

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 8th May, 2024 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College

Present: Cllrs. Ian Lewis (Chairman), Michelle Lewis, Veronica James (vice-Chairman), Alison Palmer, Chris Lawler, Rita Lawler, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'Ilr Mike Dare.

Declaration of known interests

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

Approval of minutes of minutes of April 2024 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr Veronica James, seconder C'Ilr Alison Palmer).

Matters arising

Potholes. C'Ilr Ian Lewis raised concerns over the pothole opposite the post office on the Lower Pembroke Road. C'Ilr John Cole undertook to raise this with P.C.C.

Ownership of Welfare Hall. The Clerk confirmed that the registered owners were The Official Custodian for Charities.

Plans

There were no plans for discussion this month.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. - Message to confirm that they lacked the resource to deal with bus shelter repairs - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) Internal auditor - Internal audit report - dealt with in 'Accounts' below.

Accounts

Payments

Denise Mayr (internal audit fee)	:	£ 85-00
Alison Palmer (Member allowance / consumables allowance)	:	£208-00
John Cole (Member allowance / consumables allowance)	:	£208-00
Veronica James (Member allowance / consumables allowance)	:	£208-00
Michelle Lewis (Member allowance / consumables allowance)	:	£208-00
Ian Lewis (Member allowance / consumables allowance)	:	£208-00
Mike Dare (Member allowance / consumables allowance)	:	£208-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Veronica James, seconder C'Ilr Ian Lewis).

Internal audit

The internal audit had been completed, and the report circulated to Members. There were no matters of concern noted in the report. Completion of Annual Governance Statement to be dealt with in June meeting.

County Councillor's report

Community electric bike scheme. It was confirmed that the Welsh Government sponsored scheme was up and running. Whether or not the scheme would prove successful or not was uncertain. It was confirmed that the bikes were not going to be accessible at night.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no further interest to date.

Discussion of arrangements for future website provision

Members favoured pressing on with the free option for the present, while retaining the option of pursuing other avenues if that seemed the best way forward. The Clerk confirmed that he would be attending the P.C.C.-sponsored training session to set up a free Google-hosted website.

Discussion of possible grit provision in community

Members agreed on the following locations for grit bins :

- Corner of Greenhill Crescent, on grass area by corner on left hand side;
- Rose Avenue;
- Entrance to Woodlands Park
- On verge outside Welfare Field;
- St Issell's Avenue, on corner of St. Thomas' Avenue;
- Corner of St. Issell's Avenue and Heol Derwen;
- Glen View.

Purchase and siting of the above grit bins from P.C.C. agreed (proposer C'Illr Ian Lewis, seconder C'Illr Michelle Lewis). Clerk to place order with P.C.C.

It was confirmed that grit bins were not normally locked, and that no additional warning labels were normally attached to them. They would need to be added to the community council asset register and insurance schedule once installed.

C'Illr Michelle Lewis confirmed that she would make arrangements to post information about the grit bins on the community Facebook page once they had been installed.

Discussion of possible additional defibrillator purchase, and possible training session for use of community defibrillator

New defibrillator provision. It was mentioned that the school had indicated that they would be willing for a defibrillator to be sited on the school building, and would be willing to leave the pedestrian access gate open at all times to facilitate public access to one, if it was to be sited there. However, this had all been stated verbally, and no written confirmation had been received.

Clerk to write to the school secretary to seek confirmation on the above matters.

Matter to be placed on June agenda for further discussion.

Public defibrillator training. C'Illr Michelle Lewis had obtained details from St. John's Ambulance Brigade, who would be willing to provide free in person training on defibrillator use, subject to a suitable venue being provided, and a convenient date / time being agreed. A range of courses were offered. Members favoured the 'Public Access defibrillator awareness' course. C'Illr Michelle Lewis to pursue arrangements for the training, with this to be advertised in the community, to encourage residents to attend.

Discussion of arrangements for bus shelter repairs

The Clerk reported on the response that had been received from P.C.C. They had said that they were unable to undertake repairs to community-owned bus shelters, and had recommended that the community council should make other arrangements. C'llr John Cole undertook to seek a quotation for the work to be done. Clerk to enquire about bus shelter cleaning from the contractor that currently carried out bus shelter cleaning in Johnston.

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

Dog-fouling. Members commented on this as an ongoing issue, and had observed some improvement over recent months. No specific new initiatives discussed or agreed.

Road drains. The blocked condition of some road drains was mentioned as an issue, but one that had been reported to P.C.C.

Any other business

There was no other business to report.

The meeting was closed at 7-40pm.