

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform

Present: Cllrs. Michelle Lewis, Mike Dare, Veronica James (vice-Chairman), Alison Palmer, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llr Ian Lewis.

The meeting was chaired by vice-Chairman C'llr Veronica James.

Declaration of known interests

C'llr John Cole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any Welfare Committee-related issues that might arise.

Approval of minutes of minutes of March 2024 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Veronica James).

Matters arising

Boot valley. Nothing further to report.

Defibrillator in school. C'llr Alison Palmer reported that the school would be prepared to leave the hand gate open, if this was necessary to facilitate public access to any defibrillator provided. Matter of potential purchase of defibrillator to be tabled for discussion in May.

Welfare Field. C'llr John Cole reported that there were two trustees of the land, which were himself and the Charity Commission. Clerk to obtain a copy of the Land Registry title document for the land, for clarity.

Plans

There were no plans for discussion this month.

Correspondence

1) P.C.C. - Information on proposed alternatives to current website provision - Matter to be tabled for discussion in May.

2) Zurich - Notification of renewal date for insurance - The renewal was approved by Members (proposer C'llr Veronica James, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (incidental expenses December - March)	:	£ 29-85
Zurich (insurance renewal)	:	£571-65

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Veronica James, seconder C'llr John Cole).

[NOTE - a further payment to the Merlin's Bridge Welfare Committee was agreed in the sub-item below].

Interim end of year financial statement

Members considered the document circulated, and had no comment to make on it.

Discussion of request for donation towards cost of repairs and maintenance at Welfare Field playpark

C'Illr John Cole briefly explained to Members the need for the donation, to facilitate necessary works on the play equipment. Following this brief statement, he left the room while the matter was discussed by the other Members.

Members recognised the need to support the playpark, but felt that any donation should be given with clear expectations of how it would be used.

Following discussion, Members resolved to initially donate £4311-50, this being 50% of the total amount on the quotation, and also approximately equal to the surplus funds held in the community council account at the end of March 2024. This would be followed by a further amount of £1307-63 if the additional work needed to replace sections of the gate should be required, this being the sum needed to make the donation up to the basic repair quotation plus the additional amount quoted for gate replacement work. The above was agreed as a single overall resolution (proposer C'Illr Veronica James, seconder C'Illr Michelle Lewis).

[NOTE - at this point C'Illr John Cole re-joined the meeting, and C'Illr Mike Dare left the meeting with apologies].

County Councillor's report

C'Illr John Cole reported briefly on a new Welsh Government sponsored bicycle hire initiative being trialled in the locality. Bicycles would be available for a £1-30 release fee, plus 30p/minute fee.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

Following discussion, the following were co-opted onto the council :

Mr. Chris Lawler (proposer C'Illr John Cole, seconder C'Illr Michelle Lewis).

Mrs. Rita Lawler (proposer C'Illr Michelle Lewis, seconder C'Illr Veronica James).

Both resolutions were unanimous, and Members welcomed the two new councillors warmly, with their memberships to commence in the May meeting, following completion of the necessary administrative formalities.

Discussion of I.R.P. (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales) determinations in respect of Member allowances for forthcoming year

Members resolved to renew the resolution on optional allowances the same as for 2023 (proposer C'Illr Veronica James, seconder C'Illr John Cole). It was agreed that the consumables allowance would be paid as a lump sum, and that all allowances would be paid in May to any Members who had not waived these in writing.

Discussion of 2024 annual report of community council

The 2024 report was approved as drafted (proposer C'Illr Veronica James, seconder C'Illr John Cole). Clerk to place this on the webpage.

Discussion / adoption of revised financial and Asset risk assessments

These were accepted by Members (proposer C'Illr Veronica James, seconder C'Illr Alison Palmer).

Discussion of possible grit provision in community

C'llr Michelle Lewis had placed a post on the community Facebook page, and had received numerous responses. Locations suggested for grit bins included Rose Avenue, Tudor Gardens, Jenkins Close, Heol Derwen, Glen View, Ferry Way, Fernhill Road, St. Thomas' Avenue, Woodlands Park, Jenkins Close, Freemans' View, Haroldston Close, Venn's Close, Pembroke Road, and St. Issell's Avenue. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in May, to give time for Members to consider the matter further. It was confirmed by the Clerk that the cost of grit bins was £1800 per unit.

Discussion of possible training session for use of community defibrillator

C'llr Michelle Lewis had contacted St John's Ambulance Brigade to enquire about training provision, and was awaiting a response. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in May, if substantive information had been received by then.

Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues in community

Tree planting. The Clerk had been in discussion with P.C.C. regarding tree planting. P.C.C. had indicated that they would be willing to attend a site meeting in the summer, to agree locations for tree planting. They had also indicated that they could probably arrange all necessary liaison with other departments within P.C.C. regarding tree-planting, and even fund the purchase and planting of trees as agreed. Clerk to arrange a site meeting to pursue this as soon as practicable.

New flower beds. The Clerk had been assured by P.C.C. officers that arrangements for the new flower beds requested were in hand.

Any other business

There was no other business to report.

The meeting was closed at 8-00pm.