

## **MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Held at the Village Hall Merlins Bridge @ 6pm

**Present:** Cllrs John Cole, Alison Palmer, Nick Stamp, Janice Morgan, Mary Owen, Paul Davies & Hilliard Studley

**The Chair** Cllr John Cole Opened the meeting

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr Lisa O’Sullivan & Cllr Queenie Thomas.
- 2. Minutes of September Monthly Meeting.**  
Paul Davies was at meeting but not added to those present, Minutes were amended, the uploaded set on the Council site has been amended accordingly.
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**  
Accurate record.
- 4. Resignation of Clerk.** Informed all Cllrs. Discussed final wage which will need to be discussed with Cllr Lisa O’Sullivan. Put on Agenda for December.  
Advertise vacancy on Website, Council Website & at the College  
***Proposed by Cllr Nick Stamp Seconded by Cllr Alison Palmer***  
Discussed vacancies for Cllrs. Poster needed for Post Office, Sycamore Shop, Both Notice Boards  
***Proposed by Cllr Nick Stamp Seconded by Cllr Alison Palmer***
- 5. Correspondence**  
We received email from Planed informing us that they were doing survey of all notice boards asking for location. Email sent to clarify two notice boards and they’re locations
- 6. Report of Remembrance Day**  
Small group attended at the Cenotaph which was organised by Merlins Bridge Community Council, Service conducted by Rev John Welsby of the Emmanuel Christian Centre
- 7. Financial Accounts/Payments required/Summary of Accounts/Audit**

## **Payments due**

Mrs Chapmans 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, present and card £38.47

A4 Paper £8.93

Wreath £17 +£83 donation to Poppy appeal

Bugler £25

Discussed Xmas cards which have gone to print and its cost of £250 + vat

120 Selection pkts – Gift for Children of St Marks School for their efforts in drawing pictures for the Xmas Cards £120

All Agreed for payment.

***Proposed by Cllr. Mary Owen Seconded by Cllr Alison Palmer.***

Copy of Financial Accounts distributed to all at meeting together with proposed budgets for next year.

**Audit** – Due to restrictions two of the three members of the Financial Committee are unable to meet due to underlying issues. Cllr Janice Morgan and Cllr Mary Owen to join the Finance team temporarily to assist Cllr Alison Palmer in compiling the audit for 2019/2020. They are to meet at the Village Hall next week.

A Notice needs to be uploaded to the website to advise that the Audit has been delayed due to present guidance and restrictions and that the Finance Committee is currently working to complete this soon.

## **Feedback from County Councillor**

Cllr John Coles reported that a Works Order has been issued for the Level Crossing in Pembroke Road. It was pointed out by Cllr Nick Stamp that the road markings at the junction of St Issells Ave and Pembroke Road need attention.

Cllr Stamp informed Council that he had had one of our constituents, Mr Jeff Whealton come to speak to him regarding the crossing and road markings and also the speed of traffic on the Pembroke Road.

Cllr Stamp also put forward some suggestions for widening the pavements either side of the bridge on the west side. The narrow pavements alongside the Post Office and alongside the Cobblers which we know cannot be widened but an option is putting railings there.

The speed limit was discussed and Cllr Janice Morgan asked if it might be possible to put speed limit to 20mph at the entrance to Pembroke road from the roundabout and bypass.

It was decided that we would contact Works department for a meeting to discuss our concerns and proposals. Cllr John Cole and Cllr Nick Stamp volunteered to meet with representative from Council.

### **OVW**

Cllr Paul Davies had nothing to report other than that a Mr Jonathan Griffiths had been elected to position of Chief Executive for PCC

### **Planning**

Cllr Nick Stamp said he had nothing to report other than Cunnigar had proposed building just off the St David's roundabout but have since withdrawn.

### **Welfare**

Cllr Alison Palmer has nothing to report

### **St Marks School**

Cllr Queenie unable to attend meeting

## **8. Donations**

St Marks School donation – Committee couldn't agree. Cllr Paul Davies suggest £100 but Cllr Janice Morgan pointed out that there were 120 children at the school and felt offering £100 donation was unrealistic. Cllr John Cole said that the school can't take the children to Pantomime so no cost to school as would normally happen. It was decided that Cllr Paul Davies should contact the School to meet and discuss their needs and bring back to committee in December.

### **Chapel**

£100 Donation agreed

***Proposed by Cllr Mary Owen Seconded by Hilliard Studley Emmanuel Centre & Church***

£200 donation agreed

***Proposed by Cllr Paul Davies Seconded by Cllr Mary Owen,***

Cllr Alison Palmer abstained for a none majority vote but shortly after Cllr Palmer requested to change her abstained vote to that of a yes vote, therefore a majority vote

**Membership of OVW 20/21**

The Community Council was divided on this so Cllr Paul Davies, who is currently Chairman for OVW was asked to give a talk on the benefits of being a member. It was then generally thought that other than being advised how many Town & Community Councils were now members Cllr Davies hadn't been able to give sufficient benefits to convince them that membership was for them.

Cllr Nick Stamp said he was of the opinion that the Community Council need to have a governing body and Cllr Janice Morgan agreed.

The Community Council voted and majority vote went to not renewing membership.

#### **9. Christmas Cards**

Cllr Mary Owen updated Council on this. The pictures created by the pupils of St Marks had been taken to the printers. The inside wording and font chosen. Cards will be ready early part of next week. Cost had been passed earlier under Finance which is £250 + vat = £300 (we can reclaim vat) 25p per card as we have order 1000. It was agreed that on picking up the cards we can make payment.

***Proposed by Cllr Alison Palmer and Seconded by Hilliard Studley.***

#### **10. Village Hall Roof**

Cllr Janice Morgan said that if the Council was to help pay for works that it would be necessary to get a survey done of the roof, as we as Councillor need to show due diligence. It was agreed that this should be the way to go and agreed that Cllr Janice Morgan look to arrange this. It was also agreed that we would ask the surveyor if repair was only necessary and not a complete re-roof, to ask the surveyor for his opinion on the longevity of the rest of the roof. First of all however to get a cost for the surveyor and pass to the Welfare Committee.

#### **11. Communication with Community**

Cllr Paul Davies expressed his opinion on the fact that he felt as a Community Council we hadn't done sufficient to keep in touch with the community. Felt we should have put something on the web page & on Notice Boards. Suggested we have a Facebook page but the majority of the Council didn't think this necessary

#### **12. Council Policies and Finance**

Cllr Paul Davies expressed his view that he felt the Community Council hadn't been following Policies and Procedures. The Council asked him to explain and it was conveyed that he felt we should be following the timetable and notes of significant events, which had been handed out to all Councillors previously. Cllr Davies was of the opinion that it was compulsory that we follow this but it was pointed out that this was incorrect and was purely advisory not compulsory but generally felt that to follow this would help us become more effective.

**13. Government Advice for Councils**

Cllr Paul Davies said we need to be following the Government advice for Councils. Cllr John Cole pointed out that we were following the guidance given on holding face to face meeting ie the rule of 15 indoors. Cllr Paul Davies pointed out that majority of Community Councils were holding digital meetings. Cllr Janice Morgan pointed that the older age group of councillors were most likely to not feel confident with digital meetings, hence why we were holding a face to face meeting and to insist on holding digital meetings and leave out those not comfortable due to age would be ageist and we need to be respectful when considering this.

**14. Matters for next meeting**

Councillors were asked to let Cllr Janice Morgan know of any matters they would like to have on the next Agenda.

**15. Date for next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Signed .....Dated .....