

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 7th June 2017 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

Present: Cllrs H Studley (Chair), Mrs A Palmer, Mrs Q Thomas, J Cole, P Davies and
Mrs R Johnson (Clerk).

Also in attendance – Nick Stamp, Grant Lewis, Richard Thomas, Allan Thomas and Mary Owen

1. Apologies: Cllr Mrs S Hughes sent here apologies for absence.

2. Additional Agenda Items:

Grass Verges/Manhole Covers

Welfare Committee Update

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes were amended to show that members of the public were advised to submit a written application to be co-opted onto the council, not that Cllr Cole advised them of this. Following this the minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. Proposed JC/seconded AP.

4. Matters Arising:

- Fernhill Rubbish – Cllr Cole advised that there was still rubbish outside the property. PCC were aware of the problem and possibly enforcement proceedings would ensue.
- Roundabout at Merlin's Bridge – Cllr Cole advised that the surface of the roundabout would be replaced at the end of June.
- Pembroke Road Pavement – there was no further information on this. It was with PCC to look into and see what could be done if anything. The clerk had emailed Mr Barker to advise him of this.
- Post Office – the clerk advised that she had written to the owner of the Post Office about the surface of the car park but as yet had not received a response.

5. Councillor Vacancies

The clerk advised that she had received 7 applications to fill the 6 available positions. Cllr Cole voiced his concern that the people present at the AGM had not been co-opted on at the May meeting. It was reiterated that whilst there was not legal requirement to do so, it was widely accepted as good practice to advertise any vacancies to the public in order to maintain transparency and attract as many applications as possible. During the course of the meeting a letter withdrawing his application was received from Mr David Owen, thereby leaving 6 applications for the 6 vacancies. It was agreed that these 6 be co-opted onto the council. These were Mr Allan Thomas, Mr Richard Thomas, Mrs Mary Owen, Ms Janice Morgan, Mr Nick Stamp and Mr Grant Lewis. Those present signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and these were witnessed by the Clerk/RFO.

6. Correspondence:

- i. Citizens Advice Bureau – notification of AGM on 21st June 2017.
- ii. PCC – Planning Workshop – 3.7.2017 at the Archives Office in Haverfordwest – Cllr Mrs Palmer agreed to attend and possibly the Chair – clerk to advise PCC.

- iii. Community Health Council – statement re Dementia Support Report.
- iv. OVW – New Councillor Induction sessions were due in next couple of weeks. Clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer and ask if Code of Conduct training sessions were going to take place.
- v. OVW – Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community & Town Councils – noted.

7. Donations

Two letters had been received from the Welfare Committee:

- i. Letter asking for a donation towards the general running costs of the Committee such as maintaining the hall and grounds etc. Cllr Cole declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. After discussion it was agreed to donate the sum of £500.00 – proposed by Cllr P Davies/seconded by Cllr Mrs A Palmer. Agreed.
- ii. Letter requesting a donation towards the cost of the planned party in the park to be held on the August bank holiday. After discussion it was agreed to donate the sum of £1000.00 towards this event. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Q Thomas and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Palmer. Cllr P Davies proposed £500.00 but this was not seconded. Therefore it was agreed to donate £1000.00.

8. Planning

There were no planning issues for consideration.

9. County Councillor’s Report

The County Councillor advised that the roundabout surface would be dressed at the end of June. He also raised the problem of grass cutting in the village. Cllr Davies mentioned that verges were being left to grow extremely high and when grass cutting did take place then there was a mess left behind. Clerk to contact the Highways Department to make them aware of concerns.

10. Financial

R Johnson – salary for May plus expenses	£169.76
HMRC – Income Tax and NI for Clerk	£37.44
Wales Audit Office – Audit Fee	£231.75
Defib Shop – purchase of defibrillator	£1558.80
Welfare Committee – donation towards Party in the Park	£1000.00
Welfare Committee – donation towards committee’s running costs	£500.00

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

11. Defibrillator

The clerk had ordered the defibrillator and had received an invoice for £1558.80. The defibrillator should arrive in the next couple of weeks and would need to be connected to a mains supply. Clerk to deliver the defibrillator to Cllr Cole upon receipt who would organise the installation on the Village Hall wall.

12. Grass Cutting/Manhole Cover

Cllr P Davies reiterated the concerns about grass verges in the village and the poor state of the grass cutting in general in the village. He also raised the issue of the ill-fitting manhole cover in the road opposite the chip shop in Pembroke Road. Clerk to contact the Highways Department to ask them to investigate the problem.

13. AOB

- Cllr Mrs Thomas advised that St Mark’s School had not received a very good report from the inspectors. She didn’t have any further details at this time.
- Cllr Mrs Thomas queried whether the minutes were going to be posted out to all councillors. The Clerk advised members that all but two councillors had email addresses and as such those without email would continue to receive hard copies in the post but all those with email would receive electronic copies of minutes before the meeting to read but paper copies would be brought to the meeting for those with email so that Cllrs didn’t have to print them off at home. This would reduce postage costs to the bare minimum.
- Cllr Davies suggested having an extra meeting in July for the benefit of new councillors. It was agreed that as long as the hall could be booked that the meeting would be held on Wednesday 5th July 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.
- Cllr Mrs Owen advised that the grass bank in St Thomas Avenue was also in need of attention. Clerk to add this to the concerns voiced to the Highways Department.
- Cllr Mrs Owen advised that one of the street lamps in St Thomas Avenue had been constantly on for some weeks. She had reported it to PCC.
- Cllr Cole advised that he was now serving on committees for the following: Licencing Committee, Services Committee and as a representative for the Armed Services Reserve & Cadets.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5TH JULY 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Merlin’s Bridge.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....