

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, and in person at Pembrokeshire College, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest

Present: Cllrs. John Cole, Jan Morgan, Alison Palmer, Ian Lewis, Michelle Lewis; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Mary Owen, Veronica James.

Members commenced the meeting by observing a two minute silence in memory of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, who had passed away the previous Thursday.

Declaration of known interests

C'llr John Cole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any potential discussion on matters concerning the Welfare Committee and Hall.

Approval of minutes of June 2022 monthly meeting

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

Matters arising

Lynfield. C'llr Jan. Morgan commented on the fact that donations had been given to DeClare Court, but not Lynfield Home. She didn't feel this was an even-handed approach. Members noted that ATEB was a registered social landlord. However, C'llr Jan. Morgan felt that, as a privately-run company, they should be treated no differently from other establishments of a similar type, such as Lynfield. Members felt it would only be right to consider doing something for Lynfield as well as DeClare Court. On this basis, it was left for Members to mention when in contact with them that they might wish to consider writing in to request a donation, as this was the usual arrangement followed.

Parking outside fish and chip shop. P.C.C. had responded to say that they would arrange some monitoring of the area, and requesting details of the times of day when the problem was worst. Clerk to respond to say it was evenings that are the worst. Members were encouraged to send the Clerk any photos of incidences of the problem that they noticed, to be passed on to P.C.C. Members felt that some action should be taken, as there was liable to be an accident there sooner or later.

Speed activated sign – Still in hand with C'llr John Cole, who was seeking permission from P.C.C. to place the sign on the existing pole. It was hoped that he would have some feedback prior to the October meeting.

Happy to chat bench. In hand with C'llr John Cole to arrange the fixing of the bench. Clerk to send pictures of it to members, and particularly of the legs to C'llr John Cole, to provide details necessary for fixing brackets, etc.

Plans

Decisions issued

22/0027/PA – The installation of 1 number 300.000 litres capacity raw milk storage silo & 1 number 100.000 litres capacity cream silo; Site Address: First Milk Cheese Company, Pembroke Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1JN

22/0173/PA – Erection of garden room and shed; Site Address: Haroldston Cottage, Clay Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1UH

Correspondence

- 1) Save Withybush – Request for support for a petition to save Withybush Hospital – Members voted to support the petition (proposer C’lr Michelle Lewis, seconder C’lr John Cole). Clerk to respond accordingly.
- 2) Craig Reeves – application to join community council – covered in agenda item below.
- 3) Kate Bevan – application to join community council – covered in agenda item below.
- 4) Mike Dare – application to join community council – covered in agenda item below.
- 5) Clare Williams, P.C.C. – comments regarding parking situation outside chip shop – covered in Matters Arising above.
- 6) David Astins, P.C.C. – Warm Rooms initiative – Members regarded this as more relevant to the Welfare Committee than the Community Council.
- 7) Merlin’s Bridge A.F.C. – Request for financial assistance – [NOTE – C’lr John Cole declared a personal and prejudicial interest, and left the room during discussion of this request]. After a detailed consideration of the budget, Members agreed a donation of £5000 (proposer C’lr Jan. Morgan, seconder C’lr Ian Lewis). They felt the donation was a worthwhile amount to contribute towards the £20,000 needed to complete the project, and felt that the objective of bringing the club activities back to Merlin’s Bridge would bring many benefits to the Community.
- 8) P.C.C. – Mary Immaculate invitation for additional community governor nominations – noted.
- 9) P.C.C. – Waldo Williams invitation for additional community governor nominations – noted.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk – Salary and expenses, July – September 2022	: as per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax for above)	: as per contract
Clerk (incidental expenses, June – August 2022)	: £13-73

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lr Alison Palmer, seconder C’lr Jan. Morgan).

Quarterly budget statement

Members discussed the budget statement in detail.

County Councillor’s report

C’lr John Cole reported that August had been generally quiet, with just the usual issues of potholes and neighbour nuisance to deal with. He had attended the ceremony for the new King’s proclamation. He reported that P.C.C. had been awarded silver status as Armed Forces Champions.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

Members voted to accept all three applicants (proposer C’lr Jan. Morgan, seconder C’lr Ian Lewis). Clerk to notify them accordingly, and deal with the necessary administration.

Discussion of possible tree / shrub -planting initiative

Woodland Trust application for tree packs had been reported to be opening in November. Members were interested in the possibility of getting some bedding plant flower beds set up in the Community. Clerk to enquire about this with P.C.C. Agenda item to be tabled for next month.

Discussion of formation of Community Council training policy

Clerk to draft a policy for consideration. Agenda item to be tabled for October.

Discussion of Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

C’lir Michelle Lewis undertook to draft a report for consideration. Clerk to send her copies of the ones he currently had access to from other Councils. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in October

Any other business

Newsletter. C’lir Jan. Morgan mentioned that she had started work on the next newsletter, which was well in hand, She invited Members to send in material for inclusion. The idea was suggested of possibly including the Church in the publication of the newsletter as a joint venture.

Postboxes. C’lir Michelle Lewis had been approached by a local resident to ask if it would be possible to request an additional postbox around Greenhill Crescent. Matter to be tabled for discussion in October.

Next meeting

Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 8-30pm.