

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 9th January 2023 in the Johnston Institute, Church Road, Johnston, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

**Present: Cllrs Tracey Young, Aled Thomas, Nina Philpott, Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Martyn Spilsbury, Neil James, Len Gale, Louise Jones, Christine Wilkins; Peter Horton (Clerk);
Apologies : C’Ilr Kaidan Alenko.**

Also present was P.C. Neil Lees of Dyfed Powys Police, who was attending on behalf of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

1516 - Declarations of known Interests

None

1517 – To receive the minutes from the December 2022 monthly meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and retained for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’Ilr Martyn Spilsbury, seconder C’Ilr Janet Jeffries).

Matters arising

1518 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

C’Ilr Martyn Spilsbury had received an indicative estimate of around £2000 - £2500 + VAT for a stainless steel commemorative bench. This compared with a likely price of around £1200 for a coated steel one. Members voted to go ahead with the procurement of a stainless steel bench (proposer C’Ilr Janet Jeffries, seconder C’Ilr Neil James). C’Ilr Martyn Spilsbury to put this in hand.

1519- Discussion of possible request for yellow lines in Hall Court

A response had been received from P.C.C. indicating that further parking restrictions were not currently under consideration. Members felt that the current situation appeared to be acceptable, and left the matter in abeyance.

1520 - Discussion of quotation for work on bus shelter, St. Peter’s Road

No further update regarding the timetable for replacing the St. Peter’s Road bus shelter had yet been received.

1521 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

Members noted that the path was now open, but the road sign had still not been re-erected. Also, the hydrant indicator post was still awaiting re-fixing, and there were problems with the street-lighting in the area. Clerk to contact P.C.C. regarding the adoption of the path, and to seek an explanation as to why it had not yet been finalised. It was felt by Members that the adoption process might be the key to getting all the outstanding items addressed.

1522 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators

Members were informed that a rota for checking the defibrillators monthly was now in place, and had been commenced.

It was noted that the case and infant pads from the defibrillator outside the Nisa Shop were still missing. No information had been forthcoming about their whereabouts. Clerk to purchase a new bag and infant pad set. C'llr Neil James noted that most of the defibrillators were not registered on the GoSam app. This would need to be done by any individual who was registered to use the app.

1523 - Discussion of establishment of vexatious communication policy
Matter still in hand with Clerk.

1524 - Discussion of needed boundary repairs to Vine Field
Arrangements for scraping and levelling of the exposed ground areas to the perimeter of the site still in hand with C'llrs Christine Wilkins and Neil James.

1525 - Discussion of possible one-way system in Glebelands
P.C.C. had responded to say that a support level of at least 70% of all frontages in the estate would be needed for a scheme to be progressed. Members decided in principle to arrange further round of canvassing in the estate in the spring, but no specific arrangements were made.

1526 - Discussion of arrangements to commence grant project for Vine Field, including consideration of revised quotation from Sovereign Play
Members were still awaiting an anticipated start date in late January.

1527 - Discussion of arrangements for siting of 'Stop and Chat' bench
The Clerk reported that some problems with degradation of the surface finish on the bench, in common with others supplied to neighbouring community councils, was currently under investigation by Norman Industries. Arrangements for the siting of the bench deferred to a future meeting, after the problems had been resolved.

1528 – Correspondence on fenceline.
Nothing had been heard back from the landowners. C'llr Louise Jones undertook to follow this up.

1529 - Discussion of Community Council Biodiversity Enhancement report
Updating of the report to be completed by C'llr Aled Thomas prior to the February meeting. Clerk to email the current report to him for this purpose.

1530 - New Council houses at Cranham Park
C'llr Aled Thomas informed Members that he was currently awaiting responses to a number of emails sent to P.C.C. seeking updates on various aspects of the emerging scheme. He undertook to pass on any information of note to Members as this was received.

1531 - Fibre optic cable installation works, The Close. C'llr Janet Jeffries
C'llr Janet Jeffries reported that the mess and mud had largely dispersed due to the rain, but was still quite bad around the garages. C'llr Nina Philpott had also noted problems with unsafe footpath closures in Langford Road, which had been reported to P.C.C. It was understood that the footpath had since been re-opened.

1532 - Discussion of arrangements to recognise service of recently-retired members

C’lrs Nina Philpott and Tracey Young had delivered the hampers and flowers to all three ex-Members. In the case of Bryan Morgan and Liz Warlow, these had been left with neighbours. Ken Rowlands had been very appreciative of the gesture made, and wished his thanks to be conveyed to all the Members.

1533 - Orchard Court

C’lr Aled Thomas reported that the matter was partially resolved, with gritting having been carried out. However, a grit bin had not yet been provided, and responsibility for future de-icing had not been resolved. This was a matter for ongoing discussion.

1534 – fly-tipping.

C’lrs were uncertain whether or not the fly-tipping adjacent to the cycle path had been removed or not. However, C’lr Martyn Spilsbury had been in the vicinity recently, and not noticed anything amiss.

Planning matters

1535 - Notification of planning refusals

22/0617/PA - Annex and associated works; 41, Brookside Avenue, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PQ – refused on a technicality due to lack of provision for bats.

Correspondence

1536 - P.C.C. – Precept request – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.

1537 - P.C.C. – Response to Highway-related issues - dealt with in ‘Matters Arising’ above.

1538 - Police – Request for Member to accompany their officer on patrol in the Village – C’lr Aled Thomas had volunteered attend along with him, to carry out a patrol around the Village. P.C. Neil Lees commented that the neighbourhood policing team was keen to engage more with local communities, which as well as being informed of ongoing issues, also involved knowing of and being involved with projects, celebration type events, etc.

Accounts

1539 - Payments for approval

P.C.C. (Community Works grant contribution, speed-activated signage): £1000-00

Clerk (reimbursement for defibrillator batteries) : £ 51-80

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning) : £ 72-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lr Nina Philpott, seconder C’lr Yvonne Llewellyn).

1540 - Discussion of precept for 2023/24

Members approved a budget for 2023/24, and agreed to raise the precept slightly to £36000 (proposer C’lr Neil James, seconder C’lr Janet Jeffries). Item to be added to the draft budget for Coronation-related expenses of £1000.

1541 - Annual discussion of Clerk’s pay, conditions and hours of work

Members approved an increase in the Clerk’s hours from 7 hrs/week to 8 hrs/week, to reflect incremental increases in workload and responsibility over recent years (proposer C’lr Nina Philpott, seconder C’lr Neil James).

1542 - Internal audit arrangements

Members approved the re-appointment of the internal auditor to audit the 2022/23 accounts (proposer C’Ilr Nina Philpott, seconder C’Ilr Janet Jeffries). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

1543 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

Still in hand with C’Ilr Neil James. C’Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to make some enquiries regarding possible routes to progressing the design and budgeting of the project. Agenda item to be tabled for further discussion in February.

[NOTE – C’Ilr Christine Wilkins left the meeting at this point with apologies]

1544 - Discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field

C’Ilr Neil James was in the process of arranging a site meeting with P.C.C. in connection with the scheme, in advance of an anticipated February start date for the work. However, he was concerned that it should be a wider J.C.C.-led project, and wanted another Member to accompany him to the site meeting. C’Ilr Len Gale offered to do this.

Members mentioned fly-tipping issues in the field, in areas frequented by some local youth. This was noted as one area for the Police to keep an eye on.

1545 - Discussion of problem with static caravan situated on land close to

The Clerk confirmed that no enquiries had been made with Planning in connection with the siting of the caravan, but it was uncertain whether or not this would be needed in any case.

Members decided to leave the matter in abeyance, as the caravan did not appear to be causing and issues, it was uncertain whether or not consent as needed in any case, and the matter could be re-visited in the future should problems arise.

Any other business

1546 – Remembrance Day arrangements. C’Ilr Neil James voiced thanks to P.C. Neil Lees for his valuable assistance in the Remembrance Day service. In connection with the arrangements for 2023, C’Ilr Nina Philpott noted that Bronwen Parratt appeared to be working with the Milford Town Band again. C’Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to contact her to ask if someone could be made available to sound the Last Post at the next Remembrance Day service.

1547 – Damaged trees at Glebelands. In hand with C’Ilrs Yvonne Llewellyn and Janet Jeffries. It was not considered necessary to replace the trees at present, as there was a good possibility that they might regenerate.

1548 – Damaged panel on bus stop, Glebelands. The Clerk undertook to chase up again, as this was still not repaired.

The meeting ended at 8-25pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 13th February 2023.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....