

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2016 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

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

- 1. Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllrs Mrs Q Thomas, Mrs M Jakeway and Mrs M Baron.
- 2. Additional Agenda Items:** Town and Community Council Liaison Meeting
- 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Cole and seconded by Cllr Brown.
- 4. Matters Arising:**
 - i. Estate Manager: The County Councillor had advised the clerk that there was an estate manager whose name was David Vores – he can be contacted on 01437 734551.
 - ii. Pot holes – these had now been fixed.
 - iii. Vehicles on verges – the County Councillor advised the clerk that she had reported these problems before, but unless they are actually causing an obstruction nothing can be done about them. If they are causing an obstruction, it is a matter for the police who can be contacted by ringing 101.
- 5. Correspondence:**
 - i. One Voice Wales – annual renewal of membership. It was agreed that the membership would be renewed at a cost of £276.00.
 - ii. Letter from Sue Rogers – a letter was read out to the council listing various complaints and allegations against Cllr John Cole, including objections to comments that he had allegedly made on a Facebook page that he had created. Members were concerned that whilst Sue Rogers was writing as a member of the public, there was also a potential conflict of interest because she is also a member of the Welfare Committee, which is referenced heavily in the letter as the basis for many of the complaints. Ms Rogers had not made this disclosure of being a member of the committee in her letter. After discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would send the letter to the Monitoring Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council asking for her advice and guidance on the matter. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hughes and seconded by Cllr Studley. The chair strenuously urged all councillors to strive to behave in a manner befitting their position in the community as currently there was a lot of bad feeling between various parties, which did not contribute to harmonious relations. He asked all councillors to refrain from making inflammatory remarks on

social media. He also asked Cllr Cole to consider removing the Facebook page in question but Cllr Cole did not wish to do this. Councillors were again all reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct.

- iii. Ombudsman for Wales – letter advising members that there would be no action taken against Cllr S Hartley further to a recent complaint made against him.
- iv. Letter from the Welfare Committee – letter in response to correspondence sent from MBCC regarding various issues. A comprehensive response was read out to councillors answering queries made previously about various matter surround the Welfare Committee and the Village Hall. Received and noted.

6. Donations:

There were no donations for consideration.

7. Planning:

Approvals:

15/0924/NM – Longleats, Merlins Avenue

15/1027/NM – Rose Cottage

8. County Councillor's Report:

In addition to progress report on potholes and estate warden matters, the County Councillor also advised members that the new bungalows being built near to De Clare Court will not be completed until summer, rather than springtime which had originally been intended.

A request has also been made for speed monitoring in Clay Lanes.

9. Financial Accounts:

HMRC – income tax and NI payments for Clerk	£35.20
R Johnson – clerk's salary and expenses	£178.38
One Voice Wales – annual membership fee	£276.00

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

10. Town & Community Council Liaison Meeting

The chairman provided an update on recent meetings that had been held. Primarily the biggest issue surrounds cost cutting in the county which will affect most residents – financial implications hitting areas such as schooling in the county and refuse collection.

11. McDonalds Community Involvement

Suggestions were requested from councillors for activities etc that McDonalds could contribute towards in the community. Some suggestions were: new play equipment for Glen View play park, a party in the park in the summer months for all the community, an event especially aimed at the older people in the community. June would be a good month for the party in the park. Cllr Cole to enquire with McDonalds as to how much money they would be willing to contribute and once this was known, there would be a better idea of what could be achieved.

12. Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday Beacons.

Cllrs did not feel that this would be feasible – noted.

13. Any Other Business:

- a. Cllr S Hartley advised members that a tree had come down in the recent bad weather in the playing field. It had been made safe for the present and would be sorted out properly once the ground had dried out.
- b. Cllr Thomas reported that there was a pothole in need of attention outside the Post Office. Clerk to advise the County Councillor. Cllrs were reminded that matters such as these should be reported directly to the County Council on 01437 764551.
- c. The Chairman advised that he had spoken with a lady from PAVS and felt that it might be beneficial to invite her to attend a meeting to explain exactly what her organisation does in the community. Clerk to contact PAVS to ask them if they wish to attend a meeting.]

14. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Merlins Bridge.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm.

Signed:.....

Chair:.....