**MO6/2014**

The following are the **Minutes** of the monthly meeting of J**ohnston Community Council** held on **9 June 2014** in Johnston Institute.

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

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Harvey.

**7194. Minutes of the May 2014 meeting.** It was agreed that these should be accepted as a true record subject to the replacement of “June” with “May” in Minute Number 7168.

**Proposer:**  Cllr Bourne. **Seconder:** Cllr Davies.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**7195. Speeding vehicles, Brookside Avenue.** It was agreed that the matter would be raised again at the forthcoming Police Forum.

**7196. Skate-board Park.** It was reported that this had been well-used over the recent school holiday. Cllr Rowlands said he would be meeting with PLANED in the near future to discuss the sound barrier.

**7197. Wind turbines.** No further news on the local schemes.

**7198. Withybush Hospital.** The Clerk said that as agreed he had contacted Mr Chris Overton to offer the Council’s financial help to fund a bus for the next Save Withybush Action Team (SWAT) protest meeting in Cardiff but had not yet received a reply. Notices advertising the meeting on 18 June 2014 had been placed on notice-boards.

**7199. Millennium Park.** Cllr Rowlands said that bolts for the signs were still awaited.

**7200. Bus stops.** Cllr Rowlands said that it had been agreed with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), that the transport manager, Mr Hubert Mathias, would deal with plans for the siting of the proposed stop and shelter. Also, the bus companies had confirmed that the stops in the village would remain as they are and that a request stop would continue in St Peters Road opposite the block-built shelter. The Clerk reported that he had provisionally placed an order for “unbreakable” Perspex panels to replace the broken ones in the shelters at Glebelands and Milford Road. These were a little dearer than standard material and the estimated cost would be £140. It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Morgan that this should be done.

**7201. War Memorial.** Cllr James reported that a meeting had been recently held with Church representatives and thanked those members who had been able to attend. It had been agreed that the old memorial would remain in situ. The new stone would be sited a little to the right of the originally planned position which will then allow the Church to open up the gateway to allow a ride-on mower into the churchyard. (The church will deal with this matter). A Planning Application for the new memorial had been submitted and since agreement to the scheme had been previously agreed, a cheque for the reduced fee of £166 had already been issued to PCC. It was agreed that Cllr James should contact the monumental masons urgently to order the new memorial stone. It was also reported that Mr S Clancy had agreed to carry out the repair work on the wall behind the intended site.

**7202. New School.** Cllr Rowlands said that he was confident that the scheme would soon receive approval from the Welsh Government. He also reported that an area of wet land adjoining the proposed site had been offered for purchase and this could be used in biodiversity studies. Some months ago, it had been suggested that due to falling numbers, the school would need to lose one teacher. However, with the new building sites in the village, the school was now over-subscribed. Cllr Rowlands said it was important to build a big enough school now. The proposed waste-water treatment improvements planned by Welsh Water (see Minute under “Correspondence”), would allow the site behind the Institute to be developed. With the additional houses planned at Pond Bridge, some 280 new properties could be built and there could also be infilling of sites in various places. Cllr Rowlands said that he had already informed PCC of these points. He also confirmed that the proposed school would have flood-lit sports facilities which could be used by village sports associations. Cllr Davies said that some residents were still under the mistaken impression that the school would be on the Glebelands field. Cllr James said that he felt that there should have been more consultation about the school between PCC and residents. Cllr Rowlands confirmed that he was also pressing for improvements to the Langford Road/St Peters Road junction. Cllr James suggested that any Section 106 funds relating to the site behind the Institute should be used for this junction. Cllr Bourne said that when a Planning Application for that site is submitted, an extraordinary meeting should be held in order to discuss the scheme in detail. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and agreed by all.

**7203. History Society.** Cllr James said that he had recently copied some information about the church from a book printed in 1895.

**7204. Glebelands rubbish bins.** Cllr Rowlands said he was dealing with this matter. It was hoped that Sport Wales, the Tidy Towns scheme and Natural Resources Wales would all help to support the Community Council’s plans for the Glebelands area.

**7205. Tree in Langford Road.** Cllr Davies said that he had again contacted PCC.

**7206. Letter box, Bulford Road.** The clerk said he was awaiting a response from Royal Mail.

**7207. Broken bollards, Hillcroft.** Some still to be replaced.

**7208. Council website.** Cllr Ruloff confirmed that this was in operation.

**7209. Williams Report.** Cllr Morgan said that he had spoken at length with Paul Davies the Assembly Member and put forward his proposals for the reorganisation of local government in Wales. This involved reducing the number of authorities to 18 rather than the 12 suggested by the Williams Report. Mr Davies had fully supported these ideas and would be raising the suggestions in Cardiff.

**7210. Dog Wardens.** Cllr Rowlands said that he had explained the problem to PCC but as the department had been down-sized, it was difficult to give promises of action.

**7211. Pavements.** It was reported that those in The Close had been repaired. Cllr Bourne was complimented for his detailed report to PCC on road defects in the village.

**7212. Community Councillor resignations.** The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Pembrokeshire Association of Local Councils (PALC) about this though the case mentioned was actually not in Pembrokeshire.

**7213. Bulford Road.** A sod-cutting ceremony had been held on 6th June and the Chairman, vice-Chair and past Chairman had been invited. The Clerk was instructed to invite the Community Liaison Officer from Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, (Gail Jones), to the July meeting of the Council.

**7214. Glebelands Field.** It was reported that the ditch had not yet been cleared and Cllr Rowlands agreed to raise the matter with PCC. A supply of topsoil had been delivered to the field – presumably form the contractors for the Bulford Road. Cllr James agreed to check the position.

**7215. Access to The Close field.** Cllr Rowlands agreed to discuss the problem with PCC once more. It was proposed By Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Bourne that the clerk should write to all residents of numbers 37 to 67 pointing out that access to the field should be kept open at all times and no cars parked in the entrance. The gate would be kept locked.

**7216. Grass-cutting.** The Clerk confirmed that a new contract for the season had been agreed with the Football Club.

**7217. The Close playground.** Cllr Rowlands said that he would meet with PCC to discuss the question of inspections of play equipment. This had been one of the tasks of the Village Caretaker but he was not in work at present. There was a possibility that a new caretaker might be appointed in due course. It was confirmed that PCC make a daily visit to remove broken glass etc. but the reporting needs to be done by the Community Council. It was agreed that the clerk would copy the email received from PCC to all members.

**7218. Double-yellow lines, Bulford Road.** Cllr Rowlands said that Darren Thomas of PCC would look into this suggestion.

**CORRESPONDENCE & ACCOUNTS**

**7219. Annual Return etc.** Copies of the Accounts for the year 2013-2014 had been previously issued to members and copies of the relevant pages of the annual Return were also issued. It was proposed by Cllr Bourne and seconded by Cllr Rowlands that the Accounts for the year 2013-2014 should be accepted. Also, it was proposed by Cllr Bourne and seconded by Cllr Davies that the Annual Return should be accepted. The form was then signed by the Clerk and the Chairperson. It was further agreed that in due course, Mr Clive Griffith should be asked to act as Internal Auditor for 2014-2015.

**7220. Planning:**

* **14/0095/TF** – Application for tree-felling, Johnston Hall. Objection made since felling was required to “reinstate old access and widen”. It was not clear that this access ever existed and the application for the access should have preceded the application for tree-felling.
* **14/0101/PA** – Replacement dwelling, Ashleigh, Church Road. Already considered by planning sub-committee and support given.
* **14/0008/PA** – Garage/workshop and office, land north-east of Greenfields, Kiln Road. Approved.
* **14/0094/PA** - Conversion/extension of outbuildings into utility/workroom, 14 Milford Road. After discussion it was agreed to support this application.

***NOTE:*** *Cllr Rowlands declared his interest in planning matters and took no part in the discussions.*

**7221.** As previously mentioned, Cllr Bourne was thanked for his **report on road/pavement problems in the village.** Cllr Morgan reported a loose cover – possibly belonging to BT – at the junction of Glebelands and St Peters Road, near the chapel. Cllr Warlow reported deteriorating potholes at the village end of the Langford Road bridge, south side. Also, a pothole was developing in Greenhall Park. Cllr Davies reported broken kerb stones between Number 1 Langford Road and the seat near the junction. (These are to be added to the list prepared by Cllr Bourne and Cllr Rowlands will bring them to the attention of PCC).

**7222. email from PALC** reporting the death of Richard Shepherd. It was proposed by Cllr Grey and seconded by Cllr Morgan that the Clerk should write a letter of condolence to Mrs Dawn Shepherd as Richard had been very helpful to the Community Council in the past. This was agreed.

**7223. Open letter from Pembroke Town Council** – vote of no confidence in PCC leadership. Noted.

**7224. Invitation to Pembrokeshire Citizens Advice Bureau AGM.** Noted.

**7225. email from Mr Andrew Lye.** It was agreed that the clerk should report the new box to BT as it was hard to see in the dark and projected into the footway. Also, Cllr Rowlands agreed to pass on the complaint about street cleaning to PCC. This led to a discussion on the duties of a Village Caretaker. It was agreed that if thought necessary, the wages of a part-time caretaker would be considered when setting the Precept request for next year.

**7226. Accounts for payment.** It was agreed that the following amounts should be paid:

* £208.92 to the clerk, June 2014 salary.
* £52.20 to HMRC, June PAYE.
* £60.00 to Mr Banfield, bus shelter cleaning.
* £166.00 to PCC – planning application - see Minute Number 7201 above.
* £140.00 – cost of replacement Perspex panels for bus shelters.

P**roposer:** Cllr Morgan. **Seconder:** Cllr Bourne.

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

**7227.**  Cllr Morgan reported that PCC had confirmed that it was responsible for the **station approach road** as far as the station entrance. European Parliament money had been obtained to improve the road and pavement and install street lights.

**7228.** Cllr Warlow queried what had happened to the **flower borders in the village.** (Possibly a job for a Village Caretaker?).

**7229.** Cllr Warlow reported that the boarded section of the **cycle track** under the road bridge was constantly wet and could be a danger to users.

**7230.** Cllr Warlow reported that with a Pembrokeshire Rail Card (£5), the **return fare to Carmarthen** had now been reduced to £4.50.

**7231.**  Cllr Davies reported that **grass-cutting** was needed at the village end of Langford Road and the **footbridge** over the road also needed attention. Cllr Warlow said that grass near numbers 22 and 40 The Close had again been missed by the contractors. Cllr Rowlands agreed to take-up these matters with PCC.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**Signed………………………………………………………………………….Chairperson**

**Date………………………………………………………….**