

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Houghton on Wednesday 1st November 2017

Present: Cllrs John Evans, Nia Phillips (vice-Chair), Michael Pettit, Scott Sinclair, Alun Williams, Iain Wood, Robin Howells, Laurence Price, Derek Jones, John Mathias, Laurence Price; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies: C’lir Paddy McNamara.

C’lir John Mathias apologised for not having offered prior apologies last month.

Declarations of known interests

C’lir Iain Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application ref. 17/0712/PA.

Minutes of October 2017 monthly meeting

In paragraph three of the item on discussion of possible works at the Burton Ferry recreation area, ‘Waste bin’ was amended to read ‘electricity cabinet’. With this amendment, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’lir Robin Howells, seconder C’lir Alun Williams).

Public Forum.

Mr. Bog Tyler addressed the meeting regarding community boundaries. He lives in Port Lion, which he said for Council Tax purposes had always been counted as part of Burton Community area, but which for planning issues were always treated as part of Llangwm Community area. Clerk to research this with P.C.C. and P.C.N.P.A., and get back to Mr. Tyler with an explanation for this apparent discrepancy.

Mrs. Sheila Camplin of Vale Farm addressed the meeting, seeking to object to the application for the dwellings on the old school site at Houghton (17/0566/PA). She had been talking to Welsh Water regarding the capacity of the sewage holding tank in Houghton. The Welsh Water officer had stated that the tank was effectively running at or above design capacity already, and this would become worse when the new properties came on stream. With these houses, he anticipated that there would only be around 45 minute warning of potential overflow events, which would inevitably lead to more frequent problems. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Stewart Midgley at Welsh Water seeking information on their proposals for addressing this problem, stating that the matter appeared to be a public health hazard, and requesting a formal response. Clerk to also write to Mrs. Camplin to request that any future incidents of overflowing be referred to the Community Council, so that any reports made to the N.R.W. could be backed up by the Community Council. Matter to be placed on the agenda for the next monthly meeting for further discussion.

Matters Arising

One Stop Property Developments. C’lir John Mathias informed Members that he had not been contacted by One Stop Property Developments regarding the needed work in Church Road. Clerk to follow this up with One Stop as needed.

New Wells Road. The Clerk reported to Members that a holding reply had been received from P.C.C. in response to the concerns raised over road safety at the junction with Ashdale Lane, and a substantive reply was awaited.

Computer. The Clerk reported to Members that the problem with the laptop did not appear to be repairable. Matter to be reviewed in the New Year, with a view to possible purchase of a new computer, this to be shared with Rosemarket and Johnston Community Councils.

Planning

Applications received

17/0712/PA (Detached dwelling, outline with access, layout and scale for consideration, The Rafter's, Ashdale Lane, Hill Mountain, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NU) [NOTE- C'lr Iain Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest as an immediate neighbour, and left the room during consideration of this item]. – Oppose, based on property saturation in Ashdale Lane, and problems with sewage disposal infrastructure. Response to request that if the application is approved, then contractors' vehicles be prohibited from parking on the highway owing to the narrowness of the road and the adjacent access to Dumbledale Farm which is constantly in use for large agricultural vehicles. Clerk to research exact nature of the difference in highway access design between this application and the previous one, and circulate this information to Members for comments prior to making the formal consultation response.

Consents issued (for information)

17/0614/PA (extension and alterations - 3, Ashtree Close, Sardis, Milford Haven, SA73 1LZ).

Correspondence

- 1) Boundary Commission for Wales – consultation on proposed parliamentary constituency boundary changes – noted.
- 2) P.C.C. – Notification of rejection of Pride application for play equipment, but stating that there may be more funds released in the New Year – noted.
- 3) Mrs. Anita Rowlands – problems with non-cutting of the verge outside house at Port Lion – the Clerk informed Members that he had investigated this matter with P.C.C. The area in question had been found not to be Highway verge, and therefore would not be the responsibility of P.C.C. to cut. This information had been conveyed to Mrs. Rowlands.
- 4) Darren Thomas – response regarding various issues at Burton Ferry - noted.
- 5) One Voice Wales – Invitation to charter meeting with P.C.C. – noted, and C'lr Robin Howells to attend on behalf of the Community Council. Clerk to notify them accordingly.
- 6) Mrs. Sheila Camplin (copy of planning objection letter to P.C.C.) – noted, and dealt with in 'Public Forum' above. Clerk to retain letter for any necessary future reference.
- 7) Mrs. Lesley Cocking – dog fouling problem at Vale Court – As the dog had not been seen, C'lr Alun Williams raised the possibility that it could be a fox, or other animal. Clerk to report the matter to the P.C.C. dog warden, and respond to Mrs. Cocking to inform her of the actions taken.

Accounts

Payments

Wales Audit Office (2016/17 audit fee) : £186-75

The above item was approved by Members (proposer C'lr Robin Howells, seconder C'lr Nia Phillips).

Discussion of works needed on playing field

One Stop Property quotation. The first three items on the quotation were agreed (proposer C'lr Laurence Price, seconder C'lr Derek Jones). Clerk to inform One Stop Property Development accordingly. The mowing of the field was held for future discussion. Members to try and visit the land at Barnlake to familiarise themselves with it, and inform a further discussion in the December meeting. Clerk to research legal ownership of the land at Barnlake.

Discussion of possible works at the Burton Ferry recreation area, to include discussion of possible relocation of noticeboard, update on replacement of old picnic benches, removal of electricity cabinet, and related issues

Concrete slab for new seat. C’llr Iain Wood had obtained a quotation of £300 to lay the slab, fix and paint the seat. Members asked C’llr Wood to obtain a revised quotation, as the seat was plastic, and would not need painting.

Redundant electricity cabinet. The Clerk had contacted P.C.C. to seek any available information on the cabinet, and was awaiting a response.

Replacement picnic benches. Still in hand with C’llr Laurence Price.

Noticeboard. Due to recent work by Openreach, involving the installation of a new cabinet at the preferred location, Members felt it likely that another location may need to be found. Details of the exact extent of the Highway verge at this location was awaited from P.C.C.

Cobbles / disabled access to picnic area. C’llr Iain Wood to obtain a quotation for replacing some cobbles with concrete, to facilitate disabled access to the picnic benches. C’llr Scott Sinclair to seek quotations for any necessary cleaning of the area.

Discussion of issues surrounding possible redevelopment of Houghton School site

C’llr Alun Williams had been in discussion with a local resident, who had commented that many artefacts from the old school were unaccounted for. These included old registers going back to the 1800s, gas masks from the 2nd World War, box brownie cameras, etc. There was concern that items of local interest could just end up in skip. She had also raised the issue of bats in the old school building. Clerk to contact P.C.C. regarding the issue of bats. C’llr Laurence Price thought it likely that anything not in either the old or current school buildings would have been disposed of by now. Clerk to write to Mr. Nick Groves (headmaster) at Cleddau Reach School to seek any available information regarding items from the old school.

Discussion of P.C.C. proposal to reduce kerbside bin collections to three-weekly frequency

C’llr Derek Jones thought it likely that these proposals were part of a drive to reduce the amount of black bag waste generated, to meet tightening recycling targets. Clerk to write to P.C.C. to ask why they are proposing 3 weekly for black bags, but proposing to maintain two weekly collections for recycling.

Discussion of possible consequences from proposed removal of Cleddau Bridge tolls

No action was currently felt necessary by Members. C’llr Scott Sinclair felt it was an issue of importance. Clerk to try and obtain any available information from P.C.C. Matter to be placed on December agenda for further discussion.

Any other business

Postbox, Bowlings Corner. C’llr Derek Jones mentioned that the postbox had disappeared from Bowlings Corner. The Clerk informed Members that the matter had already been reported to Royal Mail, and an explanation was awaited.

Telephone box, Houghton. Possible future community use of the telephone box to be placed on December agenda for discussion..

The meeting ended at 9-05pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 6th December 2017