

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 14th May 2014 at The Village Hall, Merlins Bridge

Present: Cllr P Davies (Chairman), Cllr H Studley, Cllr J Cole, Cllr S Hartley, Cllr Mrs A Hartley, Cllr Mrs Q Thomas, Cllr Mrs M Jakeway, Cllr S Brown, Cllr M Thomas, Cllr Mrs A Palmer, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk), Mrs M Baron (Member of Public)

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllrs Mrs S Hughes and N Stamp

2. Additional Agenda Items – Not additional items were requested.

3. Minutes of the last meeting – The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the chairman. Proposed by Cllr S Brown and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Hartley.

4. Matters Arising

- Flower Troughs – it was confirmed that PCC had given permission to install the troughs.
- Councillor Vacancy – After further consideration, Cllr Mrs Palmer had decided to continue in her role as community councillor.
- Black Bin Bags – the bags had been spotted outside again on the pavement. The Chairman had spoken to the County Councillor who had asked someone to go and investigate.
- Query over payments to councillors – The clerk had contacted Laurence Harding for advice on whether payment for reimbursement could be paid directly to a councillor. He responded that so long as the goods purchased had been agreed by the council, were handed over to the possession of the council and appropriate receipts were produced, then it was perfectly acceptable for a councillor to be reimbursed by cheque.
- Employee Allowance – the clerk had checked but community/parish councils are not eligible for this allowance.

5. Correspondence

- One Voice Wales – details of forthcoming training courses.
- First Milk – Simon Matthews had responded to the clerk’s email giving details of the works currently ongoing at the plant. These were works to provide a walkway beneath the railway to allow safe passage. He also advised that he would be pleased to carry out a site tour. Councillors agreed on 24th July if possible. Clerk to contact Mr Matthews to sort out the site visit.
- Welsh Assembly – Consultation Document on Local Government Measures 2009.
- Information Commissions Office – information re Data Protection.
- Proposed Merger of Mid & West Fire – outlining proposed merger in 2016 and request for concerns to be raised. Clerk to contact County Councillor.
- Welsh Assembly – Governance of Small Bodies – information update.
- Paul Davies AM – response to the letter sent to him by the clerk in relation to the proposed reduction in services at Withybush Hospital. Clerk to write to David Cameron voicing the concerns of the community council.

6. Donations

There were donations this month.

7. County Councillor’s Report

The county councillor gave details of various issues including proposals that PCC may amalgamate with Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire CC and the various cost implications involved.

Clerk to chase up on the outstanding issues including Fernhill bollards, street lights.

8. Planning

There were no applications for consideration.

9. Accounts for Payment

HMRC – Clerk’s income tax	£35.20
Mrs R Johnson – Clerk’s salary	£140.80
Zurich Insurance	£677.25
Ashmole – Accountant’s Fees for 2013 & 2014	£120.00

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

The clerk was scheduled for a pay increment, but it was agreed that the salary would remain the same to compensate for the payment made to the Accountants.

14. Any other Business

- Cllr Mrs Palmer raised the issue of a pothole at the bottom of Merlins Bridge and agreed to ring PCC to report it.
- Cllr Cole advised that there was also a pothole at the bottom of St Thomas.

15. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th June 2014 at the Village Hall, Merlins Bridge.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....