

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, on Wednesday 4th September, 2019

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

The meeting was chaired by vice-Chair C'lr Scott Sinclair.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Minutes of July 2019 monthly meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C'lr John Evans, seconder C'lr Michael Pettit).

Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting a considerable number of local residents who were present for the agenda item on speeding in Burton / Burton Ferry. It was agreed by those Members present that it would be appropriate to allow discussion of the issues involved at an early stage in the meeting. This being the case, the Chairman explained that normal protocol regarding the Public Forum would be set aside to enable members of the public to address the Council regarding this matter.

On invitation by the Chair, Mrs. Gail Smith addressed the meeting. She mentioned the letter that had been sent by her to Darren Thomas of P.C.C. Highways Department, and copied to B.C.C. She maintained that there had been a definite increase in traffic levels since the abolition of tolls on the Cleddau Bridge, and since the raising of the Merlin's Bridge railway bridge. Specific issues of concern to her and co-residents of Burton and Burton Ferry were mentioned by her as being :

- No RH bend / junction sign on hill coming down hill;
- Excessive speed of traffic through village;
- No deterrence to speeding, as no enforcement was ever seen (though it was noted that officers undertaking a speed survey had been seen in the area for the first time earlier the same week);
- No pavement through the lower part of Burton Ferry (past Trinity Terrace).

Mrs. Smith informed Members that they had written to GoSafe, who had carried out an impromptu speed survey outside her house. This had indicated a high level of speeding along the road. Regarding the petition organised, every resident had been called on, and everyone who had been contacted had agreed to sign this. Measures that local residents would like to see introduced in the Village were listed by Mrs. Smith as :

- Suitable traffic calming measures;
- Signage similar to that introduced in Neyland;
- 30mph signs with the yellow background throughout the Village;
- Appropriate signage by the junction near the Jolly Sailor;
- More enforcement, as for the other parts of the Community.

She requested support from B.C.C. to drive forward these matters, mentioning that the matter was of particular concern to her, as she had recently been injured while trying to avoid a passing speeding motorist.

Nicola Lund addressed the meeting to support the comments made by Mrs. Smith. She mentioned that she had recently joined Community Speedwatch, and had seen first hand all of the problems caused by the issue of speeding. She mentioned that some Community Speedwatch volunteers will not actually work in Burton due to perceived safety issues. Ms. Lund also mentioned the large number of vehicles driving through Village, including convoys of traffic transiting the Village from the bridge end, due to traffic queues waiting to turn right at the junction opposite Barnlake.

Other specific problems / suggestions mentioned by residents during the discussion included :

- Mention of a problem with ‘rat-running’ along the land under the Cleddau Bridge;
- Suggestion of installing chicanes at suitable locations on approaches to the Village;
- Suggestion of relocating the 30mph sign outside Parkstone to further up the hill, to enable a speed van to park outside John Hayman’s field. In connection with this, it was mentioned that GoSafe had apparently recommended such a change, but that P.C.C. had commented that it would be of little value;
- Problem with traffic driving on the wrong side of the road around bends in the Village, due to driving at excessive speeds;
- Traffic damaging the railings on Burton Ferry Hill, which have had to be repaired multiple times. C’lrr John Mathias acknowledged that he feels unsafe going up the hill at this location due to excessive traffic speeds;

C’lrr John Mathias asked if Neyland Town Council had paid for the signage installed in the town. He was informed that they had, at a cost of around £2000 each. C’lrr Alun Williams commented that two such signs would use up approaching 50% of the entire precept for B.C.C. Mrs. Gail Smith appreciated that fact, and commented that they simply wished to explore possible ways forward to improve the situation, through a collaborative effort involving all interested parties.

Regarding the matter of footpath provision, C’lrr Alun Williams commented that the same problem existed in Hill Mountain, and residents had been waiting for 15 years or so for this to be extended. He mentioned that they were currently 53rd on the P.C.C. priority list. Mrs. Smith said that they were apparently 51st on the same list, but in reality were not actively seeking a footpath in any case, as it was not felt that this would solve the problem. Other alternatives such as those outlined earlier in the discussion were needed.

It was noted that P.C.C. had undertaken to review the situation, specifically by undertaking further speed surveys in the Village. Mr. Peter Smith commented on the importance of positioning the survey tubes at the most appropriate location.

In summarising, C’lrr Scott Sinclair assured residents that the Community Council was concerned about these issues, and wished to respond effectively. He commented that the situation appeared to have been exacerbated by the removal of tolls from the Cleddau Bridge. He noted that P.C.C. had undertaken to monitor the situation further. In considering signage provision, clearly funding would be a major consideration. Also, the effectiveness of any such provision would be dependent on suitable locations being chosen. It was undertaken that the Community Council would note all the points made, and consider ways to look at the feasibility of workable and achievable proposals to improve the situation.

Lyn Hambidge (local resident) asked if Darren Thomas from P.C.C. could be asked to attend a future meeting to contribute to further discussions about the issue. C’lfr Scott Sinclair said that this would certainly be a possibility, and if such an arrangement were to be made, residents would be made aware of this via Gail Smith and Nicola Lund as link residents.

Following the discussion, the Chairman thanked all the local residents for attending, after which most residents left the meeting.

Matters Arising

Flower boxes, Sardis and Hill Mountain. Matter still in hand and being co-ordinated by C’lfr Laurence Price.

Rhooseferry Rd. Members noted the response from P.C.C., in which they said the existing drain would be unblocked, and monitored and assessed for any possible need for replacement.

Footpath to Village Hall. The response from P.C.C. was noted by Members, in which a likely timeframe (but no cost estimate) for preparation and construction of a suitable scheme was outlined. The message also referred to a possible £100,000 fund being developed to fund such schemes on a first come first served basis. Clerk to process a Welsh Government application if possible based on the information currently available. If more detailed information regarding the proposed scheme design was required in order to process an application, then matter to be tabled for further discussion at the October meeting.

Ashdale Lane junctions. Matter of obstructed visibility at the junctions between Ashdale Lane and the main road, and with New Wells Road, was still with P.C.C. Streetcare for action.

Plans

Applications

19/0355/PA - Proposed 2 No Semi-detached Houses; Land at Houghton Nursery, Houghton, SA73 1NW – noted, as a refusal of permission had already been issued.

19/0394/PA - Alterations and extensions; The Dolphins, Barnlake Point, BURTON FERRY, Milford Haven, PEMBROKESHIRE, SA73 1PF – no comments.

Consents issued

18/0512/DC – Discharge of condition 3 of planning permission 18/0219/PA; Phase 2, Barnlake Point, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1PF. C’lfr Laurence Price asked about the consent conditions, as these had not been listed on the document provided. He was concerned about protection of the public right of way through the development site. C’lfr Scott Sinclair pointed out that the application was simply to alter the scheme from a two-phase development to a single one.

18/1294/PA - Variation of condition 2 of outline planning permission 08/0687/PA and supplemental reserved matters application ref 11/0430/PA to allow minor amendment to approved plans for Plot 9; Plot 9, Houghton Nursery, Houghton, SA73 1NW.

19/0146/PA – Variation of condition 2 of outline planning permission 08/0687/PA and condition 11 of the supplemental reserved matters Application ref: 11/430/PA (V2) to allow for amendments to approved plans for plot 4; Plot 4, Houghton Nursery, Houghton, Milford Haven, SA73 1NW.

19/0182/PA – Variation of condition 2 of Outline Planning Permission 08/0687/PA and Condition 11 of Supplemental Reserved Matters Application Ref: 11/0430/PA to allow for a minor amendment to approved plans; Plot 8, Houghton Nursery, Houghton, SA73 1NW.

18/0511/PA - Residential development (determination of reserved matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to outline planning permission 09/0556/PA).

Phase 2, Barnlake Point, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, SA73 1PF.

Refusals issued

19/0355/PA - Proposed 2 No Semi-detached Houses; Land at Houghton Nursery, Houghton, SA73 1NW.

Correspondence

- 01) P.C.C. – Information on absorbent hygiene service – noted.
- 02) P.C.C. – Information on ‘Enhancing Pembrokeshire’ grant scheme – noted.
- 03) O.V.W. – Notification of forthcoming A.G.M., to be held on 5th October in Pontrhydfendigaid – noted.
- 04) P.C.C. – Information on 2 minute clean boards – noted.
- 05) P.C.C. – Consultation on supplementary planning guidance on landscape assessments – noted.
- 06) Boundary Commission for Wales – Final report on recommended boundary changes – noted, and proposals do not affect the Burton Community area.
- 07) Nicola Lund (copy of email to P.C.C. – concerns over speeding in Burton / Burton Ferry) – dealt with in agenda item above.
- 08) W.G. – Consultation on National Development Framework – noted.
- 09) Gail and Peter Smith - Concerns over speeding-related issues in Burton / Burton Ferry – dealt with in agenda item above.
- 10) P.C.C. – Consultation on County owned farms – noted.
- 11) P.C.C. – Minutes of Cleddau Reach Governors’ Spring meeting – noted.
- 12) Grant Thornton – Notification of conclusion of audit – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.

Accounts

Payments

Tom Greenwood (work to alter Burton Ferry Noticeboard £380; repairs to pedestrian shelter £120)	:	£ 500-00
Wales Audit Office (audit fee for 2017/18)	:	£ 204-25
Net World Sports (goalposts)	:	£ 403-93
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)	:	£ 200-40

Income

P.C.C. (precept second instalment)	:	£4500-00
------------------------------------	---	----------

2018/19 audit.

Audit complete, with unqualified approval of the accounts issued by auditor. Letter with matter raised concerning asset register was noted by Members, with Clerk to action.

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C’llr Iain Wood, seconder C’llr Alun Williams).

Discussion of problems with excessive traffic speeds, Burton and Burton Ferry areas

Following the earlier discussion involving local residents, Members discussed how to proceed. Members talked about the possible options, such as relocating the speed limit signage, seeking to get the speed limits further reduced, enhanced signage through the Village, traffic calming measures, etc. C’llr Laurence Price mentioned the need to review the locations of bus stops, as some are effectively on the wrong side of the road.

It was also noted that some members of the public present at the meeting had been among those who had previously been involved in petitioning to get the transverse yellow lines removed from close to their properties.

It was agreed that C’llrs Scott Sinclair, Robin Howells and Laurence Price would arrange further dialogue with the local residents, with a view to identifying possible courses of action, to inform a future focussed discussion in the Community Council (proposer C’llr Scott Sinclair, seconder C’llr John Evans). Matter to be tabled for further discussion in October.

Discussion of any necessary actions at common land, Sardis, including arrangements for placing boulders across site frontage

Members noted that the quotation for supply of the boulders had been received. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Welsh Water, and they had agreed to fund the supply of the boulders, on the basis that the Community Council would cover the cost of placing them, landscaping, etc.

Any necessary follow-up discussion of annual risk assessment actions required, including concrete path to Sardis bus shelter, bollards, and fencing works at Houghton Playpark

Playpark fencing. C’lir Laurence Price informed Members that it was difficult to obtain a good quotation at present. It was hoped that the situation would improve towards the end of the current season. He felt it most likely that the work would be achievable during next year.

Sardis bollards / footpath. C’lir Iain Wood had obtained a verbal quotation to patch up the footpath and install bollards at around £1000. C’lir Iain Wood to obtain a written quotation for the work, and forward this to the Clerk for circulation. In addition, C’lir Iain Wood undertook to try and obtain further quotations for comparison prior to the October meeting.

Bollards, Sardis Green. The Clerk had asked P.C.C. for their comments on the damaged bollards. A reply was awaited.

Discussion of Hywel Dda Health Board proposals for changes to services available at Withybush Hospital

C’lir Derek Jones commented that anecdotally it was being reported that more and more staff were being moved out of Withybush gradually, as the work being undertaken there was progressively reduced. Members agreed to defer the matter for consideration after a further three months., Matter to be tabled for discussion in December.

C’lir Alun Williams mentioned that the next meeting of the Hywel Dda Scrutiny Committee was scheduled for sometime in November. He undertook to report back on anything relevant that was mentioned at the meeting.

Any other business

There was no other business for discussion.

The meeting ended at 8-40 pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 9th October 2019.