

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform

Present: Cllrs. Ian Lewis (Chairman), Michelle Lewis, Alison Palmer, 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 December 2023 monthly meeting

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

Matters arising

None.

Plans

Decisions notified.

23/0625/PA - Alterations and extensions; Site Address: 72, Tudor Gardens, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1LB

Correspondence

1) Local resident - request for action to address poor surface water drainage along Boot Valley - Dealt with in County Councillor's report below.

Accounts (to include discussion of budget / precept for 2024/25, and request for support from community council towards cost of running community playpark in Welfare Field)

Payments

Clerk (reimbursement for defibrillator pad purchase) : £77-39

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

budget / precept for 2024/25

Following discussion, Members resolved unanimously to keep the precept for 2024/25 unchanged from the current year at £17500 (proposer C’Ilr Ian Lewis, seconder C’Ilr Veronica James). Clerk to inform P.C.C. accordingly.

Discussion of request for support from community council towards cost of running community playpark in Welfare Field

Members agreed to consider specific requests made, on a case-by-case basis, as and when received.

County Councillor's report

Boot Valley. The matter of drainage problems along the route had been raised with C'Ilr John Cole by the same resident who had contacted the Clerk about it. C'Ilr Cole had reported it to Streetcare. It was now on their list of work for investigation / any necessary action, though no specific timescale had been provided for this.

Potholes. Members were concerned about a serious pothole in the car park of the Post Office at the bottom of the Pembroke Road. Clerk to send a letter to the proprietors, raising concerns about the matter, and asking if they could consider rectifying it (proposer C'Ilr John Cole, seconder C'Ilr Alison Palmer).

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

There had been no applications since the last meeting. However, C'Ilr Mike Dare had received an expression of interest, and was obtaining more information on this.

Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues in community, including discussion of community fruit tree-planting initiative

Dog-fouling. Members had noted a deterioration in the situation, following the improvement after the previous poster campaign. C'Ilr Michelle Lewis undertook to place a reminder posting on the community Facebook page regarding the matter, as a reminder.

Tree-planting. Members were unsure where trees could be planted, as space in the Welfare Field was at a premium. C'Ilr Michelle Lewis undertook to place a notice on the community Facebook page to seek views on this, and to invite residents to express any possible willingness to assist with planting and ongoing maintenance, if planting locations could be identified.

Discussion of possible purchase of second community defibrillator

Members discussed the possibility of obtaining a second community defibrillator. C'Ilr Alison Palmer was asked to approach the headmistress to ask her view on possibly siting one at the school. Members were unsure, however, whether or not this would be a good location, due to the need to jump over the perimeter wall to gain access. The side wall of the garage block behind the new bus shelter near Haroldston Close was also mentioned as a possibility. A suitable electricity supply was mentioned as a likely need, which Members thought could possibly be supplied by solar power. Clerk to approach P.C.C. to ask about potential permission to install a community defibrillator at this location.

Any other business

Christmas carol event. C'Ilr John Cole had attended the Christmas carol event at Emmanuel Mission. He reported that it had been most enjoyable, well-attended, and well-organised.

Headmistress, St. Mark's School. Members were informed that Mrs Heather Cale was due to leave her post as Headmistress of the school shortly. C'Ilr Alison Palmer undertook to arrange some flowers and a letter to be sent to Mrs Cale, and to obtain a photograph for the community Facebook page.

Next meeting

Tuesday 13th February 2024, at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 7-50pm.