

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Johnston Institute.**

**Present: Cllrs Wilkins, Morgan, Jones, Spilsbury (vice-Chair), N. James, Jeffries (Chair), Rowlands, F. James, Pratt, Philpott; Peter Horton (Clerk).  
Apologies : C'Ilr. Young**

**9067 – Declarations of known Interests**

None.

**9068 – Public Forum (ten minutes maximum)**

Mr. Manuel Lloyd and Mrs. Pamela Pile were in attendance, both as residents of Brickhurst Park. Both addressed the meeting regarding the request from K.O. Carpets to purchase part of the Vine Field. Mr. Lloyd felt that all the residents adjacent to the Vine Field should be notified of the matter, not just those immediately adjacent to the affected area. He mentioned that the field had been purchased for the amenity of local residents, and should not be used for other purposes. He said the field was used daily by many local residents of all ages. Mrs. Pile said it would ruin the view from their homes, and noted that there was already some overshadowing of her garden from the existing K.O. Carpet buildings, which would become much worse if new ones were constructed. She mentioned problems with poor maintenance of their existing K.O. Carpets land around the side and back of the premises. She felt that maybe K.O. Carpets could make better use of the existing space they have available. She also noted that there were units already available in the Village without needing to construct new buildings. Members undertook to take all these comments into consideration in the discussion of the matter in the subsequent agenda item.

**9068 – Approval of minutes of December 2017 monthly meeting**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C'Ilr N. James, seconder C'Ilr Spilsbury).

**Matters arising**

**9069 – Public forum.**

C'Ilr Rowlands informed Members that he had visited the site with the Police Inspector following the recent community police forum meeting. The Inspector had acknowledged the problem, and undertaken to do all he could to support efforts for improvement works.

**9070 – NISA Shop.**

C'Ilr Rowlands informed Members that further information / proposals were still awaited from P.C.C.

**9071- Close Field skatepark.**

Matter of possible grant assistance for installation of cctv camera system still in hand with C'Ilr Rowlands.

**9072 – New school, Langford Road.**

Problem of mud on footpath to side and rear of school building still to be discussed with school headmaster. Matter in hand with C'Ilr Rowlands.

**9073 – Road and pavement problems.**

In hand with C’Ilr Rowlands to make arrangements for site visit / discussions with P.C.C. officers.

**9074 – Discussion of defibrillator provision.**

Arrangements for proposed photo-opportunity with all donors in hand with C’Ilr Pratt.

**9075 – Boundary fenceline with Dawnus development.**

Nothing had been heard back from Dawnus following the most recent letter sent out. C’Ilr Rowlands to follow up.

**9076 – Land behind Mike Howlin Motors.**

Members agreed to investigate possible registration of land in the name of the Community Council, to protect it for future community use (proposer C’Ilr N. James, seconder C’Ilr Spilsbury). Clerk to get out file for purchase of Cunnigar Field, which may contain relevant information. Clerk to seek guidance from Land Registry on procedure / requirements for first registrations.

**9077 – Excessive weed growth around Village.**

The message from P.C.C. regarding the level of weed-killing carried out in 2017, and that proposed in 2018, was read to Members. C’Ilr Rowlands to engage in discussions with P.C.C. regarding the arrangements for 2018, including possible service level agreements if appropriate.

**9078 - Discussion of possible seating provision outside NISA shop / bus shelter provision in Village.**

A message from P.C.C. had been received, indicating that the bus shelter could not be installed due to objections from the T.R.A. However Members noted that the situation had now changed considerably, with a dedicated smoking shelter now in place to the rear of The Railway Inn, installation of the bollards, etc. It was also felt that the possible impending change in catchment areas for the schools made the matter even more urgent than ever. It was agreed that C’Ilr Rowlands should approach P.C.C. to request a further site meeting to look again at the matter (proposer C’Ilr Rowlands, seconder C’Ilr N. James).

**9079 - Discussion of possible formal signage provision for businesses around railway bridge**

Matter still in hand with C’Ilr Rowlands to pursue discussions with the landowner. In the meantime, Members noted that even more illegal signage had appeared around the bridge.

On the separate matter of the Hall Court signage, C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to obtain an estimate for the provision and installation of a suitable sign for consideration by Members. The possibility of affixing the sign directly to the boundary wall of Fairfield Residential Home was briefly discussed.

**9080 - Discussion of Community Risk Assessment**

Still in hand with C’Ilr N. James.

**9081 - Discussion of responsibility for boundary fencing at Hayston View development**

C’Ilr Rowlands to discuss concerns over the matter with officers in the Planning Department.

Regarding the link footpath planning enforcement investigation, the response from P.C.C. was read out to Members. C’Ilr N. James was unimpressed with the explanation given, and felt that the conclusions reached were wrong. Matter to be followed up by C’Ilr Rowlands in his discussions with officers in the Planning Department.

**9082 - Discussion of overhanging tree, Church Road.**

Clerk still awaiting further information / proposals from P.C.C.

**9083 - Bolton Hill Quarry fence.**

Proposals and costings still awaited from the Quarry. C’Ilr Rowlands to continue to chase this up.

**9084 – Non-functioning street lights, Langford Road.**

C’Ilrs N. James and Philpott had both reported these again, and action was awaited to resolve the matter.

On the matter of the speed-activated signage, message from P.C.C. was read to Members, indicating that any replacement, including installation costs, would need to be funded by the Community Council. C’Ilr Rowlands to pursue the matter with P.C.C. to investigate costings, and best way to proceed.

**9085 – Christmas trees.**

Members were dismayed that once again the tree at the entrance to Glebelands had been vandalised. The Police were apparently due to call to see the alleged perpetrators that evening. C’Ilrs Rowlands and Philpott undertook to press the Police to take formal action in the matter. Members briefly discussed the possibility of alternative locations for the tree in future years, but discussion on this aspect was deferred for discussion at a future date.

**9086 - Subsidised bus to hospital.**

Still in hand with C’Ilr Rowlands to find out more information about the service.

**Planning**

**9087 - Refusals of consent**

**17/0799/PN (Demolition of former Johnston CP School)**

Members noted that a demolition plan had been called for, to ensure that the bats present in the building were catered for.

**Correspondence**

**9088** - P.C.C. – Response to request for meetings to discuss possible service level agreements – covered in 9077 above.

**9089** - Trunk Road Agent – Reply to letter regarding narrow pavement outside Johnston Farm, saying that the matter had been passed to the Welsh Government for action – noted.

**9090** - Darren Thomas, P.C.C. – Response to various highway-related issues raised – covered in 9077, 9078 and 9084 above.

- 9091** - P.C.C. – Budget figure request for 2018/19 year – covered in ‘Accounts’.
- 9092** - P.C.C. – Notification that future town and community council election costs will be payable by affected town or community council – covered in ‘Accounts’.
- 9093** - Dr. Eleanor Berry – Objection to sale of Vine Field – covered in agenda item 9100 below.
- 9094** - Mr. & Mrs. Alex Pile – Objection to sale of Vine Field – covered in agenda item 9100 below.
- 9095** - P.C.C. – Response to enquiry about planning enforcement at Hayston View – covered in 9081 above.
- 9096** - P.A.L.C. – Invitation to meeting of P.A.L.C. / O.V.W. to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January – C’Ilr Rowlands to attend.

### **Accounts**

#### **9097 - Payments**

P.C.C. (repairs to Close Field play equipment)	:	£653-40
Clerk (Land registry search on Vine Field)	:	£ 20-00
D. Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 60-00
F. James (plaque for Johnston in Bloom)	:	£ 50-00

#### **9098 - Budget statement / precept discussion for 2018/19**

The Clerk provided Members with a budget statement, indicating that the Council’s expenditure for the current year was on track. The precept for 2018/19 was set at £33,000. The increase of £6,000 on the previous year was primarily due to the need to set funds aside for possible community council election costs, which would no longer be covered by P.C.C.

#### **9099 – Computer renewal.**

A budget of £250 was agreed as a 1/3 share of an overall budget of £750 for purchase, software and set-up costs for a new laptop. It was also agreed that around £3-50/month towards the cost of a support contract for the computer would be paid on an ongoing basis if a suitable arrangement could be sourced.

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

#### **9100 - Discussion of request from K.O. Carpets to purchase part of Vine Field**

C’Ilr N. James had delivered the letters to the immediate residents, and discussed the matter with them and also some other local residents. He had not spoken to anyone who had been in favour of the sale of the land. He had also carried out some detailed research into the level of recreational land that should be maintained in the Community. This had suggested that the sale of part of the Vine Field would leave less than the recommended amount of recreational land available for local use and in Community Council control, given the population size

The Clerk had researched the Land registry documentation. This revealed the existence of a covenant on the land preventing its use for any use other than community recreational use. The Clerk also informed Members that he had received a call from K.O. Carpets indicating that they would be prepared to pay around £100,000 for half of the field.

It was resolved unanimously to reject the offer from K.O. Carpets to purchase the land, on the basis that this would reduce the level of community recreational land to below an acceptable level (proposer C’Ilr N. James, seconder C’Ilr Morgan). Clerk to write to K.O. Carpets to inform them accordingly.

**9101 - Discussion of ways to promote community spirit via community events**

C’lir Philpott informed Members that she had been speaking to someone from the Friends of the School regarding encouraging fund-raising for local events. As a result it was hoped to get something up and running soon.

Members proceeded to discuss various aspects of this matter, including discussing lessons to be learned from the example of Haverfordwest Town Council in advertising for volunteers, and various possibilities for suitable community events, such as community bingo events.

C’lir Wilkins asked if it would be possible to use the solar farm community benefit to kick-start some community events. This was thought possible by Members in principle, subject to being sure that the groups in question were bona fide, and the money would be used for genuine community benefit.

Matter held in abeyance for future discussion if and when proposals were on the table that might benefit from Community Council support.

**9102 - Discussion of situation regarding land opposite Johnston Institute**

Nothing further to report at present.

**Any other business**

**9103 – Walkway under railway bridge on cycle path.** C’lir Spilsbury reported that the rot in the wooden boards was spreading, and needed action. C’lir Rowlands to chase up again with P.C.C.

**9104 – Flytipping.** C’lir Wilkins reported that rubbish from some properties on Langford Road was being dumped over the boundary onto the bank by the cycle path.

**9105 – Rubbish collection problems, Hayston View.** C’lir Philpott reported problems with residents in Hayston View putting out their rubbish too early, with consequent issues of rubbish being spilt, blown about, etc. C’lir Rowlands to look into this matter and deal with as appropriate.

The meeting closed at 20-45.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

