

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 14th October 2019 in Johnston Institute.

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

9982 – Declarations of known Interests

None

9983 – To receive the minutes from the September 2019 monthly meeting

In item 9931 line 1, 'NMr. Darren Thomas' was amended to read 'Mr. Darren Thomas'. With this amendment, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair (proposer C'Ilr Fran. James, seconder C'Ilr Wilkins).

Matters Arising from the approved minutes

9984 – Bus shelter / seat outside NISA Shop

Matter in hand with C'Ilr Rowlands. The Clerk had heard nothing further to date.

9985- Close Field Skatepark

Matter in hand with C'Ilr Rowlands. The Clerk had heard nothing further to date.

9986 - Discussion of possible signage for businesses around railway bridge

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent, and a reply was awaited.

9987 – Overhanging tree, junction of Church Road / Hall Court.

The Clerk had been in communication with the Highways Department of P.C.C. regarding the matter. They had responded to say that nothing would be done to improve the situation, as the pavement on the opposite side of the road was considered to be sufficient provision for pedestrian use. C'Ilr Fran. James commented that the pavement on the opposite side of the roads was very often blocked by vehicles, and unavailable for pedestrian use. It was left that C'Ilr Fran. James would seek photographic evidence of this problem, and if obtained, pass this to the Clerk. Clerk to then send it into P.C.C. with a further letter requesting action.

9988 - Bolton Hill Quarry fence

C'Ilr Pratt informed Members that the planned site meeting had not taken place due to bad weather. However, he also reported that the Quarry officers were now indicating that provision of a fence at this location was a low priority. As the natural defences of hedgerows had improved, and their other security provisions were considered adequate, the fence was not now considered necessary. Members were in agreement that in this case the matter was best left in abeyance. Clerk to write to the quarry thanking them for their actions to date, and stating that the matter would be kept under review for possible action in the future if and when it should become necessary (proposer C'Ilr Philpott, seconder C'Ilr Spilsbury).

9989 - Brambles on footpath to school.

C'Ilr Jones reported that the brambles had been cut back to some extent, but that without regular maintenance they would inevitably come back. However, matter resolved for the time being.

9990 - Narrow footpath outside Johnston Farm.

Members were informed that work was due to commence on the footpath improvements on 21st October 2019. C'llr Morgan was concerned at the lack of detailed drawings of the proposed scheme, none of which had been supplied to the Community Council. C'llr Neil James commented that the proposed timescale of the work and diversions planned for the scheme would seem to indicate that the matter was going to be dealt with to proper standards. However, it was agreed that detailed scheme plans should be requested. Clerk to put this in hand (proposer C'llr Morgan, seconder C'llr Neil James).

It was also confirmed that the proposed traffic arrangements for the pavement improvement scheme would not impact adversely on the Remembrance Day road closure proposals.

9991 – Hall Court signage.

Matter still in hand with C'llr Rowlands.

9992 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

C'llr Spilsbury had sent messages to the fabricator, but had yet to hear back.

9993 - Discussion of siting for defibrillator recently purchased for Sports Field.

C'llr Pratt reported that he had inspected the defibrillator following the recent attempts to gain access to the cabinet, and all appeared fine.

9994 - Discussion of purchase of new defibrillator for Village Institute.

Installation in hand with C'llr Pratt.

9995 - Discussion of possible action to retain Community Police Forum

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Neyland Town Council asking for contact to be made with C'llr Rowlands. It was unknown whether or not anyone had yet made contact.

9996 - Discussion of action to discourage badger activity on sports field

C'llr Pratt confirmed that he had taken photos, but had yet to download these. He suggested that the best way forward might be to arrange a site meeting with the P.C.C. officer. Clerk to make the request from P.C.C. and provide C'llr Pratt's email address as a point of contact for detailed arrangements to be made.

9997 - Discussion of development of Vine Field

Still in hand for C'llr Rowlands to make arrangements in conjunction with C'llrs Fran. James and Philpott.

9998 - Fly tipping, land adjacent to Glebelands Field.

C'llrs reported that that fridge-freezer, microwave oven, chairs, etc. had still been present the previous weekend.

9999 - Car in car park opposite the Institute.

Members reported that the vehicle was still there. It was confirmed that the registration number had been passed to C'llr Rowlands after the last meeting.

0000 - 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 still awaited.

0001 - Johnston in Bloom.

C'llr Philpott had obtained the prize vouchers. The shields were still to be collected. Remaining actions in hand with C'llrs Philpott and Wilkins.

0002 - Discussion of date for Chairman's Dinner

As Friday 18th October was now going to be difficult or impossible for most Members, matter to be placed on November agenda for discussion of a new date. In the meantime, Clerk to ask C'llr Jeffries to cancel the booking at The Vine.

0003 - Discussion of possible arrangements for Christmas lighting in Community

Matter currently in hand with C'llr Rowlands to investigate pricings. C'llr Spilsbury mentioned that he had seen something in recent minutes for either Pembroke or Pembroke Dock Town Councils, with information on their proposed arrangements and pricing structures for Christmas lighting. He undertook to get more detailed information on this.

0004 - Discussion of possible fence provision along Cunnigar Lane

C'llr Neil James felt that a formal approach to P.C.C. was needed. Clerk to write a letter to P.C.C., drawing attention to the fly-tipping problems along the lane, and asking for action to address this. Letter to ask for consideration of possible measures to serve as a deterrent against similar problems in the future (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Philpott).

0005 – litter and anti-social behaviour outside shop at Glebelands.

Matter in hand with C'llr Rowlands.

0006 – Path from The Close to St. Peter's Road

C'llr Spilsbury confirmed that he had called to the house in question (30 St Peters Rd - next door to Suzuki Garage on opposite side of lane), but that the property appeared to be unoccupied currently. It was understood that the property was in the same ownership as the Suzuki Garage. Clerk to write a letter to the owner asking for the overhanging branches to be removed (proposer C'llr Pratt, seconder C'llr Philpott).

0007 – Community vegetable beds.

Matter to be placed on January 2020 agenda for discussion.

Planning

0008 - Applications

19/0594/PA - Two storey extension to rear, 17, Hillcroft, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3QB – no comments.

0009 - Decisions

19/0389/TF - Tree Surgery & Felling, 17, Woodlands View, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HF.

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.

19/0478/PA - Extension and alterations, 14 , The Close, Johnston, SA62 3QQ.

Correspondence

0010 - Darren Thomas, P.C.C. Highways – response to further communication regarding footpath problems, Hall Court – dealt with in 9987 above.

0011 - P.C.C. – Notification of approved footpath diversion around Hays Farm, Pope Hill – noted.

0012 - Citizens' Advice Bureau – Invitation to 80th birthday celebrations, 22nd November, Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock – noted.

0013 - P.C.C. – Request for confirmation of any requirements for road closures in connection with Remembrance Day – dealt with by C'llrs Neil James and Rowlands.

0014 - P.C.C. – Confirmation of publication of report on proposed Learning Resource Centre for pupils with special needs – noted.

0015 - P.C.C. – Information on asset transfers from principal authorities – noted.

0016 - Atkins – Notification of proposed commencement of work on footpath widening outside Johnston Farm – dealt with in 9990 above.

Accounts

0017 - Payments

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning) : £ 60-00

Price and Kelway (legal costs) : £ 420-00

Grass-cutting (2019 season) : £4585-00

Nina Philpott (Johnston Garden Centre vouchers) : £ 75-00

0018 - Quarterly budget review

Members considered the quarterly budget review supplied by the Clerk. There were no matters of concern in respect of the accounts that Members or the Clerk felt needed discussion.

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C'llr N. James, seconder C'llr Philpott).

0019 - Discussion of Risk assessment actions (including discussion of any remedial works needed to St. Peter's Road bus shelter)

In hand with C'llr Rowlands to arrange a site meeting. Matter to be placed on November agenda for further discussion.

0020 - Discussion of Highway safety issues, Langford Road

C'llr Neil James commented that with recent changes of ownership of commercial premises, especially around the junction with the main road, some parking issues were inevitable for the time being.

C'llr Spilsbury mentioned that P.C.C. were giving five minutes leeway for people parking on the double yellow lines to buy chips. Members were in agreement that this was unacceptable. C'llr Jones commented that this was causing obstructions to vehicles as well as pedestrians.

C'llr Spilsbury mentioned that he had asked for figures from P.C.C. on numbers of visits to the area by civil enforcement officers, and numbers of tickets issued. No information had been forthcoming on this to date.

0021 - Discussion of possible use of '2 minute clean' boards

Some Members had seen these boards in Broad Haven, and were broadly supportive. However, Members were unsure about what happens to the rubbish collected. It was left for the Clerk to seek more information on this aspect, for further discussion in November.

0022 - Discussion of need to produce plan on encouraging biodiversity

The Clerk explained that new legislation meant that the Community Council needed to be working towards preparation of a plan. No timetable had been set for publication of this, and guidance on how to prepare a plan was currently awaited from the Welsh Government. It was noted that the first annual report of progress / actions towards publication of the plan was due by the end of 2019. It was agreed to make the matter a regular monthly agenda item for the time being, and await the guidance from the Welsh Government.

0023 - Discussion of problems due to closure of cycleway boardwalk

C'llr Philpott informed Members that she had contacted Sustrans about the matter. They said that it was a financial budget issue, but that they were looking at ways to get finance for a new plastic deck to replace the wooden one. Many complaints were understood to have been sent in from local residents regarding the matter. C'llr Neil James asked about action to deal with Ash trees along the cycle path affected by Ash die-back. C'llr Wilkins confirmed that the affected trees had been marked up for removal on the cycle path near her house, indicating that the matter appeared to be in hand.

0024 - Discussion of school transport for 2020-21 school year

C'llr Jones mentioned that the free transport provided for two years was due to finish at the end of this school year. She mentioned that the previously-quoted price of £1 per journey had now been increased to £2 per child per journey. Also, she mentioned that there were problems with the proposed arrangements. As these were dependent on regular service buses, there was no guarantee of a seat on the bus. In addition, the bus does not drop children off at the school, but rather outside on the main road, with no lollipop patrol to see them safely across the road and into the school. It was additionally mentioned that the bus stop outside the school in Milford Haven is not fit for purpose, as it is too small to accommodate the numbers of pupils using it. Members commented on the total lack of a safe route to school for children walking from Johnston to Milford Haven. C'llr Jones commented that no-one locally had asked for the change in catchment area, and she felt it was up to P.C.C. to address these problems.

It was agreed for the Clerk to write to the Director of Education regarding the matter. Letter to take issue with the proposed cost of the transport, the lack of a safe route to the school making it impossible to walk there safely, the use of regular service buses that only every 30 minutes with no guarantee of a seat, and issues of safeguarding of pupils due to the inadequate drop-off and pick-up arrangements. Letter to make request for dedicated safe transport for children of Johnston Village to school. Copies of letter to be sent to C'llr Rowlands, Ms. C.A. Morris (Headmistress, Milford Comprehensive School), Mr. Gareth Thomas (Headmaster, Johnston School), Paul Davies, A.M., and Stephen Crabb, M.P.

0025 - Discussion of situation regarding land opposite Johnston Institute

The Clerk confirmed that a procedural hearing had taken place on 23rd September, and the matter was understood to be progressing through the legal process towards a further substantive hearing.

Any other business

0026 - NISA A.T.M. C’Ilr Spilsbury mentioned that this A.T.M. was now charging for withdrawals. However, it was mentioned by Members that a number of free ones still existed around the Village.

0027 – Possible criminal activity in Village. Members were warned that a number of incidents had been reported recently of young people going around The Close looking into cars and gardens, etc. Members were warned to be vigilant.

0028 – Remembrance Day service. C’Ilr Neil James informed Members that arrangements were in hand, with a wreath on order, and service sheets being organised by C’Ilr Rowlands.

0029 – Link Footpath from Hayston View to Church Road. C’Ilr Neil James confirmed that the situation regarding the link footpath had been checked by the Clerk with P.C.C. It had been confirmed that the footpath has been included in the plan for the proposed road adoption scheme, and so will come under the remit of the Authority. A request had been made to P.C.C. for the footpath to be opened, now that some properties in Phase two had been occupied.

0030 – Insurance for Glebelands Field. C’Ilr Pratt raised the issue of what was covered. It was confirmed that the wooden pavilion, being in J.C.C. ownership, would be covered by the J.C.C. policy (Clerk undertook to check that this is actually the case). However, contents, as well as all sports activities, would need separate cover under the Sports Association policy.

0031 – New P.C.C. rubbish collection arrangements. C’Ilr Jones commented on the lack of any roadshow in Johnston to explain / promote the new arrangements. The Clerk undertook to make enquiries about this, to see if one could still be arranged.

0032 – Christmas trees. C’Ilr Philpott informed Members that the two trees for the Community as for 2018 were on order for this year.

The meeting concluded at 8-30pm.

Next scheduled meeting – Monday 11th November 2019.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

