

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 6-30pm, at the Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform

Present: Cllrs. Ian Lewis, Veronica James, Mike Dare, Alison Palmer, John Cole, Jan Morgan, Michelle Lewis; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C’llrs Kate Bevan, Craig Reeves

Declaration of known interests

C’llr John Cole noted a personal and prejudicial interest in any discussion concerning the Welfare Committee.

Approval of minutes of February 2023 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C’llr Veronica James, seconder C’llr Michelle Lewis).

Discussion of possible support for Homewatch scheme in community / assistance and advice from Neighbourhood Policing Team

P.C.S.O Gareth Davies of Dyfed-Powys Police was in attendance at the meeting, to deal with any matter of concern, and with the aim of forging closer community links. Members were interested to discuss Neighbourhood Watch / Homewatch schemes, especially in the light of recent occurrences around the community. Gareth Davies mentioned that signage / cameras / fake cameras could be very effective. He offered to attend a public event to be available to discuss these issues. Saturday am on 25th March was settled on, in the Welfare Hall. This to be publicised on Facebook. Members were interested in possibilities for preventative measures that might assist in reducing rh problem. Ring doorbells were mentioned, but may not be affordable by all households. Posters on lampposts were another possibility. Deterrents of all types were regarded as likely to be effective.

Following the discussion, Members thanked P.C.S.O. Gareth Davies for attending the meeting, following which he left.

Matters arising

Fluorescent paint. Members had been unable to source temporary fluorescent paint for use in highlighting dog mess. Clerk to obtain some temporary bright red paint for this purpose.

Community litter bin provision. Members reported that the planned site meeting with P.C.C. officers had yet to materialise. Clerk to chase this up with P.C.C.

P.A.V.S. address to community council meeting. Members were informed that P.A.V.S. had offered to attend a future community council meeting, to talk about their activities, and what they could offer the community council. They had asked how long Members would like their address to be. Members settled on 15 minutes as being an appropriate length of time. Clerk to convey this to C’llr Kate Bevan accordingly.

Community defibrillator. Members were informed that this was not yet back from the repairers. Clerk to chase this up, and also press them for loan of a device temporarily. The Clerk also confirmed that the device was registered on The Circuit national database of defibrillators. C’llr Michelle Lewis raised the matter of the cost of battery purchase for the defibrillator. It was confirmed that the battery, which had just

been replaced, had cost over £300. Other community defibrillators, however, could have replacement batteries costing only around £13 or so. Members thought it worth considering the possibility of replacing the defibrillator with one that didn't have very expensive batteries. They also considered briefly the possible merits of additional defibrillator provision throughout the community. Agenda item to be tabled for April to consider these matters in detail.

Plans

Applications received

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

22/0177/LB - Alterations and extension; Site Address: Haroldston Cottage, Clay Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1UH – No comments.

Correspondence

- 1) Lynnefield – request for replacement cheque – noted.
- 2) Hywel Dda – consultation events notification – noted.
- 3) Independent Remuneration Panel – 2023 report – Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in April. Prior to that, Clerk to email around details of the matters requiring specific consideration by the community council.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (salary January – March 2023)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax on above)	:	As per contract
Clerk (expenses December – February)	:	£41-54
Jan Morgan	:	£ 5-97

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Jan Morgan, seconder C'Ilr Veronica James).

Bank signatories.

Arrangements in hand with Clerk.

County Councillor's report

C'Ilr John Cole reported on the current issue of reductions in private rented properties, due to Welsh Government changes in regulations and legislation, which were causing some pressure on social housing.

Dog-fouling continued to be a perennial problem, and all were encouraged to continue to report incidents to P.C.C. when noticed.

The P.C.C. precept increase for 2023/24 had been confirmed at 7.5%.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

Nothing further to report at present. C'Ilr Jan Morgan undertook to make mention of the vacancies in the next newsletter currently in preparation.

Discussion of arrangements to celebrate coronation of King Charles III

C'Ilr John Cole confirmed that arrangements for entertainment were basically finalised, including bouncy castle, Elvis impersonator, etc. He also mentioned that the Cheese Factory was 'on board' to offer assistance with arrangements.

The exact time of the actual Coronation was yet to be published. C'Ilrs John Cole and Michelle Lewis to confer regarding obtaining prices for a banner to advertise the

event. Regarding decorations, C'llr John Cole confirmed that he had some bunting for use in decorating the event. C'llr Michelle Lewis to obtain quotations for any further bunting, etc., necessary, with this to be in suitable colours.

Members discussed a possible tea party for the elderly residents of the community, to be held at DeClare Court on the Sunday of the Coronation weekend. C'llr Alison Palmer to check on this with them, and ask if they would be happy for village residents to attend.

C'llr Jan Morgan undertook to prepare a notice advertising the event for inclusion in the spring newsletter.

Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues

Clerk to obtain temporary spray paint for use in highlighting dog mess around the community. Members acknowledged that no single measure would eliminate the problem, but that these efforts, including the posters that had been placed around the community, would all contribute to an improvement in the overall situation, as a result of the publicity generated. C'llr Michelle Lewis undertook to place a notice on the Facebook page to draw attention to the subject.

Discussion of proposed Boot Alley boundary wall project, and assistance from Pembs. College with this

P.C.C. had undertaken to clear the encroaching mud / growth from the path sides annually. They had also confirmed that any works undertaken by the community council along the path would need prior P.C.C. Streetcare Department approval. Members were content to see how the clearance went, and monitor the situation from then on. Clerk to respond to P.C.C. accordingly.

Update on Woodland Trust tree order, and possible assistance from Pembs. College Horticultural Department

The Clerk confirmed that the delivery of trees from the Woodland Trust was understood to be in hand, and due imminently. A substantive response from Pembrokeshire College regarding potential assistance with the planting work was also imminent.

Discussion of arrangements for completion of community council asset and financial risk assessments

The Clerk undertook to complete the financial and asset risk assessments.

Discussion of situation with arrangements for community flower beds

P.C.C. had confirmed that arrangements were in hand for the new flower beds, but offered to meet designated Members on site in advance of work to confirm the exact locations. C'llrs John Cole and Jan Morgan offered to meet P.C.C. officers for this purpose. Clerk to convey this to P.C.C., and also forward to C'llrs John Cole and Jan Morgan copies of the plans previously supplied to P.C.C. indicating the proposed flower bed locations.

Discussion of arrangements for spring newsletter

Members were encouraged to consider any entries for the newsletter and pass these to C'llr Jan Morgan for inclusion.

Members agreed for C'llr Jan Morgan to arrange the printing as normal (proposer C'llr Ian Lewis, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis). C'llr Jan Morgan to put this in hand, and circulate the exact cost to Members via the Clerk once available. The Clerk mentioned that he had been passed some good offers for a laser printer. Clerk to pass details of these to Members for consideration.

Any other business

Merlin's Bridge Welfare Committee. Agenda item to be tabled for April to receive an update on relevant matters.

Flower beds, trees-planting, etc. Members agreed that these items would be incorporated into the regular monthly agenda item on environmental issues.

Next meeting

Wednesday 12th April 2023, at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 8-10pm.