

## **MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College**

**Present: Cllrs. Chris Lawler, Rita Lawler, Alison Palmer, Mike Dare, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).**

**Apologies: C'llrs Ian Lewis, Michelle Lewis, Veronica James**

The meeting was chaired by C'Ilr Alison Palmer.

### **Declaration of known interests**

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

### **Approval of minutes of minutes of September 2024 monthly meeting**

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr John Cole, seconder C'Ilr Alison Palmer).

### **Matters arising**

**Grit bins.** Members noted that all the grit bins ordered had now been installed. However, the one in Greenhill Park Crescent was incorrectly sited. Clerk to raise this with P.C.C.

### **Plans**

#### **Planning consultations received**

**24/0623/PA** - Extensions and Alterations; Site Address: Willowdale, 12, Mill Lane, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XB – No comments.

**24/0579/PA** - Installation of personnel access ramp, including alteration to fenestration (changing existing window to new doorway). Including internal alterations; Site Address: Jewson Ltd, Old Hakin Road, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XE – No comments.

### **Correspondence**

- 01) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – draft 2025 report – agenda item to be tabled for discussion in November.
- 02) P.C.C. – Update on supply of grit bins – dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 03) Audit Wales – Notification of completion of 2022/23 and 2023/24 accounts audits – dealt with in 'Accounts' below
- 04) P.C.C. – Notification of deadline for submission of requests for removal of 20mph speed limits – noted.

## **Accounts**

### **Payments for approval**

Clerk (incidental expenses for 6 months April – September) : £70-40

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Alison Palmer, seconder C’Ilr Chris Lawler).

### **Audits**

Notification had been received of completion of the external audit of the 2022/23 and 2023/24 accounts. An unqualified approval had been issued for both years.

However, a minor point relating to the Standing Orders had been noted on the 2023/24 audit report. Agenda item to be tabled for November to discuss any necessary revisions to the Standing Orders.

### **Quarterly budget review**

Members considered the quarterly budget review prepared by the Clerk. There were no comments or areas of concern in the standing of the accounts.

## **County Councillor’s report**

**Speed data for Pembroke Road.** No data had yet been received from P.C.C.

**Pothole, Lower Pembroke Road.** It was noted that this had re-appeared, and would presumably need repairing once again.

**Dog-fouling.** This was noted as an ongoing issue. C’Ilr Rita Lawler commented that it seemed to be a particular problem with schoolchildren walking dogs.

**Social housing.** It was mentioned that much work was ongoing to upgrade properties between tenancies, as a result of new Welsh Government regulations introduced.

## **Discussion of co-option of new councillors**

No further applications received to date.

## **Discussion of possible additional defibrillator purchase**

Nothing had been heard back from the school regarding agreement to permanent access for any defibrillator provided. It was thought that this might be because there was currently no head-teacher in post. Matter deferred for further consideration in November.

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

**Tree-planting.** Clerk to chase up P.C.C. to arrange the agreed site meeting to discuss progressing a tree-planting scheme.

## **Discussion of problem with unsightly ‘For Sale’ property signage around community**

Members had noted a problem with a proliferation of signs on the verge on the Pembroke Road opposite the entrance to Clerk to report to P.C.C.

### **Discussion of possible transfer of future meetings to Welfare Hall**

Decision deferred until November, to allow time for a trial of arrangements to stream the meetings. Clerk to arrange this in conjunction with C'llrs Mike Dare and John Cole. Agenda item to be tabled for November, to discuss further. November meeting to be held in the College.

### **Discussion of future community events**

Members discussed a number of planned events, including :

**Halloween event** – scheduled for the last weekend in October

**Christmas bingo** – scheduled for around 21<sup>st</sup> December

**Community café** – held weekly on Saturday morning in the Welfare Hall

**Remembrance Sunday.** To be held on the morning of Remembrance Day, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 9-30am, at The Cenotaph, Magdalene Street, Merlin's Bridge.

Wreath to be collected by C'llr John Cole in advance. Arrangements for the minister from Emmanuel Mission to lead the service were in hand, as were arrangements for participation by schoolchildren, and the attendance of the trumpeter. It was noted that P.C.C. would be responsible for cleaning / necessary maintenance of the cenotaph structure, and they had been asked to arrange this as needed.

**Christmas carol concert.** It was agreed that it would be best for M.B.C.C. to support the concert in with the church, as for the previous year. C'llr Mike Dare mentioned that arrangements were also in hand for a doorstep carolling initiative as well.

**Community Christmas tree lights.** It was agreed that the lights would be put on without a formal arrangement, for health and safety reasons.

### **Discussion of replacement website provision**

The Clerk confirmed that he had attended an online training session arranged by P.C.C., to look at Google Sites-hosted websites. Members felt this would be a good option for a free online presence, and it was agreed for the Clerk to attend further training sessions, and commence work on creating the site. This would not go live until complete and approved by Members. It was accepted by Members that this would entail some overtime payments to the Clerk, as the work involved was outside his normal work remit. Regular agenda item to be tabled for any necessary ongoing discussion in forthcoming months.

### **Any other business**

**After-school activities in Welfare Hall.** C'llr Chris Lawler was keen to explore possibilities for such activities to be encouraged and supported. It was noted that this would be more appropriate to discuss with the Welfare Committee, as this would be the venue, and there would be inevitable red tape to overcome.

**Welfare Field.** C'llr John Cole mentioned that the Football Club had applied to P.C.C. for a grant to fence off the football pitches. This would mean that the pitches themselves would be off-limits to dogs. There would be gated entrances for people to come and go, but dogs would be excluded.

The meeting was closed at 7-30pm. Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday 13th November, 2024.