

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the annual meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 20 May 2019 in the Catholic Church Hall, Milnthorpe at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Barbara Adair, Alan Baverstock, Roger Bingham, Peter Capasso, Peter Hill, Steven Hurst, Clare Lachmann and Jim Robson. Also C Cllr P McSweeney, D Cllr R Audland, D Cllr H Chaffey, Parish Clerk John Scargill and three members of the public.

- 1. Election of Chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2019/20.**
Resolved – that Cllr Peter Capasso be elected Chair for the council year 2019/20.
 - 2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
Cllr Capasso signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the council year 2019/20. Countersigned by the Clerk.
 - 3. Apologises for Absence:** Cllr Scrogam (holiday).
 - 4. To appoint a Vice-chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2019/20.**
Resolved – that Cllr Steve Hurst be appointed Vice-chair for 2019/20.
 - 5. To appoint a Past-chair of Milnthorpe Parish Council for the year 2019/20.**
Resolved – that Cllr Alan Baverstock be appointed Past-chair for the year 2019/20.
 - 6. To appoint representatives on outside bodies.** Appointed as follows:
 - Heversham & Leasgill Quarry Fund – Cllrs Bingham and Capasso (res Cllr Hurst).
 - Local Area Partnership (LAP) – Cllr Robson.
 - Memorial Hall – Cllr Hurst (Clerk to advise MH Trustees).
 - Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) – Cllr Robson.
 - 7. Appointment of members of committees, sub-committees etc.** Appointed as follows:
 - Planning – Cllrs Baverstock, Bingham, Capasso, Hurst & Lachmann (quorum of 3).
 - Finance Working Group – Cllrs Baverstock, Robson and Capasso.
 - Staff management responsibilities - Cllr Lachmann – for Tom Grindey
 - Cllr Hurst – for David Mason
 - Cllr Capasso – for Elaine Stott.
 - Cllr Capasso & the Clerk – for James Lowther.
 - 8. To consider annual subscriptions: Approved** – CALC - £312.98 for 2019/20.
 - 9. Inspection of deeds and investments,**
Deeds of the following properties in the name of Milnthorpe Parish Council, confirmed in writing as held by Milne Moser solicitors:
 - 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).
 - Possessory title by adverse possession of land at Ackenthwaite (Pony Field) – (Title CU30054).
- 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 8 April 2019 had been circulated, were **approved** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Capasso, subject to the following amendment:- Min 6.2, line 2 – the words ‘cost to be split between CCC and Dallam Estate’ to be deleted.
 - 11. Announcements by the Chair** – none.

12. Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda – re agenda item 13.2, Cllrs Bingham and Robson, who left the room and took no part in discussion of this item.

13. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 8 April 2019:

13.1 Playing Field boundary wall (5.1) – a number of tenders had been received, to be formally opened before all members and the contract awarded in Reserved Business immediately following the normal part of this meeting. See minute 26 below.

13.2 St. Thomas's Church communications mast (5.2) – some work had been done by the contractors but this fell short of full compliance with planning approval requirements. Clerk to notify SLDC Planning and ask for full compliance enforcement.

13.3 Dog fouling signage (5.3) – no further progress – awaiting response from SLDC.

13.4 Milnthorpe public toilets grant (5.5) – SLDC had indicated verbally that it was prepared to renew its grant, generally in line with MPC proposals. To be confirmed in writing in due course.

13.5 Parking on The Square (5.6) – continuing problems – no further progress in resolving.

13.6 Milnthorpe war memorial centenary (5.8) – Agreed - Cllr Hurst to ask Able Memorials to clean the Milnthorpe memorial at an early date.

13.7 CCTV demonstration (5.9) – given by Cumbria Police at the Cross Keys Hotel on 16 May, attended by three MPC members and the Clerk, plus D Cllrs Audland, Chaffey and McSweeney. Generally agreed as being interesting, informative and proven effective in combatting crime.

Welcome development of CCTV coverage throughout Cumbria, led by Cumbria Police and CCC.

Agreed – that MPC become involved by installing cameras at strategic locations in the parish, funded jointly by Cumbria Police, CCC and MPC at an approx. cost to MPC of £3K per camera.

13.8 Parish tree work (6.4) – a number of dangerous trees had now been dealt with. An offer from a member of the public to replace one of the trees had been received.

14. Public Participation:

14.1 Police Report – for May (5 crimes in Milnthorpe), together with an annual summary (123 crimes in Milnthorpe), had been received and circulated before the meeting.

14.2 County Council matters – C Cllr McSweeney working closely with CCC's Nick Cotton and Roger Bingham to extend CCTV coverage across the southern border of Cumbria. With particular reference to Police Square, noted that privately-owned 'no parking' signs are not allowed on the highway.

14.3 District Council matters – D Cllr Audland offered to use part of his 2019/20 SLDC allowance to fund improvement to ground surface in The Square. **Agreed** – that inconsiderate parking on the footway outside the Chinese restaurant could be tackled by the strategic location of planters, at least part funded by sponsors. A problem with surplus waste containers dumped behind the east-bound bus stop near Green Dental, Church Street, needed to be addressed. Refuse bins placed by householders to deter inconsiderate or illegal parking on the highway and footway were causing inconvenience to pedestrians, particularly where pushchairs/wheelchairs were involved. Noted that SLDC supplied waste disposal bags where required.

14.4 Matters raised by members of the public – an information plaque on the wall of the old Spar building on the Square was now outdated and misleading. Parking restrictions on the lower west side of Church Street were no longer being enforced and drains were blocked in the same area – MPC advice was to use the new CCC website system to report all highway problems.

15. New matters for consideration:

15.1 MPC outdoor seats – some of these were in poor condition and in need of replacing – to be raised at the next MPC meeting. The Leasgill Quarry Fund and the Memorial Hall Trust were suggested as possible sources of funding.

15.2 Milnthorpe village Christmas tree for 2019 – Mrs Kavanagh requested permission for her organisation to erect a large community tree somewhere in the centre of the village over the Christmas 2019 period. The tree to be suitably lit and decorated, protected and insured, funded at least partly from public donations. A power supply source would need to be identified. Milnthorpe Green was generally considered to be the optimum location if all practical requirements could be met. **Agreed** – that permission be given for this project to proceed.

17.2 Other Financial matters:

- MPC 2019/20 annual accounts- previously circulated and agreed – **APPROVED BY RESOLUTION**
- MPS 2019/20 annual return (AGAR) – presented to the meeting – **APPROVED BY RESOLUTION** and signed by Cllr Capasso (as Chair) and the Clerk on behalf of MPC.

18. Market – rents for April 2019 £546 (April 2018 £475).

Market Supervisor's report – 'The market is running smoothly with no issues. Good Friday went very well with a few new stalls. No adverse comments from anyone except that it is a pity that we did not have it like that every week. With good weather coming, hopefully we may attract a few more customers and stalls.'

19. Reports from MPC representatives on outside bodies: - none.

20. Matters from around the parish:

Cllr Bingham – Thanks to Michael Ward and his team for trimming the grass verges at Ackenthwaite. An increased number of leisure cyclists on the cycle route through Ackenthwaite.

Cllr Hurst – the footpath between Main Street and the church was again becoming blocked. Briers protruding from the walls of Harmony Hall, near TT Carpets.

Cllr Robson – trees from Dallam Park were falling into the river with the potential to form a blockage. The litter bin, previously beside the seat on the A6 at the western boundary of the village had been moved across to the east side. The size of a tree at the Mill Lane/Beetham Road junction was a concern.

Cllr Capasso – the cemetery gate no longer in place (later confirmed as removed for refurbishment).

21. General Correspondence:

29/4/19 – Valuation Office- regular request for market income information (in hand – Clerk).

5/5/19 – SLDC – liquor licence application from Mirror Mirror, apparently to provide free refreshment for customers whilst in the salon – (MPC happy to allow).

20/5/19 – CALC – reminder of VE Day anniversary on 8 May 2020 (noted).

22. Reading matter – Clerks & Councils Direct – issue 123 – May 2019.

15. Notice of items to be included on agenda of June 2017 meeting – nothing additional to those mentioned above.

25. Date of next meeting – normal monthly meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 10th June 2019 at Milnthorpe Catholic Church Hall.

This concluded normal business, at which point all non-members left the room and members, together with the Clerk dealt with reserved business – namely the consideration of tenders received for rebuilding the Playing Field wall.

26. Contract for rebuilding the Playing Field wall – after following all statutory procedures and considering the six valid tenders submitted, members **agreed unanimously** to award the contract to Alan Morphet Ltd of Ulverston, with work to commence 1st July 2019. Clerk to inform this contractor accordingly and all other tendering contractors that they had been unsuccessful.

The meeting finally closed at 9.05pm

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.