

## **MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College**

**Present: Cllrs. Chris Lawler, Rita Lawler, Ian Lewis, Michelle Lewis, Veronica James, Mike Dare, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).**

**Apologies: C’lir Alison Palmer.**

### **Declaration of known interests**

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

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

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C’lir John Cole, seconder C’lir Rita Lawler).

### **Matters arising**

**Grit bin.** This had now been correctly sited.

**Speed data for traffic along Pembroke Road.** Nothing yet received from P.C.C.

**Speed limit review.** No further information had been received regarding possible changes to the 20mph speed limited zones.

**For sale signs.** These were still present. Clerk to report to P.C.C. again.

### **Plans**

#### **Planning consultations received**

**24/0721/PA** - Change of use from domestic garage to a holiday let; Site Address: Meadow Croft, Pembroke Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4LA - JC commented that it already appears to be in use as a holiday let - No comments.

#### **Planning consents notified**

**24/0579/PA** - Installation of personnel access ramp, including alteration to fenestration (changing existing window to new doorway). Including internal alterations (Retrospective); Jewson Ltd, Old Hakin Road, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XE

**24/0623/PA** - Extensions and Alterations; Willowdale, 12, Mill Lane, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XB

### **Correspondence**

- 1) Lloyds Bank – Notification of intention to charge for banking services – Members accepted this change as inevitable.
- 2) P.C.C. – Invitation to participate in trial arrangement for requesting tree-planting locations – Clerk to submit request for tree-planting in the locations alongside the community flower beds.
- 3) Local resident – Concerns over proposals for dog control measures on part of Welfare Field – Members felt that this was a matter for consideration by the Welfare Committee rather than the Community Council.
- 4) Easy Websites – Quotation for website provision – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 5) St. Mark’s School – Request for financial assistance – Members resolved to approve this request on receipt of a request directly from the school (proposer C’lir Michelle Lewis, seconder C’lir Veronica James).

## **Accounts**

### **Payments for approval**

Donation to St Mark's School for external electrical works : £860-52

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C'llr Michelle Lewis, seconder C'llr Veronica James).

## **County Councillor's report**

**P.C.C. budget for 2025/26.** It was commented by C'llr John Cole that the final budget, when set, would inevitably impact on Merlin's Bridge residents.

**Carriageway repairs, Lower Pembroke Road.** It was reported that these repairs had finally been completed.

**Dog control measures in Welfare Field.** C'llr John Cole reported on the need for dog control measures on part of the Welfare Field.

## **Discussion of Independent Remuneration Panel 2025 report determinations**

Members resolved to maintain the option to pay any or all of the optional allowances in 2025/26 if this was deemed appropriate (proposer C'llr Ian Lewis, seconder C'llr Veronica James).

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

No change, with no expressions of interest received during the previous month.

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

The Clerk confirmed that nothing further had been heard from the school regarding this matter. Clerk to message C'llr Alison Palmer, with a request for her to seek clarification from the school authorities about their views on the matter.

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

**Tree-planting.** Dealt with in 'Correspondence' above.

**Dog fouling.** Members perceived the problem as worsening. It was not clear what more could be done to discourage this anti-social behaviour. However, Members asked the Clerk to print 24 new posters on coloured paper. These to be passed to C'llr John Cole once completed.

## **Discussion of any need to amend community council Standing Orders**

Members approved the draft amendments prepared by the Clerk (proposer C'llr Ian Lewis, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis). Clerk to prepare final hard copy for signature at the December meeting.

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

Members discussed various factors relevant to the decision, including the location of the Welfare Hall within the community area, heating arrangements, the current absence of video facilities in the Welfare Hall, etc. The possibility of continuing to meet in the college, but having quarterly meetings in the Welfare Hall was also suggested. C'llr John Cole confirmed that some outstanding works were still required to complete the necessary preparations. Members decided to re-visit the matter once these had been completed.

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

**Halloween event.** Members commented that this had been a success, and well attended.

**Planned community festive events.** The following events were highlighted :

- **Community Choir.** To be held from 9am – 12pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in the Emmanuel Christian Centre.
- **Christmas Carols Together.** To be held between 6pm and 7pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in the Emmanuel Christian Centre.
- **Christmas Bingo.** To be held at 6pm on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024, in the Welfare Hall.

**Festive lighting.** There were no current plans for a community event to switch on the festive lighting. However, C’lir John Cole mentioned that a coordinated switch-on might be able to be arranged for all the trees.

**Community Council Christmas cards.** Members agreed to send Christmas cards to all residents in the community, as in previous years. C’lir Michelle Lewis undertook to provide a suitable image for this, and pass it to the Clerk once complete. Clerk to ask Cleddau Press to repeat quantities and card size based on the 2023 order placed. C’lir John Cole confirmed that he would again arrange a joint delivery in conjunction with the Emmanuel Christian Centre.

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

Members voted to accept the quotation from Easy Websites for creation and maintenance of their community council website (proposer C’lir Ian Lewis, seconder C’lir John Cole). They voted to choose the domain name as [merlinsbridgecommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://merlinsbridgecommunitycouncil.gov.uk) . Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

### **Any other business**

There was no other business to report.

The meeting was closed at 8pm. Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday 11th December, 2024.