

## MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform

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

**Apologies: C’Ilr Mike Dare**

### **Declaration of known interests**

C’Ilr John Cole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any Welfare Committee-related issues that might arise.

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

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

### **Matters arising**

**Merlin Autos.** C’Ilr John Cole mentioned that there were some issues with the planning application recently submitted for mobile office accommodation, and a new application could possibly be required.

**Parking Charges, County Hall car park.** C’Ilr John Cole mentioned that the matter was coming up for debate in the Council later in the week, with removal of parking charges on weekends due to be discussed.

### **Plans**

There were no plans for consideration this month.

### **Correspondence**

- 1) John Cole – Request for M.B.C.C. to pay for play area upkeep or assume responsibility for it – Members discussed the matter briefly, and some potential options were considered. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in January. C’Ilr John Cole undertook to obtain more detailed information on the current state of the playpark and legal situation in advance of the January meeting.

### **Accounts**

#### **Payments.**

Cleddau Press (printing of community Christmas cards)	:	£310-00
Information Commissioner (data registration fee)	:	£ 40-00
John Cole (Christmas trees and selection boxes)	:	£918-60
Clerk (salary and fixed expenses, October – December) contract	:	As per
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax) contract	:	As per
Clerk (incidental expenses, September – November)	:	£ 20-70

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

### **County Councillor's report**

C'llr John Cole reported that potentially significant increases in council tax were currently under discussion in County Hall.

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

No progress. Matter to be kept on agendas for future meetings until vacancies had been filled.

### **Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues in community, including discussion of possible additional locations for community flower beds**

C'llr John Cole confirmed that the planned site meeting to confirm flower bed locations had not happened to date. Clerk to chase up P.C.C. regarding this. It was not known whether or not this delay could impact the likelihood of the flower beds being available for the 2024 season.

### **Discussion / update on arrangements for seasonal community activities**

Members confirmed that all was in hand, with the Carol Service event at the Emmanuel Christian Centre being the only outstanding community event. The Community Council Christmas cards had all been successfully delivered, and a number of positive comments received from local residents.

### **Discussion of possible purchase of second community defibrillator**

The Clerk had circulated a map of community area to all Members. Members were uncertain whether or not a further community defibrillator was necessary, taking into account the non-community council-owned ones present around the community. However, it was considered that, if a further one was to be provided, then somewhere in the vicinity of the school might be a preferred location. Matter deferred for further discussion in January.

### **Any other business**

**Delivery of selection boxes to school.** C'llr Ian Lewis offered to accompany C'llr John Cole to deliver these to the school on the following Friday.

**Community fruit tree planting.** Subject to be included as a sub-item under regular agenda item on environmental issues within the community for discussion in January.

### **Next meeting**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.  
The meeting was closed at 7-05pm.