

## BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Mission Hall, Hill Mountain, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

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

**Apologies:** None.

#### **Declarations of known interests**

C’lir Laurence Price declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application ref. 18/0939/PA, as a personal friend of the applicant.

#### **Minutes of December 2018 monthly meeting**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’lir Laurence Price, seconder C’lir Michael Pettit).

#### **Matters Arising**

**Footpath, Hill Mountain.** The response received from the Highways Dept. was read out, which indicated that further maintenance works were scheduled for early January. Members noted this, and progress to be monitored.

**Speeding enforcement.** Members had noticed an increased level of enforcement activity in the Community, which was welcomed. C’lir John Mathias undertook to ask about the possibility of including other locations into the schedule for speeding enforcement action.

**NHS matters.** The responses from Vaughan Gething, A.M., and Stephen Crabb M.P. were read out. It was noted that no response had been received from Hywel Dda Health Board. Clerk to send a further letter to Hywel Dda chasing a response, with this copied to Vaughan Gething A.M., Stephen Crabb M.P., and Paul Davies A.M.

**One Voice Wales.** The Clerk informed Members that arrangements had been made for membership to commence in January.

#### **Plans**

##### **Applications**

[NOTE – C’lir Laurence Price left the meeting during discussion of this item].

**18/0939/PA (Demolition of Existing Canteen, 5 New Residential Dwellings and New Site Access off Burton Road, Burton V.C. School, School Road, Houghton, Milford Haven, SA73 1NN)**

The letter from adjoining neighbours to the north of the site was read out to Members. This cited a number of concerns in relation to the proposals that were discussed in detail by Members. Members proceeded to discuss the proposals in detail.

It was agreed for the Clerk to write a planning consultation response, including the following comments :

- Concern over potential for overbearing impact and overshadowing of the three neighbouring properties to the north, due to the higher level of the proposed dwellings in relation to them, especially the one on Plot 1, and the proximity of this proposed dwelling to the existing single storey extensions to the rear of the three affected properties.
- Concern over lack of detail regarding proposed boundary treatments, especially on the northern boundary with the above-mentioned properties. The existing sparse hedge along this boundary is not considered adequate. Consideration to be requested to a requirement for a suitable close-boarded fence or similar boundary treatment for security and privacy.

- Concern over sewage disposal issues. Letter to mention the ongoing issues being looked into by D.C.W.W. and N.R.W. Letter to note that the matter is being monitored by N.R.W., that the existing system appears to be operating at or beyond its design capacity. Letter to further mention that D.C.W.W. has confirmed that, at present, they have no plans to invest in the sewage disposal infrastructure in this location, which is a concern. Letter also to mention that D.C.W.W. is scheduled to attend the February Community Council meeting with further updates / proposals for resolving ongoing issues, and that in the meantime, N.R.W. has said that reports should be made to them of any incidents of discharge into river, as D.C.W.W. has no current licence for any such discharges. Letter to suggest that, in view of all the above, necessary improvements to the sewage disposal infrastructure should be conditioned into any consent granted for development that was to be connected into it.
- Concern over highway access issues. Letter to cite concerns on the basis of poor visibility and projected volume / intensity of traffic connected with the development, especially in conjunction with the existing/ previously proposed accesses onto the main road in the vicinity of the development site. Letter to request that the developers be required to come up with an alternative site access location, possibly onto Vale Road, as a condition of support from the Community Council for the development.
- Concern for treeline along Burton Road. Letter to refer to previous discussions with the Landscape Officer, in which he had agreed in principle that the trees should benefit from a T.P.O. Consultation response to request protection for the trees as part of any consent granted. [NOTE Clerk to contact Landscape Office to discuss the matter, in addition to the comments sent in as part of the consultation response].
- Flood and Water Management Plan 2010 – Letter to note that this has come into force, affecting surface water runoff drainage, which should be sustainable.
- Affordable housing – Letter to request either an element of affordable housing as part of the development, or alternatively an appropriate contribution to offset this requirement.

In addition to the consultation response, Clerk to respond to the neighbour Alex. Davies, to let her know of the actions taken in the matter.

[Note – C’l’r Laurence Price returned to the meeting at this point].

### **Decisions**

There were no planning decisions to report this month.

### **Correspondence**

- 1) Stephen Crabb, M.P. – response to message sent about postbox at Bowling’s Corner – dealt with in agenda item.
- 2) P.C.N.P.A. – November update on larger development sites in National Park – noted.
- 3) P.C.N.P.A. - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan (end date 2031) (L.D.P.) update – noted.
- 4) Woodland Trust – Notification of acceptance of tree pack application – dealt with in agenda item for Sardis Common Land
- 5) Planed – Notification of forthcoming Community Forum Network meeting, to be held on 13th February, 5-30pm, Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock – noted.
- 6) N.R.W. – Update on situation re. sewage disposal, Houghton – dealt with in agenda item
- 7) Police and Crime Commissioner – Precept online consultation – noted.
- 8) P.C.C. – Invitation to ‘Innovative Models of Care in our Communities’ conference, Pembrokeshire Archives, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 10am – noted.
- 9) Vaughan Gething, Welsh Government – Response to letter about N.H.S. changes – dealt with in ‘Matters Arising’.
- 10) P.C.C. – L.D.P. consultation – noted.

- 11) P.C.C. – Consultation on webcasting of Standards Committee meetings – noted.
- 12) W.G. – Information on proposed next steps in implementing policy towards town and community council sector – noted.
- 13) Mr. Brian Lloyd – concern over damage to public footpath, Benton Castle – Clerk to send to P.C.N.P.A. with a request for action.
- 14) P.C.C. – Invitation to Community Council workshop on L.D.P., to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January – noted.
- 15) Alex Davies – comments on planning application at old school site, Houghton – considered under agenda item.
- 16) Community Speedwatch – Speedwatch results, January – December 2018 – noted. Clerk to respond thanking them for their work.
- 17) Mrs. J.S. Hayden – highway / flooding-related problems – Clerk to pass letter to Highways with letter of support, and respond to her to inform of actions taken.

## **Accounts**

### **Payments**

One Voice Wales (membership)	:	£136-68
Mission Hall (Hall hire)	:	£ 12-50

### **Independent Remuneration Panel Members' allowances**

Members made decisions on the proposed Members' allowances for 2019/20 as follows :  
 Determination 39 (to make an annual payment of £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities) – not approved.

Determination 40 (to make payments to each member in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties) – approved

Determination 41 (If a particular duty requires an overnight stay, authorisation of reimbursement of subsistence expenses to members) – approved.

Determination 42 (to pay financial loss compensation to any members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties) – not approved.

Determination 44 – (to provide a Civic Head payment to the Chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500) – not approved.

Determination 45 – (to provide a Deputy Civic Head payment to the vice-Chair of the council up to a maximum of £500) not approved.

### **Clerk's salary and expenses**

As per the Clerk's contract of employment, it was agreed for his salary to be increased in line with the National pay award of 2.6% from April 2019.

It was also agreed for the Clerk's fixed expenses to be increased by 2.6% from April 2019, and to be subject to further annual review, with the next one scheduled for January 2020.

### **Precept discussion**

After discussion of the budget projections provided by the Clerk, Members resolved to set the precept for 2019/20 at £13,500. Members noted the importance of having a rigorous budgeting regime and scrutiny of expenditure, especially in view of the increasing precept.

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Laurence Price, seconder C'Ilr Alun Williams).

### **Discussion of common land at Sardis**

Members were informed that the application to the Woodland Trust for trees to be planted on the common land had been approved. Delivery of the trees was expected in March 2019. It was confirmed that installation of bollards on the site would need prior Welsh Government approval. However, it was not known whether the same would apply to placing boulders on the land. Clerk to seek advice from the Common Land Officer regarding this.

Matter to be placed on February agenda for further discussion.

### **Discussion of situation regarding replacement of postbox at Bowling's Corner**

Members were informed that the postbox had still not been replaced. Matter to be placed on February agenda for any necessary further discussion.

### **Any follow-up discussion regarding sewage disposal infrastructure issues at Houghton**

Members were informed that Welsh Water would be attending the February meeting to provide a further update on their investigations.

C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that there had been an apparent discharge of effluent into the stream on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018. He said this had been reported to Welsh Water. However, it had not been reported to N.R.W. Members were reminded of the advice provided by N.R.W., that any action by them to deal with ongoing problems would need to be based on reports received of pollution incidents. Members were encouraged to report any incidents first and foremost to N.R.W. on the pollution hotline 03000 653000.

### **Discussion of roundabout at northern end of Cleddau Bridge**

A holding response had been received by the Clerk from C'lr Phil. Baker, but no further substantive response. Clerk to chase up a response from C'lr Baker.

C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that he had been speaking to some elderly residents affected by problems at the junction, and the unanimous response from them was that a roundabout was needed.

Members were informally canvassed for their opinion on whether a roundabout at the northern end of the Cleddau Bridge would be a good idea. The majority were in favour. However, C'lr John Mathias cited the potential for increased traffic through Burton Village if a roundabout was constructed, and was not in favour. However, he also mentioned that he was aware that there had been an accident at the junction a few months ago which might not have happened had there been a roundabout there.

C'lr Scott Sinclair expressed the view that, if the effect of removal of the tolls from the Cleddau Bridge was that a roundabout became necessary, then it should be paid for by P.C.C. C'lr Iain Wood suggested that the main issue one of road safety. He questioned whether this had been considered in conjunction with the proposed toll removal.

Clerk to send letter to P.C.C. to say that with removal of tolls, there will not be the gaps in traffic that are currently the case. This, added to potentially faster traffic flows from the northern side will produce increased traffic-related hazards. Letter to ask what their proposals are to address this. Letter to avoid specific mention of a roundabout as a possible solution, but to draw attention to the concerns being voiced locally about the issue.

### **Discussion of needed maintenance of flower boxes, Sardis and Hill Mountain**

Members were informed that the current flower troughs were rotting away, and needed replacement. C'lr Alun Williams confirmed that there are two, one on each side of the road. Members agreed that C'lr Laurence Price should obtain a price for two new ones and report back to the February meeting.

### **Discussion of problems with unsafe parking of vehicles around Ashdale Lane junction with main road in conjunction with school bus drop-off / pick-up times**

Members noted the problem with vehicles parking on the junction at school drop-off time. Clerk to write to the P.C.C. School Transport Department to ask them to look at the issue and make suggestions for actions to improve the situation.

### **Any other business**

**Houghton Playpark.** C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that he was planning to plant a Christmas tree in the Playpark.

**Streetlights.** Members were informed that bulbs had failed in two streetlights locally. C’lr Michael Pettit undertook to report this to P.C.C.

**Vale Farm.** C’lr John Mathias informed Members that the Houghton Moor fence was undergoing replacement.

**Proposed B.J.H.C. Summer Fete.** C’lr Scott Sinclair mentioned this for inclusion on the February agenda, and that certain actions would need to be completed prior to that meeting if the matter was to be progressed.

**Rhoseferry Lane drainage.** Matter to be placed on February agenda for discussion.

### **Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting ended at 9-10pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019