

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2015 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge.

Present: Cllrs P Davies (Chairman), J Cole, S Brown, Mrs Q Thomas, H Studley, Mrs A Hartley, S Hartley, M Thomas, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk), large representation From the village – members of public.

1. **Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllrs Mrs S Hughes, Mrs M Jakeway, Mrs M Baron and Mrs A Palmer
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - i. Merlin's Bridge Juniors: Cllr Brown advised members that as yet, the situation was still no further ahead as no meeting had been held. Cllr Hartley declined to comment on this as the Welfare Committee (WC) was seeking legal advice. He advised members that the next meeting of the WC would be held on 3rd January 2016. He also stated that the meeting that had been held last week was in relation to cessation of any work in relation to the proposed extension. Cllr Brown advised members that he had not been made aware that a meeting was to take place, and therefore had not been able to attend. The Chairman asked that the members of the public in attendance did not take notes or publish anything from the meeting on social media etc. He advised those present that the minutes would be made available once they had been accepted as an accurate record following the December meeting. Cllr Brown voiced his strong concern and disappointment at the sudden stop to works towards the football club extension. Cllr Cole asked Cllrs Mr & Mrs Hartley why they did not think it was important enough to hold a public meeting about the matter. The Hartleys responded that the Charity Commission had advised them that they did not need to hold a public meeting. Cllr Brown also raised the matter of leasing the fields. Cllr Hartley responded that he had made little progress with the Football Club (FC) and that they had not been forthcoming with the appropriate documentation in relation to Schedule of Works, etc. The FC had stated that if they could not lease field, then they would go back to the Cricket Club grounds.

The Chairman reminded the WC that the Community Council had requested some months ago that a meeting take place between the WC, FC and MBCC in order to progress the matter positively but as yet nothing had been forthcoming. Cllr Brown suggested that a vote be taken on who would be the spokesperson for the FC – majority vote in favour of Kevin Thomas.

Kevin Thomas advised members that the first they had heard of the cessation of works was a letter that they had received from the WC, which was read out by the clerk. This advised the FC that the WC had made a decision not continue with the project. Cllrs Mr & Mrs Hartley were asked by the Chairman on what basis this decision was made. No answer was given to

this apart from Cllr S Hartley stated that it was based on latterly the nature of comments made on social media.

Kevin Thomas asked if the people present representing the village could made a vote of no confidence in the Hartleys. The Chairman advised Mr Thomas that this was not possible as the matter was not under the jurisdiction of the Community Council.

The Chairman made a strong appeal to the WC to reconsider their next meeting date and asked them to bring this forward by calling an extraordinary meeting as this was a matter of urgency and it would be to the benefit of the village as a whole if the matter could be resolved in a civilised and positive manner.

The Chairman spoke with one attendee who was visibly taking notes and asked him who he was. The gentlemen advised the Chairman that he was a representative from the Milford Herald. The Chairman asked him why he had not made his presence known at the beginning of the meeting and urged him not to publish what he had heard in the newspaper as he felt that this could be damaging to the presently sensitive situation.

At this point the Chairman called a close to this discussion in order to move on with the other business of the Community Council.

- ii. Odours in the village: These were still causing a problem in the village, worse so in the mornings. Councillors were asked to make notes of dates/times and report then to the clerk.
- iii. Remembrance Day – the Chairman thanked everyone who attended. Thanks to be sent to Rev Welsby and Rev Cale for officiating and to the trumpeter.

4. Correspondence:

- i. Health Board – Let's Talk Health – notification of various meetings to be held in the community. Noted.
- ii. Merlin's Bridge AFC – a letter was read out detailing the club's concerns over the recent events which had seen the Welfare Committee stop progress in relation to the planned extension works. It asked for the community council's help in getting the matter moving forward. The letter was noted. Once again the Chairman urged all involved parties to set up an urgent meeting to get things moving in the right direction.
- iii. Letter from John Cole – A letter was read out from Cllr John Cole in which he made a complaint against Cllr S Hartley, giving details of what he felt was threatening behaviour from Cllr S Hartley. Cllr Hartley responded that he had not made any threats but did say that he had said that he would dig up certain information from John Cole's past as a treasurer for the Welfare Committee. It was agreed the clerk would forward on the letter to the Monitoring Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council in order to seek guidance on whether/how this matter should be progressed.
- iv. Letter from Steven Price, Resident of Merlin's Bridge – A letter was read out from Steven Price in which he made a complaint against Cllr S Hartley, detailing what he perceived to be threatening behaviour on Cllr Hartley's part and questioning Cllr Hartley's conduct as a community councillor. He also made comments about certain payments that had been made in the name of the Welfare Committee. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the Monitoring Office at Pembrokeshire County Council in order to seek guidance on whether/how this matter should be progressed.
- v. Health Board – information on Transforming Mental Health. **Noted.**

5. Donations

Poppy Appeal – the cost of the poppy wreath was £17.00 but it was agreed to add a donation on behalf of the Community Council and also of the trumpeter, who had kindly asked that any money that had been intended for him be put towards the Poppy Appeal.

It was agreed that this year, the Community Council would send a cheque in the sum of £100.00 to the Poppy Appeal.

6. Planning

First Milk 15/0737/PA – demolition of existing CIP Bldg and construction of new CIP Bldg
No objections

7. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor sent her report, which included information that £73.7M of cuts would have to be made over next few years until 2020.

8. Financial

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| Poppy Appeal - donation | £100.00 |
| R Johnson – salary | £140.80 |
| HMRC – income tax and NI | £35.20 |

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

A request was made for the clerk to provide an up to date financial breakdown at December meeting.

9. Draft Proposal – PCC & Town and Community Councils

Members were reminded that any feedback on this matter was to be sent to the clerk before the cut off point of 30th November 2015.

10. Christmas Trees

It was agreed that the two trees would be put up on last weekend in November in time for the carols around the tree which had been arranged for 6.00pm on Wednesday 2nd December. The hall would then be open afterwards for refreshments. Clerk to chase up street licence from Pembrokeshire County Council.

11. An Other Business

- i. Newsletter – the clerk reminded members that any submissions for the Newsletter needed to be sent to her by 20th November latest.
- ii. Cllr Cole queried the amount requested at the last meeting by the Welfare Committee for grass cutting having looked at previous figures and wanted to see a breakdown of figures for this year.
- iii. The clerk and chairman both advised members that Rev Welsby had rang them before tonight's meeting to advise them that he would be offering up prayers at his prayer meeting that evening to ask for a positive resolution to the problems currently being encountered in relation to the Welfare Committee/Football Club.
- iv. The clerk reminded all members that they were all bound by the Code of Conduct, which governed councillors' behaviour at all times.

12. Date of the Next Meeting:

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 9th December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....