**M11/2014**

The following are the **Minutes** of the monthly meeting of **Johnston Community Council** held on **10 November 2014** in Johnston Institute.

**Present:** Cllr C Wilkins, (Chairperson), Cllr N James, (Vice-Chair), Cllrs G Grey, B Morgan, T Young, J Ruloff, R Davies, R Bourns, J Jeffries, K Rowlands.

**Also present:** G Bishop, J Polak, (local residents).

**Apologies for absence:**  Cllrs A Harvey, E Warlow.

**7353. Minutes of the October 2014 meeting.** It was agreed that these should be accepted as a true record.

**Proposer:** Cllr Morgan. **Seconder:** Cllr Bourne.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**7354. Johnston in Bloom.**  It was confirmed that all prizes, shields and certificates had been distributed. The Clerk read out a letter of thanks received from Mrs Bethwaite, one of the prize-winners.

**7355. New entrance, Church Road.** The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) supporting the new access as agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Rowlands had also asked PCC officers to review the matter. Cllr Grey congratulated Mr Bishop on the reinstatement of the gates to Johnston Hall.

Mr Bishop had provided copies of Ordnance Survey maps of the area to Cllr Morgan but it was still unclear who owns the car park area .He felt that he would be entitled to close off the bottom end of the car park in front of his property entrance. This would stop people using it as a “roundabout”. However, Cllr Davies said that this was often used by disabled drivers using the doctor’s surgery and he would not want it closed off. Cllr Rowlands said he would make enquiries with PCC about ownership. Cllr James suggested that Johnston Community Council (JCC) should lay claim to the land as it had been used by visitors to the Institute for many years. It was reported that there had been long-term parking there and also car sales. It was suggested that “No overnight parking” signs should be erected and this was agreed though it was realised that enforcement would be difficult.

At this point Mr Polak raised the question of approval for another **access onto Church Road** near his property. He considered that this was far too dangerous and had complained to PCC but had not received any response. Cllr James said that he felt the new access was safe. Cllr Rowlands said that he would take this up with PCC but if it had been decided in accordance with planning rules, then the decision was unlikely to be changed.

**7356. Bulford Road improvements.** The Clerk said that the contractors had suggested 11am on either 19th or 20th of November for a site visit. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to reply saying that as most members worked in the week, only weekends were suitable. Also, in view of the weather conditions, lorries could not deliver topsoil to Glebelands without causing damage. The Clerk was therefore instructed to ask if this could be stockpiled until next year.

**7357. Skate-board park.**  Cllr Rowlands had obtained costings for building a sound barrier to reduce the noise. This came to a total of £15,039.70. The Clerk said that as Responsible Financial Officer for JCC, he did not consider spending two-thirds of the annual Precept on a fence was a sensible use of resources. He quoted from the Clerk’s Manual supplied by the Society of Local Council Clerks which says that *“a local council may, subject to conditions, incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants”.*  However, the manual goes on to say that *“The limitations are that a local council cannot incur expenditure …………….unless the direct benefit accruing is commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred”*. Also,  *“It is for the council to decide whether the direct benefit is commensurate with the expenditure proposed. Provided that it does not act unreasonably, the decision should not be open to challenge at audit. In a case where there may be some doubt as to whether this ‘test’ is met, Clerks should seek advice before their councils decide to approve such expenditure”.*

It was agreed that the clerk would seek such advice.

Cllr Rowlands suggested fund-raising activities- raffles etc. - to pay for the barrier but some members thought residents might not support this. He would approach PLANED about funding but thought it unlikely that they could help. Cllr James said that the options were to a) spend the £15000 now, b) to scrap the skate-park, or c) to move it. He felt that none of these were acceptable. He then proposed that JCC should go back to PCC Public Protection to see if a 4-year plan could be agreed, with the Precept being increased each year to allow the build-up of resources to pay for the barrier at some future date. After discussion this was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to write to PCC accordingly. Cllr Rowlands said he, also, would discuss this with PCC.

**7358. Wind turbines, Lawrence Landfill.** The Clerk said that no reply had been received so far to his letter regarding a community fund payment but it was reported that the required planning permissions had not yet been given.

**7359. Bus Shelter.** It was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Bourne that the Clerk should ask PCC if placing a shelter against the shop wall was feasible, and this was agreed.

**7360. War Memorial.**  Cllr Grey said that he wanted to congratulate everyone involved on providing the new memorial, with especial thanks to Cllr James. This was agreed by all. Cllr Rowlands was also thanked for putting together the leaflet for the dedication ceremony and Remembrance Day order of service. It was agreed that a copy of the programme should be forwarded to the stonemasons with a letter of thanks. It had been pleasing that two relatives of those remembered on the memorial were present to remove the flags at the start of the ceremony. Cllr James said that as new names had been added, there might be some source of funding available for the new memorial. It was agreed that he, Cllr Rowlands, and the Clerk would all try to investigate this. Cllr Jeffries suggested obtaining mats to place on the grass for use in future years to avoid a bottleneck of those laying wreaths etc. during the service. Cllr James suggested that PCC should be approached to have a temporary traffic restriction on Church Road in future years and Cllr Rowlands agreed to look into this. Also, it was proposed by Cllr Grey and seconded by Cllr James that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks to Mr W M Clancy for the building work done on the memorial, and this was agreed.

**7361. New school.**  Ongoing – nothing new to report.

**7362. Glebelands rubbish bins.** Still under enquiry.

**7363. Tree in Langford Road.**  Cllr Davies reported that at last, PCC had reduced the size of the tree considerably and that local residents were very pleased. He also reported that the path at the end of the footbridge had recently been repaired.

**7364. Letter box, Bulford Road.** Cllr Rowlands said that it appeared that neither Royal Mail nor PCC would accept responsibility for this.

**7365. Community Council website.** Cllr Ruloff confirmed that this was all up to date. It was agreed that photographs from the recent Remembrance Day ceremony would be added.

**7366. The Close Field.**  Cllr Rowlands said he was due to have a meeting with PCC about this and the Clerk would be asked to attend to provide details of the inspections etc. currently carried out by the council’s insurers. Cllr Jeffries reported that there was still an open area of trench in the field. Cllr Rowlands agreed to check this.

**7367. Road and pavement problems.** Cllr Rowlands said that he believed that these were being dealt with in rotation by PCC.

**7368. Village flower borders.** The Clerk said that he had not yet received a response from the Mormon Church regarding help with maintenance.

**7369. Arnold’s Yard.** Cllr Rowlands said that he was awaiting a response from SUSTRANS regarding the future of the land.

**7370. Christmas lighting.** The Clerk confirmed that the new lights had been ordered from Norrard Electrics.

**7371. Disabled access to The Close Field.** It was agreed that the original planning application should be revived although the costs of the scheme could be prohibitive.

**7372. Problems with drainage, Church Road.**  No further progress.

**7373. Bus services.** No further progress.

**7374. Broken bollards, Hillcroft.** Cllr Rowlands said repairs had been promised by PCC.

**7375. Planning Application 14/0488/PA.**  Cllr Bourne reported that additional tests for the risks from old coal workings and radon gas had been required on this site.

**7376. PCC Budgeting.** The Clerk said that he had attended the recent meeting in County Hall and had forwarded the information sheets provided to all Councillors. Funding for the future was going to be very difficult. Cllr Morgan said that he intended going to a similar meeting in Neyland.

**7377. Old cemetery, Pope Hill.** The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Probation Service asking for help with clearing the undergrowth etc. and was awaiting a response.

**7378. Ditch in Glebelands field.**  Cllr Rowlands said he was awaiting further information on this.

**7379. Rubbish Bins, Church Road.**  It was agreed that whilst these could be provided, it was unlikely that PCC would take responsibility for emptying them.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**7380. Planning.**

* Notice of decision of consent by Secretary of State re South Hook Heat & Power Station. Noted.
* 14/0665/PA – erection of single storey dwelling, land east of Brickhurst Park. Already considered by sub-committee and support given.
* 14/0008/PA – garage/workshop, Kiln Road – previously supported by JCC. Noted.

**7381. Letter and information booklets from Hywel Dda Health Board** – paediatric services. Noted.

**7382. Letter from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park** – Annual Monitoring Report etc. Noted.

**7383.** Information from PCC re **Pembroke Learning Campus.** Noted.

**7384.** Information from PCC – **Driver Refresher Courses for over 65’s.** (Posters on noticeboards). Noted.

**7385.**  Notice from PAVS – **Pembrokeshire Funding Fair**, 18/11/14, Narberth. Cllr Rowlands to attend.

**7386.** Notice from PLANED – **“Weathering the Storm”** – meeting 27/11/14, County Hall. Noted.

**7387.** Notice from **Heritage Lottery Fund** – meeting 17/11/14. Cllr Rowlands to attend.

**7388. Meeting dates for 2015.** These were agreed.

**FINANCE**

**7389. Accounts for payment.**  It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Davies that the following amounts should be paid:

* £208.92 to the Clerk, November 2014 salary.
* £52.20 to HMRC, PAYE, November 2014.
* £60.00 to Mr Banfield, bus shelter cleaning.
* £943.30 to ADL Stone Maintenance, balance of War Memorial costs.
* £38.95 to Cllr Jeffries, reimbursement for stone trough for War Memorial.
* £60.00 to Cllr Ruloff, reimbursement of 3 x £20 payments to trumpeters, Remembrance Day Service.
* £40.00 to Royal British Legion, wreaths for Remembrance Day Service. (Includes donation of £6).
* £900 to Norrard Electrics, new Christmas lights.

***The following items were admitted at the Chairperson’s discretion:***

**7390.** Cllr Morgan summarised the suggestions he had put forward to the Welsh Government regarding the **Williams Report** on local government reorganisation. Paul Davies, AM, had given him his support. Cllr Grey added that the costs of reorganisation would be too great to make it worthwhile.

**7391. Cllr Roy Bourne** announced that for personal reasons he had decided to resign from the council with immediate effect. Members expressed their great regret at this news and praised Cllr Bourne for his work on behalf of Johnston over many years.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Signed………………………………………………………………….Chairperson**

**Date…………………………………….**

**NEXT MEETING: 8 DECEMBER 2014**