

MERLINS'S BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2017 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

Present: Cllrs P Davies (Chair), H Studley, Mrs A Palmer, M Thomas, N Stamp
S Brown, J Cole, Mrs S Hughes, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk), Mrs H Cale, Head of St Mark's School.

1. **Apologies:** There were apologies from Mrs Q Thomas
2. **Additional Agenda Items:** One Voice Wales – training needs and update.
3. **Visit by Heather Cale, Head of St Mark's School**

The Chair welcomed Mrs Cale to the meeting who then gave the council an overview of the school and details of various statistics. Currently there are 140 pupils at the school in 5 classes. The school has been subjected to budgetary cuts of approx. 5% per annum. 40% of the children claim free school meals and 40% of the children are classed as having additional learning needs. Estyn is due to carry out their inspection in March. Mrs Cale advised councillors that all School Governors are given a termly report which can be shared with the council by the representative on the council. Mrs Cale gave insight into daily life at the school with attendance by some pupils a problem. Many difficulties are being encountered at the school due to difficulties and deprivation in the community. The school now has a Facebook page which is updated regularly with relevant information.

The Chair asked Mrs Cale when would be convenient to come and see the new touchscreen that the Council had purchased. It was agreed that a visit would be held on Thursday 6th April at 5.00pm at the school. Cllr Studley asked what fundraising events were held at the school. They had a few events through the school but could not rely on huge sums being raised due to the financial constraints of the residents of the village.

Currently approx. ¾ of the roof had now been mended and further funding was hoping to be secured. The school was also hoping to purchase a strip of land adjacent to the school with negotiations currently taking place. Mrs Cale advised that they were hoping to improve the outside areas at the school including fencing/garden beds etc. and would be looking for volunteers to help accomplish these works.

The Chair thanked Mrs Cale for attending.

4. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. Proposed by J Cole and seconded by Mrs S Hughes.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - i. **Telegraph Poles:** the issue was raised again. Cllr Thomas was advised again that if there was enough space for a wheelchair to pass by then there was nothing to be done.

- ii. **Sewage Smells** – the County Councillor advised that works had now been carried out at the treatment works and odour control was now in place. Cllrs were urged to monitor the situation over the next few weeks and report back at the next meeting.
- iii. **Parking Issues** – Cllr Cole advised that vehicles parked within 30 feet of a junction would be construed as causing an obstruction and therefore breaking traffic regulations. Any breaches should be reported to Pembrokeshire County Council and photographic evidence was important. Residents voicing concerns should write to the Community Council in the first instance.

6. OVW/Training Modules

The Chair gave an update on the last meeting held including boilers for the elderly and Code of Conduct which had gone to PALC to finalise before then going to PCC.

Training Modules had been circulated to all members. It was felt important that all councillors should attend Module 1 – The Council, Module 2 – The Councillor and Module 9 – Code of Conduct. Others of note included Community Engagement and the Council as an Employer.

7. Correspondence

- Paul Sartori – letter of request for donation. After consideration, it was agreed to donate the sum of £100.00.
- Welsh Government – Paper consultation on Reforming Local Government – noted.
- Newgale Road – notification of open sessions at the Duke of Edinburgh pub – noted.
- Welsh Government – Consultation Document – School Governance Regulatory Framework in Wales – noted.
- Burton Community Council – Letter in relation to traffic problems at Merlin’s Bridge roundabout and asking for MBCC to send a letter to the Road Trunk Agency. Noted

8. Donations: Paul Sartori - £100.00

9. Planning

No planning issues this month.

10. County Councillor’s Report

Update on odour at sewage works. WAG has provided £70k towards bus network in community.

11. Financial

R Johnson	Clerk’s Salary	£140.80
HMRC	Clerk’s NI and Income Tax	£35.20
OVW	Membership Fee	£284.00
Paul Sartori	Donation	£100.00

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

12. Defibrillators

The clerk provided two prices for defibrillators which come with heated boxes for community use. These were £1249.00 and £1299 respectively. It was agreed that before proceeding with a purchase, it would be discussed at the next Welfare Committee meeting to see if that was something they would consider beneficial. If they were happy, all were in favour of going ahead and purchasing a defibrillator for the community.

13. Any Other Business

- i. Cllr Brown advised the council that a draft agreement was now being looked at by solicitors in relation to the football club and was progressing forward. The Welfare Committee was also planning to hold events on 15th April and a party in the park on 26th August 2017. The Regeneration Officer had also advised the Welfare Committee that there was funding available under the S106 agreement for improvements to the play park and also for improvements to the hall.
- ii. Cllr Thomas queried why there needed to be 3 lights on at the tip during the night – it was believed to be a security measure.
- iii. Cllr Stamp advised that the parking issue on Pembroke Road appeared to be improving. He did also report that a battery had been stolen from outside his property.
- iv. The clerk made a request to move the June meeting forward by one week to the 7th June 2017. Cllr Cole would check to see if the hall was available on that date.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Chair:.....Signature

Date:.....