

## MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

**Present:** Cllrs H Studley (Chair), Mrs S Hughes, Mrs A Palmer, Mrs Q Thomas, J Cole, P Davies and Mrs R Johnson (Clerk). Also present Mr N Stamp, Mrs M Jakeway and several members of the public.

Before the meeting commenced, Cllr Cole advised members of the public in attendance that if anyone wished to be co-opted onto the council to fill one of the six vacancies, then they would have to make a written submission to the Clerk before the next meeting. The vacancies would be advertised in the community.

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Additional Agenda Items:**
  - Councillor Vacancies
  - Clerk's Contract
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** – The minutes were amended to remove a duplicated payment of £100.00 to Merlins Bridge AFC in the financial accounts. After this the minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. Proposed JC/ seconded AP.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - Fernhill Rubbish – councillors were advised that there was still rubbish outside this property.
  - Rugby Club; flooding issue at Haylett Lane – The clerk had emailed PCC and received a very comprehensive response giving full details of the situation as it stood. PCC advised that the Wheltons had been fully appraised at every stage of any developments etc. The clerk had forwarded on a copy of this email to Mr & Mrs Whelton. The planning application previously submitted by the Rugby Club had now been withdrawn.
  - Sewage Works – The chair advised that there were still smells emitting from the sewage works.
  - Councillors who stood down at last election – a request was made that letters be sent to Mr Stephen Brown and Mr Martyn Thomas thanking them for their service to MBCC over the past years.
5. **Correspondence:**
  - i. OVW Training – a list of training sessions had been sent to the clerk. Code of Conduct training was due to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> May, however the Monitoring Officer of PCC had advised that she would be holding further sessions for no charge during the summer period. It was agreed to attend these sessions as there was no charge. Dates yet to be confirmed.
  - ii. Good Councillor Guide – the clerk had forwarded on an electronic version of the Good Councillor Guide to all with email. She had requested additional copies for those without email and was hoping to have them by the next meeting.
  - iii. Pembroke Road Concerns – The clerk had received email correspondence from Mr Stephen Barker, a local resident, voicing his concerns over the narrow pavement alongside the old and new post offices. He also queried why wheelchair access had not been provided in this part of the road either. The clerk had contacted Darren Thomas of PCC Highways who had responded that he had requested a review into this section of road. The previous County Councillor, Mrs Havard had also advised that

this particular section of road presented a lot of difficulties given its proximity to the roundabout. The new County Councillor John Cole agreed to look into the matter and see what information/progress could be made and report back at the next meeting.

- iv. Social Media Policy – noted.
- v. South Wales Trunk Road Agency – notification of a reduction in the speed along Freeman’s Way commencing 8<sup>th</sup> May to 40mph and no overtaking due to the state of the surface of the road. This would continue until resurfacing works could be carried out.
- vi. Let’s Walk Pembrokeshire notice – noted.
- vii. Public Statutory Notice re 11-19 School – notification given of the statutory notice in relation to proposals for new schooling arrangements in Haverfordwest. Noted.
- viii. PCC Standards Committee – letter requesting names to be put forward for the Standards Committee. Cllr Paul Davies agreed to have his name put forward. Clerk to advise PCC.
- ix. OVW – letter acknowledging MBCC’s payment for this year’s membership of OVW. Noted.

## 6. Donations

There were no donations for consideration this month.

## 7. Planning

16/1175/PA – Cinnamon Grove – permission for brewery.

16/1272/AD – Advertisement at Pembrokeshire College.

## 8. County Councillor’s Report

The County Councillor advised that she had been in touch with WAG about Freemans Way and the surface problems. They have now put a speed limit on this stretch of road until funding becomes available to resurface.

## 9. Financial

R Johnson – salary for April plus expenses	£169.76
HMRC – Income Tax and NI for Clerk	£37.44
Ashmole – accounts fee	£30.00

It was agreed that the above should be paid in full.

## 10. Defibrillator

After discussion, it was agreed to purchase the G5 Powerheart defibrillator at a cost of £1299.00, plus a delivery cost of £20.00. This would need to be connected to a power source to enable the heated cabinet. Clerk to contact the company to arrange payment details etc.

## 11. Clerk’s Contract

The clerk’s new contract was brought to the meeting. The contract contained all the updates as minuted in the April meeting including new hourly rate, holiday pay, sick pay etc. The contract was signed by both the clerk and the chair. Clerk to retain copy on council records.

**12. AOB**

- Cllr Mrs Palmer commented on the car park at the new post office. The surface was very uneven and one person had seen a wheelchair user be tipped out of their chair due to the poor state of the car park. Clerk to contact Dorian Evans at the Post Office to see what can be done.
- Cllr Mrs Palmer advised councillors that delivery vans had been seen parking on the road outside the post office/shop causing an obstruction on the road.
- Cllr Cole queried whether the Auditors would question the amount of money being held in our bank accounts. The clerk advised that she had not yet been asked about it but generally if a council advises that money is being saved or ring-fenced for a particular cause then auditors do not normally question amounts held.
- Cllr Cole commented on grass cutting in the play area/football field and whether MBCC would consider donating a sum towards the grasscutting costs. Cllr Cole was advised that if a letter was submitted to MBCC then the matter would be considered.

**13. Date of the Next Meeting**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ONE WEEK EARLIER ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 AT 7.00PM..**

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

**Signed:**.....

**Chair:**.....