

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 9th March 2020 in Johnston Institute.

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

The Chairman informed Members that ex-council member Mr. George Grey had passed away. All present stood for a minute’s silence as a mark of respect.

0247 – 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.

C’llr Ken Rowlands also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item to discuss the new L.D.P., due to some land put forward for consideration being adjacent to his property, and potentially linked to the above-mentioned boundary issues.

0248 – To receive the minutes from the February 2020 monthly meeting

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

0249 – Discussion of biodiversity-related issues

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. Anthony Rogers, Biodiversity Implementation Officer with the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, who was attending to address Members on the issue of biodiversity.

Mr. Rogers proceeded to give a Powerpoint presentation concerning the importance of biodiversity, role of the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, and current requirements of the legislation. He also spent some time outlining the current situation in relation to the Johnston Community area, based on a number of key indicators.

Following the presentation, Members’ questions were invited.

C’llr Rowlands referred to the 13 acres owned by J.C.C., and the responsibility to enhance biodiversity on it. He asked Mr. Rogers if any advice could be offered on how best to approach this.

Mr. Rogers offered some basic advice relating to caring for and enhancing ponded areas and woodland. He also mentioned that various grant assistance schemes were available to assist in delivering progress in this area. Some grant schemes were for pure biodiversity enhancement, others for ‘well-being’, which involved promoting the enhancement of accessibility to natural areas.

Mr. Rogers offered to attend a site meeting to look at the possibilities for the land owned by J.C.C. at Glebelands Fields. Members were in agreement that this should take place (proposer C’llr Young, seconder C’llr Pratt). It was agreed that C’llr Rowlands would co-ordinate arrangements for the meeting, with C’llr Pratt also attending.

Following the discussion, Members thanked Mr. Rogers for attending the meeting, after which he left.

[NOTE – KR left meeting prior to discussion of the following item].

0250 – Discussion of LDP consultation on draft Plan

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting C’Ilr Stephen Joseph, who was there to represent J.C.C. in any representations concerning the L.D.P. in place of C’Ilr Rowlands, who had declared an interest in the matter.

C’Ilr Joseph emphasised the importance of being clear about any reasons being put forward for objecting to inclusion of allocated sites, and explained that these needed to be specific and evidence-based.

Members were concerned that the sewage disposal system at Kiln Road was still considered to be insufficient for further development on top of the recent development that has taken place or is in the pipeline. They were also concerned at the likely pressure on the school, which was already operating at capacity. Concern was also expressed at the possible unacceptable pressure on the doctors’ surgery, which was already over-subscribed.

In respect of the allocated site reference HSG/004/00038 (site to N of Hayston View), Members noted that this was for an initial 50 houses during the Plan period, and a possible further 30 thereafter. Members felt it important that the site be resisted until such time as the community infrastructure was in place to support the new development.

It was agreed that the Clerk should copy in C’Ilr Joseph on any comments made on the Deposit LDP Plan, so that he could convey these in place of C’Ilr Rowlands.

Following the discussion, Members thanked C’Ilr Joseph for attending, after which he left the meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should send a consultation response concerning allocated site ref. HSG/004/00038 (site to N of Hayston View). Response to object to the inclusion of the site in the final development plan, citing concerns over inadequate infrastructure, especially in respect of school capacity, medical facilities, sewage disposal facilities, and highway infrastructure (proposer C’Ilr Philpott, seconder C’Ilr Young).

Matters arising

0251 - Discussion of potential issues surrounding school transport from Johnston to Milford Haven

The Clerk had received a holding message from the P.C.C. Monitoring Officer, and was awaiting a more substantive response.

C’Ilr Jones expressed concern at the possibility of service buses being used instead of a dedicated coach, due to potential safeguarding issues. However, it was generally accepted that this would have to be dealt with separately once the current situation had been resolved.

0252 – Bus shelter / seat outside NISA Shop

Matter in hand with C’Ilr Rowlands.

0253- Close Field Skatepark

Matter in hand with C’Ilr Rowlands.

0254 – Overhanging tree, junction of Church Road / Hall Court.

Matter in hand with C’Ilr Fran. James, who would be sending photographs to the Clerk, to be forwarded to P.C.C. for their comments.

0255 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

Matter in hand with C'llr Spilsbury.

0256 - Discussion of action to discourage badger activity on sports field

Matter in hand with C'llr Pratt, who was due to speak further with Sean Tilling of P.C.C. to seek a quotation for altering the gates. C'llr Pratt commented that he might now ask advice from the Biodiversity Implementation Officer during the forthcoming site visit.

0257 - Fly tipping, land adjacent to Glebelands Field.

Members were informed that the fly-tipped rubbish had been removed by P.C.C. on request, and re-charged. Payment scheduled in 'Accounts' below.

0258 - Car in car park opposite the Institute.

Members reported that the vehicle had now been removed. It was, however, noted that there were various others around the Village, including one in Glebelands.

0259 - Discussion of possible unauthorised scrap merchants in Village

Still in hand with P.C.C. Planning Enforcement.

0260 - Johnston in Bloom.

In hand with C'llr Philpott.

0261 - Discussion of problems due to closure of cycleway boardwalk

Members noted that work was scheduled to have commenced earlier that week, but had not yet started the previous day.

0262 - Discussion of Highway safety issues, Langford Road

Matter with C'llr Rowlands for discussion with P.C.C.

0263 - Discussion of problems with cars at end of Brickhurst Park

The Clerk confirmed that the land in question was in Trunk Road Agency ownership. Members were content to monitor the remaining vehicle there, and report to P.C.C. if it was still there next month, and causing a problem. The matter was not felt to be urgent, as it was not currently causing any obstruction.

0264 - Discussion of possible request for yellow lines in Hall Court

In hand with C'llr Rowlands.

0265 - Discussion of problems with lighting on footbridge, Langford Road

In hand with C'llr Rowlands, though with the lighter evenings, this was less of an urgent priority.

0266 - Discussion of possible one-way system, Glebelands

The Clerk had received a holding response from Darren Thomas in P.C.C., and a further more substantive response was awaited in due course.

C'llr Jones mentioned that letters had been delivered to some residents in Glebelands by the Police, warning them to park more carefully. However, they had taken issue with this, as the problems with parking in Glebelands were perceived to be due to new development of flats, and people parking to use the football field.

0267 - Discussion of requirement to report on progress towards producing a plan to encourage biodiversity

Covered in item 0249 above. Related matter of dealing with Ash dieback to be covered in the planned site meeting with the Biodiversity Implementation Officer.

0268 - Discussion of Vine Field play equipment, etc.

In hand with C'Ilr Rowlands.

The Clerk had received a message from P.C.C. to say that the equipment probably just needed a good service, rather than actually removing. Clerk to follow up with Neil McCarthy regarding a price for servicing.

0269 - Discussion of Community Land Trusts

Matter left for possible discussion with the Biodiversity Implementation Officer during the planned site meeting.

0270 - Discussion of possible establishment of community vegetable beds

To be discussed with Biodiversity Implementation Officer during planned site meeting.

Clerk to send email to C'Ilrs Rowlands, Pratt and Philpott, listing the various items for discussion with the Biodiversity Implementation Officer.

0271 - Discussion of arrangements for 75th anniversary of V.E. Day

Arrangements in hand with the Heart of Johnston group.

C'Ilr Jones mentioned that a meeting had been scheduled for the following day to discuss options. As the level of interest for arranging events to commemorate the V.E. Day 75th Anniversary weekend seemed uncertain so far, they had decided to wait and see the level of support in this meeting before deciding on how best to proceed. Regarding the cost of paying for the Hall, it was mentioned that this would cost £10. C'Ilrs Neil James and Rowlands had said that this would be waived, but this had not yet materialised.

0272 – Rubbish collection arrangements.

Efforts to set up arrangements for local pick-up of replacement bags, etc., in hand with C'Ilr Rowlands.

Planning

0273 - Applications

19/1034/DC – Proposal : Discharge of Conditions 4 (site investigation) & 6 (external lighting) in relation to planning permission 18/0635/PA (Replacement dwelling); Site Address: Hayes Farm, Pope Hill, Johnston, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3NX – no comments.

19/1120/TF – Proposal: Tree Pruning and Coppicing; Site Address: Frederick House, Hayston View, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AQ – no comments.

19/1124/PA - Proposal: Variation of condition 1 (Commencement of development) of planning permission 14/1082/PA to allow additional time for commencement of the extension to the existing petrol filling station; Pond Bridge Petrol Station, St Peters Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PJ. – no comments.

Decisions

There were no planning decisions this month.

Correspondence

0274 - One Voice Wales – Membership forms for 2020/21 – noted.

0275 - Solva Care – Invitation to symposium on People, Place and Wellbeing, to be held at Merlin Theatre, Wednesday 11th March, 17-00 – noted.

0276 - Johnston School – request for financial assistance towards cost of defibrillator cabinet – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below. Members were informed that the defibrillator had been delivered, and was currently awaiting installation.

0277 - Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – 2020 report – noted.

0278 - P.C.C. – Information promoting digital inclusion – noted.

0279 - Rotary Club – Request for financial assistance for children’s school outings – Members were concerned that most children benefitting from the outing were not from Johnston. Concern was also expressed at the apparent exclusion of other children in the school from the arrangements, which ran counter to the stated aim of the new unit to promote inclusion. In addition to this, there was some disquiet at the apparent aim of using some donated funds to pay for the cost of parents accompanying the children. Members were not happy to proceed with a donation. Clerk to respond accordingly.

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

0280 - P.C.C. – Playground inspection report for Johnston Play area – noted, and in hand with C’Ilr Rowlands.

0281 - One Voice Wales – Information on Green Spaces grant initiative – noted.

0282 - Simon Hancock – Promoting possible ‘Upper Haven Heritage Hub’ – noted. Clerk to inform Members of any substantive future developments regarding the proposal.

Accounts

0283 - Payments

Clerk (pay, January – March 2020)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax for Clerk, January – March 2020)	:	As per contract
Johnston School (defibrillator donation)	:	£ 537-00
One Voice Wales (membership 2020/21)	:	£ 306-00
West Wales Pest Control (mole control, Glebelands Field)	:	£ 456-00
P.C.C. (fly-tipping removal)	:	£ 233-50
David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning for February)	:	£ 60-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Wilkins, seconder C’Ilr Fran. James).

Matter of review of mole control contract and bus shelter-cleaning contracts to be placed on April meeting agenda for discussion.

0284 - Discussion of Risk assessment actions required in Community (including arrangements for renewing the annual risk assessments).

Review of asset risk assessment in hand with C’Ilr Neil James, and hoped to be completed by the end of March.

Review of financial risk assessment in hand with the Clerk.

0285 - Discussion of Wales Audit Office consultation on proposed changes to audit arrangements.

Members and Clerk had no specific comments to make in response to the consultation.

0286 - Discussion of link footpath between Hayston View and Church Road.

C’Ilr Philpott informed Members that the footpath was now open for use.

0287 - Approval of amended contract of employment for Clerk.

The revised contract had been prepared and signed by the Chairman, to reflect the changes agreed at the February meeting.

0288 - Discussion of situation regarding land opposite Johnston Institute

There was no discussion required on this matter, which was still in hand with the solicitor.

Any other business

0289 - April meeting date. It was agreed to schedule the April monthly meeting for April 20th, to avoid a clash with Easter Monday. Clerk to place a notice to this effect on the Community webpage.

0290 - George Grey. Members were in agreement to send flowers to Mrs. Grey on behalf of the Community Council. Clerk to make arrangements for this, to be covered from the Chairman’s allowance.

0291 - Flowers in box by The Vine. Members were in agreement that the box should be planted up for the season. C’Ilr Fran. James undertook to arrange this.

The meeting concluded at 9-30pm.

Next scheduled meeting – Monday 20th April 2020.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....