

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2014 at the Village Hall, Merlins Bridge

Present: Cllrs P Davies (Chairman), Mr S Hartley, Mrs A Hartley, J Cole, S Brown, M Thomas, Mrs A Palmer, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk), Mr J Bergouzi (member of public)

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllrs H Studley, Cllr Mrs Q Thomas and Cllr Mrs S Hughes

2. Additional Agenda Items – Councillor Vacancy was added to the agenda.

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

4. Matters Arising:

i. Heol Derwen Sign – clerk to chase up this matter.

ii. Merlins Bridge Juniors – an informal meeting had taken place in relation to the matter of purchasing a shower block for the Juniors. It was agreed that more information was required before progressing. But it was felt important to progress this matter for the sake of the village.

iii. Remembrance Day Service – following the service, which was attended by around 40 people, it was agreed that the clerk would send out thanks to John Welsby and Rev Cale, the school, trumpeter and Brawdy who sent 4 soldiers to lay a wreath. Thanks were given also to Cllr Mrs Jakeway for her kind hospitality back at De Clare Court following the service.

5. Councillor Vacancy

Mrs Margaret Baron had submitted a response to the advert placed for the vacancy. It was agreed by all to accept Mrs Baron on to the council forthwith.

6. Correspondence

- PCC, Laurence Harding – response to an email sent to him by the clerk following last month's meeting and the vote of no confidence in Cllr Mrs Q Thomas. He advised that even though a vote of no confidence had been passed, this did not mean that a councillor was bound to resign. The matter that had resulted in the solicitor's letter being sent was not council business and could not be dealt with as such.
- Freystrop Cemetery – the chairman of Freystrop had written to the Parc Gwyn asking for a solution to the gate at the cemetery. A response had been received advising that works would take place soon on the gate to make it hang better and not drag along the ground, making it easier to close. Works would also be done to the gate on the main road.
- Welsh Government Trunk Road Review – clerk to complete enclosed questionnaire.
- PCC – Drivers for Life Courses – poster to be displayed.
- Merlins Bridge Welfare Committee – letter of thanks for donation made by the community council towards the new village hall sign.

7. Donations:

- Ben Richards, Trumpeter – it was agreed to send Ben £35.00 in recognition of his services on Remembrance Sunday.
- Poppy Appeal – it was agreed to donate the sum of £50.00 to the Poppy Appeal this year.

8. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor advised members via email that the road surface dressing programme has been finalised and will include St Issell's Avenue, although there are no fixed dates as yet.

Councillors asked if the following could be looked into:

- Christmas Newsletter – submission requested.
- Drain near the Post Office is looking in bad condition – what long term plans does PCC have as it is getting worse.

9. Planning Application

Refusal:

14/0339/PA – 1 Tudor Gardens

Applications:

14/0625/PA – Westering, 109 Pembroke Road – new boundary wall. No objections.

14/0703/PA – Land east of Freemans View – Installation of new pressure reduction site. No objections.

14/0707/PA – Land opposite 1 & 3 Tudor Gardens – Cllr J Cole registered an interest and took no part in the discussion. Mr. J Bergonzi (member of the public) attended and supplied for information his objections to the application. He had submitted this paperwork to the County Council. Following discussion, it was agreed by all present that the application be opposed on the grounds that it would not enhance the area and too large a building, which could potentially be turned into a dwelling.

10. Accounts

HMRC – income tax and NI contributions	£35.20
R Johnson – Salary Oct plus expenses	£161.30
Poppy Appeal – wreath and donation	£50.00
B Richards (Trumpeter)	£35.00
One Voice Wales – course fees	£60.00

It was agreed that the above be paid in full

11. Christmas Trees/Newsletter

Cllr Cole kindly agreed to oversee the purchase and putting up of the trees. Clerk to email the school and John Welsby to advise that the lighting/carols would take place on 2nd December at 6.00pm. The newsletter would be circulated during the 1st weekend of December so anyone wishing to contribute was asked to send items to the clerk by 23rd November. Clerk agreed to arrange for 800 copies to be printed and to purchase paper.

12. Any Other Business

- Cllr S Hartley queried whether the vote of no confidence in Cllr Mrs Q Thomas could be carried over into the role she holds as School Governor. The role will have to be put up for vote at the next AGM.

- Cllr Mrs Baron advised members that there would be a Christmas Fete at De Clare Court on 6th December from 1-4pm.

- Cllr Paul Davies mentioned the current 2 year rule for a chair to stay in position. Cllr Brown felt that there were 2 sides to this. There could be one case for no one wanting to stand thereby leaving the chairman in position for 20 years but also there was a

scenario of one chair enjoying the position and thereby happy to stand for many years. It was agreed to check the constitution. Cllr Brown agreed to check back in the minutes for more information.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th December 2014 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated:.....