**M09/2015**

The following are the **Minutes** of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on **14 September 2015** in Johnston Institute.

**Present:** Cllr N James, (Chairman), Cllr J Jeffries, (Vice-Chair), Cllrs B Morgan, G Grey, K Rowlands, C Wilkins, E Warlow, J Ruloff, T Young, F James, R Pratt.

In addition, some 27 residents from the Langford Road area attended.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr A Harvey.

Cllr Pratt was then formally welcomed to the Council by the Chairman.

**7747.** At this point it was suggested and agreed that the **Planning Application 15/0464/PA – “Exception site for affordable housing – land off Langford Road”** should be the first matter discussed. (Cllr Rowlands declared an interest in the matter and took no part in the discussions.) It was established that Johnston Community Council (JCC) and the residents were united in their opposition to this plan. JCC had replied to Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) objecting to the proposal and it had been confirmed that the matter would be heard by the full Planning Committee. All residents were advised to write to object if they had not already done so and to attend County Hall once the date and time of the meeting are known.

Residents mentioned numerous problems with the scheme including, increased road and pedestrian traffic, the effects on road safety, lack of pavement on the road, visibility at the proposed entrance, additional congestion at the Langford Road/ St Peter’s Road junction, and the fact that the designs are totally out of keeping with the area. The report from the PCC Highways Development Control Officer emphasises that visibility from the new access would be unacceptable and land would need to be purchased from properties on either side of the entrance. Also, pedestrian safety would be a problem.

There were complaints that PCC had issued letters only to those immediately affected in Langford Road but the scheme will also affect those living further away and on the roads joining the Langford Road. They should also have been informed of the plans. Problems with flooding, speeding tractors and other vehicles, overgrown trees, and large lorries using the road in error due to satnav equipment were also mentioned. Those wishing to raise questions about road safety, speeding etc. were advised to attend the monthly Police Forum on the second Thursday of each month in the Institute.

The whole need for the scheme was questioned since it is an exception to the Local Development Plan and must therefore be shown to be necessary. One resident produced figures showing that there are already approved plans for ample new properties within Johnston and many more in the surrounding communities.

The Chairman once again assured residents that JCC supported their objections and discussions closed at 7.45pm.

**7748. Minutes of the July 2015 meeting.** It was proposed by Cllr Jeffries and seconded by Cllr Rowlands that these should be accepted as a true record subject to correction of Minute number 7721 – the magazines have been added to the Chairman’s personal website.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**7749. Church Road car-park.** It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, and seconded by Cllr Jeffries that the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 10 August 2015, (called to discuss this single subject), should be accepted as a true record and this was agreed. The Chairman thanked all those involved in distributing to the residents of Johnston the letters of rebuttal to the article in the Pembrokeshire Herald. He also thanked all those who had supported the Council in this matter. The latest letter, (dated 27/8/15), from Beaumonts Solicitors, acting for Mr Bishop of Johnston Hall, was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the proposals were nonsensical and totally unacceptable.

The letter of objection from JCC to the claim by Mr and Mrs Bishop had been acknowledged by the Land Registry and the matter has been referred to that office’s lawyers. Adoption under Section 31, Highways Act 1980 had been rejected by PCC but the JCC’s solicitors are adamant that this is in order and will be pursuing the matter. The Land Registry has also been requested to consider this approach.

**7750. Narrow Pavements near Johnston Farm.** It was agreed that the Clerk should query progress with the Welsh Government as nothing has been heard since June.

**7751. Bulford Road.** Cllr Morgan said that he was very pleased to see the road in operation after so many years of campaigning. Those living in the old Bulford Road were very happy. He wished to thank Cllr Rowlands in particular for helping to push this forward. Cllr Grey said that the land alongside the road was of high agricultural quality and this should be borne in mind for possible allotments etc.

**7752. Skate-board park.** The Clerk apologised for overlooking the instruction to contact the Council’s insurers but would now do so.

**7753. Bus shelter, near NISA shop.** This had been put on hold – see Minutes of previous meetings - but the Chairman said that since The Railway Inn was being refurbished, it might now be possible to site a shelter near the pub. The Clerk was instructed to contact PCC to discuss this suggestion.

**7754. Cash point at NISA shop.** The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Trunk Road Agent as instructed regarding placing concrete planters on the pavement and had received an acknowledgement.

**7755. New School.** Cllr Rowlands reported that work was due to start at the end of September.

**7756. Junction of St Peter’s Road and Langford Road.** This matter had been discussed earlier – see Minute Number 7747 above. It was emphasised that JCC had been calling for improvements at this junction for many years.

**7757. Playground inspections.** Cllr Rowlands to clarify the position with PCC.

**7758. Road and pavement problems.** It was reported that these were in-hand with PCC.

**7759. Flower borders.** It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Mormon Church to congratulate them on the display in the border that they have adopted. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Paul Martin to thank him for cutting the grass at the entrance to the village on the A477.

**7760. Disabled Access to The Close Field.** Cllr Rowlands agreed to take up this matter once again with PCC.

**7761. South Hook LNG Community Fund.** Members were delighted to hear that Cllr Rowlands had been successful in obtaining a grant of £1600 to buy furniture and a noticeboard for the Institute.

**7762. Post Office.** Cllr Jeffries said that she and Cllr N James had delivered flowers to Mrs McKnight on her retirement and the Clerk confirmed that he had written to her on behalf of the council.

**7763. Grass-cutting contract.** It was confirmed that the Football Club was maintaining the grounds and that the first bill would be due shortly.

**7764. Sunshine Club -**  Cllrs N James and Rowlands to discuss.

**7765. Rubbish on the cycle track.** It was reported that this has all been cleared.

**7766. Revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct and Register of Members’ Interests.** The Clerk provided notes for everyone and said that after they had reviewed these, he would be asking each Member to provide details of their “interests” as the Register now has to be published on the website.

**7767. Rev. Victoria Jones.** Cllr Grey said that some members of the Johnston church would be attending a service at her new parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to her thanking her on behalf of the Council for her services to Johnston and to Johnston School. Cllr Grey said that Rev Jones would not be available for the Remembrance Day service and that Mr Trivette was unlikely to be available either due to ill-health. He would take-up this matter at the forthcoming Parochial Church Council meeting. The Clerk was instructed to write again to Kelly Morris at PCC to arrange for closure of Church Road during the service.

**7768. Station Approach Road.** No response yet – unclear who is responsible for it.

**7769. Parking bays at Glebelands.** PCC has been asked to repaint these.

**7770. Annual Return.** The Clerk said that this had now been accepted by the Auditors and the revised form was presented to the Members. The existence of the Gratuity Bank Account had been questioned by the Auditors and the Clerk agreed to ask PALC for advice on how to proceed and to report back to Members. It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Morgan that the Return should be accepted and approved and this was agreed.

**7771. Planning Application 15/0225/PA – land west of Hayston Road. (**Cllr N James declared an interest in the matter as it is close to his property). It was noted that permission has now been granted but with a long list of conditions, many resulting from the comments made by JCC Members.

**7772. Weeds, Woodlands View.**  The Clerk said that he understood that these had now been dealt with by PCC. He had advised the resident to contact PCC directly in future.

**7773. Paul Davies AM.** The Clerk said that it had now been arranged for him to attend the meeting on **9th November** **2015** and asked Members to notify him of any additional questions for the Assembly Member.

**7774. Johnston in Bloom.** Cllr Wilkins to deal with.

**7775. Sign for Hall Court.** Being prepared.

**7776. Millennium Wood.** The contractor has cleared all the paths in the wood and it was proposed by Cllr N James and seconded by Cllr Morgan that he should be asked to repeat the work twice-yearly in future and this was agreed. Clerk to discuss details with contractor.

**7777. Report from PCC on Public Engagement events.** Clerk provided copies to Members.

**7778. 3C Energy Planning Application for solar farm at Pope Hill.** Sub-committee to discuss and consider this (including the use of the bridleway, as mentioned by Freystrop Community Council). Also need clarification on the Community Fund aspect. Clerk to respond to PCC in due course.

**7779. County Farm Estates Policy Review.** Cllr Grey produced a document setting out the arguments for retention of these properties and proposed that this should be passed to PCC. This was seconded by Cllr Rowlands and agreed. Clerk to respond to PCC accordingly.

**7780. Trees, Woodlands View.** It was reported that these have now been dealt with.

**7781. School placements.** It was confirmed that some Johnston children will now have to attend schools in Haverfordwest. Concerns were also expressed about the capacity of the new school in Langford Road, especially considering the number of new houses in the village.

**7782. Overhanging trees near Railway Inn.** Still to be dealt with.

**7783. Café at Withybush Hospital.**  It was stated that it seems this will be put out to tender.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**7784. Planning:**

* **15/0306/PA –** first floor extension, Mayfield, Pope Hill. Permission granted. Noted.
* **15/0225/PA –** housing, land west of Hayston Road. (See Minute Number 7771 above.)
* **15/0470/PA –** rear extension, 83/85 The Close.Considered by sub-committee and supported.
* **15/0380/PA –** replacement extension, 81 The Close. Permission granted. Noted.
* **15/0566/PA -** refurbishment, Railway Inn. After discussion it was agreed that this should be supported but with the proviso that a smoking area should be provided at the rear of the property. Clerk to respond to PCC.
* **15/0501/PA -** Lawrence Landfill, wind turbines. It was decided after discussion, that this should be opposed since it seems that the developers want to vary the conditions imposed in order to allow increased noise output.
* **15/0464/PA –** 18 one-bedroom flats and 7, 2-bed semi-detached house, land off Langford Road. (See Minute Number 7747 above.)
* **15/0443/PA –** see Minute Number 7778 above.
* **15/0576/PA -** 2 storey extension, 3 Milford Road. Unfortunately, the Planning Department at PCC had sent the wrong plans. Sub-committee to discuss and advise Clerk how to respond.

**7785. Letter from Shelter Cymru.** Noted. Clerk to obtain information leaflets and make them available in the hall.

**7786. Letters from PCC** regarding consultation on reviews of **Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005.**  Clerk instructed to respond stating that current opening hours should be curtailed in order to reduce problems.

**7787.**  **Letter from UNISON – Pembrokeshire Ethical Care Charter Campaign.** Noted.

**7788. Play for Wales magazine.** Passed to Cllr Young to review.

**FINANCE**

**7789. Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Jeffries seconded by Cllr Rowlands that the following amounts should be paid:

* £213.57 to the Clerk, September salary.
* £53.40 to HMRC, September PAYE.
* £60.00 to Mr Banfield, bus shelter cleaning.
* £390.00 to BDO, audit fee.
* £266.82 to PCC, swing and chains. (But Cllr Rowlands to check that this is properly due before payment is made).
* £220.00 to Cleddau Press, newsletters.
* £150.00 to D R Badham, clearing paths, Millennium Wood.

***The following items were admitted at the Chairman’s discretion:***

**7790.** Cllr F James reported that there was **Japanese knotweed** behind the Silverdale Inn. The Clerk said that this had already been spotted by a resident and reported to PCC but he would now contact Natural Resources Wales.

**7791.** Cllr Young reported **problems with rats** near the stream between the cottages on Church Road. Clerk to report to PCC. This was believed to be the result of fly-tipping.

**7792.** Cllr Warlow reported that a huge number of **bin-bags had been left outside 56 Hillcroft.** Cllr Rowlands agreed to contact PCC.

**7793.** Cllr Morgan reported vegetation around the **Milford Road bus stop** on the Milford to Haverfordwest side. Clerk instructed to ask the shelter cleaner if he can deal with this.

**7794.** The Chairman said that the next Community Engagement event in County Hall was on Monday 12th October which clashes with the JCC meeting. Anyone intending to go should attend the **6th October** meeting in Milford Haven.

**7795.** The Chairman said that **Dr Zangouras** was retiring early from the surgery in Johnston. Residents were invited to call at the surgery for tea and cake on 30th October. It was agreed that the Clerk should write on behalf of the Council.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

**Signed………………………………………………………………………..Chairman**

**Date……………………………………**

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015.**