

**M 01/17**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Johnston Institute.**

**Present:** Cllrs N. James (Chairman), Jeffries, (vice-Chair), Grey, F. James, Harvey, Morgan, Pratt, Rowlands, Spilsbury, Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

**Apologies :** C'llrs Warlow, Wilkins

**8583 – Declarations of Interests**

None

**8584 – Public Forum (ten minutes maximum)**

Mr. John Davies was present at the meeting, and raised a number of issues of concern :

- Cunnigar Lane, which, though somewhat improved of late, he said is not suitable for use by mobility scooter users, or people with pushchairs, despite being designated as a public right of way
- The centre of the Village, where he said there was a problem with many footpaths not being disabled-friendly, or suitable for people with pushchairs. He said there were some locations with a complete absence of pavements, people were forced as a result to walk on the grass verges, and that there had been incidents where people had actually been injured as a result. The stretch between the corner of Bulford Road and the railway bridge on the main road were mentioned as of particular concern.
- The pavement opposite the Johnston Institute, where he mentioned a problem with vehicles parking on the pavement, forcing pedestrians to walk on the roadway.

In response to the issues raised by Mr. Davies, Members made some relevant points. In relation to the parking problem opposite the Johnston Institute, C'llr Rowlands said that the issue would be raised again at the next regular meeting with the Community Police Officer. C'llr Grey commented that parking on pavements is not currently an offence, and until such time as it is, there may be very little action possible.

Regarding Cunnigar Lane, C'llr Neil James pointed out that, though the Community Council had recently carried out clearance and improvement works to the lane, the responsibility for maintenance of the area lay with P.C.C. He undertook to ask P.C.C. to look at the issues raised by Mr. Davies, but with little optimism that any significant action would result, given the current financial constraints in County Hall.

Regarding the general situation with pavements in the Village, it was mentioned that the Community Council had been trying over a long period of time to prompt action from the Welsh Government to improve a number of locations. The Community Council had also requested that the grass verge areas between the new Bulford Road and the main Village be provided with pavements / cycle paths, and had gone to some lengths to try and secure this. However, this had not been possible due to ownership issues with the verges, and the unwillingness of local residents to co-operate with the proposals put forward.

Following the discussion on the issues raised by Mr. Davies, he thanked Members for their concern, and left the meeting.

### **8585 – Minutes of December 2016 monthly meeting**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’Ilr Rowlands, seconder C’Ilr Jeffries).

### **Matters arising**

#### **8586 - Proposed solar farm adjacent to Pope Hill.**

Nothing further to report at present.

#### **8587 – Narrow footpath by Johnston Farm.**

The letter from the Welsh Government was read to Members, in which it was stated that definite scheme proposal had been identified, which would now be progressed through the detailed design stage.

#### **8588 – Bus shelter, Glebelands.**

There was nothing further to report at present. It was mentioned that the broken glass was still present in the bus shelters, and in one case had deteriorated. C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to report this again.

C’Ilr Neil James mentioned the overgrowth that was in need of clearance from behind the bus shelter on the left hand side of the main road coming from the Milford Haven end of the Village. Clerk to contact the Trunk Road Agent to request action to address it.

#### **8589 – Cashpoint outside Nisa Shop.**

Nothing specific to report at present. C’Ilr Neil James mentioned that the new owners were taking more action to address parking problems, with extra signage etc. Though insufficient to address the underlying problem, this was welcome.

### **8590 – New school, Langford Road.**

Members were informed that the official opening was planned for sometime in February. C'Ilr Rowlands invited any Member wishing to be involved in the arrangements to let him know, so that this information could be passed on prior to invitations being issued to the opening ceremony. Following the opening of the school the previous week, it was noted that there had been one or two teething problems identified, such as the adequacy of pedestrian crossing arrangements, street lighting, etc. While these needed addressing, C'Ilr Rowlands was keen that such issues should not overshadow the overwhelmingly positive result of the new school provision.

### **8591 – Road and pavement problems.**

C'Ilr Rowlands informed Members that he was due to meet on site with officers from P.C.C. within the next week or so to discuss the issues raised.

### **8592 – Parking bays, Glebelands.**

C'Ilr Rowlands mentioned the budgetary constraints within P.C.C. It was felt that any work carried out would almost certainly need to be funded by the Community Council. Members asked C'Ilr Rowlands to ask P.C.C. for an indicative costing for a suitable scheme, which could then be considered by Members.

### **8593 – Hall Court sign / pavement.**

As with 8592 above, C'Ilr Rowlands felt that any works carried out would need to be funded by the Community Council.

### **8594 – Defibrillator provision.**

C'Ilr Pratt had spoken to one of the directors in K.O. Carpets regarding the proposals. He had been positive in his response, would in all likelihood contribute to the cost of providing a defibrillator, and had asked for a letter outlining the definite proposals for consideration. C'Ilr Fran James suggested that quite a few of the local businesses would likely contribute to fund defibrillators. It was agreed that C'Ilr Jeffries would make up a list of local businesses, and pass these to the Clerk. Clerk then to write letters to the businesses concerned, outlining the proposals under consideration, and inviting donations. It was felt that the likely locations for the siting of units would be in the NISA car park and in the K.O. Carpets car park.

**8595 - Cycle track.**

C’Ilr Rowlands informed Members that he had a meeting scheduled with Sustrans the following week at which this matter would be raised. He also mentioned a separate meeting scheduled with Welsh Water, and said that the matter would also be raised with them for discussion. As a separate issue, C’Ilr Neil James raised the suggestion of asking Sustrans to carry out improvement works at Cunnigar Lane. C’Ilr Rowlands said he would raise this during his planned meeting.

**8596 - Risk Assessment.**

Still in hand for completion by end of March.

**8597 - Church Roll of Honour.**

Still in hand.

**8598 - Rubbish problems.**

Members were informed that the fly-tipped rubbish on Bulford Road was still there, though C’Ilr Rowlands had reported it. C’Ilr Neil James undertook to report it again.

**8599 - Disabled access between Woodlands Park and Church Road.**

C’Ilr Rowlands informed Members that he had been pursuing this matter. P.C.C. was willing to provide plans, but not fund any works carried out. Matter left with C’Ilr Rowlands to pursue.

**8600 - Map of Community**

Still in hand with C’Ilrs Neil James and Rowlands.

**8601 – School Roll of honour plaque board.**

C’Ilr Neil James had obtained the plaque, which was in situ and ready for unveiling at a forthcoming event to be arranged. Cost of plaque covered under ‘Accounts’.

**8602 - Christmas trees**

Invoice in for the trees covered in ‘Accounts’. C’Ilr Rowlands suggested a £25 donation each for Dai James and Alun Evans as a gesture of appreciation for their help in putting up the trees. This was agreed by Members (proposer C’Ilr Rowlands, seconder C’Ilr Jeffries).

**8603 – Insurance policy.** The Clerk confirmed that the play equipment in the Vine Field is covered by the policy if owned by the Community Council. However, the need for a proper schedule of play equipment was mentioned.

### **8604 – New Bulford Road.**

The message from P.C.C. was discussed and noted, in which they explained the reason for non-provision of cat's eyes along the new Bulford Road.

### **8605 – Mrs. Bassett, 20, Bulford Close.**

C'llr Rowlands to pass this on to P.C.C., with a request that someone from the Authority contacts Mrs. Bassett to discuss and resolve the matter of the four trees still outstanding.

### **8606 - Pope Hill Chapel graveyard.**

C'llr Grey mentioned that maintenance work had previously been carried out via the Probation Service. C'llr Rowlands offered to investigate this option, to see if it might be a possibility.

## **Planning**

### **8607 - Applications**

**16/0971/PA (Conversion of old telephone exchange, St. Peter's Road, to laundrette).** Members were concerned over the potential problems with parking arrangements. Three parking spaces were shown on the plans, but these were felt to be inadequate. Access to them would also be needed via the garage premises, raising questions regarding arrangements when the garage is closed and the barrier lowered. It was felt that some arrangement for re-configuring the barrier, or opening it at times when the laundrette was in use, may be necessary. Members were concerned over the potential safety implications of vehicles parking on the main road. This was especially the case as these types of premises are typically busiest in the evenings and early mornings, when the garage would normally be closed. Clerk to respond, raising these concerns, and asking that they be addressed carefully in any consent granted. Letter to request that consideration be given to imposing conditions to deal with the issues raised if a consent is granted.

## **Correspondence**

**8608 - Welsh Government – Letter regarding footpath widening outside Johnston Farm – dealt with in 8587 above.**

**8609 - P.C.C. – Request for notification of precept amount for 2017/18 – dealt with in 'Accounts'.**

**8610 - 'The Battle is over' – Invitation to participate in special commemorative events in November 2018 – noted.**

**8611 - Welsh Government – Consultation on bathing water quality, 2017 – noted.**

**8612** - Darren Thomas, P.C.C. – Reply to letter about lack of cat’s eyes on new Bulford Road – dealt with in 8604 above.

**8613** - Welsh Government – invitation to attend meeting of Remuneration Panel, 10-30am, February 2nd 2017, venue Old Hall, Lampeter – noted.

**8614** - 1<sup>st</sup> Johnston Scout Group – Invitation for representation on their Hall Management Committee – It was agreed that C’Ilr Jeffries should be appointed (proposer C’Ilr Fran James, seconder C’Ilr Grey). Clerk to inform the Scout Group accordingly. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the A.G.M.

### **Accounts**

#### **8615 - Payments**

Wales Audit Office (audit of 2015/16 accounts)	:	£186-00
D. Banfield (Bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 60-00
N. James (reimbursement of cost of plaque)	:	£175-44
Dai James (for help with Christmas trees)	:	£ 25-00
A. Evans (for help with Christmas trees)	:	£ 25-00
DJM Elder Meadow Nursery (Christmas trees)	:	£350-00

#### **8616 - Discussion of precept for 2017/18**

Following detailed discussion of the proposed budgetary requirements, it was agreed to maintain the precept at £27,000.

#### **8617 - Discussion of Clerk’s salary and expenses, and adoption of formal contract**

It was agreed to amend the Clerk’s pay and conditions to reflect the requirement for holiday pay, expenses towards the cost of home-working, and adoption of a formal contract of employment. The contract outlining these matters was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

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

#### **8618 - Discussion of roadway opposite Johnston Institute.**

C’Ilr Rowlands had been continuing to pursue this with P.C.C. in liaison with the solicitor. There was nothing substantive to report at present. The most recent correspondence from the solicitor to P.C.C. was currently under consideration. The solicitor had requested a letter to confirm certain details from the Community Council. Members asked C’Ilr Rowlands to speak to the solicitor to get clarification on certain details, and then to discuss with C’llrs Neil James and Jeffries afterwards. The requested letter then to be written by the Clerk based on the advice / information provided by the solicitor.

The use of the route as a thoroughfare by many local residents and others was mentioned. C’Ilr Rowlands had raised this with P.C.C., as had the solicitor in his most recent correspondence. C’Ilr Rowlands encouraged anyone with specific verifiable evidence of such usage to pass this to him, so that evidence of a pattern of use could be provided if needed.

**Other business**

**8619 - P.A.L.C.** – Concerns were raised by Members over the current status of the organisation. C’Ilr Rowlands felt that some changes should be made, including possible closer formal liaison between P.A.L.C. and One Voice Wales.

**8620 - Road outside new school.** C’Ilr Young mentioned that one of the new speed bumps was completely unmarked, giving problems with visibility for vehicles.

**8621 - Footpaths outside Fairfield.** C’Ilr Fran James mentioned problems with the footpaths outside Fairfield, as she had nearly had an accident there due to uneven surfaces. The responsibility was thought to be with the Home owner, as the road was unadopted. C’Ilr Fran James said she was going to call to see the owner the following day, and would report back to the next Community Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8-40pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....