

## MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom platform.

Present: Cllrs. Chris Lawler, Mike Dare, Ian Lewis (Chairman), Alison Palmer, Rita Lawler, Veronica James, John Cole; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'Ilr Michelle Lewis

### Declaration of known interests

None.

### Approval of minutes of minutes of February 2025 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr Alison Palmer, seconder C'Ilr Chris Lawler).

### Matters arising

**Bus shelter, Upper Pembroke Road.** Members were informed that the repairs to the missing panel were in hand.

**Pedestrian crossing.** The degraded lighting module on one side had been replaced, but not the other one. C'Ilr John Cole had met the engineer on site, who had explained that the remaining module was on order, and should be fitted in the near future.

**For sale signs.** Members reported that some signage was still in situ, though others had been removed. Some had also been relocated to the junction of Woodlands Park. Clerk to write again to all the estate agents currently displaying signage, to ask for its removal.

### Plans

#### **Planning applications received.**

**24/0967/PA** – Use of part of builders yard / lorry parking to car wash facility with canopy, waiting area/store and drainage mitigation system; Site Address: Builders Yard / Lorry Park, Lower Dredgeman's Hill, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest, SA61 1XJ – No comments.

**24/1049/PA** – Alterations and extension; Site Address: 38, Woodlands Park, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1LR – No comments.

**24/1050/PA** - Roof alterations involving raise main roof height and new dormer and raised ridge line over garage (in retrospect); Site Address: 1, Merlin's Avenue, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1JS – No comments.

### Correspondence

There were no Correspondence items for discussion this month.

### Accounts

#### **Payments**

Easy Websites (website direct debit)	:	£ 36-96
Lloyds Bank (bank charges, February 2025)	:	£ 4-25
Clerk (incidental expenses, October 2024 – March 2025)	:	£ 67-95
Clerk (salary, January – March 2025)	:	As per contract
HMRC (PAYE tax)	:	As per contract

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Ian Lewis, seconder C'Ilr Veronica James).

### **County Councillor's report**

**Speed data.** No speed data had been made available from P.C.C.

**Potholes.** Ongoing, with potholes progressively being reported and repaired.

**Parking, Magdalene Street.** There had been some concern expressed by some residents over the provision of the parking spaces at the end of Magdalene Street, and in particular the two-hour waiting time allocated to them, which was currently under review.

**Housing allocations.** There had been some concern expressed over vacated council properties being re-allocated directly by officers, rather than being placed on the open list for bidding. The reasons for this were currently being looked into.

**Rats.** Some complaints had been received about rats seen in the community area. However, this was not a P.C.C. statutory duty, though rechargeable services were available for residents to deal with the issue if necessary.

**Council tax bills for 2025/26.** These were due out imminently.

### **Discussion of any applications received for co-option of new councillors**

There had been no applications received for discussion. Members discussed various ways of promoting the vacancies, including in a possible summer newsletter. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion of this in April.

### **Any necessary discussion of actions required from community asset and financial risk assessments**

**Data backup.** Clerk to purchase an external SSD drive for backup of community council files, to replace the memory stick currently used.

**Bus shelter at War Memorial.** This was in need of re-setting, as some stays had come loose from the ground. C'llr John Cole undertook to make enquiries about this with the person who had previously installed the noticeboards.

**Grit bins.** A problem with the majority of the grit bins having filled with water had been picked up in the risk assessment. C'llr John Cole undertook to arrange for small drain holes to be drilled into them to allow the water to escape, and to fit rubber stays to hold the lids closed. It was hoped that this would resolve the problem.

**Planting barrel, Glen View.** A thorny shrub in this barrel was in need of removal for safety reasons. C'llr Rita Lawler indicated that she and C'llr Michelle Lewis would arrange this.

**Bench in Glen View Playpark.** This was in need of re-staining of the seat slats. C'llrs Rita Lawler and Chris Lawler undertook to arrange this as needed.

### **Any necessary discussion of environmental / dog-fouling issues in community**

**Dog-fouling.** Members noted this as a persistent and ongoing problem, especially with an apparent increase in dog ownership locally. C'llr Ian Lewis undertook to make enquiries with colleagues about whether or not carrying dog poop bags was a legal requirement for dog-owners out walking their dogs.

**Flower-planting.** Though it was too late for this season, the idea of using some Begonias similar to those used in the community flower beds to plant up the barrels around the community area was mentioned as a possibility.

**Bulb-planting in hedgerows.** The planting of spring bulbs such as snowdrops and daffodils was mentioned. Members were happy with this idea, though it was mentioned as important that any planting done should be of native species.

**Wild flower planting in verge areas.** Sowing of poppy seeds around the Cenotaph

war memorial, and wild-flower planting on the verge outside the Welfare Hall, were suggested. Members happy with this idea, and C'Ilr John Cole undertook to ask P.C.C. to leave these areas out of their grass-cutting schedules for this purpose. Again, it was emphasized that only native species should be used.

#### **Any necessary discussion of future community events**

**Easter weekend events.** C'Ilr Mike Dare informed Members that an Easter egg hunt was planned in the community for Easter Saturday (April 19<sup>th</sup>) in the afternoon, to be followed by community Bingo at the Welfare Hall at 6pm. Details to be circulated in a community flier in the near future.

**VE80 celebrations.** C'Ilr John Cole informed Members that discussions were under way in the Welfare Committee about possible events to commemorate VE80 in May. This could potentially involve a tea party for veterans and their families, Further details to be finalized in a forthcoming Welfare Committee meeting. The possibility of installing a commemorative bench to mark the occasion was also briefly mentioned. Stand-alone agenda item for discussion of this to be tabled for April.

#### **Any other business**

**Unkempt area of land on junction of Rose Avenue.** Concerns were expressed at the condition of an area of land at the junction of Rose Avenue, which was understood to be in private ownership. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion of this in April.

**Ateb-owned boundary fence at Rose Avenue.** Agenda for discussion of this to be tabled for discussion in April. C'Ilr John Cole undertook to pass details of the exact location to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

**Welfare Hall.** Members agreed to hold the June monthly meeting in the Welfare Hall.

The meeting was closed at 7-25pm. Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday 9th April 2025.