

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 8th October 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, Mike Dare, Ian Lewis, Alison Palmer, Michelle Lewis; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'Ilr Veronica James

Declaration of known interests

None

Approval of minutes of minutes of September 2025 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr Rita Lawler, seconder C'Ilr Michelle Lewis).

Matters arising

Land at Rose Avenue. C'Ilr Rita Lawler mentioned that the issue of fly-tipping on land at Rose Avenue was still ongoing. The Clerk confirmed that he was receiving periodic holding messages from Planning Enforcement, indicating that their investigation was still ongoing.

Bulb-planting. C'Ilr Rita Lawler mentioned that she had carried out some bulb -in the community planters.

School Flying Start initiative. Nothing had been heard following the chase-up message sent after the September meeting. C'Ilr Alison Palmer to look into this matter.

Plans

Planning refusals notified

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

Correspondence

01) Democracy and Boundary Commission – Draft remuneration report for 2026/27 – noted.

Accounts (to include quarterly budget review)

Payments

Easy Websites (website direct debit) : £36-96

Lloyds Bank (bank charges, August 2025) : £ 4-25

Clerk (incidental expenses for April – September 2025) : £93-82

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

Quarterly budget review

Members considered the budget review prepared by the Clerk, and were content with the status of the accounts.

C'Ilr Alison Palmer to ask the school again for their views on possibly siting a public access defibrillator at the school.

County Councillor's report

No report this month.

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

There had been no applications since the September meeting.

Discussion of renewal of Biodiversity Enhancement report

C'llr Michelle Lewis had drafted up a revised Biodiversity Enhancement report, which had been circulated to Members for consideration. Members were happy with the report as drafted, and resolved to adopt it (proposer C'llr Michelle Lewis, seconder C'llr Alison Palmer). Clerk to arrange publication. Members thanked C'llr Michelle Lewis for the work undertaken in revising and updating the report.

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

Commemorations

C'llr Michelle Lewis had circulated some links to websites with benches that could potentially be suitable. There had been no further information received about the bench in Tenby, the design of which C'llr John Cole had suggested as a possibility. The Clerk suggested the Glasdon Phoenix bench as another good quality alternative used by some local councils. Members to consider their favoured option, for decision in November.

Discussion of possible issues with postal deliveries in the community

C'llrs Ian and Michelle Lewis had been observing the situation, and had noted a significant trend of no postal deliveries being made on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. C'llr Michelle Lewis mentioned the timeframes cited on the Royal Mail website regarding delivery times for second class post, which indicated a decline in the level of service, but did not account for the apparent tendency to hold off from delivering post in the early part of the week. Members to monitor the situation locally.

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

Dog-fouling. This was noted as an ongoing issue. C'llr Michelle Lewis to place a reminder on the community Facebook page drawing attention to the problem, and encouraging a responsible approach.

Rubbish / recycling. C'llr Rita Lwaler mentioned the ongoing problem of rubbish and recycling receptacles being left outside properties for extended periods after the rubbish had been collected, adversely affecting the appearance of the neighbourhood.

Fly-tipping. This was noted as an ongoing problem, especially around the Clay Lane area.

Any necessary discussion of future community events

Remembrance Day. Scheduled for 9-30am on Sunday 9th November, at the Merlin's Bridge Cenotaph. Clerk to order wreath. Clerk to ask C'llr John Cole to make contact with the bugler to see if they would be available this year. C'llr Alison Palmer to speak to the Emmanuel Mission minister, to check if he would be available to care for the service.

Christmas tree / lighting. Clerk to ask C'llr John Cole if he would be willing to arrange for the trees and lighting as for previous years. C'llr Alison Palmer to ask the school if they would be interested in putting bilingual decorations on the tree again this year.

Community bingo. Scheduled for 6th December, at 6-30pm, in the Welfare Hall. Flyer to be issued later in the week.

Community Christmas cards. C'llr Alison Palmer to invite the school to arrange for the pupils to make up designs for the community Christmas cards again this year, with these needed by 4th November to give time for printing to be arranged.

Christmas concert / carol service. These had previously been done by the church. C'llr Alison Palmer to make enquiries to see if there were any plans for events this year.

Selection boxes for schoolchildren. Clerk to ask C'llr John Cole if he could arrange this again for this year.

Children's party. C'llr Chris Lawler suggested this as a possibility for consideration. However, it was felt that any such arrangements would normally be organized by the Welfare Committee.

Any other business

None.

The meeting was closed at 7-35pm. Next meeting - Wednesday 12th November 2025.