

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College, Merlin's Bridge.

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

Apologies: none .

Declaration of known interests

None

Approval of minutes of minutes of June 2026 monthly meeting

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

Matters arising

Memorial bench. Members noted that the bench was now in, and were very pleased with the finished result.

Cenotaph. Work was due to commence that week, but Members were unaware of whether or not this had actually been commenced.

School governor nomination. Nomination for C'llr Veronica James to be submitted without further delay, as nothing further had been heard from Alison Palmer. Clerk to enquire about who would cover the costs of any DBS checks required.

Plans

25/0719/AD – LED billboard; Site Address: Parry & Blockwell Ltd, Magdalene Street, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, SA61 1JJ – Object, on Highway safety and visual amenity grounds.

26/0275/PA – Alterations to a dwelling house to include conversion and extension of attached outbuilding; Site Address: Westfield Cottage, Pembroke Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4LA – No comments.

Correspondence

01) P.C.C. – Response to message requesting sign-cleaning outside the Rugby Club – noted.

02) National Grid – Response to message sent in about excavations on corner of Woodlands Park – noted.

03) Local resident – Complaint about a tree on land at the Welfare Field – this had been passed to the Welfare Committee for action.

04) P.C.C. – Communications re. needed maintenance to Cenotaph – noted.

05) Local resident – Concerns about playpark and other community matters – the resident concerned had been contacted by C'llr John Cole.

06) Mayor of Haverfordwest T.C. – Invitation for Chairman to visit him in his parlour – C'llr Veronica James was willing to attend as vice-Chairman. Clerk to pass this on to the Town Council once the written invitation was received.

Accounts (to include quarterly budget review)

Payments

Easy Websites (website direct debit July, August, September)	:	£	36-96
Lloyds Bank (monthly bank charges, July, August, September)	:	£	4-25

P Horton (Salary July – September 2026)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (PAYE tax / N.I. contributions)	:	As per contract
Clerk (incidental expenses April – September)	:	£ 68-20
Boverton Nurseries (2026128)	:	£ 494-40
Defib Warehouse (194166)	:	£ 91-14
Wales Audit Office (ARINV015515)	:	£ 177-77

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’llr Veronica James, seconder C’llr Michelle Lewis).

Income

Precept	:	£5833-00
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County Councillor’s report

Parking. General parking availability in the community was mentioned as being an ongoing issue.

Welsh Water. It was confirmed that Welsh Water had rejected responsibility for ongoing water leaks emanating from the taxi rank behind the chip shop in Pembroke Road.

Discussion of any applications received for co-option of new councillors

None received.

Discussion of minor amendment needed to Clerk’s contract of employment

Members agreed to an amendment to the Clerk’s contract to update the vehicle mileage rate to reflect changes in the H.M.R.C. approved rate (proposer C’llr Veronica James, seconder C’llr Michelle Lewis).

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

Dog fouling. Members reported this as being somewhat better at the moment. C’llr John Cole thought this might be in part because more dog-fouling was occurring on the Welfare Field, though not in the fenced off football pitch area.

Any necessary discussion of future community events (including discussion of arrangements for 2026 Remembrance Day commemoration, and discussion of possible event in the Welfare Hall the previous day for veterans)

Event for service personnel / veterans. This was confirmed for 1pm-3pm on Saturday 7th November, in the Welfare Hall. C’llr Rita Lawler had done some preliminary investigations of costings for cakes, etc. Members agreed a budget of £150 for the refreshments. C’llr Rita Lawler to make the necessary arrangements for these. C’llr Michelle Lewis undertook to design a suitable poster for the Facebook page publicising the event.

Discussion of current situation with highway depression in Greenhill Park Drive

Members noted that the dip in the carriageway was once again worsening. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to raise the matter as a renewed concern. Message to also request an update on the situation with the closed pavement outside the bungalow in Greenhill Park Drive.

Discussion of ‘For Sale’ signs at the mini-roundabout, Upper Pembroke Road

Members noted this as an ongoing issue of concern, with signage once again proliferating on the verge next to the mini-roundabout.

Any other business

Parking on grass outside the Welfare Hall. This was raised as a concern, occurring during football matches at the Merlin's Bridge ground. C'llr John Cole undertook to ask the Football Club to barrier this area off during matches. C'llr Michelle Lewis undertook to post a request on the Facebook page asking people not to park on this area.

Standing Agenda item to be tabled in future meetings for any necessary discussion.

Speeding. Members noted this as an ongoing problem, particularly coming into town from the Pembroke Road direction. This was worsened by some motorists not observing the mini-roundabout correctly. Standing Agenda item to be tabled in future meetings for any necessary discussion.

Merlin's bridge Roundabout. C'llr Michelle Lewis mentioned an issues with vehicles cutting one another up on roundabout. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in October.

The meeting was closed at 7-30pm. Next meeting - Wednesday 14th October 2026