

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 12th June, 2024 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College

Present: Cllrs. Ian Lewis (Chairman), Michelle Lewis, Mike Dare, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Chris Lawler, Rita Lawler, Veronica James, Alison Palmer.

Declaration of known interests

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

Approval of minutes of minutes of 2024 A.G.M. and May 2024 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'lr John Cole, seconder C'lr Michelle Lewis).

Matters arising

Pothole opposite Post Office. C'lr John Cole had reported the pothole in the carriageway opposite the Post Office to P.C.C. They had inspected, and advised that would need to be deeper, with the basecourse being degraded, before a repair would be prioritised.

Electric Bike scheme. Members noted that the electric bikes were not much in evidence in Merlin's Bridge, with more usage in other parts of the town.

Grit bins. These had been requested, and were now in hand with P.C.C. to install, apart from the one outside the village hall, which had not been accepted by P.C.C. for installation.

Magdalene Street parking provision. Provision of parking bays for four vehicles was understood to be in hand with P.C.C.

Bus shelter repairs. C'lr John Cole reported that the bus shelter outside the Rugby Club had been repaired.

Bus shelter cleaning. The Clerk had attempted unsuccessfully to make contact with the bus shelter cleaner in Johnston. C'lr John Cole undertook to ask for a quotation from someone local to Merlin's Bridge who was known to have a local window-cleaning round.

Plans

Planning consultations

24/0198/PA - Proposed Extension and Reconfiguration of Existing Dwelling

Site Address: 60, Tudor Gardens, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1LB - no comments.

Planning decisions notified

22/0893/PA - Change of use from offices to dog day care (in retrospect) and the erection of outbuildings; Site Address: Happy Paws Day Care, Old Hakin Road, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XE.

Correspondence

- 1) St. Mark's School - Holding response re. defibrillator provision - noted, and to be tabled as an agenda item for September.
- 2) P.C.C. - Agreement to request for grit bin provision in community, apart from location outside the Village Hall - noted.
- 3) Boundary Commission for Wales - Interim message about ongoing review of town and community council boundaries - noted.
- 4) Welsh Government - Message about forthcoming plans to review 20mph speed limits - noted.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (salary and fixed expenses)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)	:	As per contract

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Ian Lewis, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis).

2023/24 accounting statement and Annual Governance Statement

This was completed and approved by Members (proposer C'llr Ian Lewis, seconder C'llr John Cole).

County Councillor's report

No resident concerns had been received by C'llr John Cole.

Regarding housing, C'llr John Cole reported some concern that many units of social housing becoming available for letting were not making it onto the housing register. There was some concern that P.C.C. officers were operating with too much autonomy, and without enough governance arrangements in place. It was understood that the arrangements were currently under review.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

Nothing to report.

Discussion of possible additional defibrillator purchase

Deferred for consideration in September.

Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues in community (including discussion of community tree-planting)

The Clerk had spoken to Aethne Cooke of P.C.C. regarding tree-planting. She had indicated that she would be able to attend a site meeting in the autumn. In the meantime, she had asked for maps of the proposed locations for tree-planting to be sent in, in order that she could carry out utilities checks, etc. Clerk to arrange this, ask if pre-booking an appointment would be possible, and also to seek her advice on suitable species for planting.

Discussion of future community events

Party in the park. C'llr John Cole reported that arrangements were in hand for a summer party in the park to be held, at a projected cost of £2200. He indicated that the Welfare Committee had raised around 50% of this sum, leaving the other 50% to be raised. Members were happy to approve the £1100 donation subject to a prior written request being submitted by the Welfare Committee. C'llr John Cole undertook to submit the request.

Any other business

Remembrance Day arrangements. Discussion to be placed on September agenda for discussion, with possible consideration to poppy-planting, etc., in the area around the cenotaph.

Community bingo. C'Ilr Mike Dare informed Members that a community bingo session had been arranged for Saturday 22nd June at 6-30pm, in the Welfare Hall. He undertook to send over a poster advertising the event to C'Ilr Michelle Lewis, to be posted on the community Facebook page.

Church Army / Church in Wales. C'Ilr Mike Dare informed Members that community funding from the Church Army and Church in Wales would be ending after July 4th. This would mean that he would not be officially working for them after that date, but would be continuing community activities. He mentioned that a formal public announcement about this change was understood to be imminent.

The meeting was closed at 7-30pm. Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday 11th September, 2024.