

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 7.00pm in the
Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge**

Present: Cllrs Hilliard Studley (Chair), Mary Owen, Paul Davies, Janice Morgan, Alison Palmer, Jessica Massey, John Cole, Richard Thomas.

1. Apologies: Cllr Nick Stamp, Queenie Thomas and Sylvia Hughes

2. Additional Agenda Items:

57-59 St Issell's Avenue Planning Application

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr Janice Morgan and seconded by Cllr Alison Palmer

4. Matters Arising:

- Christmas Tree – no response yet – awaiting a quote from garden centre on costs.
- Notice Boards – Cllr Cole advised that the notice board had now been removed from the cobbler's shop and he was organising a new board for the village hall.

5. Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 21st March 2018 – any amendments?

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair – proposed by Cllr Janice Morgan and seconded by Cllr Alison Palmer

6. Matters arising from Special Meeting:

There were no matters arising.

7. 57-59 St Issell's Avenue Planning Application

Councillors were advised that there had been a site meeting today (11th April). Six MBCC members had attended together with 4 representatives from Pembrokeshire County Council who were on site for approximately 1 hour. Planning Meeting at PCC was scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Tuesday 17th April. Cllr Davies suggested that a letter be written citing relevant points of objection to be brought to the planning meeting on behalf of MBCC by Cllr Cole. Main points of objection were:

- Category status of application to be changed to preclude residents subject to substance and alcohol abuse.
- Focus to be made on traffic issues
- Timescales – information sent out to MBCC in relation to meetings was not realistic. MBCC were not able to respond in the timeframe provided.

Cllr Davies offered to draft the letter which would be given to Cllr Cole to present to the Planning Meeting. Cllr Davies was to email this letter to all members of the council prior to it being presented before the Planning Committee by Cllrs John Cole. There were also concerns regarding the lifting of the covenant on these properties and that it may set a precedent for future developments in the vicinity.

The Clerk had received an email and had a telephone conversation with PC 63 Eve Rees of Dyfed Powys Police about a reported hate crime in relation to this planning application. The Clerk had advised PC Rees that as an employee she was unable to make any decisions on behalf of the council and would take the email to the April meeting. The police office was asking if an apology could be made to the complainant. Cllr Davies suggested that a meeting with PC Rees should be arranged where MBCC can discuss the matter and make a full response to these allegations. It was also suggested that Lisa O'Sullivan be invited to this meeting. It was agreed that the clerk would contact PC Rees to arrange a convenient date and communicate with councillors to arrange a suitable meeting time/place.

8. Correspondence:

- Cruse Bereavement – letter of thanks for donation made in the sum of £25.00 – noted.
- PCC – Memorandum regarding Child Burial/Cremation Fees – noted.
- OVW – acknowledgement of renewal of annual membership.
- PCC – Re Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant briefing on 16th May 2018 in County Hall. Cllr John Cole and Cllr Grant Lewis to attend 6-8 session and Cllr Jess Massey and Cllr Janice Morgan to attend 2-4 session.
- PCC – Local Development Plan – Call for LDP Candidate Sites. Poster enclosed for display. Closing date for proposals – 14th June 2018.

9. Donations:

None for consideration this month.

10. Planning

Permission granted – 17-1175/PA – Old Printing Works, Old Hakin Road. Entrance canopy/disabled access.

11. County Councillor's Report

No report this month.

12. Financial

There were no bills for payment this month.

Current account balance	£19069.54
Deposit account balance	£8063.92

The clerk had prepare a draft set of accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2018 for consideration by 3 members of the council prior to presentation at the AGM. These were given to Cllrs John Cole, Alison Palmer and Mary Owen. If there were any queries could the clerk please be notified before the end of April so any amendments can be corrected by the AGM.

13. Clerk's Contract of Employment

The clerk's contract was discussed. It had been re-drawn to include various legal entitlements such as holiday and sick pay and agreed by the council in April 2017. Some minor issues were:

- Clerk's name not cited.
- Commencement date not included.
- Continuous service query.

Cllr Davies queried the pay rate and scale point. This scale point had been agreed by the community council in 2017 against NALC's recognised and recommended pay scales for clerks. Annual pay rates are published by NALC to be used to set clerks' salaries – this is standard practice across community councils. There was some query over whether there should be a salary/scale review and possibly be benchmarked against other clerks' terms and conditions. The Chair and Vice Chair agreed to look at the contract. NALC's scales of pay to be reviewed. Clerk to have annual appraisal with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Cllr Mary Owen on a date to be fixed.

14. AOB

- June Meeting – the clerk made a request to move the meeting in June one week as she would be on annual leave the week it was due to take place (13th). It was agreed that the June meeting would be held on 20th June.
- Cllr Jess Massey advised that on Monday 23rd April there would be a CAMEO session in the village hall from 1-3pm. Crafts, games etc. All welcome.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

The AGM followed by the monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Signed:..... Chair

Dated:.....