

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 8th January 2024 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present: Cllrs Nina Philpott (Chairman), Christine Wilkins, Janet Jeffries, Len Gale, Neil James, Yvonne Llewellyn; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'Ilrs, Kaidan Alenko, Martyn Spilsbury, Aled Thomas

1990 - Declarations of known Interests

C'Ilr Neil James declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in the agenda item on traffic-related problems in Church Road / Hayston Road.

1991 – To receive the minutes from the December 2023 monthly meeting

In minute no. 1968, the last sentence was amended to read 'It had been stressed that as it was linked to a designated safe route to school, this was a priority'. The duplicated minute reference 1970 was changed to read 1970(a) and 1970(b). With these amendments, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and retained for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr Janet Jeffries, seconder C'Ilr Nina Philpott).

Matters arising

1992 - Presentation by designer of WW1 commemorative bench

Nothing further to report this month.

1993 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

C'Ilr Neil James reported that a number of street lights were still non-functional. Clerk to pass this to C'Ilr Aled Thomas for any action possible.

1994 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators

C'Ilr Kaidan Alenko had checked the defibrillators for January. He had reported that the defibrillator on the side of the pavilion on Glebelands Field needed new batteries, and had also had some rubbish dumped in it. Clerk to arrange to obtain new batteries.

1995 – request for path along main road from Bulford Road to roundabout.

Nothing further heard to date.

1996 - Discussion of traffic issues at junction of Langford Road / Main Road

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had confirmed that no response had yet been received from the Welsh Government on this matter, but this was in part due to the Christmas break, and a response should be forthcoming shortly.

1997 - Discussion of tree damage along Langford Road

Members reported that this problem had now been addressed.

1998 – Remembrance Day arrangements.

The Clerk confirmed that necessary details had been received from the Milford Haven Junior Town Band, and details to facilitate the donation to the saxophonist were awaited.

1999 - Discussion of proposals for boundary fencing at Old School Lane housing development site

Nothing further to report.

2000 - Discussion of purchase of replacement paediatric pads for defibrillators

Nothing further to report.

Planning

2001 - Application consultations received

None to consider this month.

2002 - Consents issued

None notified this month.

Correspondence

2003 - Wales Audit Office – notification of completion of audits for 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23 – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.

Accounts

2004 - Payments for approval

Johnston F.C. (post-contract grass-cutting)	:	£150-00
David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 72-00
Norrards (Christmas tree lighting)	:	£432-00
Infinity Play (chainlink repairs)	:	£818-52
PCC (signage supply)	:	£128-59

[NOTE - Members only approved payment of 50% of the invoice to P.C.C. for the signage supply, as only one of the two signs ordered had been correctly supplied]
The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Janet Jeffries, seconder C'Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn).

2005 - Discussion of budget / precept for 2024/25

After discussion, consideration of the current economic challenges facing residents, and the draft budget prepared by the Clerk, Members approved the budget unamended, and set the precept for 2024/25 at £37,000, this representing a modest 2.8% increase over the current year (proposer C'Ilr Janet Jeffries, seconder C'Ilr Neil James).

2006 - Discussion of external audit completion for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23

Members were informed that the external audits for the above years had now been completed. All the necessary notices concerning the audit completion had been posted in the community noticeboard and on the webpage as required by regulation.

2007 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Members were informed that work to install the goalposts and boundary fencing was expected to commence later that week, and had been delayed due to poor weather. Regarding positioning of the goalposts, the Clerk was asked to send an email to the resident at No. 13 Brickhurst Park, who was known to have a particular interest in the provision of goalposts, to invite his input on the siting of the goalposts. If a response was to be received, this could then be factored into the decision on location, which Members favoured as an east-west orientation, with the goalpost nearer to the playpark being kept a minimum of 6m away from the playpark boundary fence. Subject to all of these factors, Infinity Play to be asked to site the goalposts in the most appropriate locations.

2008 - Discussion of measures to address unauthorised earth bank in Close Field

Matter deferred for consideration in February. Members felt that a site meeting when the weather had improved might be worthwhile.

2009 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

Deferred for discussion in February.

2010 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

C'llr Nina Philpott had emailed the National Lottery Fund Agent, who was assisting with preparing a grant application to the National Lottery, and was awaiting further contact.

2011 - Any necessary discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field

Bulb planting. In reference to the undertaking by P.C.C. to carry out bulb planting, Members had seen some being carried out, but were unsure if this had been completed. Clerk to email P.C.C. to ask if the bulb planting had been completed.

Pathway clearance. C'llr Neil James reported that Aled Bowen had been down there, completed the requested work, and had done a good job.

Further trackway stoning work. Andrew Gray had advised that he would be attending in January to carry out the necessary stoning work. Clerk to contact him to seek detail on the timetable. Clerk to also advise him that in the event that more than 100 tonnes of stone should be needed to complete the work as needed, then Members would like him to carry on and complete the work as necessary, subject to a quotation being provided for extra work needed. To this end, Members pre-approved expenditure of up to £1000 to enable this to go ahead as necessary without delay (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Nina Philpott).

Gateway from Glebelands Field onto Cycle Path. Clerk to chase up Andrew Gray for a quotation for this work.

Clearance work in and around old farmyard. Members felt that a site meeting with P.C.C. to discuss possible ways forward for this area would be beneficial. Clerk to contact Aethne Cooke to request a site meeting with her and Peter Howe, to consider this aspect.

2012 - Discussion of advertisement to fill open casual vacancy

Members voted to co-opt Mr Grayham Passmore onto the council (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn). Clerk to contact Mr Passmore to complete the necessary administrative formalities.

2013 - Discussion of speeding problems and pavement provision, Hayston Road and Church Road

C'llr Neil James mentioned that since the 20mph limit had been introduced, the problem of traffic 'rat-running' down Church Road and Hayston Road had worsened. The speed bumps were not providing a sufficient deterrent to excessive speeds, which were giving concern for the safety of other road users and pedestrians. It was felt that one possibility to address the problem could be the installation of chicanes to slow down traffic more than at present.

In addition to the above, the absence of any pavement provision between Woodlands and the entrance to the link footpath through to Hayston View was mentioned as a significant problem. The estate there had many children, and more pedestrians were using Church Road to get to and from the estate. This included employees working on the business unit there. It was also noted that no safe route to school currently existed for children living on this estate.

Clerk to write to P.C.C. to request consideration to enhanced traffic calming measures along Church Road / Hayston Road (e.g. chicanes), and also for consideration to a pavement to join the link footpath from Hayston View with the existing pavement outside Woodlands (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Nina Philpott).

Clerk to also respond to the neighbour who had originally raised concerns about the speeding issue, to inform him of the actions being taken.

2014 - Discussion of possible purchase of planter for village entrance

The Clerk had been in touch with P.C.C. They had confirmed that they did not hold a stock of planters. They had also advised that they could only prepare a flower bed at this location if the necessary consents had been obtained from the Trunk Road Agency. Members considered the possibility of obtaining and installing a planter, and then asking P.C.C. to plant this up. It was felt that this could be a good idea, but only if the necessary consents had first been obtained from the Trunk Road Agency. This was viewed as important for legal and insurance reasons. Clerk to contact the Trunk Road Agency to seek consent for positioning of a planter.

2015 - Any other business

There was no other business to report this month.

The meeting ended at 8-15pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 12th February January 2024.

Signed.....Chairman

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