

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF MARKET TRADERS COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 14 October 2013, 7.00pm in Milnthorpe Methodist Church

Present – Cllrs. Alan Baverstock (Chair), Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson, Jen Scrogam and Paul Troughton. Also Parish Clerk John Scargill, Mrs Ann Johnston (Market Supervisor), two representatives of the market traders and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence – were received from Market Trader Bob Grisedale.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (8th October 2012) – were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Baverstock..

3. Matters arising from those minutes – none.

4. Market Supervisor's Report – Mrs Johnston presented her report. She reported an overall slight improvement against the previous year's level of activity, helped by the better weather. Nineteen regular traders attended most market days and there were now a few more casuals. The rearrangement of stalls around the Square had worked well. The main flow of customers at the market now tended to be round the outer part of the Square and the centre was often quite empty. Although a number of traders had been lost, some new stalls had added to the variety of products on sale. The busker who attended the market during the summer months had been a welcome extra attraction, but hadn't attended recently. As the centre of the village, the Square would be more inviting if the now four empty perimeter buildings could be put to use. A few problems had been reported by traders – an unlit street lamp near HSBC bank, a loose kerb stone by the pet stall, the need for an additional traffic barrier at the bottom end of the Square and a broken lock on the gents public toilet. The annual check on traders' public liability cover would soon be made. The last market before Christmas to be on Friday 20th December and the next following one to be on 3rd January 2014.

5. Input from market traders' representatives – Traders were most appreciative of the sensible and compassionate approach of the Market Supervisor in dealing with the organisation and operation of the market and for her practical advice in resolving their day-to-day problems. Although a reduction in the level of activity was apparent, Milnthorpe market was holding up better than most other markets and traders were generally happy with things. There was concern at the number of vehicles regularly flouting the traffic restrictions and entering the Square on market days and particularly the danger this posed to pedestrians.

6. Review of market rules – none needed.

7. Review of market rents – **agreed** - no change for 2014.

8. Any other business – Traders' representatives thanked the parish council for continuing to support the market. The current absence of the busker was disappointing; further efforts would be made to contact him and, if unsuccessful, alternatives would be sought.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.