

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 at the Village Hall, Merlin's Bridge

Present: Cllrs Hilliard Studley (Chair), Mrs Alison Palmer, John Cole, Nick Stamp, Ms Janice Morgan, Mrs Mary Owen, Mrs Queenie Thomas, Grant Lewis, Mrs Jessica Massey and Mrs R Johnson (Clerk). Also in attendance Lisa O'Sullivan (member of the public).

1. Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Sylvia Hughes, R Thomas and P Davies

2. Additional Agenda Items:

Welfare Committee

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr J Cole, seconded by Cllr J Morgan.

4. Matters Arising:

- Christmas Tree – no response had been received from John Welsby about prices for live trees. Clerk to chase this up.
- Notice Boards – the board on the old post office was due to be removed imminently. Cllr Cole looking into details for 2 new boards.
- Way Forward for the Council – it was acknowledged that there were a lot of changes due in the near future. Cllr Cole felt that the council should wait to see what transpires before taking this matter forward.
- Planning Application 57-59 St Issell's Avenue – Cllr G Lewis declared an interest in this discussion. Cllr Cole advised that following the recent Planning Committee hearing a site visit was due to take place. Cllr Lewis felt that there was some misinformation being circulated in the public domain. The main concern apart from the highways issues was that residents under this type of planning application could include persons taking part in substance abuse. It was felt by the council that very little information had been given to members as to the exact nature of what services the development would provide. This could only be found out by having access to the internet or by going to PCC directly which made it very difficult for many people. It was reiterated that there was no objection by this council to any provision of a care home. Comments had been made to the local press and on social media by a County Councillor Josh Beynon who had also emailed the clerk. The clerk had received numerous calls/emails from local press asking for comments. There were concerns over the nature of the comments made by Cllr Beynon and the negative effects of these on this council. The comments published on social media were a condensed version of what had been sent in by this council and therefore misrepresented what had actually been written. The comment about the proximity of the development had also been taken out of context – this was purely meant from a safety/highways perspective. As a result of this there had been considerable public outcry against this council. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the Monitoring Officer to ask for guidance on what/if anything could be done about the comments made by Cllr Beynon. It was also agreed that the clerk would not respond at this time to the emails/calls from the local press.

5. Correspondence:

- Is Pembrokeshire ready to go plastic free? – workshop to be held on 24th March 2018.
- Review of Community & Town Councils – newsletter.

6. Donations:

Cruse Bereavement Care – agreed to donate £25.00.
Pembrokeshire Young Farmers – noted.

7. Planning

17/1175/PA – new entrance canopy – Old Printing Works, Old Hakin Road.

No objections.

8. County Councillor's Report

- 12.5% increase in Council Tax charge – PCC is still the cheapest council in Wales.
- St Mark's School – 2 supervisors have been made redundant from the school.

9. Financial

R Johnson – salary for September/expenses	£169.76
HMRC – Income Tax and NI for Clerk	£37.44
Ashmole Accountants – fees	£54.00
Cruse Bereavement – Donation	£25.00
Total	£286.20

It was agreed that the above be paid in full.

Current account balance	£19355.74
Deposit account balance	£8063.92

10. Councillor Vacancy

The council had received an application for the vacancy from Jessica Massey who attended the meeting and gave a brief introduction to the council. Cllr Stamp proposed accepting Mrs Massey onto the council which was seconded by Cllr Ms Morgan.

11. Welfare Committee

Further to the receipt last month of a letter from the Welfare Committee, the council discussed the possibility of making a donation towards the building of new changing facilities etc. Cllr Stamp felt that it was important that it be noted that if a donation was made, once the build was complete MBCC should be able to have use of the meeting room etc without charge. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Q Thomas and seconded by Cllr G Lewis that the sum of £15,000 be pledged as a donation towards the build. The situation would be monitored as it progressed. All in agreement .

12. AOB

- Cllr J Morgan advised that Cllr Davies had requested that the clerk’s contract of employment be looked at by the council. It was agreed that the matter be listed on the agenda for April.
- Lisa O’Sullivan talked to the council about autism and given the recent issues wanted to raise awareness about autism. Mrs O’Sullivan gave out some extremely interesting information to councillors. She was also reassured by councillors that there had been no issues at all with autistic persons living in the proposed development but again it was stressed that the issue lay with potential safety/highways issues.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Merlin’s Bridge.

Cllr Stamp offered his apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....