

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 9th March 2022 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest

Present: Cllrs. John Cole, Nick Stamp, Alison Palmer, Janice Morgan, Ian Lewis, Michelle Lewis, Queenie Thomas, Veronica James; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llr Mary Owen, Paul Davies, Hilliard Studley.

Declaration of known interests

None

Approval of minutes of February 2022 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C'llr Ian Lewis, seconder C'llr Veronica James).

Matters arising

Visit to VC Gallery. Arrangements in hand with C'llr John Cole, to be arranged following the May election.

Fasthosts. It was confirmed that the subscription had been renewed for the forthcoming year. Some Members had experienced issues with spam and also user interface and accessibility issues. It was left for use of the hosting platform to possibly be re-visited at the next renewal. In the meantime, Clerk to amend spam settings, and Members to notify the Clerk of specific safe email addresses that were being directed into their spam folders, in order for him to register these as safe addresses.

Plans

Planning application consultations received

21/1030/PA - Extension to Merlin's Bridge Boxing Club to provide disabled persons facilities and access; Site Address: Merlin's Bridge Boxing Club, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest – No comments.

Planning consents issued

21/0970/PA - Removal of Condition 2 (Biodiversity Enhancement) and variation of Condition 4 (Opening Hours) of planning permission 21/0625/PA (Use of distillery to allow for ancillary sales / tasting area (partly in retrospect)); Cinnamon Grove Gin Distillery, Cinnamon Grove Farm, Old Hakin Road, Merlins Bridge, SA61 1XG.

Correspondence

01) Ian Butherway – Quotation for installation and electrical connection of new sign – dealt with in agenda item below.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (salary, January – March 2022)	:	As per contract
[NOTE : Members were informed that the pay included backpay for a 1.75% N.J.C. pay award that had now been approved nationally, effective from April 2021]		
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)	:	As per contract
Clerk (incidental expenses, December – February)	:	£ 31-62
[NOTE – the Clerk informed Members that this would be paid out at £31-32, to compensate for a bank error which had resulted in the previous expenses cheque having been paid out at 30p more than written and approved]		
Evolis (speed-activated sign)	:	£2076-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Jan Morgan, seconder C’Ilr Michelle Lewis).

Monthly accounts statement (effective February 28th 2022)

Total expenditure in financial year to February 28 th	:	£16,121-75
Total income in financial year to February 28 th	:	£10,259-98
Funds on hand on February 28 th (current account)	:	£13,295-84
Funds on hand on February 28 th (deposit account)	:	£ 8,075-45

County Councillor’s report

Streetlights. It was confirmed that streetlight bulbs in need of replacement remained on the P.C.C. works list. There had been some issues with newly-fitted LED bulbs failing, which were also being dealt with.

Highways road closure, Pembroke Road. It was confirmed that the closure would not now be needed, as the works were to be carried out using normal traffic management. This was possible due to the pipe-moling techniques being used by British Gas for the pipeline renewals.

Bus shelter on corner of Walters Avenue. Members were informed that the installation of the bus shelter was now completed.

PCC precept for 2022/23. Members were informed that this had now been set at 5%.

Approval of amended standing orders, to reflect requirement to facilitate public representation in Community Council meetings

The amended standing orders were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Michelle Lewis, seconder C’Ilr Alison Palmer). Clerk to arrange for a copy to be signed by the Chairman.

Discussion of situation with purchase of new speed-activated sign

Members discussed the various options available to them. Placement of the sign on the existing pole would involve considerable expenditure on connecting up the electricity supply and paying for this on an ongoing basis. Use of solar power for the sign at this location would involve the need to arrange for a new pole to be put up. Members agreed that an alternative location for a solar-powered sign should be sought. To this end, C’Ilr John Cole to look at a streetlight in the vicinity of the Rugby

Club, and arrange to send a photograph of this to the Clerk. This to be used to seek consent from P.C.C. for placement of the sign on this streetlight. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in April.

Discussion of social media presence for Community Council

C’Ilr Michelle Lewis had circulated round an idea for a Facebook homepage, that could form the basis of a social media presence for the community.

It was agreed by Members that such a platform could serve as a focal point for concerns, comments, etc. in the community. It was agreed that this would need several administrators, and careful monitoring and checks on content.

After discussion, Members agreed for C’Ilrs Michelle Lewis and Veronica James to arrange to open and administer a Facebook page along the lines of the draft prepared (proposer C’Ilr John Cole, seconder C’Ilr Jan Morgan).

C’Ilr Jan Morgan had prepared a draft newsletter, which had been circulated to Members to give an idea of the proposed format and content.

Members authorised C’Ilr Jan Morgan to obtain costings for printing of a newsletter, and for this to be carried out in conjunction with C’Ilr Veronica James (proposer C’Ilr John Cole, seconder C’Ilr Veronica James).

Possible further edition to be considered for publication towards the end of the Summer.

Agenda item to review these items as necessary in April.

Clerk to circulate guidance on the pre-election period, for this to be accounted for by Members in preparing the content of material intended for publication to local residents.

Discussion of supporting of events in connection with Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

It was confirmed that the event planned to be held on the Welfare Field and organised by the Welfare Committee was to be held on Saturday 4th June.

Regarding a possible event to be held for the residents of DeClare Court, no arrangements had been made, but the date pencilled in for this was Friday 3rd June. This was likely to be something involving a tea party or similar, and possible music / singing, possibly involving either school pupils or church members. C’Ilr Jan Morgan was very happy to be involved in arranging this event. However, as she was going to be unavoidably absent on the actual day of the event, she felt it important for someone else who was in a position to be there on the day to be involved in the planning along with her.

C’Ilr Jan Morgan undertook to have discussions with all parties involved, and let the Clerk know of what plans were in place, for this to be circulated round to Members. This was likely to be finalised in early April. It was confirmed that there was a large dayroom / community hall in DeClare Court that could be used if necessary. If the weather permitted an outside event, then C’Ilr John Cole confirmed that he had a largish gazebo that could be used for that purpose if needed.

[NOTE – C’Ilr Nick Stamp entered the meeting at this point]

Regarding the event to be held on the Welfare Field on the Saturday, C’Ilr John Cole confirmed that an events company had been asked to quote to provide entertainment from 2-6pm. A disco was then planned for the evening, from 6-10pm.

Bouncy castles arrangements, face painters, possible side tables & stalls in gazebos, etc., were also being considered.

Members agreed that some matters and details could usefully be placed on the new Facebook page for information, and to encourage support for the event.

Clerk to write to ATEB to seek financial support for the event to be held in the community. C'llr John Cole to be copied in on this letter.

Agenda item to be tabled for April to discuss details and donations, etc., by which time a clearer idea of costings would be available.

In addition to the above, C'llr John Cole had obtained a proof of some medals, which he wanted to fund and provide on behalf of M.B.C.C. Members thanked C'llr Cole for this, and were in agreement for the Community Council to be named on the reverse of the medals (proposer C'llr Jan Morgan, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis).

Discussion of possible formation of Community newsletter, and use of poster advertising in Community

Newsletter discussed in above agenda item. Banner posters were mentioned as a possible way to promote community events, if situated at locations such as on the fence fronting the Welfare Hall. However, the Clerk made a cautionary comment regarding the likely need to prior consent from P.C.C. to place any such banners in locations where they were visible from public locations.

Discussion of Community noticeboard provision

C'llr Jan Morgan undertook to try and source some suitable durable plastic lettering that could be used to make a sign on the back of the Pembroke Road noticeboard to identify it to passers-by.

Discussion of possible tree-planting initiative

Various Members had looked at potential tree and shrub-planting locations around the Village. It was mentioned that, as all these areas were in P.C.C. ownership, their permission would be needed prior to carrying out any planting work.

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted P.C.C. following the last meeting, to ask for their comments in general terms about such proposals. No response had yet been received, but the Clerk commented that negative responses had been received to similar requests made by other community councils.

Clerk to ask for an officer from P.C.C. to attend a future meeting at the earliest opportunity, to discuss these issues, and how the initiative could be moved forward.

Any other business

There was no other business to record this month.

Next meeting

Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 8-15pm.