**M09/2014**

The following are the **Minutes** of the monthly meeting of **Johnston Community Council** held on **8 September 2014 i**n Johnston Institute.

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

Mr Greg Bishop, (resident), of Johnston Hall also attended.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Grey and Young.

**7270. Minutes of the July 2014 meeting.** It was agreed that these should be accepted as a true record subject to the addition of Cllr James’ name to the first line of Minute Number 7235.

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

**7271. Bulford Road Improvements.** As members were aware, the proposed site meeting for 16 August had been cancelled. The Clerk was instructed to contact the company to arrange a new date for the end of September if possible. This would be a joint visit with Members from Tiers Cross Community Council.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**7272. Skate-board park.** Members had been given a copy of the quotation from Sound Barrier Systems Ltd for the additional work that would be required to consider the proposals put forward by the residents nearest to the park. After much discussion it was agreed that the costs involved could not be justified and there was no guarantee that the suggestions would reduce the noise levels. It was proposed by Cllr Morgan and Seconded by Cllr Bourne that since the complainants did not like the proposed barrier design, and because far fewer children were now using the equipment because of the opening of the Haverfordwest park, Diana Turbervill of Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), should contact them to suggest that they withdraw the complaint. This was agreed. Cllr James voted against the motion. Cllr Harvey asked if fresh noise measurements should be taken as use had reduced but this was not thought to be worthwhile. Cllr Warlow suggested that the facility should be removed altogether and new equipment – such as that at Crundale Park, be installed. This was rejected because of the costs that would be incurred in removing the ramps etc. In the meantime, Cllr Rowlands agreed to obtain quotations for installing the noise barrier as suggested by the consultants.

**7273. Wind Turbines, Lawrence Landfill.** It was noted that the Planning Inspectorate had considered the appeal made by the applicants and planning permission for the two turbines had now been granted. It was suggested that the clerk should write to the developers, (with copies to PCC Planning Department etc.), querying the position regarding the offer of a payment to the Johnston and Tiers Cross communities.

**7274. Withybush Hospital.** The clerk said that leaflets produced by the Health Board detailing changes to maternity and neonatal care were available to anyone interested.

**7275. Bus stops.** The Clerk said that Mr Mathias form PCC had confirmed that £1500 would be the total required for the traffic audits. He had asked the officer who had produced the original plans for the shelter to consider the proposal to have the shelter adjacent to the solid wall of the former restaurant. The Clerk was instructed to check progress of this matter.

**7276. War Memorial.** It was reported that the backing stone was now in place and the plaque was being prepared. The immediate area would be tarmaced by G D Harries & Co, free of charge. The letter from the builder, Mr Clancy, setting out details of the work done and difficulties encountered was read out. Cllr Bourne proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr James for his work on the project and this was seconded by Cllr Rowlands and agreed by all. It was confirmed that the memorial would be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday. Further tarmacing might be required but this could be considered at a later date.

**7277. New School.** Cllr Rowlands said the matter was awaiting confirmation from the Welsh Government but he was confident that it would go ahead. Mr Ian Westley of PCC had spoken to him about the memorial to the victim of a road accident which would now be affected by work on the new school and the hedge. It was agreed that a meeting would be held with the family to discuss the matter.

**7278. History Society.** Mr Bishop confirmed that the gates mentioned at the July meeting had been found and restored and it was hoped to re-erect these shortly. It was agreed that Cllr Rowlands would include a request for photographs and information about the gates and Johnston Hall in the next issue of the newsletter.

**7279. Glebelands rubbish bins.** Still under enquiry with Cllr Rowlands.

**7280. Tree in Langford Road.** Cllr Davies said that the tree had been inspected three times but no action had been taken. Cllr Rowlands said he would ask Mr Darren Thomas of PCC to look at the tree with him.

**7281. Letter box, Bulford road.** Cllr Rowlands said that, as promised, he had raised this with PCC but they had now passed the matter back to Royal mail to reconsider.

**7282. Council website.** The Clerk said he would now pass the July 2014 Minutes to Cllr Ruloff to upload.

**7283. Access to The Close Field.**  The Clerk said that, as instructed, he had issued letters to all nearby residents asking them to keep the entrance clear. He had had only one response. PCC would be erecting suitable notices shortly.

On a connected topic, Cllr Rowlands said that he had come to an arrangement with PCC whereby they would be responsible for the playground inspections at The Close and also at The Vine. (Checks would be made to see if inspections by the council’s insurers – Zurich – would still be required). Councillors would not be expected to make reports or remove glass etc. Currently a PCC employee carries out these duties because of the long-term illness of the Caretaker. The money in the Community Council’s account with PCC will be carried forward and a similar allowance (£500), set against costs each year.

It was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Rowlands that a substantial amount should be included in the next Precept to cover maintenance costs and the installation of additional play equipment for young children similar to that seen in Crundale, as described by Cllr Warlow.

**7284. Double-yellow lines, Bulford Road.**  It was reported that PCC had suggested waiting until the new Bulford Road was completed to see if this was still necessary.

**7285. Annual Return.**  The Clerk said that he had now received the Auditor’s report and confirmation that there were no matters needing attention. The Return was again presented to the Council. It was proposed By Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Bourne that the Return should be approved and accepted and this was agreed. The clerk confirmed that the Conclusion of Audit notice had been placed on the notice-board.

**7286. Road and pavement problems.** It was reported that there were still problems to be dealt with in The Close. Also, there were potholes etc. on the Langford Road corner and on the bridge. Cllr Rowlands agreed to show these to Mr Thomas of PCC.

**7287. Village flower borders.**  As mentioned in July, a sum would be included in the next Precept to allow for maintenance. In the meantime it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Mormon Church asking if their offer of help was still available in order to restore the borders. The Community Council would purchase whatever plants were needed. **Proposer:** Cllr Harvey. **Seconder:** Cllr James.

It was also mentioned that there is an area of land at the junction of Langford Road and the Close which is unused at present. Cllr Rowlands agreed to check the position.

**7288. Planning Application 14/0095/PA, Johnston Hall.** The Clerk reported that as instructed, he had checked with PCC and it had been confirmed that dropped kerbs were to be installed at the re-opened entrance.

**7289. Planning application 14/0343/PA, Baz’s Diner.** The Clerk said that he had not received a response for PCC regarding the possible overflow of the cesspit but would send a reminder.

**7290. Arnold’s Yard.**  The Clerk said he had obtained details of the property from Johns Francis & Co. The asking price was £1.65 million. There was no mention of pollution or contamination of the land in the particulars.

**7291. Christmas lighting.** The Clerk read out the quotes received from Norrard Electrics for supplying new LED lights. The amounts were considered to be too high and Cllr Rowlands said he would make further enquiries and Cllr Harvey would approach Merlins Bridge Community Council to ask about their lighting.

**7292.** Cllr Rowlands confirmed that he had ordered two **Christmas trees** for the village.

**7293. Broken cable, Glebelands.** After further discussion it was considered that this was not dangerous.

**7294. Planning Application 14/0304/PA.** The Clerk said that details had been received and considered by the sub-committee and the application supported. Cllr James wished to have it recorded that he had declared an interest in this matter.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**7295. Planning:**

* **14/0304/PA.** See 7294 above.
* **14/0165/PA** – Alterations, 3 Brookside Close. Permission granted. Noted.
* **14/0223/PA** – New cenotaph. Permission granted. Noted.

**7296. Johnston-in-Bloom.**  After discussion, it was agreed that Garden Vouchers would be presented to the winners and runners up in each category - £20 and £10 respectively. Cllr Wilkins agreed to obtain the vouchers, certificates and replica trophies. The original trophies would be collected from last year’s winners.

**7297. Bank signatories.**  The Clerk said that he had eventually had a response from Barclays Bank saying that a maximum of three signatories was allowed. It was therefore decided to continue with the existing signatories: Cllrs Bourne, James and Rowlands.

**7298.** Letter from **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)** regarding the Draft Management Plan, 2015-2019. Noted.

**7299. Receipts** **and thanks** from Johnston Baptist Church and St Peter’s Church for grants towards upkeep of grounds. Noted.

**7300. Correspondence regarding disabled access to The Close Field.** It was reported that Mrs Sunderland, a local resident, had written to PCC asking for access to The Close Field for wheelchairs and pushchairs from near the block-built bus shelter on St Peters Road. The comments made by Mrs Sunderland concerning the difficulties and safety of children when using the existing steps and the fact that the new housing development next to Orchard Court would result in increased numbers were agreed. It was also thought that this route would be used by parents and children when walking to the new school. It was mentioned that the Community Council had obtained planning permission for disabled access some years ago but this had lapsed due to the costs involved. Cllr Rowlands agreed to discuss the matter with PCC and will look for the earlier plans. The matter will be discussed again at the October meeting.

**7301. One Voice Wales** – details of training courses. Noted.

**7302.** Note from PCC regarding **additional Special Educational Needs (SENs)** places in Johnston School. Noted.

**7303. Problems with drainage, Church Road and Hayston Road etc.** Mr Bishop reported problems with the drains crossing his land. It appears that effluent from properties in Tall trees Close was entering the storm water drains. Also, rain water was entering the sewerage drains and then into the nearby watercourse. Drain covers were lifting at times of heavy rain. He did not object to rainwater from the road entering his land but did not want foul water and sewage flooding his property. Welsh Water had been investigating but had not yet cured the problem. He intended to contact PCC again as he was particularly worried about the situation if the planned housing development behind the Windsor Hotel went ahead without proper drainage and sewerage provision. Cllr Rowlands said that the Public Protection department at PCC was investigating the problem.

**7304. Letter from Wales Audit Office** – distribution of reserves - £30 to each Town and Community Council. The Clerk will complete the necessary claim form for this.

**7305. Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Jeffries and agreed that the following amounts should be paid:

* £208.92 to the Clerk, September salary.
* £52.20 to HMRC, September PAYE.
* £60.00 to Mr Banfield – bus shelter cleaning July.
* £60.00 to Mr Banfield – bus shelter cleaning August.
* £282.00 to BDO, Audit Fee.
* £3805.00 to Mr Clancy, building work for war memorial.
* £120.00 to Cllr Wilkins, part costs connected with Johnston-in-Bloom.

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

**7306.**  Mr Bishop queried who owned the **car park opposite the Institute.** This had at one time been the entrance road to Johnston Hall Farm and the Hall. He was interested in having ownership clarified to avoid people parking and blocking his access. He had contacted PCC and the Land Registry but without success. Cllr Rowlands said he would check again with PCC.

**7307.** Cllr Rowlands said that the Welsh Government was introducing changes to Council House funding from April 2015. He provided members with a paper summarising the changes which will result in rent increases in order to bring them up to a new average figure. The rents will be calculated based on a number of different factors and the increases will be staged. There will be consultations with all interested parties and an event will be held in October to provide Community Councils with information on the new scheme.

**7308.** Cllr Morgan referred to local newspaper reports that the operators of the **Sunday 302 bus service** had lost their licence and the county Council was unable to find a new operator for the route. Cllr Rowlands said that he would speak to PCC to see if any car/taxi/minibus arrangements could be provided. However, PCC was in a serious financial position and the cost of employing drivers and fuel etc. might prove too expensive.

**7309.**  Cllr James queried why the subject of **broken bollards at Hillcroft** had been omitted from the agenda as these had still not all been replaced. Cllr Rowlands said that he would follow-up the matter.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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

**Date………………………………………….**