

## MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7pm at Merlins Bridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Mary Owen, Lisa O'Sullivan, John Cole, Hilliard Studley, Queenie Thomas, Nick Stamp, Alison Palmer, Paul Davies and Janice Morgan. Member of Public also in attendance.

**The Chair:** Cllr John Cole Opened the meeting.

**Apologies:** None. Cllrs Jess Massey & Richard Thomas not in attendance. Resignation letter received from Richard Thomas.

### 1. Minutes of the Septembers Monthly Meeting

After the matters arising elements were rectified to the Minutes by the Chair, they were agreed now to be correct.

*Proposed by Cllr Lisa O'Sullivan and Seconded by Cllr Queenie Thomas*

### 2. Matters Arising

Cllr Queenie Thomas informed the Council that she did attend the St Marks meeting but had forgotten to bring along the notes. Chair rectified this on the Minutes.

Cllr Paul Davies comment that he had brought up a matter that wasn't in the minutes. Cllr Janice Morgan said that she hadn't recalled it being of sufficient substance to be minuted and asked how much of what is said that she has to minute. The Chair comment that he hadn't felt that the matter Cllr Paul Davies had referred to warranted being minuted.

### 3. Correspondence

- Email from audit people. This generated a discussion brought up by Cllr Alison Palmer regarding the Audit 2017/18 which hadn't been paid. Vice Chair Cllr Lisa O'Sullivan explained as Cllr Alison Palmer wasn't present at the last meeting.
- Vice Chair Cllr Lisa O'Sullivan explained that she had written to all applicants we had received for the Clerks position inviting them to attend our meeting.
- Letter received from member of community regarding the hedge on Pembroke Road opposite entrance to Cheese Factory. The Chair Cllr John Cole explained that the offending hedge had been cut back but felt it does need more attention. It was pointed out that the hedge belongs to the new owner of the garage building recently sold and it is believed that the owners are Motec and it is felt that we need to communicate with them to attend to the hedge as it is on their private land.
- Letter from Member of Public regarding criteria required regarding becoming a Councillor. Vice Chair Lisa O'Sullivan has replied and explained this. This prompted a heated discussion on criteria and acceptability. Criteria needs to

be confirmed as different opinions share by Chair Cllr John Cole and other Councillors.

- Proforma received Town and Community Councils on how to fill out remuneration.

4. **Donations** – None

5. **County Councillors Report**

- I. Further discussions on the hedge and also Clay Lanes.
- II. Poor attendance at the Re-cycling Open Day October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- III. PCC off loading toilets, Parks etc – This prompted discussion on the Field at Glen View. The land will be relinquished by MBCC and a discussion commence on what we could do with this land, however there were several different opinions on this, which will need to be clarified.
- IV. Zebra Crossing needs repainting.

6. **Financial Accounts**

- I. No invoices received.
- II. Cllr Alison had mislaid a cheque given to her for re-imbursing, it was agreed to issue a new cheque.
- III. Discussion on obtaining a better account to have our deposit monies in. Finance Committee will look into this. Cllr Nick Stamp said that we must use due diligence and look to getting a better rate.
- IV. Discussion on when and how often the Finance Committee were meeting.

7. **One Voice Wales**

- I. Cllr. Nick Stamp gave figures on the continual growth of OVW.
- II. Cllr. Queenie Thomas wanted to see their audit. It was pointed out by Cllrs Paul Davies and Nick Stamp that she can do this online whenever she wishes.
- III. Councillors competence – Councillors two thirds elected and one third co-opted.
- IV. Discussion on remuneration of £150 to be awarded to Councillors yearly. Cllr Paul Davies said that this is an Honorarium payment which is non-taxable, however it was felt that this was probably not the case and it may also have impact on some Councillors incomes and this may mean they might have to step down. There was talk about each Councillor being able to give the monies to Charity and this might alleviate the impact on Councillors earnings. This will need to be looked into.
- V. Hwyl Dda update – Major Trauma will be in Carmarthen. With regards to the New Hospital, No site has been designated, No Funding designated. No Hospital development for 10 years.
- VI. Ambulance recovery helicopter service – Funding.
- VII. Community Connectors – Paid Post for Communities

## **8. Planning**

- I. Cllr Nick Stamp reported Nothing for MBCC other than that the Development plan is still ongoing.
- II. Cllr Nick Stamp will look into development of the field at Glen View

## **9. Cllrs Representing MBCC**

Nothing for St Marks School from Cllr Queenie Thomas or from Cllr Alison Palmer for Welfare.

## **10. Training**

Nothing

## **11. Matters of Urgency**

Cllr John Cole informed the Council that it wasn't the battery in the De-Fib but the Pads that need replacing and these would need to be attended to immediately. It was agreed that this should be attended to as soon as possible. ***Proposed by Cllr Paul Davies Seconded by Cllr Mary Owen.***

## **12. Further discussions on Council going forward.**

- I. MBCC to work more closely with Welfare. Cllr Lisa O'Sullivan will attend Welfare Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 6pm.
- II. Cllr Mary Owen made a request that we get an Accountancy Company to do our outstanding VAT return. She pointed out that we have saved a lot of monies since we haven't had a Clerk, so have sufficient monies to dedicate to this. It was decided that the Financial Committee will seek out an appropriate Accountants for this purpose. ***Proposed by Cllr Mary Owen seconded by Cllr Janice Morgan.***
- III. It was pointed out that there is to be a Halloween Disco held at the Village Hall, organised by the Welfare Committee for the young and later in the evening for older members of the Community. MBCC to donate £50 to this event. Agreed by the Council. ***Proposed by Cllr Paul Davies and Seconded by Cllr Mary Owen.***

## **13. Matters for Next Agenda**

C137 code regarding spending

Football Club building – Further monies to be given

Update on meeting with Welfare Committee

Public Meeting closed 8.30pm

## **14. Vacancy for Clerk and Councillors**

14 Applications received. It was generally Agreed that Cllrs Mary Owen, Queenie Thomas and Paul Davies should be elected to go through the applications, do the interviews and bring back to the Council their recommendation. They are to meet next Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 4.15pm to commence this.

Meeting ended 9pm

Next Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Signed..... Dated .....