

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom platform, and in person at the Welfare Hall, Merlin's Bridge.

Present: Cllrs. Chris Lawler, Rita Lawler, Alison Palmer, Michelle Lewis, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Mike Dare, Ian Lewis, Veronica James

The meeting was chaired by C'llr Michelle Lewis.

Declaration of known interests

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

Approval of minutes of minutes of June 2025 monthly meeting

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

Matters arising

Signage. The Clerk had contacted the estate agents again following the June meeting. As a result, signage had reduced, but subsequently reappeared. C'llr Rita Lawler mentioned that one had been placed on a lamppost in Greenhill Park Drive. C'llrs Michelle Lewis And Ian Lewis to look at the signage on the verge at the junction with the Pembroke Road, and assess the situation / remove as possible.

St. Mark's School. The Clerk confirmed that nothing heard back from the school regarding further details on the Flying Start initiative. Clerk to chase up.

Plans

Planning Enforcement Notices notified

INV/068/24 - Upper Sandy Wells, Dredgman's Hill, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XL; Alleged Breach of Planning Control: Without the benefit of planning permission : 1) Without the benefit of planning permission, the unauthorised operational development of a block and timber extension to the front and side elevation of Upper Sandy Wells.

Planning application consultations received

25/0376/PA – Replacement outbuilding to create welfare space as an extension for disabled son with new screening hedge bank and ecological enhancements.

Site Address: Upper Sandy Wells, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XL – No comments.

Planning consents notified

25/0045/PA - Erection of steel frame building to replace existing storage containers.

Site Address: Haverfordwest Rugby Football Club, Pembroke Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1LY

Planning refusals notified

25/0360/NM - Non-material amendment to remove of conditions 3 & 10 of planning permission 19/1042/PA (Variation of condition 1 (amended plans) of planning permission 18/0171/PA to allow for an amended design to business unit 1).

Site Address: Land West Of Jewsons, Old Hakin Road, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Notification of Avian Flu outbreak, Roch area – noted.
- 2) P.C.C. – Notification of consultation period for new L.D.P. – noted.
- 3) P.C.C. – Invitation for expression of interest for applications for Places for Nature grant scheme – noted.

Accounts

Payments

Easy Websites (website direct debit 2 months)	:	£ 73-92
Lloyds Bank (bank charges, June / July 2025)	:	£ 8-50
Clerk (salary, July - September 2025)	:	As per contract
HMRC (PAYE tax and Employer N.I. contributions)	:	As per contract
Boverton Nurseries (ratification of INV2025164)	:	£ 453-60

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lr Michelle Lewis, seconder C’lr John Cole).

Income

P.C.C. (precept second installment)	:	£5833-00
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County Councillor’s report

C’lr John Cole had no significant issues of concern to report, but had received a number of positive comments from local residents about the flower beds around the community.

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

No applications had been received since the June monthly meeting.

Discussion of any nominations for community governor to St. Mark’s School

C’lr Alison Palmer expressed a willingness to continue in the role, and was nominated to do so (proposer C’lr Michelle Lewis, seconder C’lr Rita Lawler). Clerk to inform school accordingly.

Discussion of arrangements for siting of public bench to mark VE-80 commemorations

Members were informed that the proposed site at the junction of Site at Greenhill Park Drive and Greenhill Crescent had been rejected by P.C.C. as unsuitable.

Other sites considered included close to the Cenotaph, and somewhere within the Welfare Field area.

C’lr John Cole suggested that the bench could possibly be sited in the Welfare Playing Field, on the site of the existing broken bench close to the Pembroke Road entrance to the playing field / playpark. He suggested that the existing bench could be removed, renovated, and subsequently relocated elsewhere in the playing field. Members were favourably disposed to this idea. It was left for C’lr John Cole to consult with the other Welfare Committee members. Agenda item to be tabled for further discussion / decision in October. In the meantime, C’lr Michelle Lewis undertook to look into various options for a suitable bench style. C’lr John Cole undertook to obtain photographs of a possible suitable design of bench based on one currently sited in Tenby, for consideration in the October meeting.

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

Flower beds. Members commented on how well the flower beds had done this season.

Wild flower seed-sowing. This had not been a success, with no seeds having germinated. C'llr John Cole offered to obtain suggestions from someone in the Roch area who had been successful in a similar planting exercise, for possible use in the future.

Remembrance Day commemoration. Members commented that it would be good to have some suitable flowers blooming around the Cenotaph in time for the Remembrance Day commemoration.

Flower barrels. C'llr Rita Lawler reported that two fuchsias had been taken from the flower barrels around the community.

Biodiversity Enhancement report. C'llr Michelle Lewis had made some notes on achievements in this area since the 2022 report had been published. She undertook to update the report accordingly. Agenda item to be tabled for approval in October.

Litter collections. Members noted a tendency in the community for rubbish receptacles to be left out for too long after the bin collections had taken place, thus causing the neighbourhood to look unkempt.

[NOTE – C'llr John Cole left meeting at this point due to losing connectivity to the Zoom meeting]

Any necessary discussion of future community events

None.

Any other business

None

The meeting was closed at 7-15pm. Next meeting - Wednesday 8th October 2025.