

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 15th January 2020 held at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs John Cole, Alison Palmer, Nick Stamp, Queenie Thomas, Lisa O'Sullivan, Janice Morgan, Paul Davies, Hilliard Studley, Mary Owen, Louise Lambert (Clerk)

The Chair Cllr John Cole Opened the meeting

1. Apologies: N/A

2. Minutes of December Meeting – the minutes present a true and accurate record.

Proposed as accepted by Cllr O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr Morgan

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Question of no. of electors came up, Cllr Cole said he will speak to the relevant department now the election is over and get an accurate up to date figure by next meeting.
- Cllr Davies said he would like to invite the head of St Marks School to give us an update on how the school is getting along, either by attendance at one of our meetings or via letter. Clerk to write to head to extend this invitation.
- Cllr's Stamp and Palmer have both spoken with John Welsby regarding donations for specific projects, there is a reluctance from him to ask formally, it was agreed that we continue with the end of year donation in recognition of the work done and assistance provided to MBCC throughout 2019. However any specific project requests would need to be made in writing through the formal channels.
- Clarification that the £150 payment for councillors is both subject to tax and not obligatory, Cllr Davies has forwarded an opt out form to the clerk and she will provide a copy to everyone at next meeting.
- Cllr Davies asked for clarification as to why finances have been earmarked for specific areas at last meeting, Cllr O'Sullivan clarified it was for budgeting and business plan setting and wasn't for paying anything specific as yet.

4. Correspondence

- We have received a thank you letter from St Marks School regarding our donation towards their Christmas children's party.
- PCC request for assistance with budget setting (already circulated by Cllr Davies)
- Advisement notice of changes to the LDP from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.
- Details of national VEday75 events and poster.

5. Feedback

County Councillors report

- Precept form is due, reminder to check if it's been completed and sent.
- Advised council tax raise to be 5%
- A request has been made to PCC to have the gulley's cleaned throughout Merlin's Bridge as this no longer seems to be done as routine maintenance.
- Fly-tipping has increased with Clay Lanes being particularly badly hit. Cllr Davies advised there is a joint meeting on 20th January between PCC and OVW the main issue for discussion will be the fly tipping followed by litter bins not being emptied.
- McDonalds sets a good example doing litter picks in the surrounding area, Cllr Davies intends to ask at joint meeting if there is a way to enforce other local takeaways to adopt a similar practise.

Financial accounts - outgoings

- £300 towards school Christmas party
- £50 for Methodist Church as thank you for use of their hall for interviews
- £25 to Sarah for her assistance with the accounts during 2019
- £36.85 to clerk for reimbursement of stationary

One Voice Wales

- As already mentioned joint meeting with PCC is mainly to cover fly tipping issue and bin collection. However OVW are seeking to try and quantify how well the new waste and recycling system is working across the county.
- Planned have asked OVW to attend a meeting for a potential joint venture aimed at getting 8-16 year olds more involved in local councils. The suggestion is to speak with local schools to see how their student councils run and to try and have some overlap between community councils and school councils. This has been a success in some other areas.

Planning

- We are well into LDP2 deposit stage, we have 8 weeks to make comments on the plans. There are a number of drop in sessions being run across the county if anyone wants more information. LDP1 nothing affecting Merlin's Bridge.
- Disappointingly only 2 highways repairs but none close to Merlin's Bridge, efforts seem to be concentrated in the South of the county and close to the border with Carmarthenshire.

School

- Nothing to report

Welfare committee

- A new member has joined the welfare committee.
- The Christmas Fair that was put on was not attended by anyone, discussions regarding how to gain better attendance will take place in advance of the next event.

Training

- Sadly Christine Lewis has passed away over the Christmas period, therefore all training has been cancelled for the immediate future. A card has been sent offering condolences on behalf of MBCC.
- Cllr Davies advised the clerk that some training is available online via OVW, advised he will email her any information he can find and suggested looking at the SLCC in case they have anything available.

6. Donations

- Suggestion that we make a donation to Emmanuel Church in recognition of the work they have done to assist and support MBCC throughout 2019. £300 suggested.

Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Palmer

7. Notice Boards

- Cllr Cole confirmed the notice boards are currently being stored in another building and are waiting to go back up, along with the sign which was knocked down in high winds. Agreement that we need to get a contractor to put back up the sign and also to install both notice boards, one outside the hall and the other at Glen View. Cllr Cole to obtain quotes by next meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Owen

8. Regular joint meeting with welfare committee and support regarding grants

- Clerk said she was happy to look into what grant funding was available locally for the remainder of this year. Cllr Cole suggested speaking with the regeneration office at PCC and he will ask her to attend a future meeting.
- Cllr O'Sullivan asked the clerk to look into a way to utilise the bus stops for advertising purposes.

9. Further discussions on Council going forward

- Discussion on the vandalization of the Christmas tree lights at St Issells, Cllr Cole confirmed that he managed to fix them once but they were damaged a second time beyond repair. Suggestion that solar lights might be worth considering for next time. Also a suggestion from Cllr Studley to plant a tree in both Glen View and St Issells next time. Both points diarised to be discussed nearer the time.

Proposed by Cllr Studley and seconded by Cllr O'Sullivan

- It has been suggested we get together with other community organisations (St Marks School, Emmanuel church, Welfare committee, Methodist church) with regard to collaborative working within Merlin's Bridge, 2 dates proposed and clerk asked to write to all interested parties to formally invite them.
- Cllr Davies expressed an interest in forming a youth project committee to look at specific project encouraging youth engagement. Cllr O'Sullivan felt that whilst it could be worthwhile in the future we have a more pressing need for a business planning meeting to get ideas acted upon and things moving. Cllr Cole would like us to do community outreach or have a public meeting to find out what the community wants from us i.e. subsidised trips for the youth. Cllr Owen stated she feels we need to prioritise projects one at a time with set objectives and timescales so results are measurable and we're not rolling things on from meeting to meeting. Proposal to have a specific project committee lead by Cllr Owen with any other members who wish to volunteer, so far Cllr's Cole and Palmer stated they would. Cllr O'Sullivan advised clerk she will need to look at getting terms or reference drawn up.
- Cllr Davies mentioned that the hall is looking a little unloved, with the signage down, the car parking area looking unsightly, everyone in agreement they would like to see it looking more attractive.
- Cllr Thomas stated she recalls when the original building was built there was grand funding from PCC but that PCC also gave a loan on the basis that if the welfare was unable to make the repayment that MBCC would be responsible for doing so, perhaps this is still an option.
- Cllr O'Sullivan suggested speaking to Alan Jones regarding grants for sports clubs. Cllr Palmer felt the lack of disabled access could be a stumbling block and needs to be resolved ASAP.
- Cllr Studley feels we need a community AED machine in Glen View and would like to find out if any grant funding is available for this.
- Cllr Owen said the zebra crossing opposite the play area needs repainting, Cllr Stamp is of the opinion that it's the highways department at PCC who are responsible.
- Cllr Palmer spoke about the community venture GTBAL and suggested that perhaps we could invite them to come and talk to us at a future meeting regarding what they do and the benefits of their work. Clerk to make contact with future meeting dates and see if a representative is available.

10. Matters for next agenda

- Decision on Easter newsletter format, traditional newsletter v's insert to Easter card.

Meeting finished 8:45pm

Next Meeting 12th February 2020

Signed..... Dated