

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 8th June 2022 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest

Present: Cllrs. John Cole, Mary Owen, Alison Palmer, Ian Lewis, Michelle Lewis; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Jan. Morgan, Veronica James.

Declaration of known interests

C'Ilr John Cole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any potential discussion on matters concerning the Welfare Committee and Hall.

Approval of minutes of 2022 A.G.M.

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr Ian Lewis, seconder C'Ilr Alison Palmer).

Approval of minutes of May 2022 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr John Cole, seconder C'Ilr Michelle Lewis).

Matters arising

Member allowances. C'Ilr Alison Palmer had been contacted by a previous Member concerning alleged non-payment of the Member allowance for the previous year. The minutes from May 2021 were shared, which recorded the Member allowances for 2020/21 and 2021/22 having been paid to all Members who had not waived them.

Parking outside Chip Shop on Pembroke Road. The Clerk had reported this to P.C.C., but nothing had been heard back apart from a holding response. Clerk to chase up P.C.C. for a substantive response. Members decided to await a further response before deciding on further steps. Clerk to write to the chip shop proprietor to express concerns, and invite their suggestions on how to address the issue.

Plans

Applications

22/0173/PA – Erection of garden room and shed; Site Address: Haroldston Cottage, Clay Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1UH – no comments.

22/0176/PA - Alterations and extension; Site Address: Haroldston Cottage, Clay Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1UH – no comments.

Correspondence

01) P.C.C. Monitoring Officer – offer to provide training on Member code of conduct – Clerk to send video round, for Members to view privately. Anything further required could then be considered at the September meeting.

02) DeClare Court – Letter of thanks for donation to their Jubilee event. C'Ilr Alison Palmer to forward their formal receipt to the Clerk.

03) Lynfield residential home – message to C'Ilr Alison Palmer regarding donations, expressing disappointment that nothing had been offered to their residential home – Members felt that as a private business, it fell into a completely different category from either DeClare Court or the local school.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (salary and fixed expenses, April – June 2022)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax for Clerk's salary)	:	As per contract
Clerk (incidental expenses for March – May 2022)	:	£27-11
C'llr Alison Palmer (Member allowance 2022/23)	:	£150-00
C'llr Michelle Lewis (Member allowance 2022/23)	:	£150-00
C'llr Ian Lewis (Member allowance 2022/23)	:	£150-00
C'llr Janice Morgan (Member allowance 2022/23)	:	£150-00
C'llr John Cole (Member allowance 2022/23)	:	£150-00
C'llr Veronica James (Member allowance 2022/23)	:	£150-00

[NOTE – C'llr Mary Owen asked for payment of her allowance to be deferred until the end of the financial year]

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Alison Palmer, seconder C'llr Ian Lewis).

County Councillor's report

Nothing this month.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

Deferred for further discussion in September. C'llr Mary Owen had prepared a poster for Facebook to be formatted by C'llr Michelle Lewis and placed on Facebook. C'llr John Cole suggested arranging a tea and cake event in the Welfare Hall, and invite people to come along and learn more about how the Community Council works.

Discussion of situation with purchase of new speed-activated sign

C'llr John Cole was hopeful that it might be possible to arrange a replacement of the existing sign with the new one. He was due to speak further to the Director of Highways about this. Matter left with C'llr Cole to take forward as possible.

Discussion of possible tree / shrub -planting initiative

C'llrs Mary Owen, Jan. Morgan and John Cole had attended a site meeting with Mr. Alistair Tyrell from P.C.C. Streetcare to discuss the matter. They had outlined what the Community Council would like to do, i.e. plant shrubs and trees on suitable areas of land around the community. Mr. Tyrell had indicated that, providing no highway visibility or underground services were interfered with, an application could be made for any modestly-sized trees, shrubs, etc., wanted. These could be ornamental or fruit trees. He had explained that P.C.C. would need to scan chosen areas for possible underground services. He had also suggested applying to the Woodland Trust for tree packs. He had also explained that M.B.C.C. would need to agree to maintain all planting carried out under this arrangement. There was a need to identify areas on which Members would like to carry out planting, and get back to P.C.C. with this information.

Clerk to contact the Woodland Trust to seek information about tree packs, specifically asking about availability of fruit trees and shrubs. Clerk to produce a reasonably scaled set of plans of the community area and pass them to C'llr Mary Owen for use in recording areas where planting could be carried out. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in September.

Discussion of arrangements for installation of 'Happy to Chat' bench

Members were informed that the bench was currently at the Clerk's house. C'llr John Cole offered to ask someone he knew if he would be willing to fix the bench in place. Members left this with C'llr Cole to action, with all Members to be kept informed of arrangements via the Clerk. This was so that the siting of the bench could be recorded for the Facebook page.

Discussion of maintenance and improvements to cut-through in Woodlands Park

The Clerk had confirmed that the land was unregistered, and therefore the owner could not easily be identified. The path was not recorded as a public right of way on the definitive map, and therefore there was no responsibility on P.C.C. to maintain it. The Clerk had discussed the matter with officers from the P.C.C. Public Rights of Way Department. They had confirmed that the path could be placed on the definitive map if an application was made demonstrating continuous use over a 20 year period. However, even if this was done, it would not confer any responsibility on P.C.C. to maintain or improve it. Members agreed to leave the matter in abeyance, as there was nothing further that could be done to address the matter.

Any other business

Jubilee event on Welfare Field. Members reported that this had gone well, with a reasonable attendance. The disco had been moved indoors when the weather deteriorated.

Next meeting

Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 8-00pm.