

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 11th March 2020 held at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs John Cole, Alison Palmer, Nick Stamp, Lisa O’Sullivan, Janice Morgan, Hilliard Studley, Queenie Thomas, Mary Owen, Louise Lambert (Clerk), Cheryl Gulliksen (incoming Clerk), Sian Ranahan (FRAME)

The Chair Cllr John Cole Opened the meeting

- 1. Introductions:** Cheryl Gulliksen introduced as the new Clerk. Cllr Palmer also explained she had invited Sian Ranahan the development manager for FRAME who are keen to work with MBCC and offer help and support.
- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs Paul Davies
- 3. Minutes of February Meeting** – Cllr Owen asked for a correction, under point 5 an observation regarding the banks being eroded causing the trees to be at risk, this was noted as at the rear of Cllr Owen’s property. In actuality this issue is rather more widespread and is occurring all along the walkway which runs between the chip shop on Pembroke Road and Clay Lanes. This has been amended. Otherwise the minutes present a true and accurate record.

Proposed as accepted by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr O’Sullivan

- 4. Minutes of extraordinary meeting on 5th March 2020** – Cllr O’Sullivan provided an overview for those who were not in attendance, Clerk has unfortunately had to tender her resignation, as it was only a short time since the vacancy was advertised and in order to expedite proceedings a previous applicant was invited to submit her CV. This was scrutinised by everyone in attendance except for Cllr O’Sullivan who declared an interest in this matter. Candidate was deemed suitable for the position and offered an interview on 10th March. Further to this the applicant was invited to attend the council meeting of 11th March and is working alongside the current Clerk during her notice period to facilitate as smooth a handover as possible.

Proposed as accepted by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr O’Sullivan

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Further to discussions about items needing attention or repair Cllr Palmer raised the issue of an app you can download to a smart phone called ‘fix my street’ this allows you to photograph issues as you are out and about and upload the photo and further details directly to the council.

6. Correspondence

- We have been sent brochures for park benches, refuse bins and other such items from Glasdon, although we don’t require any items at the moment these will be kept on file as may come in useful at a later date.

- OVW has advised us on a vacancy for a Policy Officer for up to 20 hours per week.
- OVW have sent an email regarding a joint event between OVW and SLCC this is in May at a venue in Ewloe.
- Emmanuel Christian Centre have sent a lovely letter thanking MBCC for their kind donation and their continued support, they also expressed how excited they are to be working more collaboratively with MBCC and other community organisations moving forward.
- Keep Britain Tidy have launched a new campaign aimed at reducing dog fouling, they have provided us with 3 different posters if we wanted to us any.
- Clerks resignation letter to Chair Cllr Cole.

7. Feedback

County Councillors report

- Zebra crossing, it has been confirmed that this will be repainted during the new financial year.
- Cllr Cole has spoken to the contractor who deals with the street lights, he raised the issue of the lights not being very strong on the zebra crossing and seemingly they have discoloured somewhat. The contractor will make a note to give the a clean during a quiet moment.
- One Christmas tree has been planted the other will be going in soon

Financial accounts – outgoings

- Expenditure for March, clerks wages (£162.60)
- Tax to HMRC (£4.47 due to a credit on the account)
- Reimbursement to clerk for virus protection and laminator (£46.99)

One Voice Wales

- OVW have still not released figures for membership priced for the forthcoming financial year. Clerk to chase, agenda item for membership to roll forward to next meeting.

Planning

- Extension application for Tudor Gardens has been changed for a new design with a lower level extension that previously considered.

School

- Nothing to report

Welfare committee

- Nothing to report

Training

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

Community sharing group

- The new group has met twice now, Cllr Palmer has provided the clerk with a list of proposed events to feed into the timetable in the forthcoming newsletter.
- Sian Rananah attended from FRAME and gave everyone a brief overview of the history of the organisation and how they have diversified in recent years. The Green Shed Café opened in 2018 and is now a thriving café, art academy and meeting place. They rent their meeting room and run regular workshops. One of their recent successes is the community fridge which is one of the most successful in the UK, so far they have saved 29 tonnes of food and helped countless local people. They intend to open a new community fridge in Pembroke Dock in due course. They are also looking to offer further workshops including reupholstery and upcycling. FRAME are keen to be involved with the Community Sharing Group and to work with MBCC on joint bids and promoting one another.

8. Donations

- Request for donation from Cruse Bereavement care received.
- Request for donation from Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod received
Proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Morgan

9. Easter Newsletter

- Clerk explained she's started a document based on similar ideas to the last newsletter and has entered all events so far advised into the calendar. Cllr Thomas felt that perhaps it was short notice to get the newsletter done in time for Easter however it was felt that we could manage if information was provided by email to the clerk.
Proposed by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr Morgan

10. Membership of OVW 20/21

- No prices in yet from OVW, moved to next meeting

11. No agenda items for next meeting

Meeting finished 8.05pm

Next Meeting 8th April 2020

Signed..... Dated