

**M04/16**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in Johnston Institute.**

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

**Apologies :** Cllr T. Young,

**Also present :** Gareth Phillips, Bolton Hill Quarry Manager.

**8059 - Bolton Hill.**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. Gareth Phillips, Bolton Hill Quarry Manager. He was present to address concerns over perceived high spoil levels on some parts of the quarry site, and noise problems from the site caused by machinery and reversing beepers. Mr. Phillips produced a plan showing the current and projected working plans for the quarry. From the plan, he explained what was planned in the future for phase two of the quarry works, and offered assurances that the current observed levels would not now be increasing any further. This was the case although he explained that the current level is actually approximately two metres slightly lower than permitted by their planning consent. Members raised the issue of the height of deposited material in comparison with the railway line. He said that the standoff distance would permit a height that extended above the railway line, but that this was not going to happen. C'llr Ken Rowlands commented very favourably about the quickness of response from staff at the quarry to concerns and enquiries raised with them since the site had been acquired by G.D. Harries.

In response to the concerns raised over the spoil heights, Mr. Phillips offered to reduce the spoil level if necessary, though he explained that this would not be a not an easy option for the quarry. This offer was not taken up by Members, given the assurances that no further increases were planned. In response to concerns over noise from reversing sirens, various options were considered. Members accepted Mr. Phillip's offer to change the type of reversing sirens on the worst offending vehicles. Mr. Phillips also offered to host any interested councillors who wished to visit the site and inspect it for themselves. The suggestion was made to arrange an evening visit, possibly in early June. Members also raised concerns over speeding problems with some vehicles associated with the quarry. Mr. Phillips said that this problem had also been separately

raised by Tiers Cross Community Council, that the offending drivers and firms had been identified, and the matter addressed. If the matter continues to be a problem, he explained that there is always the option to prevent offenders from using the quarry if necessary.

Following the discussion, Members thanked Mr. Phillips for attending and answering the questions raised, after which he left the meeting.

**8060 - Minutes of the March monthly meeting.**

These were accepted as a true record (proposer C'llr Jeffries, seconder C'llr James).

**Matters arising**

**8061 – Proposed solar farm adjacent to Pope Hill.** Nothing further to report at present.

**8062 – Application for proposed exception site housing development at Langford Road (application ref. 15/0464/PA).**

Members were made aware of the letter submitted by Hayston Planning to P.C.C. setting out the case on behalf of local residents for opposing the development. It was noted that the Planning Committee meeting to discuss the application was scheduled for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016. C'llr Rowlands would be speaking at the meeting, and putting forward the views of the Community Council.

**8063 – Church Road Car Park.** Members were informed that the matter was now in the hands of the Land Registry, all possible objections and representations now having been made. It was understood that the matter was now going to be dealt with by tribunal, with certain inevitable costs to the Community to defend their case. It was mentioned that, notwithstanding the outcome of the tribunal hearing, a public right of way should continue to exist over the land.

**8064 – Narrow footpath by Johnston Farm.** The latest letter from Edwina Hart was read to Members, in which she said that further options to improve the situation were currently being considered. Matter to be kept under review.

**8065 – Skateboard Park.** P.C.C. had offered to cover 50% of the cost of repairing the damage to the skatepark. This had not been covered by insurance, as the insurance company said that the existence of the facility had not been disclosed to them. C'llr Rowlands felt that cover for

the damaged swings should be re-examined, as it was felt that this should be covered by insurance. There was no further progress on the request for CCTV coverage of the skatepark, or on the request made by C'llr Rowlands to P.C.C. to consider taking on responsibility for the playpark by The Vine.

**8066 – Bus shelter, Glebelands.** No response yet received from P.C.C. C'llr Rowlands to arrange a meeting with Darren Thomas of P.C.C. to try and achieve progress.

**8067 – Cashpoint outside Nisa Shop.** The Clerk had written again to Edwina Hart, A.M., but no further response had yet been received. Clerk to write again, reminding her that an undertaking had been given to achieve progress by the end of the financial year. Letter to make her aware of the accident that had occurred outside the shop. Letter to be copied to the A.M. for information / input into achieving a solution to the problem.

**8068 – New school, Langford Road.** Work was progressing steadily, and the through road had now been re-opened.

**8069 – Playground inspections.** Members had seen the recent playground inspection report. They noted the detailed nature of the report, and the 'average' condition of the equipment and environs outlined in the report, and were somewhat concerned at the overall tone of the report. Mr. & Mrs. Peter and Jane Walters had written to C'llr Rowlands regarding the state of the swings at the playpark at Brickhurst Park. C'llr Rowlands felt that this matter needed looking at carefully, and that the Community Council may need to consider budgeting for new swings.

**8070 – Road and pavement problems.** Members were informed that some work had been done, but there was always the problem of competing demands on available funding from P.C.C.

**8071 – Flower borders.** The Clerk had written regarding the loss of daffodils following work outside the Mormon Church. C'llr Ken Rowlands to progress this matter. Katie Daly of P.C.C. had contacted the Clerk in response to an enquiry about where flower planting was scheduled for this year. She had identified outside Orchard Court and Cadogan Close as the planned locations. Members felt that this was acceptable, but that alternative sites could also be identified for planting in future years. Members were generally agreed that it would be good to see a flower

border planted up somewhere in the centre of the village again. Clerk to write to Ms. Daly requesting that a flower border be reinstated outside the Baptist chapel, even if this was rechargeable to the Community Council (proposer C'llr James, seconder C'llr Wilkins). Letter also to request planting of daffodils underneath the 'Johnston' sign at the Haverfordwest end of the village. If this was not possible, letter to ask for bulbs to be provided for planting by the Community Council. During the discussion, concerns were raised at the condition of the 'Johnston' nameplates at either end of the village. Clerk to ask Mr. Banfield to clean the low level signs at the Milford and Haverfordwest ends of the village as a one-off.

**8072 – Sunshine Club.** Nothing to report.

**8073 – Remembrance Day.** Still in hand, nothing further to report at present regarding request for road closure during service.

**8074 – Parking bays, Glebelands.** C'llr Rowlands still dealing with this matter. He mentioned that a request for a disabled parking space had been submitted.

**8075 – Hall Court sign.** Still in hand.

**8076 – Japanese knotweed problem at Arnold's Yard site.** C'llr Rowlands still chasing up details of site ownership. When obtained, these to be passed to Clerk for a letter to be written to owner regarding the problem. Other possible ways of obtaining ownership information were mentioned, i.e. from the estate agents, or via public planning records.

**8077 – Rats, Church Road.** Nothing further to report.

**8078 – Draft charter between Community Councils and P.C.C.** Members were informed that this matter was being handled by P.A.L.C.

**8079 – Defibrillator provision.** C'llr Rowlands had obtained an agreement in principle from P.C.C. for siting of a unit between the two shops. Clerk to contact Cariad for quotations / guidance on provision of a defibrillator, as they had been used successfully by Llangwm Community Council, and were also being used by Burton Community Council.

**8080 – Tree-planting, Bulford Road.** This is ongoing, and Members were happy with progress.

**8081 – New Council Member.** Members welcomed C’Ilr Martyn Spilsbury to his first meeting as a Member.

**8082 – Dog-fouling problems.** Members had seen copies of the letter written by local resident Emma Morgan to P.C.C. regarding dog-fouling problems on the cycle path. The reply to her from P.C.C. was also read to Members, and felt to be a very positive response. It was noted that the response from P.C.C. included an undertaking to consider the provision of signage along the cycle path.

**8083 – Governing body, Mary Immaculate School.** Members congratulated C’Ilr Harvey on her appointment to the board of governors.

**8084 – Appointment of new Clerk.** Members welcomed Peter Horton as the new Clerk.

**8085 – Traffic lights, Merlin’s Bridge.** Members had noticed some recent monitoring activities at Merlin’s Bridge, which seemed to indicate that a promised review might be under way.

**8086 – Streetlight, Church Road.** It was noted that the light had still not been replaced.

**8087 – Rubbish from The Meadows Care Home.** C’Ilr James had raised this issue, and been assured that it would be dealt with.

**8088 – Wind Turbine, Lawrence Landfill.** Members noted that the turbine was still not operational. Clerk to chase progress on the planning enforcement investigation into the turbine height.

**8089 – Offer from Monitoring Officer to provide Code of Conduct training for Members.** Members were informed that this was being arranged by P.C.C., with a likely joint session for Johnston and Tiers Cross Community Council members being scheduled in due course.

**8090 – Statutory consultation on secondary school reorganisation.** No further contact had been received from the Pembrokeshire Herald following the holding response sent by C’Ilr James to their previous enquiry. No response had been received either from the board of governors regarding the matter. Members discussed the proposals

regarding the planned possible changes to catchment areas. It was generally recognised by Members that it would never be possible to please everyone. It was generally agreed that any solution identified should take full account of the need for convenient transport provision, and minimise or eliminate transportation costs for parents as far as possible. One parent was known to be currently paying £56/month for school transportation for her child. This kind of situation was felt by members to be highly unsatisfactory, and Members' view was that any planned changes should be very mindful of these types of problems being faced by parents.

**8091 – Drainage works, Glebelands Field.** C'llr James had spoken to the contractor, and agreed the work to be undertaken. It was now awaiting drier weather for the work to be put in hand.

**8092 – Brownie Flag sponsorship.** Members were informed that the group had been very appreciative of the donation made towards the cost of the flag. It had also been agreed that any surplus funds from the £120 donated could be used for purchase of equipment for their use. Members were informed of a planned flag-blessing service to be held on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> April, and were invited to attend. C'llr James to respond informing them that three or four Members would be likely to attend.

**8093 – Postboxes.** Clerk to send a letter to Royal Mail requesting the replacement of the postbox in Church Road, and also requesting provision of a further postbox at Glebelands.

**8094 – Damage to fence on cycle track.** This had been reported, but had not yet been repaired. Matter to be kept under review.

**8095 – Footpath by Orchard Court.** Members noted that this was now complete, and to a good standard.

### **Planning**

**8096 - 15/1276/PN** – demolition of storage building, Johnston Sewage Works, Kiln Road, Johnston SA62 3PF – no comment.

### **Correspondence**

**8097** – P.A.L.C. – Invitation to forthcoming A.G.M. – noted.

**8098** - Hayston Planning (copy of letter to P.C.C.) – objections to plans for exception housing site off Langford Road – dealt with in **8062**

above. Members agreed to sponsor the use of hall for a possible meeting to discuss the scheme proposals.

**8099** - Brownies Group – Notification of forthcoming flag-blessing service – dealt with in **8092** above.

**8100** - P.C.N.P.A. – Consultation on draft review of L.D.P. – noted.

**8101** - Ken Payne – Notification of death of Pastor Derek Trivett – Members were saddened by the news of Pastor Trivett's death, and thanked C'llr Rowlands for writing a letter of condolence on behalf of the Community Council.

**8102** - Paul Davies, A.M. – E-newsletter – noted.

**8103** - Ms. Emma Morgan (copy of letter to P.C.C.) – concerns over dog-fouling issues – dealt with in **8082** above.

**8104** - P.C.C. – Offer to undertake Code of Conduct Training – dealt with in **8089** above.

**8105** - P.C.C. – Notification of committee date hearing for land off Langford Road application – dealt with in **8062** above.

**8106** - P.C.C. – 2016 Playground Inspection Report – dealt with in **8069** above.

**8107** - Katy Daly, P.C.C. – Information on proposed locations for flower-border planting – dealt with in **8071** above.

**8108** - Edwina Hart – Reply to letter re. footpath by Johnston Farm – dealt with in **8064** above.

## **Accounts**

### **8109 - Charitable donations**

It was agreed to make a number of charitable donations as follows :

Milford Haven Junior Town Band	:	£250
Sunshine Club	:	£500
St Peters Church	:	£250
Johnston Baptist Church	:	£250
Wales Air Ambulance	:	£ 75
Mencap	:	£ 75
Pembs Y.F.C.	:	£ 75
Paul Sartori Foundation	:	£ 75
H.O.P.E. Therapy Centre	:	£ 75
Kidney Wales	:	£ 50
Urdd Eisteddfodd	:	£ 50
Pembs. Mind	:	£ 50
Cruse Bereavement Care	:	£ 50
Tenovus	:	£ 50
Teenage Cancer Trust	:	£ 50

### **8110 - Other payments approved**

Zurich Management Services Ltd.	:	£114-00
Gareth Nicholls (expenses)	:	£ 87-20
Gareth Nicholls (April pay)	:	£213-57
H.M.R.C. (PAYE tax)	:	£ 53-40
P.C.C. (Swing replacement, Johnston Play Area)	:	£266-82
D. Banfield (window-cleaning)	:	£ 60-00

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Rowlands, seconder C'llr Morgan).

### **Other business**

**8111 - Gareth Nicholls.** Gareth thanked Members for all their help over his eight years in the post as Council Clerk. He presented the Chairman with a Green Ginger jar, who expressed his thanks, and said that he would offer a donation to a local charity in thanks for the gift. On behalf of Members, C'llr Morgan thanked Gareth for all his hard work on behalf of the Community Council, which had been much appreciated. He proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Clerk, which was seconded by C'llr Grey, and passed unanimously. C'llr James suggested a Chairman's dinner at the end of May, to which Mr. & Mrs. Nicholls should be invited.

**8112 - Cycle track.** C'llr Warlow mentioned that a bed had been thrown onto the cycle path by Orchard Court. C'llr Rowlands undertook to look into getting this removed.

**8113 - Bush by pedestrian crossing.** C'llr Fran James mentioned a problem with an overhanging bush by the pedestrian crossing, opposite the Baptist chapel. This was thought to be on private land.

**8114 - Grass-cutting contract 2016.** Clerk to send out the contract documents.

**8115 – Outgoing Clerk.** C'llr Wilkins offered to arrange the purchase of a tankard for Gareth Nicholls, and some flowers for Mrs. Nicholls, in advance of the planned Chairman's dinner.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....