

M 03/17 - Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 13th March 2017 in Johnston Institute.

Present: Cllrs Neil James (Chair), Jeffries, (vice-Chair), Grey, Harvey, F. James, Pratt, Rowlands, Spilsbury, Warlow, Wilkins, Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'Ilr Morgan.

Also present Mr. Alastair Veck, from Price and Kelway Solicitors.

8660 – Declarations of Interests

None

8661 – Public Forum (ten minutes maximum)

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

8662 – Discussion of roadway opposite Johnston Institute

[NOTE – due to the nature of the business to be discussed, it was agreed that this agenda item should be held in camera – proposer C'Ilr Grey, seconder C'Ilr Fran. James].

Members welcomed Mr. Alastair Veck to the meeting. He proceeded to discuss various legal matters concerning the forthcoming Land Tribunal, and offer advice concerning the various matters needing to be addressed currently in connection with the case. He mentioned that the venue was likely to be in Cardiff. The date was unknown as yet, but was likely to be in around two months' time. There was some discussion about who should appear at the Tribunal on behalf of the Community Council, and provide a witness statement regarding the historical usage. However, this matter was left in abeyance for the time being, as it was not an urgent matter.

After the above discussion, Members thanked Mr. Veck for attending, following which he left the meeting.

C'Ilr Neil James mentioned that he had invited Mr. Veck to attend the April meeting, and that the possibility of engaging a barrister had been raised as a possibility. C'Ilr Rowlands raised concerns over the possibility of Price and Kelway seeking to use another firm to represent the Community Council in any hearing not held locally. Members were in agreement that the firm with direct and in depth knowledge of the case should represent the Community Council in the hearing.

8663 – Minutes of February 2017 monthly meeting

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

Matters arising

8664 - Proposed solar farm adjacent to Pope Hill.

The Clerk informed Members that he had spoken to the developer Conergy, who had passed the message on to the current site developer, as the development had changed hands. The current developer had sent a holding message, but nothing more substantive. Freystrop Community Council had likewise received a holding message.

8665 – Narrow footpath by Johnston Farm.

Nothing further had been heard regarding the proposals to widen the footpath.

8666 – Bus shelter, Glebelands.

Members noted that neither bus shelter had yet been repaired, and there was some concern over the sharp edges on the one by The Vine. C’Ilr Rowlands to chase up this matter in County Hall.

8667 – Cashpoint outside Nisa Shop.

Members were delighted with the bollards that had been installed, as this had solved the problem of cars parking on the pavement in this location. C’Ilr Pratt mentioned the need for a white ‘Give Way’ line at the NISA shop car park entrance. C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to look into this matter, which was thought to be a matter between the Trunk Road Agent and the car park owner.

8668 – New school, Langford Road.

Work had been done to set the hedgebank further back over the half term holiday. It was noted that the proposed improvements to the pedestrian access to the school were still in hand. It was also mentioned that work to re-calibrate the speed-activated signage was still to be completed.

8669 – Road and pavement problems.

C’Ilr Neil James and C’Ilr Warlow had viewed the potholes on Langford Road prior to the meeting. These were close to the junction with the main road, but clearly on Langford Road, and therefore the responsibility of P.C.C. It was felt that these could be potentially dangerous, and were likely to deteriorate further. C’Ilr Rowlands to take up the matter with the P.C.C. Highways Department.

8670 – Defibrillator provision.

The Clerk informed Members that he had written to K&O Carpets following the February meeting to thank them for the donation, and also ask for their comments / suggestions on a suitable location for the defibrillator on The Vine. He had also written to the NISA shop to ask for their formal agreement to the siting of a unit on the side of the building facing the car park. No reply had yet been received to either letter. He had also been in touch with Cariad, who had indicated that they could supply the defibrillators, and also attend a public training / handover meeting at any reasonable time. It was left for C’Ilr Fran. James to speak to the proprietors of the NISA shop, and C’Ilr Pratt to speak to K&O carpets, to follow up on the Clerk’s letters. C’Ilr Fran. James also mentioned that Dr. Chowdrey had indicated to her that he would be willing to fund a defibrillator. Members were very pleased at this generous gesture, as it would provide the funding needed for the second defibrillator planned.

8671 - Cycle track.

C’Ilr Rowlands had been in attendance at a number of meetings concerning various cycling matters, largely to do with the Arnold’s Yard site, and had raised this issue. However, Sustrans had not been in attendance at the most recent meeting. It was very apparent that land access would be an important issue. C’Ilr Rowlands had spoken to landowners regarding the matter, and also other parties. He informed Members that there were other forthcoming meetings scheduled with G.D. Harries, and there was at least the possibility of something positive coming out of it eventually. C’Ilr Neil James referred to the P.C.C. Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation document that had been circulated to Members the previous week. Members were encouraged to consider making individual responses to the consultation, raising the issue of the cycle path provision.

8672 - Risk Assessment.

C’Ilr Neil James had been working on formulating a list of assets for the risk assessment. There was still some work to be done to complete this, and allocate the risk assessment work to various Members on the sub-committee appointed to care for this. Arrangements made for these Members to meet directly following the meeting to further this.

8673 - Church Roll of Honour.

Still in hand.

8674 - Rubbish problems.

Members noted that the fly-tipped rubbish alongside the Old Bulford Road had been cleared. C'lr Rowlands mentioned forthcoming possible changes in the P.C.C. approach to handling waste disposal, with a seminar scheduled in North Wales during the next week.

8675 - Map of Community

Still in hand with C'lr Neil James / Rowlands.

8676 – School Roll of honour plaque board.

C'lr Rowlands had attended a meeting that day regarding scheduling the event at which the plaque board would be unveiled. Final arrangements still in hand.

8677 – Insurance policy.

Still in hand. On enquiry from C'lr Rowlands, it was mentioned that the sound barrier was still in need of attention. C'lr Rowlands to follow this up as needed.

8678 – Mrs. Bassett, 20, Bulford Close.

Members were unsure if this matter had been resolved. C'lr Young to make enquiries regarding this with Mrs. Bassett.

8679 - Pope Hill Chapel graveyard.

C'lr Rowlands still awaiting a response from the Probation Service regarding this matter.

8680 – Planning application ref. 16/0971/PA (Conversion of old telephone exchange, St. Peter's Road, to laundrette).

The Clerk informed Members that the permission had been granted, so that there was no breach of planning control in operating it within the constraints of the conditions imposed. The Clerk had been in conversation with the planning officer regarding the development, and asked for Members to let him know of any problems noted, so that these could be passed on as required.

8681 - Double Yellow lines by chip shop.

Still in hand.

8682 – Highway outside Orchard Court.

Members noted the continued presence of potholes at this location. C'lr Rowlands to pass on the matter to P.C.C.

Planning

8683 - Applications

There were no applications for consideration this month.

8684 - Decision notices

16/0941/TF (Tree surgery - 1, Tall Trees Close, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, SA62 3HQ) – Members noted that the work had been completed.

16/0971/PA (Change of use of previous telephone exchange building from office to laundrette - Former Telephone Exchange/Office, St Peters Road, Johnston, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HB)

16/1040/PA (Extension to provide first floor accommodation within the roof space, 12, Bulford Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3EU)

16/1104/NM (Non material amendment to planning consent ref. 15/1205/PA, Ashleigh, 30, Church Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HE)

Correspondence

8685 - Wales Audit Office – Audit pack for annual audit – left with Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

8686 - Boundary Commission for Wales – Notification of consultation on responses to draft proposals – noted.

8687 - P.C.C. – Confirmation of precept submission for £27,000 – noted.

8688 - Trunk Road Agent – notification of proposed double yellow lines adjacent and opposite Glebelands entrance – map shown to Members, who were content with the proposals.

8689 - Price and Kelway – Information in relation to forthcoming Land Tribunal hearing – dealt with in **8662** above.

Accounts

8690 - Payments

Clerk (salary January – March 2017) : £646-98

H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax) : £161-74

D. Banfield (bus shelter cleaning) : £ 60-00

8691 - Internal auditor. Members agreed to invite the same internal auditor to carry out the work as for last year, covering all items and areas listed on the Audit form. Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

8692 – Norrards Electrics. C’llr Rowlands had been in touch with Norrards Electrics, who said that the bill for the initial electrical work on the Christmas lighting had gone out. Clerk to contact them regarding this matter, as the bill had not been received.

The above matters were agreed by Members (proposer C’llr Rowlands, seconder C’llr Jeffries).

Any Other Business

8693 - Close field entrance onto main road. C'llr Jeffries raised the possibility of putting a gate at the bottom of The Close Field by the main road at the top of the steps, for safety reasons. It was mentioned that this land is Trunk Road Agency land, which would inevitably present a complication. Questions were asked over responsibility for the steps themselves. This was uncertain, but thought likely also to be with the Trunk Road Agency. C'llr Rowlands undertook to investigate the possibility of implementing this. Matter to be placed on April agenda for discussion.

8694 - Langford Road. C'llr Warlow reiterated concerns raised earlier over the poor condition of the road close to the main road junction, due to sunken areas and cracks in the carriageway surface.

8695 - Narrow path opposite Howlin Motors. C'llr Fran. James conveyed to Members concerns that had been raised with her by local resident over the dangerously narrow pavement at this location. C'llr Rowlands undertook to raise this again in County Hall, and also to speak to the resident concerned. Contact details to be provided to C'llr Rowlands by C'llr Fran. James.

8696 - Quarry. C'llr Wilkins mentioned that there had been plans mentioned for a seismic test, to gain information on the impact of blasting activities at the quarry. This had never been followed up, and houses in her vicinity would shake whenever there is blasting. C'llr Rowlands undertook to raise this matter with G.D. Harries in the forthcoming meeting he had scheduled with them, and to request a test. The matter of the planned site visit for Members was also raised. C'llr Rowlands to make arrangements for this sometime within the next month or so, once the clocks have gone forward.

8697 - Old school buildings. Queries were raised by C'llr Wilkins regarding what was planned for the old school buildings. C'llr Rowlands mentioned that work was under way to secure the building. It was likely that the site would eventually be sold off for infill housing development. C'llr Pratt raised questions about the equipment and other items in the old school, such as the bicycle shelter. C'llr Rowlands mentioned that much had been removed, and that other items would probably be available to interested parties if an approach was made.

8698 - Road outside new school. C'llr Young mentioned the poor condition of the road and verge just beyond the school on the left hand side going towards Troopers' Inn. The carriageway edge was crumbling away, the verge was a sea of mud due to lorries and other vehicles going over it. In wet weather, it could be potentially very dangerous to cyclists and car drivers. C'llr Rowlands undertook to look into this matter.

8699 – Verge outside property on Langford Road. Members were informed by C’Ilr Harvey that a lorry had seriously damaged the verge outside a property on Langford Road (Members were unsure of the number, which was thought to be either 11 or 15). The matter had been reported to P.C.C., and it was not thought that any input from the Community Council was needed.

8700 – Report / newsletter. Copies of a report prepared by C’Ilr Rowlands in response to certain locally-published material were circulated to Members, along with draft copies of the Spring 2017 Newsletter.

8701 - Cricket Club. C’Ilr Neil James mentioned to Members that the Cricket Club had requested permission to put up training nets in the Glebelands Field. Members had no objections to this proposal.

The meeting closed at 8-35pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 10th April 2017.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....