

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 12th February 2020 held at the Village Hall

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

The Chair Cllr John Cole Opened the meeting

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Paul Davies and Queenie Thomas
- 2. Minutes of January Meeting** – Cllr O’Sullivan asked for a correction, under point 9 an observation regarding lack of disabled access at the village hall was in fact raised by Cllr Palmer. Otherwise the minutes present a true and accurate record.

Proposed as accepted by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Morgan

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Clerk has found that some community AED’s are government funded but in addition the British Heart Foundation will subsidise a purchase if we are ineligible for funding. Cllr Palmer was happy to approach FRAME to see if they have looked into this further, Clerk to start the application process for funding if FRAME are not already proceeding.
- Notice boards are now up.
- Clerk has found some details of PAVS training on accessing funding and writing better funding bids and brought the list to the meeting. Councillors asked her to forward the link via email to everyone.

4. Correspondence

- We have received a thank you from Sarah at Pembroke TC for her voucher.
- We have been sent a speculative email regarding learning opportunities for community organisations, one of the workshops is on identifying and accessing funding, clerk has checked the cost which is £250 for a half day workshop with a minimum of 6 people. Consideration to be given to whether we will join up with other groups to spread the cost if the council decides its worth taking further. Cllr Stamp suggested this could be done via OVW and link up with other local councils.
- We have received via email a poster for the forthcoming concert at St David’s of the London Welsh male voice choir in aid of Sandy Bear childrens bereavement charity. Proposal that clerk purchases a laminator and some pouches for protecting posters such as these now that the notice boards are ready to use.
Proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr O’Sullivan
- From planning a notification that there is an application for a variation of an approved design for site close to the timber yard off the Old Hakin Road, any objections need to be submitted within 21 days (from 29th January), Cllr Stamp is familiar with the scheme and kindly explained to everyone the scope of the variation and the reasons behind it.

- Written confirmation of receipt of Councils precept form for 2020/2021.
- We have received an email from PLANED requesting information on community owned assets in the Merlins Bridge area, clerk to ask for further clarification as to whether this would include the hall and field or only the bus shelters.
- We have had a reminder that the membership of OVW is up for renewal, the price has not been advised as yet and is being sent under separate cover. Discussion to feature on next months agenda by which time we should have been advised of costs. Last years cost was £314.

5. Feedback

County Councillors report

- Cllr Cole has spoken to highways who have confirmed they will be repainting the zebra crossing on Pembroke Road.
- Cllr Cole also confirmed that PCC have been round clearing the drains and gully's and that it does seem to have had a positive impact with less standing water.
- Pot holes have been patched up.
- A 3 bedroom house in St Issells Avenue has been purchased by Government as a house intended to get broken families back together by living there with assistance from social workers.
- Cllr Owen raised the issues along the walkway from the chip shop on Pembroke Road to Clay Lanes, the trees seem to be at risk of coming down especially after the recent severe weather. The banks needed to hold back the trees are being rapidly eroded. Cllr Stamp advised that the council will not take action as the land is not under their remit but advised it may be worth applying to keep wales tidy as a grant may well be available.

Financial accounts – outgoings

- Clerk issued with a £40 to reimburse the data protection registration fee.
- All councillors present given a copy of the payment opt out form.
- Clerk has now been able to register her wages for December and January with HMRC so a cheque is now needed for £71 to cover the tax due to HMRC and a cheque for her wages.
- Cllr Cole submitted an invoice from ATM Installations who have put up the notice boards, a cheque for £300 was issued to cover this.
- All councillors present given a copy of the income and expenditure spreadsheet and advised of the finds in the holding account.
- A cheque was raised to reimburse Cllr O'Sullivan for the annual fee for the email host Webhosts for the clerk@MBCC email address. There was discussion over whether this represents the best value for money or if we should consider

changing. Proposal that it serves the function we need and we should stick with it.

Proposed by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr Palmer

- Clerk raised that the virus protection has run out on the lap top but it is significantly cheaper to purchase a replacement from PC world instead of through McAfee directly. Proposal to go ahead and purchase from PC world.

Proposed by Cllr O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr Palmer

- Cheque to Mrs Lewis from last year has not been cashed, in light of events we will contact her husband to ask if he would like the cheque re-issued or if he would prefer us to make a donation to charity in her name.
- Address for bank statements has now been changed to clerks address.

One Voice Wales

- OVW meeting was last night, the chief executive was in attendance, the main changes due to come in are that the audit costs will now be relative to the size of council to make it fairer across the board.
- There is a desire to improve liaison between clerks, this is very much a work in progress at the moment but the intention is to run a similar scheme to SLCC – more information to follow in due course.
- 56 advisories were offered to OVW, of these 2 have been taken on with one out to consultation at present.
- A talk was given by Geraldine Murphy of Citizens Advice Bureau, she advised they are looking for regular funding streams as they would ideally like to increase the number of days/hours they are able to provide their service, she's happy to come and give a talk if it's of interest.
- Final charter is due to be adopted which will create better liaison between PCC and local councils, there will be regular meetings 3 times per year going forward.
- £5 million has been allocated for environmental projects such as allotments, bee gardens and keep wales tidy programmes, there are also grants for maintaining hedges and verges. The amount available for each council through funding far exceeds the membership cost.
- There is an ambitious construction project taking place in Solva in conjunction with Ateb, the project is partly being funded by grant monies to provide supported housing but all of the income generated from rent will go back to the local community.
- Land registry is conducting an audit to make sure the map is accurate.
- Next meeting 5th May 2020.

Planning

- Cllr Morgan asked about the proposed development in Clay Lanes and Cllr Stamp advised that it has been declined due to access and traffic issues.
- There is a discussion to be had regarding the proposed development at the rear of Cllr Stamps property but as he has expressed an interest it was decided to discuss later on so that he can remove himself.

School

- Nothing to report

Welfare committee

- The initial joint meeting between MBCC, Welfare, St Marks School, Emmanuel Church and Merlins Bridge Methodist church took place. Several members of MBCC attended but it was decided moving forward the most practical set up would be to have one member from each body to attend. Suggestion was for Cllr Palmer to be our representative, this was voted on by the members present including the vice chair and the suggestion was unanimously agreed. Proposal to formally make Cllr Palmer MBCC's representative
Proposed by Cllr O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr Owen
- Clerk has requested all bodies to forward her their schedule of events already confirmed for this year so the calendar can form part of the Easter newsletter.

Training

- No change, OVW currently do not have a programme of training for the South Wales area.

6. Donations

- Request for donation from Paul Sartori received.
- Request for donation for Wales Air Ambulance Charity, Suggested donation £150.

Proposed by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr Morgan

7. Matters for next agenda

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

8. Development to rear of Cllr Stamps property

- Cllr Stamp was asked to give an overview of the proposal with the intention of leaving afterwards before discussion took place. He explained that there were a number of options and ultimately it would be down to PCC to make the final decision and within that to decide on the most viable plans. Cllr Stamp explained that the only likely objection would be on the grounds of transport and access issues, however there is also a development of 136 properties due

to be built further up the road so impact on traffic levels is likely to be higher from that development. One of the proposals is for a number of disabled accessible bungalows which would have a much lower density form the site and would therefore lessen any negative implications on the traffic levels. He explained that there is an open meeting at Prendergast archives office on 26th February and that any comments must be submitted by 18th March 2020.

- At this point Cllr Stamp was due to leave the meeting however the other councillors felt it was unnecessary for him to do so.

Meeting finished 9.05pm

Next Meeting 11th March 2020

Signed..... Dated