

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 9th September 2019 in Johnston Institute.

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

9929 – Declarations of known Interests

C'llr Rowlands re-stated his ongoing personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item about the land opposite the Johnston Institute, due to an ongoing unrelated boundary dispute with the other party.

9930 – To receive the minutes from the July 2019 monthly meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair (proposer C'llr Rowlands, seconder C'llr Fran. James).

Matters Arising from the approved minutes

9931 – Highway safety issues in Langford Road.

C'llr Rowlands informed Members that he had again discussed the matter with Mr. Darren Thomas of P.C.C. He had raised the request for a longer 20mph speed limit zone. They had also discussed the speed activated signage. It had been explained that the signs could not be re-programmed, but would need to be replaced. If the Community Council wished to have this type of signage, it would need to fund them. C'llr Jones said that she thought chevrons would be more effective than electronic signs. C'llr Philpott said that Darren Thomas had previously been asked about providing those, and had rejected the idea.

It was agreed for C'llrs Rowlands, Fran. James and Philpott to look at what measures might be achievable, and report back to the Community Council. Matter to be made a regular monthly agenda item for the time being.

9932 – Bus shelter / seat outside NISA Shop

C'llr Rowlands informed Members that no response had yet been received by P.C.C. from the shop owners.

9933- Close Field Skatepark

C'llr Rowlands had attended a meeting with Mr. Neil McCarthy of P.C.C. It had been agreed that the amount of money spent on repairs to the play equipment was excessive, at many hundreds of pounds per year. Provision of C.C.T.V. / lighting had been discussed. He had also spoken with Mr. Richard Brown of P.C.C., who had undertaken to provide costings for suitable C.C.T.V. / lighting schemes for consideration by the Community Council. C'llr Rowlands mentioned that some grant money had already been tentatively sourced towards the cost of an installation, but that this would not be anywhere near enough to cover the likely cost. Other possible funding streams were currently being investigated. Some considerable input from J.C.C. would be needed if the scheme was to come to fruition.

Members were in agreement that measures are definitely needed, in view of the current expenditure on repairing vandalism, and also the malicious nature of the vandalism being carried out. Firm decisions could be made once definite figures had been made available.

9934 - Discussion of possible signage for businesses around railway bridge

C'llr Rowlands informed Members that there had been no progress with the occupants of the business units, nor with the site owner. He suggested asking the Planning Department to address the illegal signage. C'llr Philpott agreed that something needed to be done, due to the potential safety issues with some of the signage. C'llr Wilkins was concerned at the possible adverse effect on businesses if there was a gap in signage provision. C'llr Wilkins asked if the Community Council could arrange for a planning application for a signage scheme. The Clerk advised that this might fall foul of the requirement to use public funds appropriately.

The Clerk advised that if P.C.C. was asked to get involved in dealing with the illegal signage, they would simply ask for any illegal signage to be removed, but would not pro-actively assist in providing an alternative. This would be for the business owners to arrange for themselves.

Members considered possible sites for signage. Few options were available, one of which was the triangle of grass close to the junction, and thought to belong to the Railway Authorities.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to the site owners. Letter to raise concerns, and ask for their input in resolving the situation. Letter to mention that the Community Council wished to support local businesses, but that the ongoing safety concerns need to be addressed, as do the expressions of concern from some local residents that have been received (proposer C'llr Wilkins, seconder C'llr Jeffries).

9935 – Overhanging tree, junction of Church Road / Hall Court.

The Clerk informed Members that he had been in discussion with the Landscape Officer regarding this matter. The Landscape Officer had recommended that the Community Council send a message to Highways to say that they would like to retain the tree if at all possible, and requesting consideration to a design solution to allow this, while improving the situation for pedestrians.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write letter to Darren Thomas of P.C.C. as recommended by the Landscape Officer (proposer C'llr Philpott, seconder C'llr Rowlands).

C'llr Rowlands also mentioned the matter of possible provision of double yellow lines around this junction. However, this was left for discussion separately on a future occasion.

9936 - Bolton Hill Quarry fence

C'llr Rowlands pointed out that the Quarry officers had suggested various dates, but none had been taken up.

Some Members were uncertain if a meeting was really necessary prior to carrying out the work. However, after discussion, it was agreed that a meeting would be beneficial, in order to ascertain the exact line of the fence, and discuss responsibility for future maintenance. It was left that C'llrs Pratt, Fran. James and Rowlands would attend a meeting, along with any other Members available to do so. C'llr Pratt to co-ordinate arrangements for this.

9937 - Brambles on footpath to school.

C'llr Jones informed Members that the brambles had grown back again. C'llr Rowlands undertook to discuss again with P.C.C. to seek a better arrangement for regular cutting back.

9938 - Narrow footpath outside Johnston Farm.

Nothing new to report.

9939 – Hall Court signage.

Signage still awaited. C'llr Rowlands undertook to chase this up with Darren Thomas of P.C.C. He reminded Members that the sign would need to be paid for once installed.

9940 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

C'llr Spilsbury had heard nothing back from the fabricator. He undertook to chase this up. The possibility of considering additional purchase of a WW2 commemorative bench was mentioned, in view of the 75th anniversary was coming up next year.

9941 - Discussion of siting for defibrillator recently purchased for Sports Field.

C'llr Fran. James mentioned that there had been positive feedback received following the commissioning of the defibrillator. However, it was noted that the cabinet had been opened recently by some children, and might need checking in case the unit had been interfered with. C'llr Pratt undertook to check it, to see if there were any apparent issues, and if so, contact Cariad.

The Clerk mentioned that the Ambulance Service had been in contact with Rosemarket C.C. to ask for a local contact in case of any issues with their defibrillators. It was agreed that C'llr Philpott would be named as the local contact for Johnston C.C. if one was requested.

9942 - Discussion of purchase of new defibrillator for Village Institute.

The unit was now in the Village Hall. C'llr Pratt undertook to install this. He would then let Cariad know its location, for them in turn to notify the Ambulance Service for inclusion on their database.

9943 - Discussion of possible action to retain Community Police Forum

To facilitate progress, it was agreed for the Clerk to write to Neyland Town Council, asking if the contact details for their members previously involved with the Community Police Forum could be passed to C'llr Rowlands (proposer C'llr Rowlands, seconder C'llr Philpott).

9944 - Discussion of action to discourage badger activity on sports field

The Clerk had received a message from the P.C.C. Countryside Officer, asking for further details to facilitate progress in addressing the issue. It was agreed that C'llr Pratt would try and find out ownership details for the land by the agricultural crossing. This to be passed to Clerk along with a photograph of the gate near the football field. Clerk to pass this information on to the Countryside Officer once available.

9945 - Discussion of development of Vine Field

Left for C'llrs Rowlands, Fran. James and Philpott to look at in conjunction with other related issues, and report back to Council for any decisions required.

9946 - Fly tipping, land adjacent to Glebelands Field.

C'llr Jones informed Members that the items were still there. C'llr Rowlands undertook to pass this on to P.C.C. for action.

9947 - Car in car park opposite the Institute.

C'llr Fran. James thought the car was still there. C'llr Rowlands suggested getting the number on the way out following the meeting, and then report it to P.C.C. for removal.

9948 - Discussion of possible unauthorised scrap metal merchants operating in Village

Matter in hand with P.C.C. Planning Enforcement, with a planning application for the business awaited.

9949 - Johnston in Bloom.

C'llrs Philpott and Fran. James had been around the Village and judged the competition. Clerk to supply names to C'llr Philpott for the prizes to be awarded. It was agreed that the prizes for this year would be vouchers for Johnston Garden Centre.

Planning

9950 - Applications

19/0389/TF – Tree Surgery & Felling; 17, Woodlands View, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HF – no comments.

19/0392/DC – Discharge of condition 41 (geological recording scheme) of planning permission 18/0383/MN; Bolton Hill Quarry, TIERS CROSS, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3ER – no comments.

19/0478/PA – Extension and alterations; 14, The Close, Johnston, SA62 3QQ – no comments.

19/0520/PA – Erection of dwelling (Reserved Matters to Outline approval 18/1124/PA); Infill Plot South of Nr 30, Church Road, Johnston, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HE – no comments.

9951 - Decisions

19/0113/PA - Erection of replacement canopy; Site Address: Mike Howlin Motors, St Peters Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HB.

9952 - Appeal decisions

18/1273/PA – Garage on land near 15 Brookside Avenue, Johnston SA62 3PQ – consent granted on appeal.

Correspondence

9953 - W.G. – Flood zone consultation – noted.

9954 - O.V.W. – Notification of forthcoming A.G.M., to be held on 5th October in Pontrhydfendigaid – noted.

9955 - P.C.C. – Information regarding '2 minute clean' boards scheme – Members in favour of considering this. Matter to be tabled for discussion in October.

9956 - P.C.C. – Information regarding 'Enhancing Pembrokeshire' grants - noted.

9957 - P.C.C. – Planning consultation on proposed supplementary planning guidance on landscape assessment – noted.

9958 - Boundary Commission for Wales – final report on proposed community boundary changes – noted.

9959 - W.G. – Consultation on proposed national development framework – noted.

- 9960** - P.C.C. – Consultation on County Farms – noted.
- 9961** - Glenn Murray – Enquiry about progress to deter badgers – dealt with in 9944 above.
- 9962** - Grant Thornton (external auditors) – Notification of completion of 2018/19 audit with no matters arising – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.
- 9963** - O.V.W. – Information on forming policy on biodiversity – matter to be tabled for discussion in October.
- 9964** - P.C.C. – Police and Crime Panel Annual report – noted.
- 9965** - Ombudsman – Notification of decision not to investigate complaint made against C’Ilr Ken Rowlands by Mr. Greg. Bishop, as no breach of the Members’ code was considered to have occurred, and even if it had, it would not meet the public interest test for this to be further investigated – noted.
- 9966** - P.C.C. – Information on Fisheries Local Action Group activities – noted.

Accounts

9967 - Payments

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, July / August)	: £ 120-00
Clerk (salary / fixed expenses July – September 2019)	: £1273-40
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)	: £ 128-73
P.C.C. (flowers for public display)	: £ 292-78

9968 - Audit

Members accepted the report from the auditors, confirming an unqualified approval of the 2018/19 accounts, with no matters requiring attention, or actions recommended.

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Rowlands, seconder C’Ilr Jeffries).

9969 - Discussion of Risk assessment actions (including discussion of any remedial works needed to St. Peter’s Road bus shelter)

The Clerk had received a message from the consultants for the proposed scheme. They had indicated that their preliminary assessment was now complete. They would be carrying out final design work in two-three month’s time, and would be happy to arrange a site meeting at that time, to examine possible works around the bus shelter. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed further when contact was received from the consultants regarding this. Reference was made to the email received from the consultants, and circulated to Members for information on 9th July.

9970 - Discussion of date for Chairman’s Dinner

This was agreed for Friday 18th October at The Vine Inn. Clerk to ask for numbers for attendance from all Members, and pass this information to C’Ilr Jeffries. In the meantime, C’Ilr Jeffries to check on availability at The Vine for the dinner, and get menus for consideration.

9971 - Discussion of possible arrangements for Christmas lighting in Community

C’Ilr Philpott had not been able to obtain any pricing information as yet. C’Ilr Pratt had spoken to an electrician known to him, and familiar with this type of work. He had mentioned that permission would be needed from Western Power, P.C.C., and also the Trunk Road Agency. He had said that an electrical feed could be obtained from the street lights, but that this could be quite expensive to do.

C'llr Rowlands mentioned that the Community Council already has links with a local electrician who carries out the lighting work on the Christmas trees, so presumably he could be invited to quote for any such work agreed. However, he felt that the cost of such a lighting scheme might be prohibitive. He had spoken to a firm that would undertake the whole scheme, but they had not given any indication of likely costings for this. C'llr Rowlands to pass on the contact details for this firm to C'llr Philpott for her to follow up.

C'llr Spilsbury raised the possibility of a Christmas lighting competition in the Village. C'llr Rowlands mentioned that this had previously been ruled out to avoid possible one-upmanship issues in the Village. Matter to be revisited closer to the time. It was agreed that the arrangements to provide Christmas trees and lighting at two locations would again be carried out this year in a similar way to last year (proposer C'llr Rowlands, seconder C'llr Philpott).

9972 - Discussion of lighting needed in public / recreational areas

Covered in 9933 above.

9973 - Discussion of possible fence provision along Cunnigar Lane

Members decided to leave the matter of fence provision in abeyance, as the cost could be quite high, and Members were not convinced that it would necessarily help address the problem of fly-tipping.

It was noted that the lane is very overgrown at present. C'llr Rowlands undertook to speak to P.C.C. about the state of the lane, and ask for it to be cleared up. In general, Members were agreed that in future it would be more appropriate to deal with such problems in the lane as fly-tipping issues.

9974 - Discussion of any actions required as a result of incident on Glebelands Field during grass-cutting

Members were agreed that the issue was not really a Community Council matter, as the building was privately owned, and the grass-cutting was covered by the contractor's own insurance arrangements. Clerk to include a paragraph in the letter to be sent to the site owner (agreed in 9934 above) suggesting that provision of toughened glass in their window overlooking the field might be a good idea (proposer C'llr Jeffries, seconder C'llr Pratt).

Any other business

9975 – litter and anti-social behaviour outside shop at Glebelands. C'llr Philpott had received complaints about this problem. She had advised the complainant to contact P.C.C. about the litter, and call 101 to report any anti-social behaviour. C'llr Jones mentioned that ultrasound deterrent measures were effective in other locations, and might be worth considering by the shop owner. C'llr Rowlands undertook to call into the shop and speak to the owner about the matter.

9976 – Johnston Fete. C'llr Jeffries mentioned the successful fete held a couple of weeks previously. Thanks were given to the Members involved in arranging this, via the Johnston Community Spirit group. C'llrs Jones and Pratt were especially mentioned. Members were agreed that the fete had been very successful, and would hopefully be the first of many similar events.

9977 – Cycleway boardwalk. C'llr Jeffries mentioned that the boardwalk was now closed on safety grounds. There were ongoing problems with people using the path getting lost while trying to negotiate the main road. This was especially bad at

present due to the ongoing roadworks. She had spoken to Sustrans, who were trying to get funding for work to reopen the boardwalk, but could not even guarantee that this would be granted, let alone provide a definite timescale.

C'llr Rowlands undertook to look into this, and speak to Darren Thomas of P.C.C. regarding the matter. He thought that P.C.C. should have some responsibility, if only on public safety grounds. Matter to be tabled for discussion in October.

9978 – Path from The Close to St. Peter's Road. C'llr Warlow mentioned that there was a bush hanging over the wall on the lane, also a holly tree growing out of the wall, and brambles along the path, all of which were posing problems for walkers using the lane.

9979 – Community vegetable beds. C'llr Wilkins had read about successful community schemes in other parts of the Country. Matter to be tabled for discussion in October. In the meantime, C'llr Wilkins undertook to pass around the link to the website where there was more information on such schemes.

9980 – Bus travel to Milford School. C'llr Jones was concerned about the fact that free travel had only been provided for the current school year. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in October.

[NOTE – at this point, C'llr Rowlands left the meeting].

9981 - Discussion of situation regarding land opposite Johnston Institute

The Clerk informed Members that a hearing had been scheduled for 23rd September.

The meeting ended at 8-55pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 14th October, 2019.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....