

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 13th May, 2019 in Johnston Institute.

Present: Cllrs Jeffries, Neil James, F. James, Rowlands, Jones, Morgan, Philpott; Peter Horton (Clerk);
Apologies : C’llrs Spilsbury, Young, Wilkins, Pratt, Warlow.

9783 – Declarations of known Interests

C’lir Rowlands mentioned that he would be declaring a conflict of interest if the matter of the common boundary between his property and Johnston Hall was discussed.

9784 – To receive the minutes from the April 2019 monthly meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair (proposer C’lir Neil James, seconder C’lir Morgan).

9785 – To receive the minutes from the E.G.M. held on 13th April 2019

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair (proposer C’lir Jones, seconder C’lir Fran. James).

Matters Arising from the April 2019 monthly meeting

9786 – problem with inadequate lighting on the public footpath under the railway Bridge.

C’lir Rowlands informed Members that the matter had been dealt with by P.C.C. C’lir Jones mentioned as a clarification that the lighting issue was ON the bridge, not under it.

9787 – Highway safety issues in Langford Road.

C’lir Rowlands informed Members that all the relevant issues were being looked at by P.C.C. officers.

9788 – Bus shelter / seat outside NISA Shop

C’lir Rowlands had been in conversation with P.C.C. officers, who were currently awaiting a response to their proposals from the NISA property owners.

9789- Close Field Skatepark

C’lir Rowlands reported that glass had recently been deliberately strewn around the skatepark, at each unit, so that injury could easily have occurred to any children using the equipment. He had been down and cleared it away personally to make it safe for the children afterwards. He mentioned that possible lighting / CCTV schemes were being looked at in order to address the problem.

C’lir Neil James mentioned that J.C.C. should be prepared to put necessary finances into schemes to improve the security and safety of the playparks, and that this should be a firm policy of the Council. Members were in agreement with this, as it was recognised that a deterrent was required to discourage further such acts. C’lir Philpott asked about the Police Commissioner grant scheme. C’lir Rowlands confirmed that there was a formal application process for that scheme, which was currently being looked into.

9790 - Discussion of possible signage for businesses around railway bridge

C'llr Rowlands confirmed that he would be having a further meeting with the various interested parties shortly. He apologised that a family bereavement and issues surrounding the boundary dispute at his property had intervened in this.

9791 - Discussion of overhanging tree, Church Road

C'llr Rowlands reported that the matter was still with the P.C.C. Landscape Officer.

9792 - Bolton Hill Quarry fence

C'llr Rowlands reported that he had contacted the Quarry to ask them for suggested dates for a site meeting, and was awaiting a response.

9793 – Fence, Cunnigar Lane

C'llr Rowlands had been in further conversation with P.C.C., and indicative costings were still currently awaited from them.

9794 - Brambles on footpath to school.

C'llr Jones reported that the problem was still ongoing, and had been worsened by the dumping of rubble along the route. C'llr Rowlands undertook to pursue the matter again with P.C.C.

9795 - Narrow footpath outside Johnston Farm.

Nothing new to report. Matter with Welsh Government for action.

9796 – Pothole, entrance of Hall Court.

C'llr Fran. James reported that the hole had been filled with stone, but was now as bad as ever, if not worse. C'llr Rowlands undertook to take up the matter again with P.C.C. As an aside, C'llr Rowlands informed Members that agreement had been reached for the provision of a 'Hall Court' street sign to be erected.

9797 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

C'llr Fran. James had been contacted by the fabricator and asked for more detailed drawings of what was required. It was left for C'llr Fran. James to try and obtain an email address from the fabricator and pass this to the Clerk. Clerk then to liaise with C'llr Spilsbury to obtain the picture and get this passed to the fabricator.

9798 - Discussion of siting for defibrillator recently purchased

C'llr Philpott informed Members that the defibrillator was due to be installed this week. Clerk to pass the defibrillator to C'llr Jeffries.

9799 - Discussion of Rainbow Reef Daycare request for access gate

C'llr Rowlands confirmed that he had met with Bron. Parratt, and was working with the group to try and identify possible grant funding sources. Matter to be left in abeyance.

9800 - Discussion of purchase of new defibrillator

There had been no response received by the Clerk to the message sent by him on 12th March to Cariad, regarding an order for a further defibrillator to be placed on the Village Institute. Clerk to chase up a response.

Planning

9801 - Applications

19/0045/DC – Discharge of condition 9 (Rights of Way) of planning permission 18/0383/MN - Site Address: Bolton Hill Quarry, TIERS CROSS, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3ER – No comments.

19/0048/PA - Proposed residential development of 33 affordable units including parking, open space and associated works - Site Address: Former Johnston Primary School, Cranham Park, Johnston, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PU – Members noted that they are to be the first council houses to be built for many years, and will be owned directly by P.C.C. C’Ilr Neil James was concerned about potential traffic / Highway issues, especially along Langford Road, and at the junction with the A4076. He felt that J.C.C. should push again for action to address this as part of any consent issued for this scheme, due to the problems on Langford Road. Members were agreed that traffic along Langford Road had already been affected by the new school, and would now further deteriorate if nothing was done to address the situation.

Clerk to respond to the planning consultation to raise concerns over the likely impact on traffic flow, and request that improvements at the junction between Langford Road and the A4076 main road should be incorporated as part of any scheme approved.

In addition, Clerk to send a separate letter to Highways to raise the same issues, and ask for their comments / proposals to address the situation.

9802 - Approvals issued

18/1171/PA – Variation of condition 7 of consent 11/0069/PA - (Erection of a New Chapel & Meeting Rooms, Associated Car Parking & Landscaping) to allow for retention of existing access - Site Address:

Land Opposite, 42, Milford Road, Johnston, Haverfordwest, SA62 3HL

9803 - Refusals issued

18/1273/PA - Proposed Domestic Garage - Site Address:

Land Near 15 Brookside Avenue, Johnston, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PQ

Correspondence

9804 - Glenn Murray – Request for assistance in preventing badger damage to sports field – dealt with in agenda item below.

9805 - Jean Swann – Comments on possible use of Vine Field for football pitch – dealt with in agenda item below.

9806 - P.C.C. – Information on Community Delivery Project – noted.

9807 - David Banfield (via C’Ilr Rowlands) – Request for funding for special detergent to clean bus shelter roofs – Members agreed to approve this up to a maximum of £100 (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Jeffries). Clerk to contact Mr. Banfield to convey this approval.

9808 - Internal audit report – dealt with in ‘Accounts’.

9809 - P.C.C. – Playground inspection report – C’Ilr Rowlands informed Members that he had spoken to Mr. Neil McCarthy in P.C.C., and the necessary actions were in hand.

9810 - Dyfed Powys Police – Information on Police Community Fund grants – with C’Ilr Rowlands for any applications that might be possible.

9811 - P.C.C. – Consultation on Strategic Equality Plan – noted.

9812 - Jean Swann – Request for Members to speak up at meetings – noted.

9813 - P.C.C. – Notification of changes to recycling arrangements – Clerk to place in Noticeboard.

9814 – Johnston Football Association – new grass-cutting contract – dealt with in agenda item below.

9815 – C’Ilr Liz. Warlow – request for leave of absence following recent operation – Members were happy to agree this. Clerk to reply accordingly, and wishing her a speedy recovery (Proposer C’Ilr Philpott, seconder C’Ilr Jeffries).

9816 - Kathy Spurling – concerns over parking, and other Village Hall-related issues – C’Ilr Neil James commented that these were valid concerns, and that he would again take them to the Village Institute Committee Members for their information, and any possible action that could be considered. C’Ilr Neil James raised the possibility of asking P.C.C. for double yellow lines to be placed along the Highway at this location. C’Ilr Rowlands mentioned that these issues had previously been discussed with P.C.C., and there had been proposals in train that could have helped this situation. He said that, unfortunately, due to subsequent legal issues over the car park ownership, and also recent illegal blocking of the car park, no progress on any of these issues has been possible.

At this point Mr. Greg. Bishop interrupted the meeting to take issue with C’Ilr Rowlands’ comments. He was asked repeatedly by the Chair and Clerk to desist from interrupting the meeting, but refused to comply. He was then asked by the Chair to leave the meeting, but refused to do so unless C’Ilr Rowlands also left.

[NOTE : At this point, the meeting was suspended by the Chair, and the Police called. On their arrival, the situation was explained to them, and they instructed Mr. Bishop to leave the meeting, which he then did. Following this, the meeting was re-commenced].

9816 (continued) – Members agreed that the matters outlined in Kathy Spurling’s letter did not concern the Community Council. Clerk to forward a copy of the letter to C’Ilr Neil James for consideration by the Village Institute Committee.

Accounts

9817 - Payments

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£	60-00
Clerk (mileage / expenses, December – May)	:	£	95-97
Denise Mayr (Internal audit fee)	:	£	150-00
Johnston F.A. (grass-cutting)	:	£	270-00
Bryan Morgan (Members’ allowance for 2019/20)	:	£	150-00

9818 - Income

Precept (first instalment of three)	:	£	11000-00
V.A.T. return	:	£	3923-66

9819 - Receipt of Internal Audit Report

Members accepted the internal audit report.

9820 - Consideration of Annual Governance statement

Members completed and approved the Annual Governance Statement, which was then signed by the Chair and Clerk.

9821 - Charitable donations

Written requests had been received from Paul Sartori Foundation, Wales Air Ambulance, Urdd Eisteddfod, Pembrokeshire Y.F.C., Cruse Bereavement Care, Oxygen Therapy Centre Cardigan, Bobath Therapy Centre, Teen Cancer Trust. A decision on charitable donations was deferred until the June 2019 meeting. C’Ilr Neil James mentioned that he would like to see the Sunshine Club included in any list of donations made.

The above accounts items were approved by Members (Proposer C’Ilr Jones, seconder C’Ilr Fran. James).

9822 - Discussion of Risk assessment actions (including discussion of any remedial works needed to St. Peter’s Road bus shelter)

Members noted that C’Ilr Pratt was obtaining quotations for needed repairs to the bus shelter. However, Members were concerned that the steep drop behind the bus shelter should not be ignored. C’Ilr Neil James felt that perhaps railings should be installed behind the bus shelter. However, it was noted that these would need to be constructed to proper standards to ensure their safety. C’Ilr Rowlands to take up the matter with P.C.C., and ask them for their suggestions / costings for a suitable scheme.

9823 - Discussion of date for Chairman’s Dinner

Deferred for consideration in June.

9824 - Discussion of any community Christmas lighting arrangements

C’Ilr Rowlands felt that it needed careful consideration, especially in view of the potential cost, and other financial commitments looming for the Council. Members noted that there was currently no reliable information available on the likely cost, and that this should be obtained in order to make an informed decision. C’Ilr Philpott undertook to do some digging into costs. Matter to be placed on June agenda for further discussion.

9825 - Discussion of lighting requirements in public / recreational areas

Discussed in 9789 above.

9826 - Discussion of possible action to retain Community Police Forum

C’Ilr Rowlands was keen to progress the matter, but did not have the necessary contact details for the individuals involved. C’Ilr Philpott mentioned that she had some of these available, and undertook to pass them to C’Ilr Rowlands.

9827 - Discussion of renewal of grass-cutting contract for 2019 season

Members approved the contract as proposed (Proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Morgan). Clerk to send signed document back to Glenn Murray.

9828 - Discussion of possible action to discourage badger activity on sports field

The letter from Glenn Murray outlining the problem was read out.

C’Ilr Jones mentioned that some existing gates had been removed, which may have worsened the problem.

It was agreed for the Clerk to write to P.C.C. / Sustrans to ask for the existing gate to be changed for a swing gate or similar, as proposed in the letter from Glenn Murray (Proposer C'Ilr Rowlands, seconder C'Ilr Jones). Mention of a possible contribution by J.C.C. to be held in abeyance until an initial response had been received.

9829 - Discussion of possible request to P.C.C. for disabled access to 1st floor of Orchard Court

C'Ilr Neil James reported that there was currently an empty flat on the first floor of Orchard Court, due to the lack of a disabled access facility. This was the case even though there was currently a waiting list of people waiting for accommodation there. Clerk to write to the P.C.C. Access Officer to raise the issue and ask for it to be addressed (Proposer C'Ilr Philpott, seconder C'Ilr Jones). Letter to be copied to the P.C.C. Housing Department and C'Ilr Rowlands.

9830 - Discussion of possible use of Vine Field as playing field

C'Ilr Neil James had spoken in detail with Glenn Murray about the matter. It seemed that the field would be unsuitable as a venue for girls' football, due to inadequate size, need for levelling, lack of amenities for changing / showering, and inadequate parking provision. Members were in agreement that its use for this purpose was not workable, but felt that consideration should be given to installing new play equipment there.

C'Ilr Rowlands raised the possibility of using some of the land adjacent to the new school for a girls' playing field. However, Members were unconvinced that this would be possible, due to the uneven, sloping, and wet nature of the land.

9831 - Discussion of situation regarding land opposite Johnston Institute

Members were provided with an update on the current legal situation by C'Ilr Rowlands. Members asked the Clerk to write to the Police following the earlier interruption to the meeting by Mr. Bishop, raising concerns over the disruption of the meetings, and perception by Members of this as an attempt to intimidate them (Proposer C'Ilr Philpott, seconder C'Ilr Morgan).

Any other business

9832 – Fly tipping, land adjacent to Glebelands Field. C'Ilr Jones mentioned that a fridge / freezer had been fly tipped on land adjacent to the Glebelands Field, just off the lane.

The meeting ended at 9-10pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 10th June, 2019.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....