**M12/2014**

The following are the **Minutes** of the monthly meeting of **Johnston Community Council** held on 8 December **2014** in Johnston Institute.

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

**Also present:** G Bishop, (local resident).

**Apologies for absence:**  Cllr T Young.

**7392. Minutes of the November 2014 meeting.** It was agreed that these should be accepted as a true record.

 **Proposer:** Cllr Davies. **Seconder:** Cllr Rowlands.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**7393. New entrance, Church Road.** No further news. Cllr Rowlands said that Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) planning department had promised to look into the question of ownership of the car park. Also, Mr Polak had been invited to raise any further concerns with him.

**7394. Bulford Road.** Cllr Rowlands reported that he had visited the site recently and had been impressed with the progress. Several members stated that they would also like to visit the new road and Cllr James said that with a multi-million pound scheme, it was disappointing that a weekend visit could not be arranged. Cllr Rowlands said he would take this up with the contractors and it was agreed that the Clerk should also write to them.

**7395. Skate-board Park.** The Clerk said that PALC had replied to his enquiry indicating that the Community Council had little choice but to install the fence as the potential costs of a legal dispute could be much greater. Cllr James said that he felt that the council had been let down by the experts who had determined the siting of the facility in The Close field but the council now had to solve the problem. Cllr Rowlands said that PLANED had been unable to help with the additional costs of erecting a noise barrier as they were currently making staff redundant. The contractors thought that they had enough top-soil to use on the Glebelands field and also to build the earth bank needed for the noise barrier. They had also agreed to Cllr Rowlands’ request to help shape/form this bank. There had been a meeting with the contractors and the County landscape architect, Dai Rees. He had confirmed that other companies had been approached but could not provide equivalent-quality sound-deadening panels etc. It was agreed that all materials needed to be available at the same time. Cllr Rowlands said that he would approach Messrs G D Harries & Co to see if the offer of concrete was still open. It was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Grey and agreed by all that Cllr Rowlands should liaise with the contractors, G D Harries & Co and Mr Rees to try to arrange installation in the spring.

**7396. Wind Turbines, Lawrence Landfill.** No further news.

**7397. Bus Shelter.** The Clerk reported that he had met with officers from the Highways & Construction section at PCC to discuss this matter. They had been very helpful and had very quickly produced plans of three possible sites for a shelter. These were examined and discussed by the members and it was agreed that because of the exposed nature of the site, an open-sided shelter was not suitable. It was agreed therefore that the Clerk should suggest to PCC that the Option 3 site was preferred but with an Option 1 type shelter. Alternatively, perhaps the shelter could be reversed so that the entrance/exit faced the shop frontage.

**7398. War Memorial.** Cllr Rowlands said that he had received many favourable comments about the new memorial. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Messrs G D Harries & Co to thank them for supplying the labour and tarmac for the path.

**7399. New School.** It was thought that progress was being made on this matter.

**7400. Tree in Langford Road.**  Cllr Davies said residents in the area were grateful for the work done on making this safe.

**7401. Letterbox, Bulford Road.** It was reported that this had now been moved as had been requested.

**7402. The Close Field.** Cllr Rowlands and the Clerk had met with the insurance advisor at PCC. It was hoped that the County Council would take on the inspections and insurance cover for the playing fields at The Close and The Vine which would mean that the Community Council’s insurers would not need to make inspections which would then reduce the cost to the council. The Clerk pointed out that the current policy expires on 31st December so it may be necessary to pay the inspection fee for the next twelve months anyway. Cllr Rowlands agreed to try to clarify the position as soon as possible.

**7403. Road and pavement problems.** The reported problems were believed to be being dealt with in rotation. Cllr Warlow reported a deep pothole near the chapel at Glebelands and also sinking pavements near her house in The Close. Cllr Davies reported that the pavement at the top end of Langford road was in very poor condition.

**7404. Village flower beds.** The Clerk said that no response had been received from the Mormon Church as yet.

**7405. Arnold’s Yard.** Cllr Rowlands said it might appear from the November Minutes that SUSTRANS was involved in discussions about the future of the land but this was not the case – it had simply been one suggestion. However, some local businesses had indicated that they might be interested in becoming involved in any future plans for the area.

**7406. Christmas lighting.** This had now been installed and members were pleased with the result. The Clerk said that Western Power had contacted him to say that the electricity supply cable for the Glebelands tree was dangerous but that they had corrected this at no cost to the council and had informed Norrard Electrics of the work. However, Cllr Rowlands said that he understood that Norrard Electrics had carried out the replacement work. *(Western Power had also explained that work on the new power supply cable was proceeding from the Milford end of the village and the ditch in The Close Field would be filled in once the connection there had been made. It had not been overlooked).*

**7407. Disabled access to The Close Field.** It was agreed that the Clerk should write to PCC to ensure that the original plans for this were revived so that access could be provided at some time in the future.

**7408. Problems with drainage, Church Road.** Nothing new to report.

**7409. Bus services.** Nothing new to report.

**7410. Broken bollards.** Current position unknown.

**7411. PCC budgeting/savings.** Further meetings for councillors to be held in the New Year.

**7412. Old cemetery, Pope Hill.** Response awaited from the Probation Service.

**7413. Ditch in Glebelands field.** Response awaited from Glanville Codd, PCC.

**7414. Rubbish bins, Church Road.** It was thought that PCC would be unlikely to supply these due to budget restrictions. Mr Bishop said that he would be willing to empty such bins and it was suggested that obtaining bins should be considered during the next Precept discussions.

**7415. Withybush Hospital.** Cllr Grey said that the statement from the new head of the Health Board that “Withybush is safe” was not believed by many people. He had been made aware of a confidential document outlining various plans to downgrade many of the services currently provided. Examples of poor treatment were discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Grey and seconded by Cllr Rowlands that the Clerk should write to Paul Davies, the Welsh Assembly member to make him aware of the situation. This was agreed.

**7416. Pembrokeshire Funding Fair.** Cllr Rowlands reported that he had attended this meeting and made contact with the Big Lottery Fund. He had not been available to attend the Heritage Lottery Fund meeting in November.

**7417. Meeting dates for 2015** – the change of the February date to **2 February 2015,** as requested by the Clerk, was agreed.

**7418. Williams Report.** It was proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Grey that the Clerk should write to the Acting Chief Executive of PCC, (with copies to Paul Davies AM, and Stephen Crabb MP), stating that the County Council should not amalgamate with other authorities as requested by the Welsh Government. This view was based on past experiences with the old Dyfed authority and because of the vast costs and problems that would arise. Cllr Rowlands said that PCC had approached neighbouring councils but they had shown no interest in amalgamating. The Welsh Government had been informed. However, he pointed out that the Welsh Government had stated that councils would be “directed” to merge if necessary.

**7419. Resignation of Cllr Bourne.** It was proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Davies that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks for his years of service to the Community Council and this was agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Grey and seconded by Cllr Morgan that an engraved tankard should be obtained and presented at the Annual Dinner and this was also agreed. (Cllr Wilkins to arrange). It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr James that Cllr Wilkins should replace Cllr Bourne as bank signatory and that Cllr Jeffries should replace Cllr Bourne on the Planning sub-committee. Finally, it was proposed by Cllr Grey and seconded by Cllr Morgan that the Clerk should begin the process of co-opting a new member to the council.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**7420. Planning.**

* **14/0488/PA** – erection of 4 dwellings, Brickhurst Park. (Application previously discussed and supported).
* **14/0822/PA** – erection of steel frame building, Johnston Hall. No objections raised.
* **14/0834/PA** - alterations and extension, 41 St Peters Road. No objections raised.

Note: Cllr Rowlands took no part in these discussions.

**7421. Questionnaire from Welsh Government regarding the A4076 Trunk Road** speed limits. (This had been completed and submitted by the Clerk after consultation with members). It was agreed that the Clerk should ask the Trunk Road Agency (TRA) about the previously reported problems of narrow pavements and speeding vehicles near Johnston Farm/St Peter’s Church. The matter will also be mentioned at the next Police Forum.

**7422. Open letter from Solva Community Council regarding Youth Services** in Pembrokeshire. Noted. It was also reported that the Youth Club in Johnston was no longer in operation.

**7423. Newsletter from Welsh Local Government Association.** Noted.

**7424. email from Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations** - PACTO – noted.

**7425.** email from PCC – **temporary closures to Bulford Road.** Noted.

**7426. Changes to rubbish collections over holiday periods.** Noted. Posters placed on noticeboards.

**7427.** email regarding **defibrillators.** Noted.

**7428. 2015-2016 Council Tax Policing Precept.** This email survey had been forwarded to members to consider.

**7429.** Boundary Commission for Wales - **Review of Electoral Arrangements for Pembrokeshire.** Noted. (No changes for Johnston/Tiers Cross area).

**7430. Johnston Institute contacts.** It was noted that from the New Year, bookings for the hall will be handled by **Tracy – 01437 890958.** The email address continues as johnstoninstitute@live.com

**7431.** The Clerk reminded members that the January meeting will include the **Budget Forum** at which the Precept for the coming year will be set. Members were asked to consider what will need to be included, e.g. skateboard park expenses, new bus shelter etc. Details of the Council’s current finances are to be issued with the agenda for the January meeting.

**7432.** email from One Voice Wales asking for nominations for a former Chairperson to attend a **Buckingham Palace Garden Party.** It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Grey that Cllr James’ name should go forward and this was agreed.

**FINANCE**

**7433. Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Morgan that the following amounts should be paid:

* £208.92 to the Clerk, December 2014 salary.
* £52.20 to HMRC, PAYE, December 2014.
* £60.00 to Mr Banfield – bus shelter cleaning.
* £240.00 to Johnston Football Club – additional grass cutting charges.
* £1656.69 to Zurich insurance, 2015 premium. *(Possibly to be reduced – see Minute Number 7402 above).*

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

**7434.** In response to Cllr Warlow’s enquiry, Cllr Rowlands said that a **village newsletter** would be produced before Christmas.

**7435.** Cllr Harvey asked that a **noticeboard for The Vine area** should be provided. This could possibly be erected on land owned by the pub if the landlord agreed. To be considered again at the Precept meeting.

**7436.**  Cllr Rowlands said that the family of the late Walter Stocker wished to have a **memorial bench** placed in the village. This was approved in principal though Cllr James suggested it should be made of recycled materials to avoid ongoing maintenance costs. (Cllr Rowlands to follow up).

**7437.** it was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Grey that a **letter of congratulations** should be sent to Delyth Summons of Hayston Farm regarding her award for “Club Organiser of the Year”.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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

**Date………………………………….**