

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2014 at the Village Hall, Merlins Bridge

Present: Cllrs P Davies (Chairman), Mr S Hartley, Mrs A Hartley, J Cole, S Brown, M Thomas, Mrs A Palmer, Mrs Q Thomas, H Studley, Mrs R Johnson (Clerk),

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Cllrs N Stamp and Cllr Mrs S Hughes

2. Additional Agenda Items – There were no additional item requested.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the last meeting accepted as an accurate record and signed by the chairman. Proposed Cllr J Cole, seconded Cllr S Brown.

4. Matters Arising :

i. Village Odour – this was attributed to problems on the plant, which appear now to be rectified.

ii. Phone Kiosk – The chairman advised that BT was not willing to repair the phone box again. Someone had tidied up the phone box but if vandalism happens again, it may well be removed.

5. Correspondence

i. Letter from Nick Stamp – Cllr Stamp advised the council that due to his immediate work commitments, which would take him from home for some months, he would unfortunately have to resign from the council with immediate effect. It was agreed to advertise the position in all the usual prominent places.

ii. Mid & West Wales Fire – Correspondence re Joint Public Service Centre – noted.

iii. Collaborative Communities – newsletter – noted.

iv. PCC – Review of Polling Stations – clerk to complete questionnaire and return.

v. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – dates of forthcoming presentations.

vi. Mr Cooper – letter sent via Cllr Studley offering solutions to problems of littering at the Freystrop Cemetery. It was agreed to await a response from Freystrop CC to the letter sent by the clerk before making a decision.

vii. Auditors – re audit y/e 31st March 2014. The audit has now been completed and poster to be displayed advising public of conclusion of audit. Fee also payable of £246.00.

viii. Letter from RTP Williams Solicitors addressed to Mr Paul Davies, Chairman of MBCC. The letter was addressed to the chairman and read out by the clerk. The letter related to a conversation between the chairman and Cllr Mrs Q Thomas in a private capacity and not as official business. The letter stated that Mrs Thomas was unhappy about the conversation they had and the matters raised therein, and that any future discussions would need to take place in the presence of her solicitor.

Cllr Davies advised members that he had visited both Cllr Mrs Thomas and Cllrs Mr Steve Hartley and Mrs Ann Hartley in relation to a non-council matter and in a private capacity in an attempt to mediate between them to resolve the matter. He had spoken to the Monitoring Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council about how to deal with the matter. Following discussion, Cllr Paul Davies asked if a vote of confidence in him as chairman could be shown – councillors voted for Cllr Davies as follows – 5 for and 2 against. Following this Cllr Cole made a proposal for a vote of no confidence in Cllr Mrs Q Thomas, which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Hartley. The chairman voiced his strong concern at this proposal and asked Cllr Cole to retract the proposal. Cllr Cole refused to do so. Following this, the chairman said he did not wish to take part in this part of the meeting and stepped down from the chair. At this point, the vice-chairman, Cllr Steve Hartley, took over the meeting and put the proposal forward to members for vote. Councillors voted 5 for and 2 against a vote of no confidence in Cllr Mrs Q Thomas, therefore the majority carried a vote of no confidence in Cllr Mrs Q Thomas. Further to this, Cllr Paul Davies then took charge of the meeting once again.

6. Donations:

- A request had been received from the Welfare Committee asking for a donation towards a new sign, total cost £150.00. After discussion, it was agreed to contribute £75.00 towards the sign.

- Merlins Bridge Juniors – request for financial assistance in buying a toilet/shower block facility. The unit is for sale at £14,995.00 plus VAT @ 20%. After discussion, it was agreed that in principle councillors would be happy to make a donation, with a suggested maximum figure of £10,000.00. However, this would be dependent upon further information being provided by the club. It was agreed that a meeting was

required involving all concerned to discuss the matter further before returning to the council.

7. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor had submitted a report for the month which included the following;

- Council properties in the village would be receiving double glazing.
- Keep Wales Tidy – PCC's street cleaners had received high accolade for their work.

8. Planning Application

There were no planning issues for consideration.

9. Accounts

HMRC – income tax and NI contributions	£35.20
R Johnson – Salary Sept plus postage	£154.60
Merlins Bridge Welfare Committee – sign	£75.00
BDO Auditors – fee	£246.00

It was agreed that the above be paid in full

10. Withybush Hospital

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for future months.

11. November Remembrance Service

The clerk advised that the following was in hand for the Remembrance Day service:

- Rev Whelsby had been contacted and was going to liaise with the other clergy about the service, including reference to the 100 year commemoration.
- Poppy Wreath – the clerk had made a request via Maurice Hughes for special wreath.
- Trumpeter – request made to Brawdy for trumpeter/bugler – awaiting response
- Serviceman representation – as above.
- Flowers – clerk to arrange
- Children – the clerk had written to the head teacher of St Marks who had responded favourably.

- Cllr Hartley advised that hopefully the village hall would be open for refreshments after the service.

12. Any Other Business

- Cllr Mrs Q Thomas advised members that she is no longer a member of the Welfare Committee.
- Cllr Mrs Palmer commented on the important work that John Whelsby and his team carry out in cleaning the village on a regular basis. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to reiterate our gratitude.
- It was reported that the Heol Derwen street sign was in need of repair.

13. Date of the Next Meeting – the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated:.....