

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 11th November 2019 in Johnston Institute.

Present: Cllrs Neil James, Jeffries, Rowlands, Wilkins, Pratt, F. James, Jones, Philpott; Peter Horton (Clerk);
Apologies : C'Ilrs Young, Spilsbury, Morgan, Warlow.

0033 – Declarations of known Interests

C'Ilr Rowlands re-stated his ongoing personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item about the land opposite the Johnston Institute, due to an ongoing unrelated boundary dispute with the other party.

0034 – To receive the minutes from the October 2019 monthly meeting

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

Matters Arising from the approved minutes

0035 – Bus shelter / seat outside NISA Shop

C'Ilr Rowlands reported that the matter was still in hand with P.C.C. Efforts to establish meaningful contact with the landowners had so far been unsuccessful.

0036- Close Field Skatepark

C'Ilr Rowlands informed Members that the matter was still in hand with officers in P.C.C. He had had recent conversations with the P.C.C. officers, and details were being looked at with a view to preparing some scheme options and costings. C'Ilr Neil James noted the latest playground inspection report that was out, and that showed a high risk item regarding damage to the carousel surface. It was agreed that C'Ilr Rowlands should ask P.C.C. to arrange the necessary repairs (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Wilkins).

0037 - Discussion of possible signage for businesses around railway bridge

The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received to the letter sent to the business park owner. C'Ilr Philpott mentioned that she had been in discussion with the owner of the Johnston Garden Centre. He had said that they were keen to get the matter resolved, but that getting everyone together to discuss a collaborative approach was proving difficult. It was decided to defer the matter for further consideration in January, after the festive season.

0038 – Overhanging tree, junction of Church Road / Hall Court.

C'Ilr Fran. James confirmed that she had been taking photographs to show the nature of the problem. It was agreed for her to send these through to the Clerk, and for the Clerk to pass them on to P.C.C. with a renewed request for action to address the problem.

0039 - Brambles on footpath to school.

C'Ilr Rowlands mentioned that it was hoped to include this area in the next contract for cutting of the school grounds. If so this should resolve the problem.

0040 - Narrow footpath outside Johnston Farm.

Members noted that the work was now in hand. The Clerk reported on his conversation with the scheme engineer. The narrowest part of the footpath before work commenced was 0.65m. Afterwards it would be 0.9m at one pinch point. The minimum Welsh Government recommended width for mobility scooters was 0.8m.

0041 – Hall Court signage.

C'llr Fran. James reported that the sign was now up.

0042 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

Matter still in hand with C'llr Spilsbury.

0043 - Discussion of purchase of new defibrillator for Village Institute.

Members were informed that the work was now complete, and the defibrillator installed. Clerk to notify Cariad of the two new locations (i.e. Sports Field Pavilion and Village Institute), and request that all four defibrillators now in situ are inspected.

0044 - Discussion of possible action to retain Community Police Forum

C'llr Rowlands clarified by explaining that any arrangement would not actually be the Community Police Forum, but rather a replacement arrangement. He also confirmed that he had heard nothing from anyone in Neyland regarding the matter to date.

0045 - Discussion of action to discourage badger activity on sports field

C'llr Pratt had had discussions with Sean Tilling of P.C.C. He had also spoken further to Glenn Murray. The current opinion was that altering the existing gates might not, after all, be of much benefit, as the badgers had shifted their area of activity, and were not currently much of a problem. Any work carried out would need to be paid for by J.C.C. C'llr Neil James suggested that this situation could change at any time, and a price for the work would be worth obtaining. It was agreed for C'llr Pratt to contact Sean Tilling again to seek a quotation for the alterations to the gates.

0046 - Discussion of development of Vine Field

C'llr Rowlands commented that this would be closely linked with discussions over proposals for the Close Field. J.C.C. needs to discuss what specific play equipment they would like to put in the Vine Field, in order to get quotations.

C'llr Fran. James mentioned that she had been asked about the possibility of providing some play equipment for younger children, as there was currently not much provision for the younger age bracket. C'llr Neil James suggested that this might all come to a head based on the outcome of future playground inspections, which might possibly result in the need to remove the existing equipment.

0047 - Fly tipping, land adjacent to Glebelands Field.

C'llr Fran. James reported that then items had still been there the previous Friday. C'llr Rowlands undertook to chase up again with P.C.C.

0048 - Car in car park opposite the Institute.

C'llr Fran. James reported that the vehicle was still present. C'llr Rowlands said that he had spoken to officers in P.C.C. about the matter. P.C.C. was currently re-negotiating their contract for this service. In the meantime they had said that it would not be acceptable for J.C.C. to arrange for vehicle removals of their own initiative.

0049 - Discussion of possible unauthorised scrap merchants in Village
Matter in hand with P.C.C. Planning Enforcement, with a planning application for the business still awaited.

0050 - Johnston in Bloom.

Preparation of prize certificates currently in hand with C'llr Wilkins.

0051 - Discussion of possible arrangements for Christmas lighting

C'llr Spilsbury had obtained some indications of likely cost, which had been circulated. Members were agreed that it was now too late to arrange anything for this year. Matter to be deferred until sometime in 2020. C'llr Rowlands confirmed that the arrangements were in hand for the two Community Christmas trees, as for last year.

0052 - Discussion of possible fence provision along Cunnigar Lane

Clerk had sent in the request for consideration to a new fence as requested. C'llr Rowlands mentioned the previous comment from P.C.C., to the effect that a fence would not deter fly-tipping, and may not be of much value. This was not a view that he shared. It was agreed for the Clerk to chase up a response to the contact made last month. Also, a request to be made for a definite quotation for the fence, for consideration.

0053 – litter and anti-social behaviour outside shop at Glebelands.

C'llr Rowlands had spoken to the shop owner, who had not really understood exactly what the problem was supposed to be. C'llr Philpott provided some more specific information relating to the incident that had given rise to the original complaint. With this information, C'llr Rowlands undertook to follow up the matter again.

0054 – Path from The Close to St. Peter's Road

C'llr Jones confirmed that the work had been completed.

0055 – Community vegetable beds.

Confirmed that matter to be placed on January 2020 agenda for discussion.

0056 – Arrangements to close the road for the annual Remembrance Day commemoration.

Members noted that there had been no evidence of any Police present to close the road. Arrangements could have been made to do this if it had been known that they would not be there.

0057 - Discussion of need to produce plan on encouraging biodiversity

The Clerk confirmed that some guidance on plan preparation / annual reporting had been received late that afternoon. Matter to be tabled for discussion in December, and the guidance circulated round for Members' information in the meantime.

0058 - Discussion of problems due to closure of cycleway boardwalk

C'llr Philpott reported that the boardwalk was still closed. Members were concerned about this, but could not see any more action that could be taken at present.

Planning

0059 - Applications

19/0703/PA - Variation of condition 24 (noise monitoring scheme) of planning permission 18/0383/MN (Variation of conditions 14 (blast monitoring review scheme), 17 (blast monitoring scheme) and 25 (ground water and surface water monitoring scheme) of permission ref: 07/0705/MN (extension to Bolton Hill Quarry and associated soil stripping, creation of screen bunds/ soil stockpiles and related restoration works) to allow for alternative timeframes)).

Site Address: Bolton Hill Quarry, TIERS CROSS, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3ER – no comment. Clerk to examine proposals and circulate to Members any information available on the specific nature of the proposals.

Correspondence

0060 - Independent Remuneration Panel – Draft report for 2020 – to be tabled for discussion in December.

0061 - O.V.W. – Welsh Government consultations on planning guidance connected with housing, compulsory purchase, and biodiversity – noted.

0062 - S.S.A.F.A. – Information promoting events to commemorate V.E. Day over the weekend of 8th – 10th May 2020 – to be tabled for discussion in January.

0063 - P.C.C. – Charter between P.C.C. and town and community councils – noted.

0064 - O.V.W. – newsletter – noted.

0065 - O.V.W. – information from Carmarthen Town Council on their efforts to promote biodiversity – noted.

0066 - P.C.C. – Formal notification of intention to provide new Assisted Learning provision at Milford Haven Comprehensive School – noted.

0067 - Paul Davies, A.M. – Newsletter – noted.

0068 - B.T. – Consultation on proposed decommissioning of payphones – Members agreed to object to the payphone removals, on the basis of public amenity, especially as they are close to main road junctions. Clerk to send in response.

0069 - Zurich – Insurance renewal documentation – C’Ilr Neil James undertook to obtain sizes and valuations for the wooden pavilion prior to the December meeting.

0070 – C.H.C. – Consultation on NHS priorities – noted. C’Ilr Rowlands commented that the C.H.C. was currently looking for new volunteers.

Accounts

0071 - Payments

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning) : £ 60-00

[NOTE - Members were informed that Mr. Banfield had treated the bus shelter roof, but made no charge for this. Clerk to send a letter of thanks].

Royal British Legion (Remembrance Day wreath) : £ 25-00

[NOTE - Members agreed to increase the donation to the Royal British Legion to £25 from the £17 invoiced amount].

C.M. James (Remembrance Day Orders of Service) : £ 215-00

Johnston F.C. (grass-cutting) : £ 150-00

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

0072 - Discussion of Risk assessment actions (including discussion of any remedial works needed to St. Peter's Road bus shelter)

C'llr Neil James was still more concerned about the drop-off behind the shelter. He also mentioned that the roof of the shelter is somewhat corroded.

C'llr Jones commented on how much the shelter was used, and its importance for the school children.

The Clerk reminded Members of the T.R.A. proposed site visit in connection with the new proposed ramp to the Close Field, and their offer to look at the issue to the rear of the bus shelter at the same time. Members were minded to wait for this visit in order to progress the matter. Clerk to contact them for an update on their proposed timescale for carrying out the site visit.

C'llr Neil James also mentioned the need for painting of the inside of the shelter. C'llr Pratt mentioned that it was in need of some minor plastering repairs too. C'llr Neil James recommended getting some prices for the necessary work. C'llr Philpott undertook to follow this up with Sonny Clancy, who had carried out this kind of work for J.C.C. in the past.

0073 - Discussion of Highway safety issues, Langford Road

C'llr Rowlands mentioned that, in fairness to P.C.C., they had suggested traffic calming measures previously, but these had been opposed. He commented that J.C.C. needs to come up with positive specific proposals of its own.

C'llr Jones thought that nothing would be done until someone was killed. She cited parking problems so that emergency vehicles cannot get through, as well as daily chaos around the school site. C'llr Neil James felt it important that J.C.C. continued to fulfil its role by repeatedly drawing attention to the problems, and requesting measures to address them.

C'llr Rowlands proposed sending a letter to P.C.C. and the Police raising concerns over the issues being experienced.

Members agreed for the Clerk to send a letter to P.C.C. and the Police. Letter to mention (a) speeding, and (b) inconsiderate parking, including parking on pavement by owners / visitors at properties along Langford Road. Clerk to also contact B.T. to raise the issue of their workers regularly blocking the pavement by their cabinet on the corner of Langford Road and Cranham Park (proposer C'llr Philpott, seconder C'llr Rowlands).

C'llr Neil James raised the possibility of providing some speed-activated signage in Langford Road. C'llr Rowlands to pursue this with P.C.C.

0074 - Discussion of possible use of '2 minute clean' boards

Members resolved to trial two, one by the bin / seat on Langford Road, the other in Glebelands by the bus stop. Clerk to send in paperwork accordingly (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Philpott).

0075 - Discussion of possible dates for Chairman's dinner

Matter to be placed on December agenda for discussion of a new date, when it was hoped that C'llr Spilsbury would be present.

0076 - Discussion of school transport for 2020-21 school year

C’Ilr Rowlands confirmed to Members that he had been assured that transport for all children travelling from Johnston to Milford Haven Comprehensive School would be provided next year. C’Ilr Jones stressed that this needs to be a bus, not just bus tickets, as otherwise there will not be space for all the children. C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to ensure that the exact nature of the proposals were communicated within the next week or so.

The Clerk had written a letter to Kate Evan-Hughes of P.C.C. regarding these matters, but had received no reply. C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to chase up a response.

Any other business

0077 - New rubbish collection arrangements. C’Ilr Wilkins raised concerns over the new arrangements, and the potential impact on residents. Members cited various problems that have been experienced, and also that public bins are being filled up. Matter to be tabled for discussion in December.

0078 - Halloween event. C’Ilr Neil James commented on how successful the event had been, and thanked the Members involved in its organisation.

0079 - Cars at the end of Brickhurst Park. C’Ilr Neil James commented on the need to deal with the dumping of cars there. Members to monitor the situation, and matter to be tabled as an agenda item for December.

0080 - Yellow lines, Hall Court. Matter to be tabled for discussion in December.

0081 - Lighting on bridge on Langford Road. C’Ilr Jones mentioned the lack of lighting on the bridge. Matter to be tabled for discussion in December. Members were agreed that this was a matter of health and safety concern, so could be discussed. Accordingly, Clerk to report to P.C.C. on health and safety grounds, and request action to address the matter (proposer C’Ilr Jones, seconder C’Ilr Philpott).

0082 - Recycling site for Village. Matter to be tabled for discussion in December.

0083 - One way system in Glebelands. Agenda item for December.

0084 - Community Land Trusts. Agenda item for December.

[NOTE – at this point members of the public left room. C’Ilr Rowlands also left the room].

0085 - Discussion of situation regarding land opposite Johnston Institute

Members discussed and agreed a proposed offer to be put by their solicitor to Mr. Bishop’s solicitor, as a genuine attempt to bring an end to the dispute (proposer C’Ilr Jeffries, seconder C’Ilr Fran. James). Clerk to convey this to the solicitor accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 9-00pm.

Next scheduled meeting – Monday 9th December 2019.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....