartmel market on that day. It was noted that two other regular stallholders had developed serious health problems and their continued attendance was doubtful in the long-term. Other matters mentioned were – unsatisfactory day-to-day maintenance of the public toilets in the Square (Clerk to report to Keith Hartley, SLDC, and press SLDC/NPS to expedite the transfer of responsibility, as already agreed), a request from Radio Cumbria to do a broadcast from the market in the near future and the continued flouting of the traffic restriction order on market days. Cllr Robson reported that he had been unable to reach agreement with the proprietors of Refresh on the financial basis for allowing them to place tables and chairs outside their premises and their proposal had, therefore, now been withdrawn.

18. Reports from MPC representatives on outside bodies:

- Cllr Baverstock had attended a Memorial Hall Committee meeting – all satisfactory.
- Cllr Baverstock had also attended a recent LAP meeting, at which it was reported that the SID traffic speed device was currently out-of-action, which was frustrating for users on the waiting list.
- Cllr Bingham suggested that Dallam School may be prepared to replace the Meals on Wheels service recently withdrawn by CCC. He would enquire.

19. Highways problems. It was remarked that nothing seemed to result from MPC's regular reporting of highways problems in the village. The Clerk was asked to arrange an early meeting with the newly-appointed Area Steward responsible for Milnthorpe, to discuss.

20. Matters from around the parish:

Cllr Bingham – badly-worn white lines at both ends of Smithy Lane; faulty security catch on the lifebelt on the estuary shore, making access to the lifebelt difficult; the MPC seat on the Green was now actually supporting the unsafe wall around the church.

Cllr Baverstock – agreed three lifebelts were sited in the parish but ownership and responsibility uncertain. Clerk to approach SLDC to try to establish who precisely is responsible for lifebelts and their regular maintenance.

Cllr Bowker – noted that the metal fencing around the Ackenthwaite sub-station had been painted and looked much better. Also some trees on the Dallam School site which were overdue for trimming had now been dealt with (but by whom?).

Cllr Lachmann – had received compliments about the general tidiness of the cemetery.

Cllr Troughton – an unused BT pole on the Playing Field needed to be removed.

Cllr Scrogham – noted the continued proliferation of A-boards on the roadside and a badly-overgrown hedge at an empty house in Ryleyfield Road (understood soon to be dealt with by new tenants).

Cllr Dodds – noted continued badly parked vehicles beside Mirror Mirror, restricting free passage along footway (particularly a problem for the elderly and infirm, mothers with prams etc) and one recent instance of a 'for sale' car parked on the verge by the fire station.

21. Current MPC business:

21.15 Children's play area – Cllr Bowker had attended a useful course on playground safety – report circulated to all members. A display of development possibilities had been held on site on 9 May, followed by a public meeting on 14 May. There had been useful feed-back from attendees and children at the school. The aim was to extend facilities to cater for a wider age-range of user. A new committee had now been appointed. Important to keep Dallam informed of ideas and firm proposals as they developed – members happy to accept Cllr Ryder's offer of contact with Dallam but unanimous that it was vital for a second (MPC member) representative be present at all stages of contact; Cllr Bowker nominated for that role.

21.23 Cemetery Lane flooding – being monitored. Recent drier weather had helped minimise problems.

21.29 Heritage Trail project – Stones had now been retrieved and were now in the Atkinson's workshop for dressing, prior to assembly on site at a later stage.

Other items:

- **21.2** – public toilets - Clerk to write to SLDC/NPS to expedite transfer.
- **21.31** – Playing Field sub-leases – Clerk to write to Milne Moser re (lack of) progress on the leases and on the service to be expected under the practice's new staffing arrangements.
- **21.33** – delete – subject to obtaining a decision from Houghtons re location of Church St sign.
- **21.34** – Clerk to instruct Neil Townley to give priority to seats around Green/Square and to

arrange meeting with him to discuss Playing Field barrier.

22. Old Spar building on the Square – no further progress.

23. General Correspondence – MPC has been copied in a letter from Mrs R Ladell to SLDC etc – re concerns about HGVs in the village and any further development of Main Line Business Park.

24. Reading Matter – Clerks & Councils Direct – May 2014 – Issue 93.

25. Notice of items to be included on agenda of June meeting:

- Smithy Lane traffic.
- Lifebelts responsibility.
- Public toilets – transfer of responsibility - SLDC to MPC.
- Milne Moser – sub-leases etc
- Options for improved access to B6385 and Main Line Business Park.
- Feedback from Dallam on any children's play area developments
- Survey of highways signage
- Market Day traffic in Park Road
- Survey of persons in Milnthorpe in need of a Meals on Wheels service.

26. Date of next meeting – normal monthly meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 9th June 2014 at Milnthorpe Catholic Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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.