

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held online on Wednesday 4th November 2020, 6pm

Present: Cllrs John Mathias, Paddy McNamara (Chairman), Laurence Price, Nia Phillips, Vicky White, Robin Howells, Derek Jones, Alun Williams, John Evans, Scott Sinclair (vice-Chairman); Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C’lir Derek Jones sent apologies for an anticipated late arrival at the meeting, due to a conflicting appointment.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Minutes of October 2020 monthly meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and held by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’lir Scott Sinclair, seconder C’lir Robin Howells).

Matters Arising

Common land / bridleway at Houghton. No further developments to date. Note to hold for future discussion as and when necessary.

Potential lease of land off Hill Crescent. Still on hold pending the planned site meeting between C’llrs Nia Phillips, Derek Jones and Scott Sinclair (for B.C.C.) and officers from P.C.C.

Sardis bus shelter. Clerk to chase up a substantive response from P.C.C., as nothing further had been heard to date.

Footpath from Houghton Playing Field to Jubilee Hall. C’lir Laurence Price mentioned that he intended to chase up officers in P.C.C. during the following week to see how matters were progressing.

Western Power. No further contact had been received from Western Power since the previous meeting.

Footpath – Sardis to Hill Mountain. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to P.C.C. Members reported that no work yet appeared to have been done to address the matter. Members were in agreement that the whole issue of this footpath needed looking at properly, as it appeared to be sub-standard. It was left for C’llrs Alun Williams and John Evans to look at the footpath in detail. Matter to be tabled for discussion in December.

Potholes / damage to carriageway, Sardis. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to P.C.C. They had replied to say that they were imminently due to start on their repair / patching schedule, and this work would be dealt with in conjunction with that.

C’lir Alun Williams had received a telephone call from Gareth Hughes, who had confirmed that the damage had been caused by a delivery vehicle attending the garage. He could not arrange repairs directly, as the work needed to be done either by P.C.C., or by one of their approved contractors. Members agreed that the matter should be kept under review.

Slade House. The matter had been reported to P.C.C., and was being investigated by Planning Enforcement. The Clerk mentioned that he had received a telephone call from the occupier of Slade House, who had confirmed that she had been contacted by P.C.C. regarding the matter.

Update on traffic measures for Burton and Burton Ferry

C’lir Scott Sinclair confirmed that the new 30mph and 40mph signs had been installed by P.C.C. He also confirmed that the speed-activated signage was ready to be installed. However, P.C.C. was still awaiting delivery of the posts on which the signage was to be mounted.

Discussion of situation with Sardis Common Land

C’llrs Alun Williams and John Mathias had met on the site, and assessed the current situation. C’llr John Mathias was awaiting some repairs to his machine before being able to position the boulders. He said the work would be completed as soon as possible, hopefully the following week. C’llr Alun Williams reported that more items had been dumped on the land since the previous visit. The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the letter to the occupiers of Slade House as requested. He had received a telephone call from the occupier, who had said that her husband had removed most of his items from the Common, and the remaining items would be removed within the next few days.

Questions were raised about a number of lengths of blue 125mm water pipe on the land, as well as a number of gas cylinders. Clerk to contact Welsh Water to ask if these items belonged to them.

Discussion of situation regarding works undertaken at Badger Wood

C’llr Alun Williams had received a telephone call from Mr. Lyn Morgan (Son of Mr. Alan Morgan) following the letter sent out by the Clerk. He had taken over the running of the farm. As a result, C’llr Williams had met Mr. Morgan on the site, and discussed the matter in detail. Mr. Morgan had said that the Police had visited the site. C’llr Williams felt that there was little more that could be done pending further contact / information from the Police and P.C.C. The Clerk confirmed that the Planning Enforcement Officer had stated his intention to visit the site, though it was not thought that the visit had yet taken place. Clerk to chase up the Police and P.C.C. for substantive information on the matter.

Discussion of problems with growth encroaching on pavement on Burton Hill

The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported to P.C.C. C’llr Scott Sinclair confirmed that no work had been done to date to address the problem.

Plans

20/0387/DC – Discharge of conditions Condition 8 (method statement for biodiversity reasons), 11 (ecological management plan), 25 (pollution prevention measures) of 09/0556/PA (Outline - Residential Development); Site Address: Barnlake Point, Burton, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire – Clerk to respond, reiterating previous comments concerning the public footpath running alongside the site, mentioning that Members would like to see this access widened properly, and adequately maintained, as part of any consent granted (proposer C’llr Laurence Price, seconder C’llr John Evans).

20/0488/PA – Variation condition 2 of planning permission 08/0687/PA and supplemental reserved matters consent 11/0430/PA to allow for amendments to approved plans for Plot 1 Site Address: Houghton Nursery, Plot 1, Milford Haven, SA73 1NW – no comments.

20/0587/PA – REPLACEMENT DWELLING, Site Address: Shepherds Cottage, Barnlake, Milford Haven, SA73 1PA – Clerk to respond to enquire about the exact way in which sewage disposal was going to be dealt with.

20/0648/PA – First Floor Extension, Site Address: The Gables, SARDIS, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1LU – no comments.

NP/20/0423 – Conversion and conservation of existing 2 storey stone barn to 4 bedroom holiday accommodation – Williamston Farm, Rhooseferry Road, Houghton, Milford Haven SA73 1NL – no comments.

Correspondence

- 01) P.C.C. – Confirmation of current placing of footpath between Houghton and Hill Mountain at no 26/60 on the current priority list – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 02) P.C.C. – Response to query on dealing with Ash Die-back – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 03) P.C.C. – Response to reporting of potholes, Sardis – dealt with Matters Arising above.
- 04) P.C.C. – Acknowledgement of registration of planning enforcement investigation into potentially unauthorised building at Sardis – dealt with in Matters Arising above.
- 05) Wales Audit Office – Confirmation of new audit arrangements from 2020/21 – noted.

Accounts

There were no accounts for discussion this month.

Discussion of footpath provision between Houghton and Hill Mountain

The Clerk had been informed by P.C.C. that the footpath was currently 26th on their priority list, out of a total 60 projects listed. P.C.C. would normally expect to complete around 4 or 5 projects per year, dependent on available funding and other emergency works. Members agreed that it would be best to leave the matter for the present. Clerk to look out for potential funding / grant opportunities, and inform Members accordingly.

Discussion of suitable memorial arrangements for deceased Members, and associated plans for upgrading of information board on Houghton Green

Members were agreed that, as previously discussed, the plinth on the Green alongside the Jubilee Hall would be a good location for memorial plaques, instead of having these scattered around the Community, and more prone to damage or loss. Members resolved that the existing information board should be renewed, with space around the perimeter for memorial plaques to deceased Members (proposer C’lir Laurence Price, seconder C’lir Paddy McNamara). C’lir Laurence Price undertook to follow up the matter of obtaining a replacement information board as soon as possible, but realistically in early 2021, given the current Coronavirus restrictions. C’lir Nia Phillips undertook to assist with this project as required. It was agreed that the information board would need to be replaced first, and then the matter of the memorial plaques addressed afterwards.

Discussion of measures needed to address Ash Die-back on Community-controlled land

C’lir Paddy McNamara expressed the view that the main way to identify infected trees was when they were in full leaf. This was confirmed by the message received from the P.C.C. Landscape Officer. C’lir Laurence Price had been speaking to the P.C.C. Playground Inspector. He had indicated that there were as many as 8 infected Ash trees around the playpark, and that these would be the responsibility of B.C.C. to deal with. It was agreed for the matter to be tabled for discussion in February, with a view to arranging for the trees to be surveyed, and any infected ones to be removed as necessary.

[NOTE – C’lir Derek Jones entered the meeting at this point].

Proposal to consider improvement to area by the pontoon in Burton Ferry

C’lir Scott Sinclair expressed the view that some upgrading of the area might be a good idea, as it was well used, but in need of some attention. He suggested that consideration could be given to replacing the second picnic bench with a recycled plastic one, and lifting / relaying the existing cobbles. Members were in agreement that the area would benefit from some attention. C’lir Scott Sinclair undertook to formulate some more detailed proposals for the area. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in December.

Discussion of arrangements for advertising vacancy following the loss of Michael Pettit

Clerk to set the process in motion for advertising the vacancy.

Any Other Business

Benton Woods. C’lr Laurence Price had met a number of officers from N.R.W. inspecting the woods, preparatory to a further felling session in Autumn 2021. C’lr Paddy McNamara mentioned that this had been known about for several years, and was phase three of a schedule of operations. The egress route for the felled timber was due to be Rhooseferry Lane. Members felt that it might be worth having a conversation about possibly protecting some of the more mature trees. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in January.

Potholes, Rhooseferry Lane. C’lr Paddy McNamara mentioned that the ones around Williamston Farm had been dealt with. However, the ones around the junction with the road to Benton Castle had not been dealt with. Clerk to report this again.

Chairmanship / vice-Chairmanship. C’lr Scott Sinclair stated his wish to step down as vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year. C’lr Paddy McNamara expressed a desire to step down as Chairman, but to put himself forward as vice-Chairman if needed.

The meeting ended at 7-00pm. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020