

## **BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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

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

**Apologies:** C’lir Laurence Price.

### **Declarations of known interests**

None.

### **Minutes of September 2019 monthly meeting**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’lir Derek Jones, seconder C’lir John Evans).

### **Any necessary discussion / update on possible actions to address traffic speeds in Burton and Burton Ferry areas**

It had been agreed that C’llrs Scott Sinclair, Laurence Price and Robin Howells would be in liaison with representatives of the local affected local residents, and this had been done. A document had been prepared by the three councillors, summarising the main matters discussed, and proposing a series of recommended actions for consideration, based on identified priorities. C’lir Scott Sinclair proceeded to go through the main points of the document for the benefit of all present, as follows :

#### **1. Signage**

There should be clearer 30 mph signs with yellow background coming into Burton/Burton Ferry [such as those in Hill Mountain].

Proposal: We encourage P.C.C. to implement asap.

#### **2. New 40mph approach**

P.C.C. is considering the introduction of a new 40mph limit on the approach to Burton from A477 [bridge]. Also to extend the 40mph limit on the bridge to north of the Barn Lake / Burton junction. Then to introduce 50mph limit on A477 all the way to existing 50 at Honeyborough.

Proposal: We should endorse this proposal and encourage P.C.C. to implement.

#### **3. Slow / Araf marking**

There should be Slow/Araf marking on the road on either side of the bend by Church Lane and on approach to Burton Ferry from bridge.

Proposal: Seek advice from P.C.C. and ask them to consider this proposal.

#### **4. Rumble strips**

There seem to be different views about rumble strips. They are effective but some people living next to them feel they generate too much noise. Propose that the existing strip coming into Burton Ferry from the bridge should be enhanced and new one set up on the bend by the chevron signs on the hill coming down to the Jolly Sailor.

Proposal: We should further seek views from community — and if appropriate discuss with P.C.C.

## 5. STOP sign?

The junction near the Jolly Sailor has raised concerns because vehicles coming down the hill cut the corner and maintain speed rather than respecting it as a right turn. However it is not clear what signs could help. Going the other way it has been suggested that it would be better if vehicles had to stop.

☞ Proposal: We should seek further views from the community and seek advice from PCC about whether this could be made a 'STOP' rather than a 'GIVE WAY'.

## 6. Radar speed sign

It is felt that radar Driver Feedback Sign [DFS], like the one as you go into Neyland - [Morelock M-SID VARIO], would reinforce the message that the village is a 30 mph zone and cause the majority of motorist to slow down. Such an initiative would be valued in the village and encourage support for better safety. Initial work has been done on options, costs of setting up, permissions, power supply/solar panel, ongoing cost ... but firstly we suggest B.C.C. needs to consider:

☞ Proposal: That we should agree in principle that as part of next year's B.C.C. budget we should plan to set up one or two DFS signs. That we should consider:

a) the implications of increasing the overall budget;  
b) the potential role/level of one-off fund-raising in the community to enable this plan [like we did for the defibrillators]. This would also demonstrate support in the community.

☞ Proposal: Further work should be done asap on budget options, best signs to opt for, location[s] and permissions needed ... with a view to detailed plan for B.C.C. meeting to link with setting next budget.

Following this summary, C'llr Paddy McNamara made a number of points, as follows :

- The 30mph on bridge end starts low down the road, but should possibly start at the top of the road.
- Regarding 'Slow' markings on the carriageway – maybe another should be included on the road down from Burton by the bend at the bottom.
- Historic removal of existing rumble strips means that any new ones would need to be carefully considered, as anyone living near them might be adversely affected.
- Who would enforce any Stop sign erected?
- The Police speed-bike had been asked to attend and take speed readings, and should be encouraged to attend more often if possible.

Following a review of the main points set out in the document prepared by C'llrs Scott Sinclair, Robin Howells, and Laurence Price, the Chairman invited input from the members of the public who were present.

Thanks were offered on behalf of those present to the three Members who had made such efforts. Mention was made of a map that had been brought to the last meeting, and which seemed to indicate that one of the 30mph signs had been put in the wrong place. This had been checked. However, the outcome had been that P.C.C. had said that moving the sign would not be straightforward, due to legal constraints. C'llr Scott Sinclair commented that, in the light of possible proposed actions / recommendations being considered, this might not be worth pushing for in any case.

Regarding possible speed-activated signage, Mrs. Gail Smith had spoken to P.C.C., and had been told that P.C.C would pay for the electricity to power these signs. This seemed to be at odds with advice given on other occasions. She also commented that possible interference from trees would need considering if solar-powered signs were to be used.

With regard to making the 30mph limit signs clearer, one resident asked if it would be possible to introduce a 20mph limit, especially around Trinity Terrace. He referred to apparent comments made by the First Minister Mark Drayford, to the effect that he would like to see all villages included in 20mph zones. He commented that this could benefit the environment by reducing pollution. C’Ilr Scott Sinclair explained that this can be done, subject to Local Authority consent, but that the process is a complicated one, and needs to be evidence-led. No enquiry had yet been made on this possibility, as the discussions so far had been based on the stated priorities of the local residents who had participated in discussions, none of whom had mentioned this. C’Ilr Paddy McNamara commented that the question could certainly be asked, but thought it possible that any such arrangement might trigger similar demands from elsewhere in the community.

One resident expressed the view that much of the discussion seemed to be centred around Burton Ferry, but that there were also serious problems coming into Burton from the Houghton direction. He mentioned that children from Brompton Grove have to walk along the main road without any pavement to catch the school bus. He also suggested that there should be rumble strips on the approach to Burton from the Houghton direction.

One resident questioned the point of proposing to change the ‘Give Way’ sign at the junction by the Jolly Sailor to a ‘stop’ sign. He commented that it would not alleviate the problem, which was mainly with traffic coming down from Burton cutting the corner at speed.

One resident mentioned that her husband worked at Valero, which had a ‘work safe home safe’ community fund. He was going to ask if any help would be possible towards funding the works needed to improve the situation.

Following public participation, the local residents left the meeting. Members then proceeded to discuss what to do to take the matter forward. The list previously prepared was discussed, and the following actions agreed :-

**Proposal 1** – agreed. Action - Clerk to ask P.C.C. for this.

**Proposal 2** - agreed in respect of the proposal for a 40mph zone, but not in respect of the proposal for a 50mph zone from Honeyborough, which was felt to fall outside the remit of the Community Council. Action - Clerk to ask P.C.C. to implement the 40mph speed limited zone as proposed.

**Proposal 3** – agreed. Action – Clerk to request this from P.C.C. Matter of possible case for similar road markings to be placed on November meeting agenda for separate discussion.

**Proposal 4** – agreed to ask P.C.C. if they would agree to their provision if requested to do so. Action – Clerk to seek a view from P.C.C. about this.

**Proposal 5** – agreed in part. Action – Clerk to ask P.C.C. for re-painting of lines / markings around the junction, and ask them if they would agree to change the ‘Give Way’ sign to a ‘Stop’ sign if requested to do so.

**Proposal 6** – agreed in principle that more of these signs throughout the community would be a good idea. Action – matter to be tabled for more detailed discussion in the November meeting. In the meantime, Members to consider where they would like to see them sited, and obtain costings. Members discussed the possibility of organising some kind of fund-raising drive to provide the funding for any signs agreed.

## Matters Arising

None.

## Plans

### **Applications**

**19/0604/PA - Alterations and first floor extension to Existing Dwelling, Cobweb Cottage, 2, Vale Road, Houghton, Milford Haven, SA73 1NW – no comments.**

### **Consents issued**

**19/0242/PA – Variation of Condition 2 of outline planning permission ref: 08/0687/PA and supplemental reserved matters application ref: 11/0430/PA to allow minor amendment to approved plans, Plot 10, Ashmoor Gardens, Former Houghton Nursery Site, Houghton, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NW**

**19/0394/PA - Alterations and extensions, The Dolphins, Barnlake Point, BURTON FERRY, Milford Haven, PEMBROKESHIRE, SA73 1PF**

## Correspondence

01) O.V.W. – Newsletter – C’llrs Iain Wood and Alun Williams had attended the O.V.W. area committee meeting the previous evening. They were not convinced that anything much concrete had come out of the entire meeting. Mention had been made of a charter with P.C.C. that was apparently on its way to community councils.

02) C.A.B. – Invitation to 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations – noted.

03) P.C.N.P.A. – Consultation on draft management plan 2020-24 – noted.

04) NRW – woodland consultation – noted.

## Accounts

### **Payments**

Diocese (lease for playing field) : £200-00

Bank charges for stopping chequebook : £ 12-50

Burton Church (Mission Hall hall hire) : £ 12-50

### **Income**

From Clerk (for purchase of old goalposts) : £ 20-00

### **Quarterly budget review**

Members considered the budget statement that had been circulated round prior to the meeting. There were no significant matters of concern, or that Members wished to discuss. The matter of pond maintenance at Church Road was mentioned. This to go onto the agenda for discussion in November.

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

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

Members settled on 12 x 1 tonne boulders, to be placed across the site frontage. It was left for C’llr Iain Wood to look at exactly where to place them, in advance of the Clerk making the necessary order. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in November. It was confirmed that Welsh Water had agreed to reimburse the cost of purchasing the boulders, on provision of a copy of any invoice paid.

## 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

Quotations for path repairs / bollards still in hand with C’llr Iain Wood.

### **Discussion of possible footpath provision from Houghton Playing Field to Jubilee Hall**

The Clerk reported on his conversation with the Common Land Officer. He had confirmed that an accurate plan of the proposed route of the footpath would be needed to accompany an application to the Welsh Government. C’lrr Paddy McNamara raised the possibility of using rubber matting instead of a surfaced path. However, C’lrr Iain Wood was unsure of the advisability of this, suggesting that it could become uneven and unsafe over time.

C’lrr Paddy McNamara also mentioned that the developers of the old nursery site had been in conversation again, suggesting that they might in principle be willing to undertake works on behalf of the Community.

It was agreed that C’lrr Iain Wood would prepare a plan, this to show a curved path, to pass by the information board. Once complete, plan to be passed to Clerk for completion and submission of the application.

### **Discussion of Environment Wales Act 2016 requirements to prepare a plan on biodiversity**

Members agreed to make this a regular agenda item until such time as a plan has been prepared. Specific actions to be put on hold pending guidance that was awaited from the Welsh Government on how to prepare a suitable plan.

### **Any other business**

**New Wells Road ditches.** C’lrr Robin Howells mentioned that the ditches were once again full and overflowing. Clerk to contact P.C.C. and ask for it this be seen to.

**Footpath, Hill Mountain.** C’lrr John Evans raised concerns over the lack of a footpath through much of Hill Mountain. Matter to be placed on January agenda for discussion.

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