

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF PLAYING FIELD MEETING Monday 9 September 2013, 7.00pm in Milnthorpe Methodist Church

Present – Parish Cllrs. Alan Baverstock (Chair), Roger Bingham, Rod Bowker, Neil Dodds, Clare Lachmann, Jim Robson and Jen Scrogam. Also Andrew Douthwaite (Milnthorpe Junior Football Club), George Stannard (Corinthians), Gordon Wilson (Milnthorpe Cricket Club), District Councillor David Ryder, Parish Clerk John Scargill and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence – were received from Parish Cllrs. Barbara Adair and Paul Troughton and from Market Supervisor Ann Johnston.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2012 – were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed as a correct record by Cllr Baverstock.

3. Matters arising from those minutes – none.

4. Natural Area improvements – no formal report in the absence of Cllrs Adair and Troughton but development was progressing well and relationship with nearby property owners was satisfactory.

5. Children's Play Area (Cllr Rod Bowker) – a good year reported, with new equipment and a number of general improvements. Further improvements/upgrades under consideration. A good level of usage but this in turn increased the nuisance of litter, although there had been a recent improvement with co-operation from user clubs. Problems remained with the control of dogs, unauthorised car parking and ensuring that the five-bar access gate remained closed at all times when not in use by the clubs.

6. Input from user groups:

- **Cricket Club** – generally satisfactory, but some seating improvements needed. Request that any further general development of playing field facilities be directed away from the west (Park Road) end of the field and that all future cricket club correspondence be addressed to Gordon Wilson.

- **Junior Football Club** – recent (mainly internal) repairs had proved beneficial although the roof might need attention at an early date. Apologies for grass cuttings not cleared away.

- **Corinthians** – membership level good and it was important to maintain close links with the Junior Club. Some recent improvements to the building. Generally satisfactory.

7. Proposal to set up formal leases – Cllr Baverstock explained that the Playing Field's current basic sub-tenancy agreements between the parish council, as main lease-holder, and its sub-tenant organisations needed to be replaced with formal sub-leases. It was hoped that the parish council's own security of tenure could be improved which, in turn, would enable a similar improvement for sub-tenants. This would encourage capital investment. Moreover, some important sources of funding were dependent on long-term security. **Agreed** – that tenant clubs should be provided with copies of their existing sub-tenancy agreements with the parish council and be invited to offer input in formulating the provisions of any new sub-leases. Clubs also to be provided, as required, with copies of the parish council's main lease with Dallam. Clerk to implement.

8. Review of playing field rents – agreed no change.

10. Any other business – none.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.