**M03/2015**

The following are the **Minutes** of the monthly meeting of **Johnston Community Council** held on **9 March 2015** in Johnston Institute.

**Present:** Cllr C Wilkins, (Chairperson), Cllr N James, (Vice-Chair), Cllrs B Morgan, G Grey, A Harvey, K Rowlands, T Young, J Jeffries, R Davies, E Warlow, K Rowlands.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Ruloff

**7503. Minutes of the February 2015 meeting.**  It was agreed that these should be accepted as a true record.

**Proposer:** Cllr Rowlands. **Seconder:** Cllr Davies.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**7504. Church Road car-park.** It was agreed that as this matter is now being dealt with by the Community Council’s solicitors, there was nothing more to be said at present.

**7505. Narrow pavement near Johnston Farm.**  Last letter from Welsh Government said that construction of a new footway will take place in 2015-2016 subject to agreement on land purchase.

**7506. Bulford Road.** Cllr Rowlands will try to arrange a site visit for Councillors from both Johnston and Tiers Cross after British Summer Time begins. It was also mentioned that the construction of the new roundabout at the junction of the A4076 and the A477 was still causing delays and congestion. Also, many drivers, including buses and lorries, were now using Church Road in order to avoid the junction. Complaints had been made to PCC by residents and it was reported that one elderly resident of Hayston Road had recently been forced into the ditch by passing traffic. Also, it was impossible at times for residents to get onto the road safely. With the plans for an additional 15 house using the road, it was felt that a new pavement, linking Hayston Road and Church Road was needed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to PCC to request that this should be done.

**7507. Skate-board Park.**  It was reported that the bund was now in place and Cllr Rowlands said that he would contact Mr Rees the County Council landscape architect to arrange for planting. The Clerk would also issue an email to Sylvan Ltd confirming the Council’s agreement to the planting scheme. It was mentioned that some damage to the earth bank had already taken place and the possibility of installing security cameras was discussed.

**7508. Wind Turbines, Lawrence Landfill.** There was no further news on this scheme and it was agreed that this matter should be removed from future agendas.

**7509. Bus shelter, opposite Glebelands.** A response from the Trunk Road Agency (TRA) via Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) is awaited. The Clerk was instructed to query the position with PCC. It was reported that a National Express bus had been delayed recently because of cars parked at the bus stop whilst the cash-point was being used. It was agreed that this would be brought up at the next Police Forum and that the Planning Department at PCC should be asked to explain what action was being taken regarding the unauthorised installation of the cash machine. It was mentioned that there had been a recent “near-miss” with a young child due to a car being on the pavement. It was thought that placing permanent bollards was the only way to discourage drivers using what one Councillor described as “the first drive-through cash-point”.

**7510. New school.**  The Planning Application had now been approved – see Minute Number 7527 below. Cllr Young said that, as mentioned at the February meeting, the question of the memorial for the victim of a road traffic accident must be followed up. Cllr Rowlands agreed to take this up with PCC.

Cllr Grey asked what would happen to the old school – should Johnston Community Council (JCC) consider making an offer?

**7511. Junction of Langford Road and St Peters Road.** The Clerk said that as instructed in February, he had written to PCC and the TRA regarding this junction. The Minister for Economy, Science & Transport at the Welsh Government had replied saying *“we currently have no plans to make any changes to the junction where Langford Road meets the A4076”.* In response to the point about vehicles parking on the pavement to use the cash-point, the Minister had simply stated that this was a matter for the Police to deal with.

Cllr Rowlands said that he would try to arrange a meeting with the TRA and officers from PCC to discuss problems with the new Bulford Road, the narrow pavement, and to suggest that if the old church hall was purchased, a new roundabout could be built at the junction at the same time as the pavement was improved. This would save money in the long term.

**7512. Tree in Langford Road.** Additional work still required – Cllr Rowlands to remind PCC.

**7513. The Close Field.**  Discussions to continue with PCC about long-term arrangements for the playing fields. The Clerk passed the latest inspection report received from PCC to Cllr Rowlands. It was noted that the reports are now apparently produced by a commercial company rather than PCC officers.

**7514. Road and Pavement problems.** Cllr Rowlands said that he had visited the junction of Langford Road and the A4076 with an officer from PCC. Arrangements were in hand to improve the pavement between there and the Post Office. However, Cllr Davies said that the pavement outside numbers 1 and 3 Langford Road was also badly in need of attention. In addition, Cllr Warlow reported that there were loose slabs near the Glebelands bus shelter.

**7515. Flower Borders.** The Clerk said that he had received a response from Mr Dave Baldry, Clerk of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints saying that they would be prepared to take over maintenance of some borders. A copy was provided for Cllr Wilkins and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to accept the offer and to say that reimbursement for plants/bulbs etc. could be provided by JCC, (within reasonable limits).

**7516. Disabled Access to The Close Field.** Although plans had been provided, these appeared to differ from the original design. Cllr Rowlands agreed to take up this matter with PCC.

**7517. PCC Budgeting/Savings.** Several members had attended a meeting in County Hall in February and had not been impressed by the arrangements. The meeting had not really been about budgeting. A consultant had been employed by PCC to act as facilitator for a fee of £5000. Cllr Rowlands had queried this with the acting Chief Executive and been told it was so that the meeting was directed by the consultant rather than council employees. Cllr James felt that the questions had been manipulated by PCC anyway and both he and Cllr Morgan felt that in the summing-up, many points that had been raised by the focus groups had been ignored.

**7518. Ditch in Glebelands field.** Cllr Rowlands will discuss this again with PCC. He mentioned that there may be some help available to JCC from the Playing Fields Association and that it would be helpful if someone from the Sports Association attended council meetings.

**7519. Withybush Hospital.** Cllr Grey reported on the latest SWAT protest meeting in Cardiff and said that Chris Overton was considering standing for Parliament. The Clerk said he had received a response to his letter querying why no *“Let’s Talk Health”* meetings had been held in Milford Haven, Narberth or Haverfordwest. This stated that there would be future meetings held in Milford and Haverfordwest.

**7520. Casual vacancy.** Three candidates had come forward and it was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk would acknowledge the applications, check that the qualifying conditions were met and inform the candidates that they would be notified of the result as soon as possible.

**7521. Shared Use Path.** The Clerk said that he had received a response from Darren Thomas at PCC explaining that only the connection between the existing path near Orchard Court and the Bulford Road path was at issue. The details regarding a link from Johnston to Steynton were intended for information only - this was just a long-term objective. The Clerk said he would copy the relevant parts of the plans to members.

**7522. South Hook LNG Community Fund.** Cllr Rowlands said that the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) was dealing with this matter.

**7523. Move of Register Office.** The Clerk said that he had received a request from Stackpole & Castlemartin Community Council to write to PCC to object to the closing of outstations in the rest of the county. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Grey and seconded by Cllr Morgan that the Clerk should write to PCC objecting to the plan since, although it did not greatly affect Johnston residents, it would present difficulties for those living at the outer reaches of Pembrokeshire. It was also suggested that the Shire Hall or Foley House would be much more appropriate places for the Register Office.

**7524. Paul Davies AM.** The Clerk said that he had arranged for Mr Davies to attend the council meeting on 13 July. Questions for the Assembly Member could be considered at the June meeting.

**7525. Bulford Road, night-time lighting.** The Clerk read out the reply received from PCC which explained that the road was converted to part-night illumination in 2012 and did not meet the criteria for all-night lighting.

**7526. Electronic display board, Glebelands bus-stop.** The Clerk read out the reply received from PCC which indicated that brief faults occurred due to short term failures in the mobile telephone network.

CORRESPONDENCE

**7527. Planning.**

* **14/1019/PA** - erection of steel framed building, Johnston Hall. (This is very similar to Application 14/0822/PA for which permission was refused recently. It seems that the agricultural use of the proposed building has been made clear in this new application). It was decided to support the application with the proviso that it is actually used for agricultural purposes.
* **14/0959/PA** - variation of opening hours, Virgo’s Fish & Chip Shop ,St Peters Road. Support to be given.
* **14/0923/PA** – new Primary School, Langford Road. Permission granted. Noted.

*Note: Cllr Rowlands took no part in these discussions.*

**7528.** Notice of **Pembrokeshire Community Energy Event,** Thursday 19 March. Cllrs Grey and Morgan may attend.

**7529.** Letter from Welsh Government - statement by Minister regarding **cost of senior management in Local Government.** Noted

**7530. Precept 2015-2016.** Acknowledgement from PCC. Noted.

**7531. Invitation to join One Voice Wales.** Noted but not taken up.

**7532. “Play for Wales” magazine.**  To be passed to Cllr Ruloff in due course.

**7533.** Poster advertising **“Wales Together” collective energy scheme.** Noted and placed on board.

**7534.** **Invitation from PLANED** to “Echoes of the Past”, heritage programme, 14 April 2015, Narberth. Noted.

**FINANCE**

**7535. Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and agreed that the following amounts should be paid:

* £208.92 to the Clerk, March 2015 salary.
* £52.20 to HMRC, PAYE, March 2015.
* £60.00 to Mr Banfield, bus shelter cleaning.
* £0.98 to SWALEC, electricity for Christmas lighting.
* £13,398.84 to GRAMM Barrier Systems Ltd.

**7536.** The **cheque for £350.00 received from Western Power** will be paid into the Council’s bank account. This is a one-off way-leave payment for digging the trench through The Close field.

**7537. Grants to Charities.** A list of charities seeking support had been issued with the notice of meeting letter. After discussion, the following payments of **£75.00** each were agreed:

* Wales Air Ambulance.
* Pembrokeshire YFC.
* Paul Sartori Foundation.
* Urdd Gobaith Cymru.
* Mencap (Stackpole).
* Macmillan Cancer Support.

In addition, payments of **£250.00** each to St Peter’s Church and to Johnston Baptist Church were agreed, (for ground maintenance).

Also, a grant of **£200.00** to the 1st Johnston Scout Group was agreed as well as a grant of **£500.00** to the Sunshine Club.

However, in view of the large expenses incurred recently, it was decided to delay payments until after the April meeting.

**There were no additional items to be discussed and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.**

**Signed………………………………………………………………..Chairperson**

**Date……………………………………………………………**