

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Houghton on Wednesday 4th July 2018

Present: Cllrs Nia Phillips, Derek Jones, John Evans, Laurence Price, Iain Wood, Michael Pettit, Scott Sinclair (vice-Chair), John Mathias; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies: C'llrs Alun Williams, Robin Howells, Paddy McNamara

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the vice-Chair, C'lr Scott Sinclair.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Minutes of June 2018 monthly meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C'lr Laurence Price, seconder C'lr John Mathias).

Matters Arising

Sandy Bear charitable donation. The Clerk had looked on the Charity Commission website to check for the postal address for Sandy Bear, but found that they were not listed. During subsequent conversations with Sandy Bear, it was confirmed that they are not a registered charity. Due to this, the Clerk had held back from sending off the donation pending further discussion with Members. Matter of possible donation deferred until September. In the meantime, C'lr Nia Phillips to obtain more information about the charity and its current activities.

Playpark sign – C'lr John Mathias had obtained the required signage, and was in the process of arranging to put it up.

Toby Price plaque. C'lr Laurence Price had obtained the new plaque, at a cost of £25.

Ashdale Lane speed monitoring. The further speed monitoring was not thought to have been carried out yet.

Electricity box, Burton Ferry. Members were informed that the electricity box had gone.

Sign, wall of Trinity House. Members noted that the promised new sign had not yet been replaced. Clerk to chase up with P.C.C.

Barnlake. Members felt it important to keep an eye on the development, to ensure that the access way is properly protected. It was noted that the development would be returning to the Community Council for consultation on a reserved matters application.

Information plinth, Houghton Green. C'lr Laurence Price apologised for progress on this having slipped, and undertook to pursue the matter to a conclusion as soon as possible. Members thanked C'lr Price for his willingness to look after this matter.

Highway maintenance issues. The Clerk informed Members that all the reported matters had been reported to P.C.C. Highways, and passed to their maintenance department for attention.

Plans

Applications

18/0525/PA (Extensions and alterations, Robin Hill, 15, Ashdale Lane, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NU) – no comment.

Consents issued

18/0021/PA (Conversion of vacant Burton VC. School building into a single residential dwelling, and associated change of use from educational use class D1 to residential use class C3 - Burton VC. Old School, Houghton, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NN).

Correspondence

- 1) Mr. Stephen Morris Jones, Ashdale Lane (Copy of letter sent to P.C.C.) – Comments on parking / traffic problem, New Wells Road – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) Police and Crime Commissioner – July newsletter – noted.
- 3) P.C.C. – quotation for bollard replacement – Members felt the job specification needed clarification. If the work included full reinstatement of the verge area, then it should be accepted. If not, then this fact to be circulated to members for further consideration. The Clerk informed Members that the matter could be dealt with as an insurance claim. However, Members generally felt that it was probably not worth claiming, considering the excess and possible impact on future premiums.
- 4) M.H.P.A. – stakeholder survey – noted.
- 5) Independent Review Panel – June newsletter – noted.
- 6) B.D. Summons - Request for removal of overhead equipment, Houghton Common – dealt with in agenda item below

Accounts

Payments

There were no payments for approval this month.

Budget review

The Clerk presented the quarterly budget review, which did not indicate any immediate concern with the Community Council finances, but did reveal a gradual long-term reduction in available reserves. Figures to be emailed around to Members for further consideration. Matter to be debated further in September.

Discussion of parking problems, New Wells Road

No feedback yet received from P.C.C. on their survey of local residents, due to holidays in P.C.C. The letter from Mr. Jones of Ashdale Lane addressed to P.C.C. was read out, and its contents noted. Matter to be kept on the agenda for September, to allow time for the survey results to be received.

Discussion of new data protection legislation

The Clerk had circulated role-holder privacy notices to all Members and to himself, and had prepared and published a general privacy notice on the community webpage.

Discussion of situation with land at Barnlake

Members were generally concerned that the area should not be allowed to gradually deteriorate. Matter to be kept on the agenda for further discussion in September. In the meantime C'llrs Laurence Price / Scott Sinclair to consider possibilities for dealing with the matter.

Discussion of common land issues

Houghton Green.

Covered in Matters Arising / Correspondence above.

Church Lane, Sardis.

Members were informed that the Common Land Officer had been arranging to put up a notice giving notice that the items stored on the common land would all be removed by the Authority, and giving a period of grace for private individuals to remove their own items. These would then be stored in Thornton Depot, and be available for owners to reclaim on a rechargeable basis. The Common Land Officer had also raised the possibility of erecting a fence across the highway edge of the common land, to prevent access by vehicles dumping material there. He was seeking the view of the Community Council on this proposal.

Members discussed the merits or otherwise of putting up a fence, in particular in connection with possible interference of people's right to freely use the land, and also possible consequent need to maintain the land. While Members were not necessarily against the idea, they were unwilling to commit the Community Council to any contribution towards the cost of a fence, or the land clearance, without first having a definite figure to work from.

After discussion, it was agreed that the priority was first to get the land cleared. Other matters could then be discussed separately afterwards.

Clerk to contact the Common Land Officer to say that Members are in principle supportive of the initiative, but felt that the priority was to get the land cleared first, and deal with other issues afterwards. They wished to reserve judgement on the merits or otherwise of putting up a fence. Members needed to be sure about the exact amount of any potential costs prior to making any agreement in respect of these costs, and wished it to be made clear that no commitment had been entered into in respect of any payment of costs for either the land clearance or the construction of a fenceline. Matter to be discussed further in the September meeting, with the possibility of arranging a site visit.

Vale Road.

The letter from B.D.S. Contracts was read out. Clerk to respond to explain that the matter was the responsibility of Western Power. Letter to explain that the Community Council would have no objection to the apparatus being moved underground, subject to the proper licencing arrangements being out in hand. However, the Community Council would not be contacting or liaising with Western Power over the matter. This would be for the developers to do themselves.

C'lr Laurence Price mentioned the matter of the stream running along the site boundary. The contractors had originally said that they were going to culvert this stream and fill in the ditch. However, this had not yet been done, and there was some question about whether or not this would now happen. C'lr Laurence Price undertook to continue liaising with the developers over this matter, and generally keep an eye on the situation. It was noted that a formal proposal from the developers would be needed prior to going ahead.

Discussion of 'Enhancing Pembrokeshire' grant funding arrangement

C'lr Scott Sinclair had not received any detailed proposals for possible inclusion in any grant application.

Members discussed the matter at some length, and the possible suggestions put forward for consideration included :

- a new play area at Burton Ferry, possibly in collaboration with the Jolly Sailor.
- a festival or classic car rally on Houghton playing field.
- Enhancement of existing facilities, such as playgrounds.
- a playground in the allotment area at Hill Crescent.

Matter to be discussed further in September.

Approval of Clerk's updated contract of employment

The Contract was signed by the vice-Chair, confirming the arrangements agreed at the June meeting.

Discussion of highway maintenance issues in Community

Matter to be deferred until September. In the meantime, C'lr Scott Sinclair to ask C'lr Paddy McNamara to prepare a schedule of items that he would like to have discussed.

Discussion of needed maintenance for noticeboards

Members noted that there had been problems with the noticeboards at the Village Hall and Bowling's Corner, mainly due to the bottom-hinged configuration. It was agreed that C'lr Laurence Price would ask Mr. Clive Walters to have a look at the noticeboards, and provide a

quotation to repair them. Matter to be placed on agenda for further discussion in September. If obtained prior to the September meeting, C'lr Laurence Price to forward the prices to the Clerk for circulating round to all Members for discussion / agreement, to facilitate carrying out the work as soon as possible.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

Any other business

Dangerous / inconsiderate parking. C'lr Michael Pettit mentioned that a vehicle had been parking on the outside of the bend opposite the old Stable Bar property, parking on the road / grass.

Burton Jubilee Hall. C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that he had been passed some information and documentation relating to the ownership of the Village Hall, and would pass this to the Clerk.

The meeting ended at 9-05pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 5th September 2018