

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2017 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

Present: Cllrs Hilliard Studley (Chair), Mrs Alison Palmer, Mrs Sylvia Hughes, John Cole, Paul Davies, Ms Janice Morgan, Grant Lewis, Mrs Mary Owen, Allan Thomas, Nick Stamp and Mrs R Johnson (Clerk).

1. Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Queen Thomas and Richard Thomas sent apologies.

2. Additional Agenda Items:

- OVW Membership
- Boundary Committee Meeting
- Charter

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting – There was one small amendment to the representative for OVW – minutes should read that Cllr Nick Stamp was proposed by Cllr Davies which was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Palmer. Also – Welfare Committee Update – corrected to show that only the bingo evening brought in funds, as the other events were not fund raisers. Once these amendments had been made the minutes of the July meeting were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising:

- Grass cutting – PCC had advised that verges etc would be cut as part of their cyclical works. Cllr Cole advised that the workmen were now aware of certain neglected areas that needed to be cut back so these would hopefully now be included in any further cutting.
- Manhole Cover, Pembroke Road – this had been reported but had not been fixed. Clerk to chase this up.
- Code of Conduct Training – session to be held at Picton Centre 15.9.17 at 6.00pm.
- Defibrillator – this had now been installed on the outer wall of the Village Hall. A lock with a code was going to be put on with the code being given to Ambulance Service in case of 999 call.
- Bus Shelter – letter received from PCC advising that there was no funding at present for bus shelters but if the community council wished to purchase one it would be in the region of £2750.00. Certain criteria would need to be met re placement etc before installation. Cllr Cole agreed to arrange a site meeting with Owen Roberts of PCC to see where best to site any shelter.

5. Correspondence:

- OVW – Area Committee meeting 26.9.17.
- Boundary Commission – Review of local arrangements – consultation period ends 22.10.17
- Kids Cancer Charity – letter of thanks for donation made (£25.00).
- Hywel Dda – Community Health Council – re services fit for the future – consultation period ending 29.9.17.
- WAG – Safer Communities Roadshow – 15.9.17 10.30am-1.00pm, Carmarthen.
- NALC – Reform of Data Protection Legislation – General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – Clerk to get more information and list on agenda for October.

- Local Development Plan, PCC – 19.9.17 10.00am -2.00pm. Cllrs Davies, Mrs Palmer and Ms Morgan to attend.

6. Donations

No donations for consideration this month.

7. Planning

There were no planning issues for consideration.

8. County Councillor's Report

Nothing to report in the village itself. Black bin bags potentially to go to 3 weekly collections. Lots of statutory requirements being looked at in relation to libraries etc. Concerns raised over speeding near the school; it was felt that speed bumps may help the situation and calm drivers' speed down.

9. Financial

R Johnson – salary for July/Aug Pay/Holiday Pay/Expenses	£400.09
HMRC – Income Tax and NI for Clerk	£86.11

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

Current Account Balance at end August 2017	£18971.00
Deposit Account Balance at end June 2017	£8060.00

The clerk had received the Annual Return for accounts y/e 31.3.17 back from the auditors. The accounts had been signed off with two small comments to be noted, i.e. one box unticked inadvertently and a request for bank statement for the deposit account up to 31.3.17.

10. Whiteboard at St Mark's School

Cllr Mrs Thomas had sent a note to the council – a date had been fixed with the Head Teacher of St Mark's some months ago but no councillors had turned up for the appointment and it had been after school, meaning children had also been kept back. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the head teacher apologising for this oversight and asking if a new date could be fixed during daytime when convenient for the school and then advise councillors who were able to attend during the day to go and see the new whiteboard.

11. Traffic Calming St Issell's Avenue

There was some discussion amongst councillors over the persistent problem of speeding through St Issell's Avenue. Some suggestions were flashing speed signs or speed bumps near the school. Cllr Cole agreed to speak to the Highways Department about getting speed bumps installed and also to speak about the rest of St Issell's Avenue as some form of calming is required.

12. One Voice Wales Membership

Cllr Cole voiced his concern over OVW and questioned whether the council needed to belong to this organisation. It was mentioned that the only other option in Pembrokeshire is PALC but this has now become a very small group whereas OVW has membership across Wales. OVW provides services to councils not available elsewhere, e.g employee issues etc. Cllr Davies voiced his concerns that councillors in general were not attending as many meetings as he felt they should. Cllr Cole felt he attended all that were pertinent to

him and this council. There was some heated debate about the subject and the clerk did raise the issue that as a clerk she was unable to get any assistance from OVW when she asked them earlier in the year as she was an employee and advice was only given to the Chair/Council direct. She did raise the issue of membership of SALC which gives assistance/guidance to clerks and advised that 90% of councils pay for their clerk's membership for this organisation and felt that it would be of use to her and provide her with some back up/guidance source which she didn't have earlier in the year in relation to pay issues. Cllr Davies challenged the clerk about this and when the clerk advised members that she would contact SALC to get more information about membership was told by Cllr Davies that '*you are paid to do what we tell you to do*'. The clerk voiced her objections to Cllr Davies' comments. Heated debate ensued and Cllr Mrs Owen then left the meeting as she was unhappy with the unpleasant tone of the meeting. The Clerk followed Cllr Mrs Owen outside to apologise for any unpleasantness.

13. Boundaries

Once boundaries have been sorted out for the Community Councils, the next line of discussion will be in relation to Community Councils.

14. AOB

- Cllr Mrs Palmer asked about the Carols around the tree – proposed date was 6th December – clerk to contact John Welsby/School to liaise a date.
- Cllr Davies – mentioned a training session by OVW on 29.11.17 – Council as an Employer at Picton Centre. He felt it may be worthwhile for the Chair/Vice Chair to attend.
- Cllr Thomas mentioned Woodlands Park and overgrown brambles which are in need of cutting back near the walkway. Cllr Cole agreed to look into this.
- Cllr Davies – mentioned the flower barrels which had been neglected and asked if they could be replanted or taken away. Agenda item for October.
- Christmas Event Planning – Agenda item for October.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th October 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....