

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 10th April 2024 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present: Cllrs Nina Philpott, Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Len Gale, Neil James, Tracey Young, Louise Jones, Kaidan Alenko, Martyn Spilsbury, Aled Thomas, Grayham Passmore; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies : None.

2058 - Declarations of known Interests

None

2059 – To receive the minutes from the March 2024 monthly meeting

The reference in 2052 to consulting with P.C.C. officers was altered to refer to consulting with the Conservative office. Subject to this change, the minutes were approved as written (proposer C’llr Neil James, seconder C’llr Len Gale).

Matters arising

2060 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

No progress had been noted.

2061 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators

Clerk to check the defibrillators in April.

2062 – request for path along main road from Bulford Road to roundabout.

Nothing further heard to date.

2063 - Discussion of traffic issues at junction of Langford Road / Main Road

C’llr Aled Thomas confirmed that a formal approach had now been made to the Welsh Government minister, and a response was expected imminently.

2064 - Discussion of speeding problems and pavement provision, Hayston Road and Church Road

C’llr Aled Thomas had received a response from Will Davies, the P.C.C. Transport Planner. He had indicated that the scheme cost had been estimated at £160,000. Ways of reducing this were being examined, and provisionally it was being considered to budget the design element for completion in 2024/25, with subsequent scheme completion in 2025/26. However, he had indicated that this would be subject to prioritisation alongside other schemes also under consideration. C’llr Aled Thomas had responded to raise concerns over the long timescale for resolution of the problem, and had also raised a specific query as to whether the works were required as a statutory duty. This specific query had not been addressed by P.C.C. officers to date. C’llr Aled Thomas undertook to continue pursuing the matter as possible.

2065 - Discussion of possible purchase of planter for village entrance

C’llr Aled Thomas confirmed that he had emailed the Trunk Road Agent to request a meeting, and would arrange this as soon as a response had been received.

2066 - Bus stops at Milford Road, Glebelands.

Clerk to chase up again with P.C.C., as the broken panes remained unrepaired.

2067 - Discussion of WW1 memorial bench provision

Nothing further had been heard. C'llr Martyn Spilsbury to chase up.

2068 - Discussion of littering problem in community

The Clerk had contacted the Envirocrime Team, who had responded to confirm that they would factor in the information into their schedule of patrols.

Planning

2069 - Application consultations received

23/1061/PA - Single storey conservatory extension to rear elevation.

Site Address: 8, Bulford Close, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62

3EX - No comments.

23/1092/PA - Expansion of holiday let business to include 3 new shepherd huts together with proposed indoor swimming pool for personal & on-site holidaymakers use only with associated car parking and ecological enhancements; Site Address: Johnston Hall, Church Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62

3HD - NJ - thought it was a good application, high quality. Conservation has been considered. Members resolved to actively support the application (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Len Gale). Clerk to respond to consultation accordingly.

[NOTE - C'llr Aled Thomas left the room during consideration of this planning application, and took no part in the discussion, to avoid any potential conflict with his participation in future P.C.C. Planning Committee hearings into the application].

2070 - Refusals issued

23/0979/NM - Non material amendment of planning permission ref. 01/0737/PA and subsequent approval of reserved matters ref. 04/0070/PA (residential development), to allow amendments to the parking arrangement, and window position on some dwellings; Site Address: Pond Bridge, Johnston, Haverfordwest

2071 - Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. Envirocrime - Acknowledgement of message asking for enhanced patrols for littering - dealt with in 2068 above.
- 2) P.C.C. - Response to representations made about the proposed works at the junction of Hall Court - noted.
- 3) Local resident - complaints about littering in Close Field - This had been dealt with by C'llr Louise Jones, who had attended and removed a large quantity of litter. She mentioned that red bags are needed, as green ones would not now be accepted by P.C.C. She undertook to pursue this. It was understood that red bags were available at leisure centres. C'llr Nina Philpott also undertook to collect some if passing a leisure centre.
- 4) P.C.C. - Notification of proposed closure of Pembstcc.co.uk website, and proposals for replacement - agenda item to be tabled for discussion in May.
- 5) P.C. Neil Lees - response / advice concerning damage to skate ramp - C'llr Nina Philpott to place a post on the Facebook page, to draw attention to the issue. Clerk to pass on P.C. Lees' comments and advice to the playground inspector. C'llr Kaidan Alenko raised once again the matter of possible CCTV coverage being introduced into the playpark. Due to the complexity of the issue, it was decided to agenda for separate discussion in May. P.C. Neil Lees confirmed that his team would arrange to target the playpark as a priority location for future patrols.
- 6) Local resident - report of damage to wooden boundary fence at Close Field - Clerk to pass on to Dawnus administrators.

Accounts

2072 - Payments for approval

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| Infinity Play (broken glass removal) | : | £ 25-46 |
| Clerk (incidental expenses, December 2023 - March 2024) | : | £118-25 |
| David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning) | : | £ 72-00 |
| Grandiflora (tree-planting) | : | £811-00 |

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Aled Thomas).

2073 - Interim end of year financial statement

Members were content with the interim financial statement circulated by the Clerk.

2074 - Discussion of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales determinations for Member allowances

Members resolved to retain the same stance on Members' allowances as set out in 2023, and to pay the consumables allowance as a lump sum (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Martyn Spilsbury). Allowances to be paid in May to all Members who had not chosen to waive these, and informed the Clerk in writing.

2075 - Discussion of updated asset and financial risk assessments

It was confirmed that both the asset and financial risk assessments had been reviewed and updated.

No issues were raised from the financial risk assessment as reviewed.

From the asset risk assessment, some issues requiring consideration were raised, regarding responsibility for bus shelters and litter bins.

Clerk to confirm ownership of bus shelters and notify C'llr Neil James accordingly.

C'llr Neil James to amend the asset risk assessment to reflect current ownership of litter bins. Members thanked C'llr Neil James for his work on the asset risk assessment.

2076 - Discussion of 2024 community council annual report

Members approved the report as drafted (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Martyn Spilsbury). Clerk to publish on community webpage.

2077 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Stickers had been obtained for placement on unauthorised items / equipment in the Vine Field. Clerk to send an email to the owner of 13, Brickhurst Park, to make them aware of the stickering, and explain that, if the items were still there when inspector next attends, then they would be liable to be removed and disposed of (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Martyn Spilsbury).

C'llr Kaidan Alenko asked if it would be possible to store removed items for a short period of time, rather than disposing of them immediately. However, Members were of the view that the steps taken and proposed, along with the final email to be sent to the owner of 13, Brickhurst Park, were sufficient.

2078 - Discussion of unauthorised earth bank in Close Field

As the earth bank, while somewhat unsightly, was not considered very dangerous, Members decided to leave it as it was for the moment, and review again if the situation should change.

2079 - Discussion of provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

C'Illr Louise Jones confirmed that she had discussed the matter with the headmaster, who was going to be putting out a survey to canvas views from the children. The results of this process were awaited.

The previous proposal to send out letters was also discussed. C'Illr Aled Thomas had spoken to officers in the Conservative office, who had confirmed that a survey form could be included with their circular when it was sent out, including using a freepost envelope for survey returns. However, the freepost envelope would be imprinted with the Conservative party logo. This being the case, it was advised by the Clerk that using this method could potentially compromise the requirement for the community council to be seen to be strictly impartial regarding political affiliation. C'Illr Aled Thomas mentioned that he would be arranging a separate community letter drop in May, and a survey form could be delivered alongside this. If this route was followed, then a variety of return methods could potentially be provided, including boxes set up at strategic locations around the village, as well as options for return by various electronic methods. Agenda item to be tabled for further discussion in May.

2080 - Discussion of work towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

No further progress to date. C'Illr Aled Thomas confirmed that the relevant paperwork had been printed, and was ready for distribution to all Members. Members agreed to establish an informal working group to drive the project forward, including C'Illrs Aled Thomas, Neil James, Len Gale, Nina Philpott, and any others who wished to assist.

2081 - Any necessary discussion of land at Glebelands Field

Footpath surfacing. Members were very impressed with the section of path recently completed. It was hoped that further sections could be completed during the current year as a next phase.

Glebelands Field. C'Illr Neil James mentioned the need to consider tackling poor drainage at the bottom of the Glebelands Field. The possibility of obtaining a quotation for this work was mentioned, but no firm decision made.

Tree-planting. Three new Cherry trees had been planted to replace the three damaged by vandals. The best of the three removed trees had been re-planted close to the happy-to-chat bench, and the remaining two had been re-planted at the bottom of the field adjacent to the hedgerow.

Any other business

2082 - Wild flower seeding. C'Illr Kaidan Alenko raised the possibility of scattering flower seeds along the newly seeded section of footpath in Cunnigar Woods. Members were content with this suggestion.

The meeting ended at 8-40pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 13th May 2024, to commence with the 2024 A.G.M.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....