

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 6-30pm, in person at Pembrokeshire College, and online via the Zoom platform.

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

Apologies: Cllr Ian Lewis, Mike Dare.

Declaration of known interests

None

Approval of minutes of minutes of January 2026 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer Cllr Michelle Lewis, seconder Cllr Veronica James).

Matters arising

Sinkhole, Greenhill Park Drive. Cllr John Cole confirmed that this had been reported to P.C.C., who had attended the site, inspected, and carried out remedial work. They had apparently indicated that they did not consider it to be a sinkhole, but rather carriageway deterioration. Members were unhappy at the levels left behind after the remedial work, with a substantial dip in the road surface at this location. They were also unconvinced at the suggestion that it was not a sinkhole, especially given other nearby incidents the previous year, the rapid and progressive development of the hole that had formed, and the known presence of a limestone ridge underlying this road. Clerk to report discontent with the current road levels, and to question the conclusion that this was not a sinkhole. Matter to be kept as a standing agenda item for the time being.

Grit bins. Cllr John Cole confirmed that he had fixed the securing clips to the grit bin lids, and they appeared to be working well.

Plans

Planning application consultations received

25/0871/PA - Change of use of dwelling house (C3) to Small residential care Home (C2) and including retention of roadside boundary fence; Site Address: 1, Merlin's Avenue, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1JS – No comments.

Planning consents notified

25/0769/PA - Raised patio and creation of Juliet balcony (partly in retrospect); Site Address: Spinneyside, 12, Merlin's Avenue, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1JS

Correspondence

- 01) P.C.C. – Active Travel consultation – noted.
- 02) Local resident – Enquiry about land ownership in connection with a fence issue – Members had no knowledge of the land ownership. Clerk to advise resident.

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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The above payments were approved by Members (proposer Cllr Michelle Lewis, seconder Cllr Veronica James).

County Councillor's report

P.C.C. Council tax increase for 2026/27. This was thought likely to be around 4.5%.

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

No applications had been received.

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

P.C.C. had indicated that they would accept a bench near the Cenotaph, but only of a type with wooden slats. The Clerk had responded to enquire the reason for this, and ask if a 'Phoenix' type of recycled plastic bench would be acceptable. A response to this was currently awaited.

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

Dog-fouling. No change to the ongoing situation.

Boot Alley. Clerk to report dead leaves, muck, etc. posing a slip hazard on the path.

Fly-tipping. It was noted that the situation with this problem had improved.

Bin collections. Members noted that these had regularly been late over the previous few weeks. C'lr John Cole noted that this would be notified on the P.C.C. website, though often too late to be of practical use to residents.

Bulb-planting. Members approved purchase of summer-flowering bulbs for planting around the Cenotaph, and at other suitable locations, up to a ceiling of £150 (proposer C'lr Michelle Lewis, seconder C'lr Veronica James). C'lers Michelle Lewis and Rita Lawler to look into purchase and planting arrangements for these, and any necessary arrangements for cordoning off affected areas.

Any necessary discussion of future community events

Nothing to discuss this month.

Discussion of arrangements for cleaning of / repairs to community-owned bus shelters

Clerk to arrange for the shelters to be cleaned as previously done.

C'lr John Cole undertook to obtain a written quotation from the contractor he had spoken to about the work needed to the Milford Road bus shelter.

Discussion of possible arrangements for new community defibrillator at St. Mark's School

Clerk to send a further message to the new school Head, asking their views on the possible provision of a defibrillator, and extending an open invitation to attend future community council meetings.

Discussion of needed repairs and maintenance to Cenotaph

Clerk to contact P.C.C. to request that needed maintenance, painting, etc., could be carried out well in time for the next Remembrance Day service, and preferably within the next four months. Message to also include a query on whether or not P.C.C. would be willing for local volunteers to undertake work on the structure.

Any other business

There was no other business to report.

The meeting was closed at 7-05pm. Next meeting - Wednesday 11th March 2026.