

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom platform, and in person at the Welfare Hall, Merlin's Bridge.

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

Apologies: C'llrs Mike Dare, Ian Lewis

Declaration of known interests

None

Approval of minutes of minutes of October 2025 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 Rita Lawler).

Matters arising

Postal deliveries. Members noted that deliveries seemed to be getting more sporadic, and later in the day / week. Clerk to write to Royal Mail to ask about the situation.

Plans

Planning consultations received

25/0641/PA - Proposed Garage; Site Address: Dunroamin, 76, Pembroke Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1LW – JC – no comments.

Correspondence

01) Local resident – comment on proposals for new memorial bench – dealt with in agenda item below.

02) P.C.C. – Notification of closure of planning enforcement investigation into use of land at Rose Avenue – noted.

03) P.C.C. – Reminder to request re-filling of grit bins in community where necessary – noted. C'llr John Cole commented that the grit in some of the bins might have solidified due to rain having got into them, and should be checked. Members to check as possible.

Accounts (to include quarterly budget review)

Payments

Easy Websites (website direct debit)	:	£36-96
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Lloyds Bank (monthly bank charges)	:	£ 4-25
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Clerk (reimbursement for Remembrance Day wreath)	:	£20-00
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The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Veronica James, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis).

County Councillor's report

Potholes. P.C.C. had been attending regularly to deal with new pothole reports.

P.C.C. Budget for 2026/27. This was due for discussion in the new year. P.C.C. was hoping to keep any increase to below 7.5%.

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

There had been no applications since the October meeting.

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

A local resident had written in to suggest a location close to the war memorial as a potentially good site for a memorial bench. C’Ilr Michelle Lewis had forwarded a plan of the possible location of a new bench adjacent to the war memorial to the Clerk. This had been sent in to P.C.C., and a response was awaited. Response to be circulated as soon as received.

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

Fly-tipping. C’Ilr Veronica James commented on the increase of fly-tipping in St. Issell’s Avenue, with bags being left opposite the shop on Mondays, resultant problems with broken glass, etc. C’Ilr John Cole mentioned that this was also a problem around the bins at the Welfare Field. Members acknowledged that the problem was very difficult for P.C.C. to police and enforce. C’Ilr Michelle Lewis mentioned a link to Fly-tipping Wales, which could be used in addition to the ‘My Account’ reporting system on the P.C.C. website to report fly-tipping. She undertook to share the link with all Members.

Dog-fouling. Members felt that this was not so bad lately as it had been previously. Clerk to check on any legal requirement for carrying poop bags when walking dogs in public places in Pembrokeshire.

Any necessary discussion of future community events

C’Ilr John Cole mentioned that the Welfare Committee had no specific plans for events over the festive period. The attendance at the recent Halloween event had been very disappointing.

Christmas bingo. This was in hand with C’Ilr Mike Dare.

Community Christmas cards. Arrangements were in hand with C’Ilr Alison Palmer.

Selection boxes. Members agreed for these to be arranged for all schoolchildren at the local school, at around £1-45 for around 144 children. C’Ilr John Cole to make arrangements.

Christmas tree / lighting. In hand with C’Ilr John Cole.

Tree decorations. C’Ilr Alison Palmer to ask the school if they would like to repeat the decorations added to the tree, as had been done in 2024.

Discussion of concerns over narrowing of Pembroke Road outside chip shop, due to double parking outside premises

C’Ilr John Cole commented that this would be a Police matter. He noted that the problem was not actually with double parking, but rather a narrowing of the road width at this location. Clerk to contact P.C.C. Highways to ask their advice / input.

Any other business

Parking for carers. C’Ilr Chris Lawler raised the issue of difficulty finding free parking for carers accompanying adults in their care. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion of this issue in December.

Flower beds. Members commented that the display from the flower beds in 2025 had been fantastic, partly due to the mild weather having continued late into the season.

The meeting was closed at 7-15pm. Next meeting - Wednesday 10th December 2025.