

## **MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform

**Present: Cllrs. Ian Lewis (Chairman), Alison Palmer, Michelle Lewis, Mike Dare, Veronica James, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).**

**Apologies: None.**

### **Declaration of known interests**

Cllrs John Cole noted a personal but non-prejudicial interest in any discussion on the donation request from the Junior Merlin's Bridge Football Club.

### **Approval of minutes of minutes of June 2023 monthly meeting**

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

### **Matters arising**

**Speed activated signage.** Members noted that the sign by the Rugby Club was now functioning.

### **Presentation by P.A.V.S.**

No representative of P.A.V.S. was in attendance. Members decided to remove the item from future agendas.

### **Plans**

#### **Planning consents issued**

**22/0117/LB** – Alterations and extension; Site Address: Haroldston Cottage, Clay Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1UH

**23/0078/PA** - First floor side extension; Site Address: 52, Pembroke Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1JT

### **Correspondence**

- 1) Merlin's Bridge Junior Football Club – Request for financial assistance – Cllr John Cole made a statement to Members concerning the merits of supporting the group. Following this, Cllr John Cole declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest, and did not vote on the donation request. Members discussed the merits of the request, and also considered the precept situation and quarterly budget review. The request was for a contribution of £5000 towards a total cost of £9500. Following discussion, Members supported a donation of £5000 as a final donation towards the project (proposer Cllr Alison Palmer, seconder Cllr Veronica James). Clerk to inform the Football Club accordingly.
- 2) Pembrokeshire College – Hire agreement for 2023/24 – The Clerk had completed and returned the form.
- 3) P.C.C. – Invitation to meeting to consider the forthcoming Boundary Commission review of Town and Community Council boundaries – the Clerk confirmed that he expected to attend the meeting, and would report back to Members following this.

## **Accounts**

### **Payments**

|  |   |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|
| P.C.C. (Flower provision for community beds)   | : | £283-60         |
| Clerk (reimbursement for defibrillator cabinet purchased)  | : | £589-99         |
| Clerk (salary, July – September)   | : | As per contract |
| H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)  | : | As per contract |
| Clerk expenses June – August   | : | £ 16-55         |
| John Cole  | : | £199-50         |
| Merlin's Bridge Junior Football Club (donation)  | : | £5000-00        |
| The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Veronica James, seconder C'llr Ian Lewis). |   |                 |

### **Budget review**

Members considered the quarterly budget review prepared by the Clerk, and were happy with this.

## **County Councillor's report**

### **Boundary Commission review of Town and Community Council boundaries.**

C'llr John Cole mentioned the review which was being initiated.

**New 20mph signage.** This was confirmed as being up, supporting the reduction in speed limit.

**Refuse sacks.** It was confirmed that P.C.C. had stopped supplying the grey refuse sacks.

**Parking charges at County Hall.** C'llr John Cole confirmed that he would be raising a question about the introduction of these charges in the council meeting scheduled for the following day.

### **Discussion of co-option of new councillors**

No applications had been received to date, though some informal expressions of interest had been received by individual Members. Item to be kept on the agenda.

### **Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues in community**

**Tree-planting.** C'llr John Cole confirmed that the trees planted in the 'rough' area had taken well, though the other ones planted in the open area had taken less well. He reported that Haverfordwest Town Council was advertising availability of free fruit trees for planting. He undertook to forward the link for this information to C'llr Michelle Lewis to follow up as possible.

**Community flower beds.** Members were delighted with the flowers, and how well they had done. A suggestion was made to extend the arrangement to add further beds. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in November, to consider further planting locations.

### **Discussion of arrangements for autumn / winter newsletter**

Members extended the discussion into a more general discussion of community events and arrangements over the forthcoming season.

**Newsletter.** Members felt it would be a winter newsletter by the time it had been prepared and published. The possibility of making it a Christmas newsletter was considered, and also amalgamating it with a distribution of Christmas cards to the community.

**Christmas concert.** C'llr Alison Palmer undertook to speak to the Christian Centre to discuss arranging a joint Christmas concert.

**Remembrance Day.** Arrangements were confirmed for a service as that held in 2022, at 9-15am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, at the Cenotaph in Magdalene Street.  
**Halloween event.** C’Ilr Mike Dare confirmed that arrangements were well in hand for this.

**Christmas cards for community.** Members were agreed that this would a good idea for 2023. C’Ilr Alison Palmer undertook to speak to the headmistress of the school regarding a competition to design pictures for the cards. C’Ilr Michelle Lewis suggested bringing forward the Christmas card printing, and putting any newsletter items in with it. The idea of advertising forthcoming community events at the same time was also suggested.

**Community Christmas trees.** Members decided to have two Christmas trees as for previous years. C’Ilr John Cole undertook to arrange these as for previous years.  
Agenda item for November for any necessary discussion of seasonal events.

### **Discussion of how to research community priorities, to inform decision on future community council expenditure and actions**

Members extended the discussion into a more general discussion of possible suggestions for regular community events.

C’Ilr Michelle Lewis had brought up in June the idea of asking the community for their views and suggestions for community projects and priorities.

C’Ilr Mike Dare felt that daytime activities such as family fun days might be a good idea. He also mentioned that he could look at doing a bingo night more often if this would be welcomed, and drew attention to the success of the car boot sales and associated coffee morning sessions being held each week.

The Clerk mentioned that Rosemarket C.C. had circulated a questionnaire to their residents in conjunction with a community newsletter, to seek views of the residents on what they would like to see in their village.

Members felt that overall community views could be partially extrapolated from Facebook responses to postings seeking views, and decided that this would be a good first step.

C’Ilr Michelle Lewis suggested that she could get a cardboard postbox, print flyers and invite people to post responses about what they would like to see in the box. It was felt that these could then be discussed in conjunction with any Facebook responses received. Members felt this approach was well worth trying.

Agenda item for November to potentially discuss any responses that had come in.

[NOTE – C’Ilr Mike Dare left the meeting at this point with apologies]

### **Any other business**

**Defibrillators.** C’Ilr John Cole confirmed that his brother had offered to fit the new defibrillator cabinet without charge. Members were appreciative of this. Agenda item to be tabled for November to discuss the possible purchase of a further community defibrillator.

### **Next meeting**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 7-50pm.