

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 10th December 2018 in Johnston Institute.

Present: Cllrs Jones, F. James, Spilsbury, Pratt, Morgan, Jeffries, Philpott, Rowlands; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'Ilrs Tracey Young, Neil James, Warlow, Wilkins.

9544 – Declarations of known Interests

None.

9545 – To receive the minutes from the November 2018 monthly meeting

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

9546 – Public Forum (ten minutes maximum)

Mr. Bishop of Johnston Hall addressed the meeting to take issue with some aspects of the Community Council statement read out in the October meeting. In particular he drew attention to a claimed right of way for Johnston Hall over the car park opposite the Village Institute. He took issue with the parking of cars on it, and also the presence of the pavement. Regarding the use of the land for parking, it was pointed out to Mr. Bishop that this had been ongoing for many decades, and probably since the 11th Century, and hence an established right to use the land for this purpose had been formed. Regarding the pavement, he was recommended to take this up with P.C.C., as the matter was not the responsibility of the Community Council. Mr. Bishop also took issue with the Public Forum being at the start of the meeting, and expressed the view that it would be better placed at the end of the meeting. It was pointed out to him that having the Public Forum at all was not mandatory. The decision had been taken to have it at the beginning to enable residents to raise issues on matters that were on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

Mrs Swann addressed the meeting to ask if there was any progress on the painting of yellow lines on the steps of the Village Institute. It was again explained that this was a Village Institute Committee matter, and was in hand with them. Mrs. Swann was invited to consider attending the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee to bring the matter up.

Matters arising from the November 2018 monthly meeting

9547 – Greening of quarry bunds.

C'Ilr Rowlands confirmed that monitoring was still ongoing.

9548 – problem with inadequate lighting on the public footpath under the railway Bridge.

C'Ilr Rowlands informed Members that the site had been inspected by P.C.C., and was in hand with them. He could not confirm that there was any intention for them to install additional lighting, but was awaiting further information.

9549 – Highway safety issues in Langford Road.

C'Ilr Rowlands reported that the implementation of a 20mph speed limit was still in hand with P.C.C., progressing through the legal formalities.

9550 – Bus shelter / seat outside NISA Shop

C'llr Rowlands was still awaiting feedback from P.C.C. regarding the possibility of siting a shelter somewhere near the pub.

9551- Close Field Skatepark

C'llr Rowlands informed Members that discussions were in hand with other parties concerning possible measures to reduce the likelihood of vandalism (e.g. CCTV cameras). In the meantime it was confirmed that the damaged equipment had been removed. C'llr Rowlands felt that maybe it should not be replaced until any security measures had been installed to discourage similar future events.

9552 – Boundary fenceline with Dawnus development

The Clerk confirmed that he had checked the planning consent for the development. There was nothing in it that placed any obligations on the contractor to maintain the boundary fence. C'llr Rowlands commented that developers would only normally abide by their contractual obligations, and no more than that. He was currently in discussions with officers in the P.C.C. Planning Department regarding how to avoid this kind of problem on future developments.

9553 - Discussion of possible formal signage provision for businesses around railway bridge

C'llr Rowlands had been in conversation with some of the new tenants on the business park. They had expressed a willingness in principle to co-operate with an arrangement for corporate signage at the site. Matter to be placed on January agenda for further discussion.

9554 - Discussion of overhanging tree, Church Road

C'llr Rowlands was currently awaiting further feedback from the P.C.C. Landscapes Officer.

9555 - Bolton Hill Quarry fence

C'llr Rowlands felt it important that a site meeting should involve the same Members as had previously attended regarding this matter. This was currently in abeyance due to the bereavement in C'llr Neil James' family. Members understood and completely accepted this.

C'llr Spilsbury raised a question concerning the exact line of the proposed fence. It was confirmed that this was intended to be on the boundary of land in J.C.C. ownership. C'llr Spilsbury undertook to obtain a plan so that the line could be walked, and the proposed route mapped exactly.

9556 - Discussion of ways to promote community spirit via community events

Members offered thanks to those involved in promoting the events, which had been a great success so far.

Regarding funding, C'llr Philpott mentioned that help would be appreciated towards the cost of insurance, purchase of a bingo machine, hall hire, etc. Matter to be placed on January agenda for further discussion. In the meantime a letter to be sent in by the Community Spirit Group formalising the request for financial assistance.

9557 – Fence, Cunnigar Lane

C’Ilr Rowlands had been in discussion with P.C.C. regarding this matter, and was expecting to attend a site meeting with officers at the site. He mentioned that this needed to be considered by J.C.C. in discussions about Community priorities. In the meantime, an indication of costings for any fencing work would need to be obtained from P.C.C.

9558 - Bushes growing in lane at The Close.

It was reiterated that the bushes had been weed-willed, but the dead growth not removed. Matter to be placed on January agenda for discussion of possible arrangements to contract out weed-killing, maybe to the Sports Association.

9559 - Brambles on footpath to school.

C’Ilr Jones mentioned that someone had recently tripped over one of the encroaching brambles. C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to discuss with officers in P.C.C. exactly what the extent of their responsibilities to deal with this kind of matter are.

9560 - Narrow footpath outside Johnston Farm.

C’Ilr Rowlands mentioned that one local resident who had made enquiries regarding the matter had received a letter from the Welsh Government suggesting that responsibility for the matter lay with P.C.C. C’Ilr Rowlands to take this matter up with the local A.M., as this was known not to be the case.

C’Ilr Morgan commented that, due to the numbers of properties in Bulford Road, Bulford Close and this part of Milford Road, the matter was very important, and the current state of affairs completely unacceptable.

C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to follow up the matter as possible.

9561 – New business in Old Post Office, Main Road

C’Ilr Pratt mentioned that he had spoken with the proprietor, and been assured by him that all the formalities were in place. However, as requested, the Clerk had checked on the planning situation. This appeared to be that planning permission would be required for the change of use, and this had not yet been applied for or granted.

Members wished to be supportive of the enterprise, and to ensure that it was all done in a proper way. Clerk to write to the proprietor expressing support for the development, but raising concerns over the apparent failure to apply for needed planning permission.

9562 – Bonfire, Hillcroft.

Members understood that all the debris had now been removed.

9563 – C’Ilr N. James

Members reiterated their support for C’Ilr James and his family, and that the Community Council was there for any help needed and possible.

9564 – Community Christmas trees.

Members were informed that the trees were now in place, and the lights on. The Clerk confirmed that nothing had been heard from Western Power in relation to an unmetered supply for the current year.

Members discussed briefly possible arrangements for extending the lighting arrangements in future years. C'llr Philpott confirmed that Haverfordwest Town Council apparently rent their lights, and undertook to find out more about this arrangement. C'llr Rowlands mentioned that O.V.W. had possible links with a firm that could provide assistance in setting up community festive lighting, and undertook to obtain more information about this.

C'llr Pratt raised the possibility of having a festive lighting competition, possibly along similar lines to the Johnston in Bloom competition. Members were in favour of the idea, and noted it for possible future detailed discussion.

9565 – Loose cables behind 19, Fairview.

C'llr Jones reported that this was thought to have been a telephone cable, and the matter was now resolved.

Planning

9566 - Applications

18/0865/PA (Change of use of the first floor and part of the ground floor to office accommodation (B1 use class), Silverdale Inn & Lodge Hotel, Vine Road – no comments.

9567 - Consents issued

18/0752/TF (Tree Felling - Johnston Hall, Church Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HD)

18/0635/PA (Replacement dwelling, Hayes Farm, Pope Hill, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3NX)

18/0694/TF (Tree pruning for highway clearance, Woodlands, Church Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HE)

9568 - Refusals issued

18/0687/PA (Two storey extension to rear of dwelling, 17, Hillcroft, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3QB)

Correspondence

9569 - P.C.C. – Pembrokeshire bus service consultation – C'llr Morgan raised concerns at the proposal to axe the 8-30am bus service from Johnston to Haverfordwest. He mentioned that this was a well-used and vital service for many people visiting the hospital, etc. Clerk to send this in as a consultation response on behalf of the Community Council (proposer C'llr Spilsbury, seconder C'llr Rowlands).

9570 - Zurich Insurance – Renewal documentation – dealt with in 'Accounts'.

9571 - Network Rail – Information on forthcoming bridge replacement, Merlin's Bridge – It was confirmed that this had been advertised in local press, and to local businesses. Clerk to place notice on webpage providing information regarding the dates of the proposed work, etc.

9572 - P.C.N.P.A. – Consultation on new National Park Management Plan – noted.

9573 - Welsh Government – Notification of discretionary expenditure limit for 2019/20 – noted.

9574 - P.C.C. – Notification of kerbside collection dates over Christmas / New Year – noted, and Members mentioned that local households had been informed.

9575 - One Voice Wales – Innovation Practice and National Awards Conference, to be held on March 28th 2019 – noted.

9576 - Paul Davies, A.M. – November 2018 newsletter – noted.

9577 - Land Tribunal – Costs award decision for case involving land opposite Johnston Institute – dealt with in agenda item

9578 - P.C.C. – Notification that replacement Local Development Plan Consultation running for 8 weeks – noted.

Accounts

9579 - Payments

D. Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 60-00
Clive James Design & Print (Remembrance Day Services)	:	£ 250-00
Clerk (salary / fixed expenses, October – December 2018)	:	£1209-28
Clerk (incurred expenses June – December 2018)	:	£ 101-76
HMRC (P.A.Y.E. tax)	:	£ 157-14
Zurich Insurance	:	£1044-87

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

9580 - Discussion of risk assessment actions required

C’Ilr Pratt confirmed that he had received some quotations for repair works to the bus shelter on St. Peter’s Road. It was uncertain whether or not these works would address safety concerns over the drop-off to the rear of the bus shelter. C’Ilr Rowlands expressed the view that this matter should be addressed during any works undertaken on the bus shelter. Quotations to be sent by C’Ilr Pratt to the Clerk, for circulation to all Members. Matter to be placed on January agenda for further discussion once the quotations are in and available.

9581 - Discussion of possible further defibrillator provision

The arrangement had been pencilled in for 2pm, Sat 19th January. Members felt it would be a good idea to hold the session in the sports pavilion.

Clerk to contact Cariad, to ask if they could alter the time to 12-30, so as not to clash with possible football fixtures. Then if this was possible, Clerk to contact Glen Murray to seek his co-operation and ask if he is amenable to the handover session being held in the sports pavilion. Payment for the defibrillator to be formally approved in the January meeting.

Members raised questions regarding routine inspections of the defibrillators, and registration of their locations with the Welsh Ambulance Service. A note was made to put these matters to Cariad for clarification on 19th January.

9582 - Discussion of possible purchase of WW1 commemorative seat

C’Ilr Spilsbury had received a few quotations, and undertook to circulate these to members for information.

C’Ilr Fran. James had spoken to P.G.S. Fabrications regarding a possible quotation. They had indicated that they could make a bespoke bench including a plaque for around £700.

Matter to be placed on January agenda for further discussion.

9583 - Discussion of draft 2019 Independent Remuneration Panel Report

Deferred until January for consideration in conjunction with precept. Clerk to provide a schedule of the allowances to be debated in advance of the meeting.

9584 - Discussion of Community priorities for possible investment / service level agreements with P.C.C.

Members were in agreement that the Village was in need of maintenance to keep up a satisfactory level of appearance. C'llr Rowlands reiterated previous comments made that the community council needs to decide on what services are viewed as important to the community. Once decided, P.C.C. could be asked for quotations to provide the services. C'llr Rowlands undertook to ask P.C.C. for a quotation for additional passes of weed-killing in the Village.

9585 - Discussion of possible children's home to be opened in Johnston

C'llr Rowlands had been in discussion with officers in the P.C.C. Education Department about the matter. It was understood that Authorities in other places could obtain property and set up facilities for supervised living in other areas, and nothing could be done to stop this from happening. The knock-on implications for possible safeguarding issues problems in local schools, etc., was mentioned. However, it had been confirmed that this would be the responsibility of P.C.C. to deal with. It was understood that the Planning Department were looking at whether planning consent would be needed for a home to be set up. The Clerk confirmed that under all normal circumstances, this kind of arrangement for up to six people would not require planning permission.

9586 - Discussion of date for Chairman's Dinner

Deferred for discussion in January.

Any other business

9587 – cycle path. C'llr Jeffries had met employees from Sustrans repairing the bridge. They had mentioned that it may be necessary to remove the bridge altogether if repairing it should become too much of an ongoing issue. They had looked at providing plastic slats instead of the timber ones. However this had been ruled out on cost grounds. Matter to be taken up with P.C.C. by C'llr Rowlands.

9588 – pothole, entrance of Hall Court. C'llr Fran. James reported a pothole close to the junction with Church Road. C'llr Rowlands undertook to report this.

9589 – bus shelter, Milford Road, west side. C'llr Morgan reported that a pane had been kicked out at low level. Clerk to report to P.C.C.

[NOTE – at this point the meeting went into private session, and members of the public were asked to leave].

9590 - Discussion of situation regarding land opposite Johnston Institute

Members were informed that costs had been awarded against Mr. & Mrs. Bishop in favour of J.C.C. and Johnston Institute in the sum of £18,591-62. This was payable by 4pm on 18th January 2019.

The meeting ended at 8-50pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 14th January 2019.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....