

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 6-30pm, at the Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform

Present: Cllrs. Ian Lewis, Veronica James, Kate Bevan, Craig Reeves, John Cole, Jan Morgan, Michelle Lewis; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies: C'llrs Mike Dare, Alison Palmer

Declaration of known interests

C'llr John Cole noted a personal and prejudicial interest in any discussion concerning the Welfare Committee.

Approval of minutes of January 2023 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 Jan Morgan).

Matters arising

Community noticeboards. C'llr Jan Morgan had placed identifying signage on the reverse of both noticeboards, but with some lettering still to be completed.

Plans

Applications

22/0893/PA - Change of use from offices to dog day care (in retrospect) and the erection of outbuildings; Happy Paws Day Care, Old Hakin Road, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XE – no comments.

Planning consents granted

22/0775/PA - Extension to 18 Catherine's Gate to provide linked residential annexe; 18, Catherine's Gate, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1NB

Correspondence

- 1) W.H.P. Telecoms – Notification of base station revamp at AGRIHIRE, LOWER DREDGMAN HILL, MERLINS BRIDGE, HAVERFORDWEST, SA61 1XJ – noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales – Invitation for nominations to King's Coronation Garden Party – After a ballot of interested Members, C'llr Craig Reeves was chosen to be nominated. Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

Accounts

Payments

C'llr Jan Morgan (reimbursement for noticeboard lettering) : £59-94
The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C'llr Craig Reeves, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis).

Bank signatories. Clerk to make arrangements for ex-members to be removed as signatories, and for C'llrs Craig Reeves and Veronica James to be added, and also registered for online banking.

County Councillor's report

The usual issues with potholes, anti-social behaviour and dog-fouling had been mentioned to C'llr John Cole during the month.

P.C.C. was expecting to increase council tax levels in the County by between 7.5% and 10%.

P.C.C. had arranged the purchase of 59 & 61 St Issell's Avenue for use as accommodation in connection with Norman Industries.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

C'llr Jan Morgan confirmed that she had visited the interested party in Woodlands Park who had enquired about possible membership on behalf of herself and her partner. It had been confirmed that her partner could not apply to join the council after all, due to work restrictions. Her own application could be formalised anytime from November 2023 onwards, as this would mean that she would have been resident in the community area for at least 12 months. Clerk to make contact with her in October 2023, to initiate arrangements accordingly.

Discussion of arrangements to celebrate coronation of King Charles III

Members discussed progress on the arrangements for the 'Party in the Park' being co-ordinated by the Welfare Committee. It was expected that the total cost of the event would be in the region of £2000.

C'llr John Cole had tentatively made arrangements for a compere to front the event. This was due to be confirmed by the Welfare Committee.

C'llr Craig Reeves had made arrangements for a possible mobile bar to be present at the event. In addition, arrangements were in hand for a bouncy castle, face painting, stalls, etc., as well as an outdoor screen to broadcast the Coronation itself. C'llr John Cole had arranged to obtain 200 commemorative 50p pieces in display cases. Reimbursement for these to be obtained from the community council in due course, at a cost of £300. Member agreed that the coins should be distributed to the St. Mark's Schoolchildren, with any surplus coins being made freely available to attendees at the Coronation event, on a first come, first served basis. C'llr Michelle Lewis to prepare a suitable note to be inserted into the coin cases.

Discussion of clerk staff appraisal

C'llrs Alison Palmer and Jan Morgan had discussed the matter together, and concluded that the formal appraisal was unnecessary, as any issues could be mentioned if and when they should arise.

Confirmation of protocols for use of Whatsapp group

The guidelines prepared by C'llr Michelle Lewis had been circulated to all Members. These comprised general principles of consideration, moderation, etc. Members were happy with the guidelines and undertook to follow them in online communications. It was not felt necessary to adopt the guidelines as a formal protocol.

Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues

Posters prepared by C'llrs Craig Reeves and Kate Bevan had been put up in public places around the community. In addition, an invitation had been sent to the school by C'llr Jan Morgan inviting the children to prepare pictures, poems, etc., that might be of help in promoting the campaign to reduce dog-fouling in the community. C'llr Jan Morgan undertook to follow this up with the school. Members asked that, when this was done, the opportunity was taken to ask the school to reinstate the formal arrangement whereby occasional updates on school activities had been sent to the community council for information.

C'llr John Cole undertook to obtain some cans of biodegradable, temporary paint to be used for highlighting dog mess in the community. Members were agreed that this could be useful in helping to avoid problems with people inadvertently stepping in it, and also as a means of highlighting the problem.

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted P.C.C. to ask about the possibility of getting more dog bins sited in the community. In response, an offer had been made to arrange a site meeting to discuss this in detail. It was agreed that C'llrs Jan Morgan and John Cole would attend a site meeting when arranged. Clerk to make arrangements with P.C.C. accordingly, and copy in C'llrs Jan Morgan and John Cole.

Discussion of possible support for Homewatch scheme in community / assistance and advice from Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Clerk confirmed that he had made contact with the neighbourhood policing team. P.C.S.O. Gareth Davies had offered to attend the March meeting. Clerk to invite him accordingly.

Discussion of PAVS

C'llr Kate Bevan to invite P.A.V.S to a future meeting to discuss the services they could offer.

Update on situation with community defibrillator

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements had been made for the defibrillator to go off for repair, and it had been duly collected and taken away.

Clerk to check situation with registration of the defibrillator on The Circuit national database.

C'llr Michelle Lewis mentioned that she was due to attend a defibrillator training session in Llangwm on 15th Feb. Any other interested Members could attend if they wished to do so.

Discussion of proposed Boot Alley boundary wall project, and assistance from Pembs. College with this

It was explained that the plan was to provide a low wall along each side of the route, in order to tidy it up, and assist with keeping the surface clean and free of mud.

Clerk to contact P.C.C. to enquire about permission to carry out the work, and to make enquiries regarding any potential grants for carrying out the work.

Update on Woodland Trust tree order, and possible assistance from Pembs. College Horticultural Department

Members were informed that the trees were due to be delivered in mid-March.

College to be approached regarding possible assistance to plant the trees once received.

Any other business

Community newsletter. It was hoped to publish the next newsletter around Easter-time. Members were encouraged to provide any contributions for this. C'llr Jan Morgan informed Members that Cleddau Press had kindly offered to format the newsletter once received.

Community flower beds. Clerk to check situation with new beds that were due to be provided by P.C.C.

Next meeting

Wednesday 8th March 2023, at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 7-50pm.

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