

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2014 at the Village Hall, Merlins Bridge

Present: Cllrs P Davies (Chairman), Mrs S Hughes, J Cole, N Stamp, S Brown, M Thomas, Mrs A Palmer, Mrs Q Thomas, H Studley, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk),

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllrs S Hartley and Mrs A Hartley. Cllr Mrs Jakeway was not present – she had advised Cllr Mrs Palmer that she would not be present, but no apology had been sent directly to the clerk.

2. Additional Agenda Items – One Voice Wales and Village Odour were added to the agenda for discussion.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the last meeting were amended to show that Cllr J Cole was in fact present at the last meeting. Following this amendment, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the chairman. Proposed Cllr M Thomas, seconded Cllr Mrs S Hughes.

4. Matters Arising :

i. Street lights – Cllr Studley advised that one light outside number 14 St Issell's Avenue was not working. Clerk to report matter to the County Councillor for progress.

ii. Phone Kiosk – The chairman advised that BT was not willing to repair the phone box again. The chairman was asked to make a request to have the phone box removed as it was not safe in its current state.

5. Correspondence

- PCC – Budget Consultation Session – noted.

- First Milk – the site visit had now been re-arranged for Wednesday 24th September at 6.00pm. Mr Simon Matthews had requested names of attendees and what councilors wished to see from the visit. The clerk agreed to email a list of attendees to Mr Matthews and advise that mainly councilors wished to see how the plant operated but they also wished to look at the layout of the new tunnel/underpass.

- Wales Audit Office – letter from the WAO advising that reserves being held were to be redistributed amongst all community councils resulting in each council receiving £30.00. Clerk to fill in form and return to the WAO.
- Pembrokeshire Housing – Annual Report received for circulation. Noted.
- Council Audit – the clerk had received the annual return and additional report from the council auditors. The auditor had raised one issue, namely the Asset Register. They advised that it would be good practice to list the assets held by the council, including the details of purchase date, purchase amount and where the assets are held. The report was noted. The Annual Return was then signed by the chairman and the clerk. Clerk to return the form to the auditors.
- Merlins Bridge Welfare Committee – an email had been received by the clerk advising the council that the hall would now incur a charge of £10.00 per hour. It was agreed to pay the Welfare Committee for 2 hours per month with the exception of July and August – therefore 10 months in advance at a rate of £20.00 per month – total £200.00 per annum. Proposed by Cllr J Cole and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Hughes.

6. Donations – A request had been received from the Welfare Committee asking for a donation towards the painting of the outside of the Village Hall. Cllr Cole felt that the council should wait until the hall had been painted before considering a donation. Cllr Studley proposed a donation of £150.00 which was seconded by Cllr S Brown. The matter was put to the vote which resulted in 2 for and 3 against. Therefore the resolution was not carried. It was agreed that the clerk would respond to the Welfare Committee advising them that at this time no donation would be made.

7. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor had submitted a report for the month which included the following;

- Recycling – details were given about the Local Authority's performance in relation to recycling in the county.
- Black Bin Bag Collection – the county councillor advised that overall the fortnightly bin collections were now running smoothly.

Councillors asked if the County Councillor could provide any updates on matters pertaining to Merlins Bridge, including planning applications, some of which are not being forwarded on to the clerk. A request was to invite the County Councillor to the monthly meetings.

8. Planning Application

Application:

14/0399/PA – 1 Tudor Gardens – Cllr J Cole declared an interest in this application. There were no objections by councilors to this application.

Permissions:

14/0246/PA – The Warehouse, Old Hakin Road

14/0291/PA – 26 St Issell's Avenue

Variation:

14/0151/PA – Land adj. to Jewsons, Old Hakin Road – noted

Some councilors voiced concerns that they had not seen the application received by the council during the summer break. The clerk had emailed the majority of councillors who were on email, and no objections had been raised. However, in order to ensure all councillors are aware of any applications, during future summer breaks, the clerk will send out a written advice to councillors not having email, so that they are aware of all applications.

9. Accounts

HMRC – income tax and NI contributions	£70.40
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R Johnson – Salary (June/July/Aug)	£281.60
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Merlins Bridge Welfare Committee (hall rent Sept 14 to June 15)	£200.00
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It was agreed that the above be paid in full

10. Withybush Hospital

The chairman advised the council that the new Renal Unit at Withybush Hospital is due to be opened by the end of September. He also gave an overview of the presentation made by Hywel Dda in relation to the closures of units at Withybush and the move to Carmarthen. There had already been a serious case involving a mother and baby and councillors voiced their concerns that there surely would be more such incidents.

11. November Remembrance Service

Cllr Mrs Hughes advised the council that there was a new head teacher at St Marks, Rev Heather Kale. She asked if the Rev Kale could be advised in good time what would be needed from the school in relation to the forthcoming service in November. After discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- Clerk agreed to write to the head teacher advising of what would be needed.
- Clerk to contact Brawdy and ask if it would be possible to have a representation at our service and also, if they would be able to provide either a bugler or a trumpeter to play the Last Post.
- A flier should be put out to local residents to advise of the service to encourage attendance.
- A notice to be put in the local press asking for any information from families about those who lost their lives in the Great War.
- Investigate the possibility of getting a bigger wreath this year.

12. Village Odour

Cllr Mrs Q Thomas voiced her concerns over the pungent odour in the village over the past couple of weeks. There had been an unplanned shutdown at First Milk, so this may have contributed to this. Clerk to email both Simon Matthews of First Milk and the county councillor for any information.

13. One Voice Wales

The chairman advised that he had been elected as vice-chair for One Voice Wales. Details were circulated of forthcoming training sessions including Charing Skills (13th Nov) and Understanding the Law (21st October).

14. Any Other Business

- Cllr Studley advised councilors that the Freystrop cemetery gate was being left open and people leaving rubbish lying about. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Freystrop CC voicing the concerns raised.

15. Date of the Next Meeting – the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated:.....