

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 14th September 2016 at the Village Hall, Merlins Bridge

Present: Cllrs P Davies, H Studley, Mrs Q Thomas, Mrs A Palmer, N Stamp, S Brown, J Cole,
Mrs R Johnson (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Stamp back onto the council.

1. **Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Mrs S Hughes, Mrs M Jakeway & M Thomas
2. **Additional Agenda Items:** The following items were added to the agenda for discussion:
 - i. Christmas Trees/Carol Concerts
 - ii. Sewage Smells
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – the minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr S Brown and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Cole.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - Haroldston Ruins – it was not known who had purchased the ruins, however no development would be allowed on this site, only animals allowed to graze.
 - Pot Holes – it was reported that these still need attention. Clerk to contact the County Councillor about the holes outside the chapel and the old peoples' home.
5. **Correspondence:**
 - Email received from Cllr Mrs Baron advising that she would have to resign with immediate effect from MBCC due to a move to Steynton.
 - St Mark's School – letter requesting a donation towards new IT equipment for the school. Cllr Brown suggested providing them with a new touch screen board for the classroom at a cost of approx. £2700.00. Clerk to contact the school asking for more specific information on what they need with accurate costs etc.
 - Boundary Commission – 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales – noted.
 - PCC – notification of temporary road closure along Freeman's Way during November 2016 – noted.
 - Pembrokeshire Housing – Annual Report – noted.
 - Hywell Dda – Communities Together – meeting to be held on 30th September 2016 at Narberth.
 - PCC - Code of Conduct – this updated version needed to be adopted by all councils. It was agreed to accept the new Code of Conduct. PCC's Monitoring Officer had also kindly agreed to co-ordinate necessary advertisements and liaise with the Ombudsman on local councils' behalf. It was agreed to take up the Monitoring Officer's offer in this regard.
 - School Governor – It was clarified that Cllr Mrs Thomas would continue on as School Governor until MBCC held their AGM in May 2017.
6. **Donations**

St Mark's letter as detailed in correspondence..
7. **Planning**

Application – 16/0507/PA – Jewson Ltd – no objections.
8. **Christmas Trees/Carol Concert**

Cllr Cole asked the council if they intended supplying the usual three trees again this year. It was agreed that the council would and that Cllr Cole would go about sourcing and installing the trees. The matter of the lighting up of the tree/carol concert was also discussed. Clerk to liaise with both John Welsby and St Mark's School to get a date at the beginning of December. It was agreed that there would be a short ceremony at the tree followed by carols and refreshments in the Village Hall.
9. **County Councillor's Report**

For the third year running Pembrokeshire youth workers have won a national award making it clear that they are among the best in Wales. Sport Pembrokeshire achieved in sport silver accreditation from the federation for disability sports Wales only the 3rd Local Authority in Wales to achieve this prestigious kite mark.

13 million of E.U. funding for a project to boost the prospect of young people has been announced by Mark Drakeford. The project will provide individually tailored programmes of support including training volunteering opportunities and paid work placements for more than 4,500 people. It aims to help young people progress further in education and improve their future job and career prospects. It's a wonderful opportunity for us as an Authority to improve the future of our young people and it will be tailored to the needs and aspirations of each young person.

10. Financial Accounts

R Johnson – Clerk’s salary	£281.60
R Johnson – expenses	£41.60
HMRC – income tax and NI	£70.40
Ashmole – accountancy fees	£30.00

Clerk to contact the accountants and query the cost of the fees.
It was agreed to split the clerk’s salary and expenses for clarity.

Accounts Y/E 31st March 2016 – the accounts and report had come back from the auditors. The accounts were signed off as satisfactory with a couple of comments added. These related to the internal auditor. It was suggested that the internal auditor’s appointment should be minuted by the council and a letter be sent to the chosen internal auditor to formally ask them to carry out the audit. The internal audit had been done by Mrs Shirley Coates. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Mrs Coates asking her if she was willing to carry out the internal audit.

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

11. Financial Regulations

After consideration, it was agreed to formally adopt the new Financial Regulations.

12. Clerk’s Salary Review

It was agreed to defer this until the April 2017 meeting.

13. Bus Shelter Glass

No further action to be taken on this matter.

14. Sewage Smells

Cllr Studley complained about the prolonged pungent smell from the Sewage Works in Merlins Bridge. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Dwr Cymru and the County Councillor to see what can be done about this.

15. Any Other Business

- Welfare Committee – Cllr Brown advised members that the Welfare Committee would like to reinstate getting their poppy wreath via Mr and Mrs Hughes. Clerk to liase with Cllr Mrs Hughes about this.
- Football – there was still no real progress with the proposed works on the new building to date. The Welfare had received a request to lease the ground to the Football Club.
- Cllr Stamp raised the problem of cars parking on pavements along the Pembroke Road again. He was concerned about the potential for accidents.
- Welfare Committee – councillors were advised that the Bingo had been reinstated at the Village Hall with 105 members at present.
- OVW – Cllr Davies advised that he was now serving as Chair for OVW.
- Councillor Vacancies – following Mrs Baron’s resignation, there were now two vacancies on the council. Agenda item for October.

16. Date of the next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12th October 2016 at 7.00pm** in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Signed:.....Chair

Dated:.....