

MERLIN'S BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

Present: Cllrs H Studley (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Cole, Cllr N Stamp, Cllr Mrs A Palmer, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllrs P Davies, Mrs S Hughes and Mrs Q Thomas.
2. **Additional Agenda Items:** None.
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Vice-Chair. Proposed by Cllr J Cole and seconded by Cllr N Stamp.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - i. Sewage Smells – sewage smells were still being experienced. Councillors were asked to continue monitoring the situation over the coming weeks. Works are apparently in progress to combat odour problems.
 - ii. St Mark's School – there had been no further contact from the Head teacher about volunteers needed to do works at the school (painting, gardening etc).
5. **Correspondence**
 - i. Card from Cllr Mrs Thomas thanking the council for the flowers that she had received after her hospital visit.
 - ii. PCC – email regarding dog fouling in the county and advising of a volunteer initiative being implemented – noted.
 - iii. Boundary Commission – re Parliamentary Boundaries Consultation – noted.
 - iv. Election May 2017 – the clerk had attended an evening session at PCC in relation to the forthcoming May election and had brought packs of forms to the meeting which were given to all councillors present. Councillors not present would be sent the forms in the mail. The submission period for the papers into County Hall was between **22nd March and 4th April 2017** and between the hours of 9-5pm.
6. **Donations**
 - CRUSE Bereavement Pembrokeshire – noted.
 - Wales Air Ambulance – it was agreed to donate the sum of £50.00
7. **Planning**

There were no planning issues for consideration.
8. **County Councillor's Report**

The County Councillor advised members that PCC's Workways Team is the latest sector within the Authority to be recognised for their commitment to providing appropriate

support and consideration to carers. The team has been awarded the Investors in Carers Bronze Level Award.

9. Financial

HMRC – Clerk’s Income Tax and NI	£35.20
R Johnson – salary and expenses	£185.75
Wales Air Ambulance – donation	£50.00

It was agreed that the above be paid.

The clerk advised that there was £19011.40 in the Current Account as at end of January 2017 plus £8050.00 in the Deposit Account.

The clerk also raised the issue of her contract of employment. The council had met to formulate a new contract as no contract could be found. However the clerk had recently come across the original contract and also a very old contract which had been found attached to some unrelated documents in paperwork handed over from the previous clerk. In this contract it stated that the clerk was entitled to claim back monthly telephone line rental from the council as well as stipulating salary and other expenses claimable. The clerk had a copy of the minutes from September 2012 stipulating that the clerk would be employed on the same terms and conditions as the previous clerk. Looking back at accounts from the time of the previous clerk, monthly telephone rental was paid to clerk regularly. Having got some advice from an outside body, the clerk advised councillors that even though no contract had actually been signed, because it was minuted, then this meant that the clerk was entitled to the same expenses as the previous clerk. Also, even though some time had passed, advice was such that these expenses could be claimed back as no time limit for submitting claims was stipulated. In total over 5 years since commencement of employment, the amount in question was approx.. £960.00. The clerk submitted a letter with full details and requested reimbursement of amount in question. The councillors all agreed that the full amount should be reimbursed as the contract clearly stated that this was part of the contract. It was agreed that the matter be listed on the April agenda for discussion again when hopefully there would be more councillors present. The new proposed contract which had been discussed at a special meeting was also discussed. The clerk had met with the Chair and the Vice Chair to outline what had been discussed and agreed. The Clerk advised councillors present that she was not altogether happy with the way it had been presented to her with the chair advising what had been decided and asking her to sign it asap as a done deal. There was some concern over some of the terms and conditions. The clerk was also not happy with the way the minutes had been written up of the Special Meeting. The chair had advised her that he had taken the minutes and had chosen not to name any proposers or seconders. The clerk didn’t feel that this represented an accurate record of the meeting. After discussion, the clerk was reassured that the contract wouldn’t be signed until agreement had been reached between both parties. As such, the clerk was asked to draft the contract as had been agreed at the Special Meeting and to draft a contract outlining what she felt to be reasonable and bring them to the next meeting in order to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

10. One Voice Wales Training Modules

The clerk had received no particular requests. As there was a low attendance, it was agreed to list this again on the April agenda.

11. Defibrillators

The clerk had not received any feedback to date from the Welfare Committee on how/if they wished to proceed with the defibrillators. It was agreed to list the matter on the April agenda for consideration.

12. Any Other Business

- Cllr Cole raised the issue of the resident at 33 Fernhill Road putting out rubbish bags for collection and leaving them there for 2 weeks. The clerk was asked to mention the problem to the County Councillor to see if a visit could be made to the resident by Environmental Health.
- Cllr Studley asked if letters of congratulation/encouragement could be sent to the football clubs of Merlin’s Bridge who had reached the final of their league.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at the usual time of **7.00pm on Wednesday 12th April 2017** in the village hall. ***Councillors were reminded that the council meetings did start at 7.00pm not 7.30pm.***

The meeting ended at 8.20pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....