

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College

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

Apologies: C'Ilr Mike Dare

The Chairman asked for thanks to be recorded to C'Ilr Veronica James, for stepping in to chair the January meeting at short notice.

Declaration of known interests

C'Ilr John Cole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any Welfare Committee matters that might come up for discussion.

Approval of minutes of minutes of January 2025 monthly meeting

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

Matters arising

Zebra crossing. Repairs to lighting were still awaited.

Bus shelter outside Rugby Club. C'Ilr Rita Lawler had reported a missing pane on the bus shelter. The Clerk had obtained an estimate for the work to replace this, at £173 + VAT. Members voted to accept this quotation (proposer C'Ilr Ian Lewis, seconder C'Ilr Michelle Lewis). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

Plans

Planning application refusal notifications received

24/0901/PA - Alterations and extension; Site Address: 38, Woodlands Park, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1LR. JC – noted. Members were informed that the refusal had been because of overlooking windows, and a re-submission of the application with an amended design was thought likely.

Correspondence

01) St. Mark's School – Thanks for recent permission given to hang Welsh language decorations on the community Christmas tree - noted.

02) P.C.C. – Further interim message regarding maintenance of lights on zebra crossing – noted.

03) Local resident – concern over dog-fouling in community area – the Clerk had responded to the message, providing details of the measures undertaken by the community council to address the problem, and providing details of the P.C.C. email address to report incidents of dog-fouling.

04) Boundary Commission – Notification of publication of final report and recommendations on boundary changes to take effect in 2027 – noted. C'Ilr John Cole explained that a small corner of the community area was due to be transferred to Freystrop C.C., but that this would have no significant impact on the community council.

05) Celtic Windows – Quotation for supply and replacement of missing pane from bus shelter outside Rugby Club – dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.

Accounts

Payments

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

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

Internal audit of 2024/25 accounts.

Members were content to use the same internal auditor as used in previous years (proposer C'Ilr Ian Lewis, seconder C'Ilr Veronica James). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

County Councillor's report

Highway repairs and maintenance. C'Ilr John Cole mentioned that pothole, carriageway and pavement repairs were ongoing in the community, and would be likely to be ongoing until the end of the financial year.

Dog-fouling. This was noted as an ongoing and difficult problem, due to the indifference of some dog-owners in the community.

Parking bays in Magdalene Street. Members were informed that parking bays were due to be installed at the end of Magdalene Street to replace the double yellow lines. These were likely to offer time-limited parking provision.

Council tax. Members were informed that council tax for the forthcoming financial year was likely to rise by just under 10%. A final decision on this would be forthcoming in March.

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

None received.

Discussion of arrangements for community asset and financial risk assessments

Clerk to complete both risk assessments.

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

Bulb-planting. C'Ilr Rita Lawler raised the possibility of carrying out bulb-planting in the community, to supplement the flower beds in the community. The presence of the four planting barrels around the community was mentioned in connection with this (one outside the Rugby Club, one at Glen View, and two outside the Welfare Hall).

Members to check the condition of the barrels, with a view to possibly planting them with bulbs or similar later in the year. C'Ilr Michelle Lewis suggested the possibility of opening up further flower beds for this season. However, the Clerk pointed out that, as flowers had been ordered by P.C.C. in December, it would be too late to arrange this for the 2025 season.

Discussion of problem with e-scooters in public places in community

C'Ilr Rita Lawler had experienced some problems with e-scooter users on pavements in the community. However, the problem had not recurred. Matter to be removed from the agenda for future meetings.

Discussion of clarifying division of responsibility between Community Council and Welfare Committee

C'Ilr Michelle Lewis raised concerns about confusion in the community over the respective roles and responsibilities of the Welfare Committee and the community council. She felt that postings on the respective Facebook pages for both organisations might be contributing to this confusion. C'Ilr Cole did not recognize any serious problem, and felt that posting information relevant to the community on either or both pages could only be a good thing. The matter of confusion over responsibility for Welfare Hall bookings was mentioned as a particular problem. C'Ilr Michelle Lewis to put a notice on the community council Facebook page clarifying that the community council has no responsibility for Welfare Hall bookings or Welfare Committee-related matters.

Any necessary discussion of future community events

C'Ilr John Cole mentioned that a community event to be held around Eastertime would be discussed at the next Welfare Committee meeting. There was also the possibility of considering an event to commemorate VE80 in early May.

Any other business

There was no other business to report.

The meeting was closed at 7-10pm. Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday 12th March 2025.