

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 1st November 2023, 7pm.

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

Apologies: None.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present.

Approval of minutes of the October 2023 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'llr John Evans, seconder C'llr Robin Howells), and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

H₂S emissions. Members agreed that Burton CC discussions with Welsh Water should be kept separate from more general public ones. Members were informed that Welsh Water had agreed to attend the December community council meeting to discuss the ongoing concerns. Members briefly discussed a protocol for any public representations that might be made during that meeting, and it was agreed that a three-minute time limit would be imposed (proposer C'llr Paddy McNamara, seconder C'llr Fiona Hart). C'llr Scott Sinclair confirmed his intention to attend the separate public meeting due to take place in the meantime, and feed back any useful information to the community council following that meeting.

Highway works, Houghton. C'llr Fiona Hart mentioned that the matter was currently in hand with Mr Steve Benger of P.C.C. P.C.C. had agreed to install a white line in front of the cottages on the main road, but no timetable for this had been provided. Matter to be placed on December agenda for any necessary further discussion.

Ashmoor Gardens estate roads. The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received from B.D. Summons to the message sent in regarding this matter. It was noted by Members that some boundary wall construction would need to be completed by individual property owners before the roads could be completed.

Plans

Application consultations

23/0626/PA - Erection of Cricket practice net facility 30m long x 4m wide x 4m high together with an artificial cricket match wicket 30m long x 2.75m wide; Site Address: Hill Mountain Cricket Pitch, C3007 Sardis Cross To Junction Ashdale Lane Hill Mountain, Sardis, Milford Haven, SA73 1NB – Members agreed to actively support the application. Clerk to respond accordingly.

Notifications of consents received

23/0516/PA - Alterations & extension to inter-generational family dwelling; Site Address: The Berrow, Thurston Lane, SARDIS, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1LD

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Notification of intention to close toilet block at Burton Ferry – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) Rupert Davies – quotation for work at Hill Crescent land – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 3) Common Land Officer, P.C.C. – Confirmation of position regarding historical encroachment onto common land at Houghton – noted.
- 4) Zoll – Advice on use of infant paediatric pads on Zoll defibrillators – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 5) P.C.C. – Confirmation of completion of lease for land at Hill Crescent – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) Cleddau Reach School – Letter concerning vacancy for community governor at school – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 7) D.C.W.W. – Offer to meet community council to discuss issues At Burton Ferry – dealt with in ‘Matters arising’ above.
- 8) P.C.C. – Enquiry regarding locations for planting of new trees in community – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 9) Boundary Commission – information on town and community council boundary review in Pembrokeshire – the Clerk confirmed that he had attended a recent meeting in County Hall where representatives of the Boundary Commission had presented their initial approach towards the review. Members were agreed that they did not want to see any change to the community council, either in the form of mergers with neighbouring councils, or smaller councils being absorbed into Burton CC. It was felt that the size and geographical nature of the community was quite a sufficient challenge for the council to care for in its current form. Clerk to write to the Boundary Commission to express these views.
- 10) Carmarthenshire C.C. – Invitation to forthcoming meeting of the Nutrient Management Boards West Wales River Stakeholder Group, to be held online via Teams on Wed 8th Nov at 3.30pm – noted.

Accounts

Payments

George Bevan (grass cutting)	:	£ 160-00
Adventure Playgrounds Wales (50% of playground installation)	:	£25183-20
Batemans Gardening (work at Burton Ferry picnic area)	:	£ 120-00
F.J. Groundworks (finishing work in playpark)	:	£ 113-37
F.J. Groundworks (footpath work in Wild Area)	:	£ 1239-80
Paddy McNamara (reimbursement for signage)	:	£ 37-95

The Chairman wished to commend F.J. Groundworks for their excellent work carried out at short notice.

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’llr Derek Jones, seconder C’llr John Evans).

Any necessary discussion of progress on project at Houghton Play area

Members were informed that the playpark was now completed and had been formally opened. Members were very happy with the end product. A lot of people had attended the opening ceremony, which had been a success.

C’llr Peter Griffiths mentioned the need to cover the National Lottery requirements for publicity of the scheme and their grant funding. C’llrs Peter Griffiths and Nia Phillips to forward all photographs and guidance on the requirements to the Clerk for this to be done.

Clerk to deal with the P.C.C. Enhancing Pembrokeshire grant reclaim.

Members were grateful for the substantial corporate donations and grants provided towards the project from the following : National Lottery; Pembrokeshire County Council; P.A.V.S.; Valero; Havenkey; B.D. Summons; Martin & Stephen Jones; Gareth Hughes Motors. In addition, Members wished to note the many smaller individual donations of funds and time donated towards the project from a large number of local residents, as well as many from further afield. This included donations made at the Coronation event held on the Houghton Playing Field, which had raised over £1100 towards the playpark. All of these donations had been most gratefully received, and were an important factor in the successful delivery of the refurbished playpark.

C’llr Nia Phillips undertook to obtain ‘No dogs’ signage for the playpark, as well as rings for dog owners to use for tying their dogs to at the playpark entrance. C’llr Laurence Price undertook to put up ‘No Smoking’ signage if the signage he had should prove adequate.

Discussion of development of land at Hill Crescent for community use

Members were informed that a very positive response had been received from P.C.C. concerning grant assistance for developing the land. They had indicated that more funding than that initially requested could potentially be forthcoming, based on the plans and application initially submitted. C’llr Paddy McNamara sought consent from Members to proceed with the project, on the basis of the plans previously provided and discussed. Members were content for C’llrs Paddy McNamara and Nia Phillips to do this, including ordering plants / trees, etc., as indicated on the plans.

In connection with proposed works, C’llr Paddy McNamara had obtained a quotation from Rupert Davies to carry out necessary landscaping works and ground clearance at the site, in the sum of £3500 + VAT. The Clerk advised that the Standing Orders required two quotations for a sum of this amount. However, Members were informed that constraints in the timing of the P.C.C. grant concerned (i.e. all work would need to be completed and funds spent by the end of December 2023) would not allow time for this. If time were spent on obtaining a further quotation for consideration at the December meeting, then the grant could be in jeopardy. As time was considered to be of the essence, and the quotation considered reasonable, Members resolved to invoke Clause 26.3 of the Burton Community Council Standing Orders to temporarily set aside the requirements of Clause 24.1 of the Standing Orders for the duration of this discussion, to facilitate acceptance of the quotation from Rupert Davies and work to proceed as needed (proposer C’llr Paddy McNamara, seconder C’llr Robin Howells). Members then proceeded to resolve to accept the above-mentioned quotation from Rupert Davies (proposer C’llr Vicky White, seconder C’llr John Evans). Clerk to notify Mr Davies accordingly, and ask him to commence work as soon as possible.

As a separate matter, P.C.C. had contacted the council to mention that they were due to plant three new trees for each one removed during recent works in Houghton. Clerk to respond to P.C.C. to ask them how many trees were involved in this, and what size any new trees would be. Matter to be placed on December agenda for further discussion on possible locations once that information was available.

Discussion of proposed P.C.C. closure of Burton Ferry toilet block

Members were informed that P.C.C. had stated their intention to close the Burton Ferry toilet block permanently in early November.

C’llr Scott Sinclair had spoken to the landlord at the Jolly Sailor, and also examined all relevant correspondence. He felt it was important to understand Members’ collective view regarding the situation with the toilet block. Members were asked to provide their views, and the overall result was a general, though not emphatic, view that it would be desirable to keep the facility open. It was understood, though, that the legal covenant involved was between the brewery and P.C.C., and was not something that B.C.C. had any legal powers to enforce.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Chris Campbell at the Jolly Sailor, to express the support of the community council for keeping the toilet block open (proposer C’llr Laurence Price, seconder C’llr John Evans).

Matter to be placed on agenda for further discussion in December, In the meantime, C’llr Scott Sinclair to maintain a dialogue with the Jolly Sailor regarding the matter.

Discussion of community council vacancy at Cleddau Reach School

The Clerk had received a response from the headmaster of Llangwm School confirming that there was a current vacancy for a community governor, and expressing a willingness to meet with Members to discuss this.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should respond, thanking the School for the positive response, expressing a desire for closer links, and confirming that the community council was actively enquiring to see if anyone local would be willing to sit as a school governor.

Matter to be tabled for further discussion in December. In the meantime, Members to consider possible local individuals who might be interested in the voluntary role.

Discussion of purchase of new defibrillator pads

Following discussion, and considering the advice received from the defibrillator manufacturers Zoll, Members agreed that provision of the paediatric pads was important. This was agreed by Members on the understanding that the cost was likely to be around £120/set, with pads having a maximum two-year lifespan (proposer C’llr Nia Phillips, seconder C’llr Vicky White). Clerk to obtain these, but to wait a week before doing so, to allow Members to conduct their own research on possible alternative supply lines that might be cheaper.

Discussion of future events on Houghton Playing Field

Members were very happy with the way the recent Halloween event had gone, which had been very well attended, and raised £163. Members particularly commented on the number of families that had attended. Thanks were noted for the members who had assisted with arrangements, and local residents who had also assisted with catering, decorations, and the excellent and professional D.J. who had provided music.

Regarding future events, it was hoped to put on something for Christmas. For this, a discussion was held about possibly putting up a Christmas tree in the playpark. This could then serve as a focus for a carol concert or similar, possibly to raise funds for defibrillator pads. C’llr Laurence Price mentioned that there was a suitable electricity supply in the playpark that could be used for this purpose. He undertook to try and source and put up a suitable Christmas tree for this purpose.

Discussion of possible setting up of community social media account

Members discussed at some length the advantages and disadvantages of a specific social media presence for the community council. Issues such as problems arising from public sharing rights, administration of any account set up, and other related aspects, were considered.

Following discussion, Members decided to leave the matter in abeyance for the time being, but to keep it under review, for possible implementation at a future time. Subject to be placed on a future agenda for further discussion if any members should wish to do this.

Any other business

Road gullies, main road between Hill Mountain and Sardis. C'llr Peter Griffiths reported that the road gullies at this location were blocked and overflowing, with consequent flooding problems. Clerk to report to P.C.C. on H&S grounds.

Houghton Common. C'llr Robin Howells confirmed that he had spoken to the owners of Vale Farmhouse, and the matter was now concluded.

Street lights and road drains, junction of Rhooseferry Lane and Main Road. C'llr Paddy McNamara reported that the street lights were now working, but that the road drain was blocked and non-functional. Clerk to report this to P.C.C. on H&S grounds, and also to ask them for an estimated timescale for completing the pavement reinstatement.

The meeting ended at 8-40pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 6th December 2023