

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2015 at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs P Davies (Chair), H Studley, Mrs A Palmer, S Brown, M Thomas, Mrs S Hughes, J Cole, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk)

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllrs Mrs Q Thomas and Mrs M Jakeway.

2. Additional agenda items:

- i. Precept
- ii. Use of Hall
- iii. Welfare Committee

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Item under Correspondence: Cllr Cole asked that the minutes be changed to state that Cllr S Hartley had admitted making threats. Once this had been amended, the minutes were accepted and signed by the chairman. Proposed by Cllr Cole and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

4. Matters Arising:

- i. Welfare Committee meeting date – the date had not been brought forward despite being requested. As it stands the date of the next meeting was to be on Sunday 3rd January 2016.
- ii. Letters to Monitoring Office/Ombudsman – the clerk had forwarded the letters of complaint to both offices and had been advised by the Ombudsman that any complaints would have to be submitted by the individuals making the complaint. They had emailed a form which had been forwarded to Cllr Cole.
- iii. Odours in the Village – still a problem. Dates/times to be kept and forwarded to the clerk.
- iv. Christmas Trees/Carols – the trees looked fantastic and thanks were given to Cllr Cole who had overseen their instalment. The carol service had also been a great success with around 60 attending. Thanks were due to Rev Welsby and Mrs Cale of St Mark's School and also to Cllrs Brown, Mrs Palmer, P Davies and J Cole for helping with the arrangements at the Village Hall following the carols. Lots of positive comments had been received which was heartening.
- v. Newsletter – the clerk had liaised with John Welsby who had very kindly printed off the newsletter and folded with the help of his prayer group. It was suggested that next year the Emmanuel Church be invited to carry out a carol service at the village hall after the lighting up of the tree.
- vi. Welfare Committee Accounts – no accounts had been received to date.

5. Correspondence:

- i. PCC – letter of acknowledgement in relation to the letters sent to the Monitoring Officer.

- ii. Keep Wales Tidy – noted.
- iii. PCC – Special Events authorisation for lights/Christmas trees.
- iv. PCC – notification of change to collection dates for refuse over Christmas period.
- v. Wales Air Ambulance – letter requesting funding – noted.
- vi. Royal British Legion – letter of thanks for donation.

6. Precept – 2016/2017

The clerk provided a breakdown of expenditure to date. After discussion it was decided to keep the precept the precept at £10,000.00 – proposed by Mrs Hughes/seconded J Cole.

7. Hire of Village Hall

There was some discussion over whether to continue using the village hall for monthly meetings. There were complaints that the hall often did not have any heating on and it was felt that it was a reasonable request to have this switched on an hour before the meeting. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Mrs Hartley to make this request and that Cllr Brown would raise this at the next Welfare Committee meeting. Cllr Brown was also asked to raise the issue of the state of the chairs in the hall – the vast majority were dirty /stained and needed to be cleaned.

8. Welfare Committee:

Various issues were raised in relation to the Welfare Committee . There was concern over the planning application fee – if the Welfare Committee had decided to cease work then the planning application fee would need to be refunded. Concerns were also raised over their financial situation. To date there had been no audited financial accounts produced. It was also noted that there had been no representation sent on behalf of the Welfare Committee on Remembrance Sunday. A wreath had been placed on the Cenotaph some time prior to the service, which was not good etiquette. In addition to this, on the subject of wreaths, Mr & Mrs Hughes had been on the receiving end of very rude and ungracious behaviour by Mr & Mrs Hartley. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Welfare Committee outlining the various concerns raised.

9. Donation

After discussion, it was agreed that a donation of £250.00 be sent to the Emmanuel Church in recognition of all the hard work they had done over the year including cleaning the village, Remembrance Sunday service and carols around the tree.

10. Planning:

Permission: 15/0737/PA – First Milk.

11. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor gave a brief update on issues, mainly surrounding various awards/accolades in relation to child services in the county.

12. Financial Accounts

The clerk had prepared a simple breakdown of accounts to date – there was a balance of approx. £23,000.00 in hand, including precept and projected expenses to end of financial year.

R Johnson – Clerk’s Salary	£140.80
HMRC – NI and Income Tax for Clerk	£35.20
Emmanuel Church – Donation	£250.00
J Cole – Christmas trees/lights/chocolates etc.	£788.47

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

13. Any Other Business:

- i. Cllr Studley commented that various trophies and pictures/certificates had gone missing from the hall. Clerk to ask the Welfare Committee what had happened to these items.
- ii. It was also noted that the hall had not been decorated for Christmas – this to be included in the letter to the Welfare Committee.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....