

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 10th March 2021 11am held online with Zoom

Present: Cllrs. John Cole, Alison Palmer, Nick Stamp, Mary Owen & Lisa O'Sullivan, Paul Davies.

The Chair – Cllr John Cole opened the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Hilliard Studley due to being in work Meeting to be arranged in the evening to accommodate this.
2. **Minutes of February 2021 Meeting** Adopted as a true record as Proposed by Cllr L O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr M Owen
3. **Matters arising from Minutes** Email from traffic calming stating that they had conducted a speed check between the hours of 11am and 12 pm, Response to request for it to be done at two different times in time with the busy road use period of commute times and school start and end.
4. **Clerk's Vacancy** Interview of applicant was discussed and minutes and reports shared with all councillors. Cllr Stamp raised a concern regarding the meeting dates for new proposed clerk in relation to other councils he clerks for , Cllr O'Sullivan responded there was no conflict of interest as meeting dates do not clash. Position will be offered after a unanimous vote to employ Proposed clerk and MBCC contract given with offer letter.
Cllr Vacancies – Cllr O'Sullivan proposed that a leaflet drop be organised to advertise vacancies on MBCC.
5. **Correspondence** – Resignation received from Cllr Janice Morgan, Which was read and acknowledge by councillors with regret. Internal audit invoice received Cost £50 to be paid as proposed by Cllr Alison Palmer and Seconded by Cllr Mary Owen
6. **County Councillors Report** – there was a 3.75% increase in council tax, Road repairs were just maintenance of pot holes and other problems. Speed sign by rugby club is not working at present Cllr John Cole to look into this. Cllr Alison Palmer raised the issue of the raised drain at the junction of Magdelene street / Pembroke Road is not adequately cordoned off and is causing a hazard Cllr Cole will investigate when will progress be made to put this right.

7. Financial Accounts/Audit update

Current Account £19,142.67 Deposit Account £8,074.69.

The councillors personal allowances will be automatically paid if the Cllr's do not notify Cllr's to email clerk asap if they do not wish to receive it. Audit for 2019/20 has been received from internal audit, Cllr O'Sullivan hasn't completed last stage yet but will do so as soon as she is able to.

8. Planning – No new planning at present.

9. Welfare Committee – Cllr Alison Palmer advised that there had been no meetings.

Pembrokeshire County Council has withdrawn the provision of the annual inspection of the play area, the welfare need to now fund this however due to insufficient income at present the cost of £690 per annum for inspections is not viable. It was agreed by all that funding to be discussed with MBCC to deal with ongoing maintenance costs. Separate meeting to be arranged to prioritise and possibly budget to do this.

Village Hall Roof was further discussed –Cllr Paul Davies will arrange for the survey to be conducted at a cost of £150 +VAT and payment will be made by MBCC

10. Code of Conduct – Chair Cllr John Cole stated that an issued had been raised regarding inappropriate of a picture being sent on an MBCC Whats App group. Cllr Paul Davies stated that he had been hacked and that if it had come from him that he apologises.

12.Matters for Next meeting.

a) Project Plan in collaboration with Welfare. b) Time Table of events. c) Boot Valley d) budget /finance meeting to be recommenced.

13.Date of Next Meeting –14th April 2021 6 pm online with Zoom code will be distributed to councillors.