

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, on
Wednesday 5th October 2022, 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Robin Howells (Chairman), John Evans, Fiona Hart, Scott Sinclair, Laurence Price, Derek Jones, Peter Griffiths, John Mathias, Paddy McNamara; Danny Young (County Councillor); Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'Ilr Nia Phillips, Vicky White.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

No members of the public were present.

Approval of minutes of the September 2022 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'Ilr Robin Howells, seconder C'Ilr Fiona Hart), and held by the Clerk for subsequent signature by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Potholes. Members reported that the potholes outside the bus shelter along the main road between Hill Mountain and Sardis had been repaired again, and were an improvement on before. C'Ilr Laurence Price mentioned that there were some temporary yellow lines around the manhole cover outside the old Stable Bar, by the junction with Church Road, which raised the possibility that repairs might be pending.

Road drain outside Trinity House. Clerk to chase up progress.

Planning Enforcement issues, Sardis. Nothing further heard to date.

Burton Ferry project – No change, with some planting due to be carried out.

IT problems. Members discussed the problems with getting online access for the meetings. Tethering to mobile phones did not now seem to be working for some unaccountable reason. Members discussed the possibility of getting wi-fi installed in the hall. The main obstacle to this was the cost, which may have to be completely borne by the Community Council, although used for only one evening per month. C'Ilr Paddy McNamara offered to bring a wi-fi dongle to the November meeting, which it was hoped might provide an alternative solution.

Planning

Consultations received

[NOTE – C'Ilr Danny Young, while not a member of the Community Council, and having no voting powers on the Council, flagged up his related conflict of interest in P.C.C. concerning the applications at Kiln Park, and took no part in discussions on them].

21/0504/PA - Erection of a Dwelling; Site Address: Plot 1, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY. Consultation response to mirror the previous objection.

22/0417/PA - Erection of a dwelling (amended design to previously approved dwelling) Site Address: Plot 3, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY – Members had received and read the consultation responses copied by a number of local residents to B.C.C. as sent by them to P.C.C. Members had read and considered these. Clerk to respond to the Planning consultation with an objection on grounds of sewage disposal problems (in particular referencing the evidence for this as a result of the ongoing established problem of noxious gas emissions in this locality), and environmental concerns, especially in relation to potential harm to the adjacent salt marsh. Consultation response also to mention the extant Sec 106 agreement

on the land, and request assurance that any consent granted should be fully compliant with the requirements set out in that agreement. Clerk to ask P.C.C. to confirm, following the determination of the application, that the development of the land covered by the Sec. 106 agreement is to be developed in full compliance with its requirements

Clerk to investigate whether the Kiln Park access road has been adopted by P.C.C.

Members noted the more wide-ranging concerns that had been raised with P.C.C. by local residents concerning the administration of the Planning Department and wider Authority, and did not rule out seeking explanations / information from P.C.C. concerning these on a future occasion.

22/0540/PA - Proposed workshop / storage out-building (single storey); Wyre House, 5, Kiln Park, BURTON FERRY, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NY – no comments.

Correspondence

- 1) Castlemartin Range Action Group – Request for support in efforts to reduce intensity of activity on Castlemartin Range – noted.
- 2) P.C.C. – Invitation to support opposition to use of pets as prizes – Members were minded to keep this informal, rather passing a formal resolution, but were supportive of the aims of the initiative.
- 3) Hywel Dda – Response to message about service reduction at Withybush Hospital – Clerk to respond to accept their offer of a meeting to discuss the issues of concern.
- 4) P.C.C. – Update on proposed footpath renewal schedule around Houghton / Hill Mountain – noted.
- 5) P.C.C. – Response re. problems with traffic accidents at Bowling’s Corner – noted. C’lir Robin Howells had asked C’lir Danny Young to investigate the possibility of getting barriers placed along the road at this location, for added protection. C’lir Scott Sinclair suggested that local residents should be asked for their views on the matter before going ahead with plans for such measures.
- 6) Local residents, Burton Ferry – Copies of objections lodged with P.C.C. to planning application ref. 22/0417/PA at Kiln Park, Burton Ferry – dealt with in ‘Planning’ above.
- 7) Playground Inspectors - Operational Inspection Report for Houghton Playpark – noted.
- 8) P.C.C. – Response to query regarding litter bin at Houghton Playing Field – Members noted that P.C.C. was opposed to the provision of a further bin at this location, as they felt it might encourage fly-tipping. Members did not accept this as a valid reason for refusal, especially given the increase in dog ownership in the locality over recent years. Clerk to respond to renew the request for a bin at this location, on the basis of the increase in dog ownership in the Village (proposer C’lir Paddy McNamara, seconder C’lir Robin Howells).
- 9) P.C.C. – Response to query about failed pothole repairs in Sardis – dealt with in ‘Matters Arising’ above.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (reimbursement for condolence book and framed photograph) : £60-61

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C’lir Robin Howells, seconder C’lir John Evans).

Quarterly budget statement

The Clerk had circulated a budget review effective September 30th. Members noted this.

Discussion of proposed project at Houghton Play area and adjacent wooded area

C’lir Paddy McNamara circulated schematic plans of the top half of the playpark, to show all the play equipment proposed for the area. He mentioned that four trees in the adjacent ‘wild’ area had been removed free of charge by Western Power’s contractors, Birch Utilities. Letter to be sent to John Amos of Western Power to thank for this. Clerk to arrange this accordingly. C’lir Paddy McNamara had also been in contact with John Colnet, and had agreed to arrange a site meeting with him to look at other work needed in the playpark and playing field. C’lir Paddy McNamara was also intending to obtain quotations from Birch Utilities for comparison. C’lir Fiona Hart had been pursuing the matter of the development of the wild area below the playpark. She had met with Aethne Cooke and Ant Rogers of P.C.C., who had been most helpful. They had offered to assist with tree replacement, etc., advice and potential funding for replanting of native hedging and trees, and for measures to encourage bats, birds, and insect life. They had also pointed out that such measures would also help with meeting the Community Council’s biodiversity enhancement obligations. Members were grateful for the efforts of the members involved to date, and content for them to continue to develop the project along the lines indicated.

Discussion of necessary actions in Playing Field pursuant to recent tree report

In hand with C’lir Paddy McNamara, who was going to seek quotations from John Colnet and Birch Utilities for the work needed.

Any necessary discussion of Highway safety issues at Houghton / Hill Mountain, including detailed discussion of proposed application for Community Works grant

C’lir Fiona Hart had prepared a plan and set of notes of the proposals for the area, based on the recent meeting with officers from P.C.C. Highways Department. Members were content with the details proposed, and for this to form the basis of a Community Works grant application when the window opened.

The current speed limits from Merlin’s Bridge to the Cleddau Bridge, which it was understood were all due to be reviewed.

Discussion of draft Community Council Training Policy

Members approved the plan (proposer C’lir Robin Howells, seconder C’lir Derek Jones).

Discussion of updated Community Council Biodiversity Enhancement report

Members approved the report as drafted (C’lir Paddy McNamara, seconder C’lir John Evans). It was noted that ongoing work at Houghton Playpark and adjacent land would provide opportunity to expand the report in due course.

Any other business

Land at Hill Crescent. C’lir Paddy McNamara raised the issue of repeated stalling of progress in obtaining the lease for this land, due to lack of communication from the P.C.C. Property Services Department. C’lir Danny Young undertook to make enquiries regarding this.

Cherry Tree for Sardis Green. The Clerk informed Members that P.C.C. had agreed in principle to the planting of a tree at this location. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to say that Members definitely wished to proceed with this. Agenda item to be tabled for November to discuss arrangements for this, including possible provision of a commemorative plaque.

20mph speed limit reduction consultation. Clerk to seek more information from P.C.C. on the timescale for any consultation on exceptions to proposed reductions.

The meeting ended at 8-40pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 2nd November 2022.