

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the normal monthly meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 2nd September 2024. The meeting was held in the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane and commenced at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Steve Hurst (Chair), Peter Capasso, Pete Hill (Vice Chair), Roger Bingham, Barbara Adair, Julie Mulinga, Michael Thompson and Jim Robson. Cllr Rupert Audland (W&F) and Paul Blackburn (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence

- Cllrs Lachmann (accepted), the meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st of July 2024.

- These were **APPROVED** and signed.

3. Announcements by the Chair

- Cllr Bingham was welcomed back. He had missed the July meeting due to a health scare. This had been only the second meeting he had not attended in almost 50 years as a Parish Councillor
- A thank you has been received from the Summer Fete Committee. They were grateful for the donation made by the Parish Council. It was suggested that the Committee might be able to apply for a grant from the Leasgill Quarry Fund
- The Memorial Hall roof is in a state of disrepair and needs urgent action. The Trustees asked if a grant might be available as they believed that the Parish Council owned the property. This was not considered to be correct. Cllr Audland is to investigate the situation regarding ownership.
- Cllr Hurst mentioned that Ex-Councillor Scrogam was unwell. The Members asked that the Chair pass on their best wishes and they hope for a speedy recovery

4. Declaration of Interest by Members on items on the agenda

- None

5. Public Participation

5.1 Westmorland & Furness Council (Cllrs Audland and Chaffey)

- Cllr Audland mentioned that the 20mph speed limit project was going through a consultation period. It was considered that Milnthorpe would benefit from not being in the initial tranche as much of the background work would be done prior to further tranches of the project

5.2 Electors

- None

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on the 1st of July 2024.

6.1 Lights on path towards Park Road Car Park (6.2)

- The use of a solar powered motion detector light had been **APPROVED** at the June meeting, and it is to be placed on the cricket club pavilion. Clerk is to purchase two lights with the exact location of the second to be determined once the range of the first light has been determined

6.2 Wildflower project (6.3)

- Caitlin Fox has asked that a date is agreed to carry out the planting. It was agreed that the date could be determined by Caitlin and available Members would assist.
- Atkinson's are to carry out the initial groundwork
- There has been much interest from the Primary School, Dallam Scholl and KEY who all would like to be involved

6.3 Suggestion for the LQF grant 2024 (7.1)

- It was agreed that 2 requests would be made:
 - o Repair of the area around the Memorial on the Green
 - o Purchase and fitting of a new seat with the exact venue to be decided

6.4 Toilets (abuse of the facility) (11)

- Since the implementation of a card entry system the takings have been much lower than anticipated and use has been considerably less than previously seen
- Observation (including use of the CCTV) has noticed that the RADAR key facility (which does not need to be provided) is used more than realistically expected. It is known that keys are shared
- The doors are regularly wedged open by stones, bricks etc.
- The App showing use of the toilet, shows regular periods of 3 to 4 hours where the toilets are not paid for.

The impact of the reduced income is that budgets will not be met with the shortfall being a significant figure. Options were considered, including:

- Close the toilets
- Pass the £10,000+ cost to the 700 village Council Tax payers
- Removal of the RADAR key facility.

At this stage it was decided that the situation would be brought to the attention of the village with the hope that the abuse ceases. This will be done via social media, the PC website and a letter to all businesses around the Square

7. New matters for consideration

7.1 W&F Local Plan

- Cllr Audland updated the Members on the Arnside PC project to build social housing
- Milnthorpe sees a few residents living in houses that are too big for their requirements but, with no smaller properties to downsize to. If these were available, it would create more family sized properties.
- Research should be carried out to determine the demand for such properties

8. Planning Matters:

8.1 New Planning applications and SLDC decisions received.

- No new planning applications have been received.
- 4 applications have been determined, all granted with conditions (28 Church Street, 7 Sycamore Grove, 34 Park Road and the Beetham Road development)

8.2 Any related matters

- None.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Report on bank receipts, payments and closing balances.

Receipts – July/August 2024

Market Trader Rent - £428.50

Toilet income - £128.11

Parking Discs - £125.00

Total - £681.61

Payments – July/August 2024

Fuel, UK Fuels Ltd, £0.60 (£0.10) x2

Payroll, Staff, Pension and HRMC, £1,762.25 x2

Toilet Maintenance, Danfo, £870.00 (£145.00) x2

Toilet Water, Water Plus, £41.25 & £42.03

Bank Account Service Charge, £5.00 x2
Maintenance Contract, Atkinson's - £490.00 (£81.67) x2
Council Tax, W&F - £60.00 x2
Toilet Electricity, Npower - £46.71 (£2.22) & £47.74 (2.27)
Website hosting, A2A - £90.00 (£15.00)
Historic hedge cutting, Strizaker - £120.00 (£20.00)
Pillar 1 Electricity, Eon - £64.66 (£3.08)
Pillar 3 Electricity, Eon - £12.38 (£0.59) & £12.79 (0.61)
Room hire, Christ the King Church - £100.00
Insurance renewal, Clear - £1,192.87
Printer Ink, Amazon - £45.76 (£7.63)
External Audit, Moore – 378.00 (£63)
Total - £8,661.49 (£583.21)

Bank Balances at Month end

Interest into deposit account - £0
Current Account - £9,317.28 Deposit Account - £63,092.16
Total - £72,229.44

All payments were **APPROVED**, and balances reconciled.

9.2 Any other Financial Matters

- The external audit outcome has been received with the details to be placed on the website

10. Market Report

- Rent received of £428.50.
- Toilet income received £128.11 (March to May)
- Parking Discs - £55.00
- The pet stall has decided to stop attending markets
- The dwindling size of the market will be added to the next meeting agenda

11. To consider matters from around the Parish.

- Cllr Capasso said that the raised bumps on the A6 that aid the visually impaired are overgrown and create a possible hazard. Cllr Hurst is to arrange for them to be cleared.
- Cllr Bingham mentioned that the Glasgow House entrance pillars still do not conform with regulations. This had previously been raised with planning enforcement
- Cllrs Hill mentioned that he has been talking with a resident about testing the water in the River Bela, he asked that some research is done into the process (including costs) that is used by other Councils (Kendal & Staveley). This will be added to the next meeting agenda
- Cllr Adair noted that the hedge on Main Street has been cut back. The Chair mentioned that he had received an email from the property owner apologising for the delay in trimming the hedge

12. To receive notice of items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

- Size of the Market
- Water testing in the river Bela

13. Date of next scheduled meeting

- Monday 6th October 2024. This will take place at the Church Hall on Haverflatts Lane and will commence at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 20.14

Paul Blackburn

Clerk

September 2024

milnthorpeparishclerk@gmail.co.uk