

Merlin's Bridge Community Council
Annual Report 2021-2022

Merlin's Bridge Community Council incorporates the areas surrounding the Pembroke Road and Old Hakin Road areas on the outskirts of Haverfordwest. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August).

Merlin's Bridge has twelve council positions. Eleven are currently filled, as follows :

Alison Palmer (Chairman)
Mary Owen (vice-Chairman)
John Cole
Paul Davies
Veronica James
Ian Lewis
Michelle Lewis
Janice Morgan
Nick Stamp
Hilliard Studley
Queenie Thomas

Peter Horton is Clerk to Merlin's Bridge Community Council and the initial point of contact.
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Financial Information

Income

The Community Council's income is from precept collected via local Council tax. This is £10000 for the 2021/22 financial year.

Expenditure

The Community Council's budget for the 2021/22 financial year was £9725. The following report on anticipated expenditure for the year, and projected expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year, was presented to the January 2022 monthly meeting :

Merlin's Bridge Community Council budget review / 2022/23 precept notes

EXPENDITURE

	<u>Sum</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Surplus /</u>	<u>PROJECTED</u>
	<u>precepted</u>	<u>projected</u>	<u>deficit</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
	<u>For year</u>	<u>for year</u>	<u>for year</u>	<u>FOR 2022/23</u>
Clerk	£3650	£ 3650	-	£ 3850 ⁽¹⁾
Insurance	£ 825	£ 480	£ 345	£ 500
External audit fee	£ 300	£ 600	(£ 300)	£ 300
Christmas trees	£ 700	£ 1385	(£ 685)	£ 700
Donations	£1500	£ 6580	(£5080)	£ 7000 ⁽²⁾
Councillor allowances	£2200	£ 1650	£ 550	£ 1800 ⁽³⁾
Bus shelter maintenance	-	-	-	£ 500 ⁽⁴⁾
Speed activated signage	-	-	-	£ 4500 ⁽⁵⁾
Training	£ 200	-	£200	£ 850 ⁽⁶⁾
Admin expenses	£ 350	£ 350	-	£ 350
I.T. for in-house meetings	-	-	-	£ 500 ⁽⁷⁾
Hall hire	-	-	-	£ 250 ⁽⁸⁾
Election cost	-	-	-	£ 4900
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Totals	£9725	£14695	(£4970)	£26000

NOTES FROM 2022/23 PROJECTED OUTGOINGS COLUMN

- 1) Including a nominal pay increase of £200/year
- 2) Based on current year's donations
- 3) Based on anticipated 12 member allowances @ £150
- 4) Nominal sum for potential maintenance / repair costs
- 5) Provisional sum for one sign
- 6) Provisional sum for £50 each for 12 members, plus £250 for Clerk's training.
- 7) Uncosted provisional sum
- 8) Based on assumed cost in the region of £25/month

SUMMARY OF PROJECTED STANDING OF ACCOUNTS ON 31/03/2022

Balance brought forward to April 1st 2021		: £27167
Total precept income due	: £10000	
Other income received (bank interest / payments)	: £ 86	
Other income received (VAT refund)	: £ 174	
Total anticipated income for year to March 31st 2022	: £10260	£10260
Deduct anticipated expenditure for year		: (£14695)
Therefore, projected available funds on March 31 st 2022		: £22732

Therefore, a precept maintained at the current level of £10000 for the 2022/23 year would produce a projected balance on hand at the end of March 2023 of £6732.

Relationship with the principal council

The Community Council has no ongoing formal charters with Pembrokeshire County Council (the Principal Authority).

Audit

Audit of 2018/19 accounts. These accounts represent the most recently externally audited accounts, and were approved by the Wales Audit Office auditors.

Audit of 2019/20 and 2020/21 accounts. These accounts are still under audit by the Wales Audit Office auditors.

Achievements during the past year

- **Meeting arrangements.** The Council has achieved a successful move to multi-locational meetings, allowing a viable choice for Members and public to either attend meetings in person, or remotely.
- **Donations.** The Council has awarded £8750 in donations to charitable causes, and to support the upkeep and development of the Welfare Hall.
- **Highway safety.** The Council has funded the purchase of a new speed-activated sign, to be placed close to The Rugby Club, Pembroke Road, in order to promote compliance with speed limits within the Village.
- **New members.** Despite the constraints imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has welcomed 5 new members into its ranks. It is anticipated that this will help the Council in further representing the interests of the residents of the Community.

Priorities for the coming year

- Complete installation and commissioning of the new speed-activated sign on the Upper Pembroke Road.
- Seek grant funding for a further speed-activated sign to be located on the Lower Pembroke Road
- Investigate the possibilities for engaging with the Community and wider public via social media.
- Consolidate the move to multi-locational meetings, and facilitate effective public representation in the meetings.

PETER HORTON

CLERK TO MERLIN'S BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL