

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 13th October 2021 at 7pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform

Present: Cllrs. John Cole, Alison Palmer, Mary Owen, Paul Davies, Nick Stamp, Hilliard Studley, Lisa O'Sullivan; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies

C'llrs. None.

Declaration of known interests

None. C'llr John Cole informed Members that he had been granted a dispensation by the P.C.C. Standards Committee to speak (but not vote) in any discussions concerning the Welfare Committee.

Approval of minutes of June 2021 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Lisa O'Sullivan).

Matters arising

There were no matters arising to discuss.

Plans

Applications

21/0493/PA - Proposed single storey extension (inc. demolition of existing garage); Site Address: 13, Catherine's Gate, MERLIN'S BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1NB – Members noted that a decision had now been made on this application.

21/0625/PA - Use of distillery to allow for ancillary sales / tasting area (partly in retrospect); Site Address: Cinnamon Grove, Old Hakin Road, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XG – No objections.

Consents issued

20/0486/PA - Rear extension to dwelling (partially in retrospect)
Site Address: Rose Cottage, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XL

20/1037/PA - Replacement of existing garage / workshop to a single storey garage / workshop; Site Address: Glenside, 5, Haylett Lane, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1JP

21/0493/PA - Proposed single storey extension (inc. demolition of existing garage); Site Address: 13, Catherine's Gate, MERLIN'S BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1NB

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Invitation to make nomination for Additional Community Governor at Mary Immaculate School – noted.
- 2) The V.C. Gallery – Request for financial assistance – Members did not resolve to make any donation at this time.
- 3) Kids' Cancer Charity – Request for financial assistance - Members did not resolve to make any donation at this time.
- 4) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Consultation on remuneration framework for future years – Noted.
- 5) O.V.W. – Information / Guide to participating in Queen's Jubilee, 2022 – noted. Members to advise Clerk if and when an agenda item was required to discuss possible arrangements.
- 6) Welsh Government – Advice on complying with legislation relating to meeting arrangements – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 7) Community Health Council – August newsletter – noted.
- 8) C'llr John Cole – Report on broken panel in bus shelter outside Rugby Club – P.C.C. had been asked to carry out the repair, but nothing had been done. Clerk to chase this up with P.C.C.
- 9) P.C.C. – Notification that refreshing of markings at zebra crossing had been scheduled – Members noted that the work had been done. C'llr John Cole undertook to ask in P.C.C. about the necessary repairs to the orange beacon lights at the crossing, which were not working.

Accounts (to include payments for approval, monthly accounts report, approval of Financial Regulations)

Payments

Clerk's salary and fixed expenses (July – September 2021) : As per contract

H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax for Clerk's salary and fixed expenses) : As per contract

Clerk's incidental expenses, June – August 2021 : £22-28

The above payments had been approved by the Chairman in September, as per the provisions of Para. 16(ii) of the Community Council Standing Orders. Members ratified the payments as paid (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Paul Davies).

Quarterly budget review

The Clerk had circulated this to all Members in advance of the meeting. Members had no comments or queries in relation to the figures.

Clerk to circulate copies of the income / expenditure records to all Members each month, in conjunction with the publication of the monthly meeting agendas.

Approval of financial regulations

Members approved the Financial Regulations as drafted (proposer C'llr Lisa O'Sullivan, seconder C'llr Alison Palmer). Clerk to arrange for these to be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.

Discussion of Community Council grant scheme proposal (tabled by C'llr O'Sullivan)

C'llr Lisa O'Sullivan proposed consideration of a possible grant scheme for the Council. She suggested that such a scheme could involve annual or six-monthly consideration of grant applications. She felt it might facilitate more engagement with outside bodies applying for funding, and could provide the opportunity to impose eligibility criteria for grant applications. She offered to carry out some work on drafting an initial outline for a possible scheme. C'llr Paul Davies offered to assist with this if necessary.

Clerk to investigate the legalities of any such scheme, and seek guidance on how it could be set up. Matter to be placed on November meeting agenda for further discussion.

C'llr Nick Stamp raised issues connected with due diligence, based on previous incidents that had occurred on previous occasions when donations had been made, but not used in the way that had been anticipated. He felt that a scheme such as that being proposed might prevent similar problems from occurring in the future.

County Councillor's report

Potholes. C'llr John Cole mentioned that ongoing problems with potholes on the road outside cheese factory had been reported.

Castlemartin live firing exercise. C'llr John Cole mentioned that he had been invited to a recent firing exercise, which had been an impressive experience.

Discussion of arrangements for filling open council vacancies

Members had been notified of five applicants.

It was resolved to co-opt Mrs. Queenie Thomas (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Mary Owen).

It was resolved to co-opt Mrs. Janice Morgan, notwithstanding that her application had been received in September, after the August 31st deadline stipulated on the notice published (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Mary Owen).

The co-option of Mrs. Michelle Lewis was proposed by C’Ilr John Cole, and seconded by C’Ilr Alison Palmer. C’Ilr Mary Owen supported the resolution. However, C’Ilrs Paul Davies, Lisa O’Sullivan, Nick Stamp and Hilliard Studley declined to support the resolution, which was thereby not passed. C’Ilr Lisa O’Sullivan stated that she was unwilling to vote new Members on given the current animosity existing between Members, as she felt it important that new Members should understand what they were getting into.

No discussion was held concerning the applications submitted by Mr. Ian Lewis and Mrs. Veronica James.

At this point, the Chairman closed the meeting, as she did not feel that the atmosphere in the meeting was conducive to it being satisfactorily continued. The remaining agenda items were left for discussion at a future meeting.

Next meeting

Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed at 8-35pm.