

## MERLIN'S BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

**Present:** Cllrs Mary Owen (Chair), Hilliard Studley, Queenie Thomas, Janice Morgan, Lisa O'Sullivan, Paul Davies, Alison Palmer, John Cole, Nick Stamp, Rachel Johnson (Clerk)

**1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Richard Thomas

#### **2. Minutes of June Monthly Meeting**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

- I. Cllr Stamp queried the lack of AOB in the June minutes. Cllr Stamp was reminded that the agenda format had been altered to exclude AOB. Cllr Stamp felt that this precluded any issues being brought before the council which were not on the agenda. Councillors were reminded that AOB could be used to bring information to the council but not for any issues that required a decision to be made as this was not lawful. Any items that required any decisions to be made should either be requested to be listed on the agenda or be put on the next month's agenda for discussion. If the matter was extremely urgent, a special meeting would have to be called to discuss the item under discussion. It was agreed that forthwith the agenda would include an agenda item under the heading 'Matters of Urgency'.
- II. Cllr Davies queried the payment to Ashmole's at the June meeting which had been agreed for payment. Cllr Davies also asked who had signed the cheque for this payment and he was advised that he, as a signatory, had signed the cheque. After discussion, it was agreed that no further bills for payment would be paid by the council for Ashmole Accountants.
- III. Defibrillators – Cllr Cole was hopeful that a representative would be available at next month's meeting.
- IV. Notice Boards – Cllr Cole advised that he had a quote for £700.00 for two notice boards. These boards would need legs and it was agreed that Cllr Cole would proceed with the purchase of the two notice boards and arrange for the legs to be fabricated. Proposed: Cllr P Davies, seconded by Cllr H Studley.
- V. Councillor Attendance – it had been noted that some councillors had been frequently absent from meetings. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the councillors concerned to ask if they were still wishing to stay on the council.
- VI. Sylvia Hughes – the council was advised that Mrs Hughes was still not very well and would not be up to a presentation. She had received a fruit basket from the council.

It was suggested that a presentation letter be sourced to thank Mrs Hughes for all the hard work that she had done for the council over the years. Cllr Mary Owen and the Clerk to progress with this.

#### **4. Minutes of the September Meeting**

The minutes of the September meeting were amended to show Cllr Jan Morgan as an apology. Following this they were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

#### **5. Matters Arising from September Meeting**

- a. Laptop – the council was advised that a new laptop had been purchased which was under the allotted £400.00 budget. However, to get the laptop fully functional software, installation and new bag were purchased taking the total to £573.04. Cllr Cole suggested that he was willing to purchase the old laptop for the sum of £50.00 for his own personal use. This was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Lisa O’Sullivan and seconded by Cllr Hilliard Studley. All in favour.
- b. Network Rail – a meeting for the village regarding proposed works was due to be held in December.

#### **6. Correspondence**

- i. Hywel Dda – update on ‘Big Change’
- ii. St Mark’s School – a newsletter from the school was read out advising of progress and giving information on various groups and asking for volunteers. Harvest Service was due to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- iii. Welfare Committee – a letter was read out from the Welfare Committee advising that they were now in a position to go ahead with building works for the proposed change facilities etc and asking if the council would release the £15k that had been pledged. Cllr Q Thomas queried where the quotes were from the 3 building firms. The clerk produced the minuted quotes from the February 2018 meeting. Cllr Stamp felt that a separate bank account should be created for this build with at least one signatory coming from MBCC since a large amount of money was being donated by this council which would serve as a protection.  
The council also felt that a ‘Letter of Intent’ was a necessity from the Football Club. It was agreed that Cllr Cole would look into getting a Letter of Intent from the Football Club and also into getting a new bank account set up.

#### **7. Planning**

Applications

18/0686/PA – Erection of new H Pole

18/0578/PA – Waste Treatment Works

There were no objections to the above applications.

**8. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Cole updated members on several items including St Mark's School and the scraping of Clay Lanes.

**9. Financial Accounts**

Current Account balance: £22459.24

Auditors Report – following the submission of the accounts for Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 the clerk advised that the Auditors had signed off the accounts for this period. They had included some advisory notes including dates when notices should be displayed, matters relating to the council's internal auditor and commented on the reserves currently held by the council which were presently at 1.15 times the council's precept. Cllr Davies requested a copy of the Auditors Report for the Financial Committee's records.

Payments:

R Johnson – salary (included backdated to 1.4.18)	£182.88
HMRC	£45.72
Clerk's expenses (telephone/flowers/mileage)	£49.94

Cllr Davies queried why the clerk was claiming back pay to 1.4.18. The clerk advised that her contract of employment states that she is on SCP18 and as such following the usual annual NALC negotiations, SCP18 had risen by 0.45p per hour and so the clerk was entitled to this payment. Cllr Stamp and Cllr Davies both voiced their disagreement with this. At this point, the Clerk advised the meeting that she would be leaving the meeting as she did not feel that the council was exercising its Duty of Care towards her by allowing this unpleasant behaviour by councillors to continue and that she was not prepared to tolerate Cllr Davies' and Cllr Stamp's rude and unpleasant manner towards her any further. The clerk left the meeting at this point.

Following this, the Chair stopped the meeting and the meeting closed at 8.15pm

**Signed:**.....

**Date:**.....