

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 13th April 2026 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present: Cllrs Rikki Schroeder, Neil James, Len Gale, Tracey Young, Christine Wilkins, Louise Jones, Grayham Passmore, Aled Thomas; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies

C'llrs. Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Nina Philpott.

2607 - Declaration of known interests

None.

2608 - Approval of minutes of March 2026 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'lr Grayham Passmore, seconder C'lr Rikki Schroeder).

2609 - Opportunity for public representations on tabled agenda items

Council vacancy. A local resident was present who asked about the open council vacancy, and asked if he could make a verbal application. He was advised that any application would need to be made in writing.

2610 - Discussion with NaCRO officials regarding The Silverdale

Members were not impressed with the non-attendance by officer from NaCRO again, without prior notice. Item further deferred until May. Clerk to make contact with NaCRO to raise concerns about the repeated non-attendance without notice.

Matters Arising

2611 - Discussion of problem with illegal parking around junction of Langford Road and Main Road

Still in hand with C'lr Aled Thomas to liaise with P.C.C. officers about possible measures to address the problem.

2612 - Discussion of traffic problems at Old School Lane / Cranham Park

No work yet carried out by P.C.C.

2613 - Discussion of measures needed to address poor drainage around footbridge, Langford Road

C'lr Aled Thomas confirmed that the matter was now with Network Rail to address, and P.C.C. was monitoring the situation.

2614 - Potholes / pavement cracks around The Close.

No change, with pothole repairs still awaited, though repairs had been done in other parts of the village. C'lr Aled Thomas undertook to make enquiries with P.C.C. officers about the likely timescale for completing the repairs.

2615 - Litter between Old School Lane and cycle path.

This had been reported to P.C.C. for action.

2616 - Planning

Planning consents notified

25/1055/NM - Non material amendment to permission ref. 24/0530/PA (Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of planning consent ref. 24/0052/PA (residential development) - Site to the east of the existing petrol station, Pond Bridge, Johnston, Haverfordwest; Site Address: Pond Bridge, Johnston, Haverfordwest

Appeals against planning refusals notified

25/0376/PA - Upper Sandy Wells, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XL; Proposed Development: Replacement outbuilding to create welfare space as an extension for disabled son with new screening hedge bank and ecological enhancements; Planning Inspectorate Appeal Reference: CAS-04719-P6H0W2; Appeal Start Date: 27th March 2026 – No comments.

2617 - Correspondence

01) P.P.S. Pembrokeshire – Inspection reports for Close Field and Vine Field playparks – dealt with in agenda items 2624 and 2625 below.

02) F.J. Groundworks – Quotations for fencing work at Vine Field Playpark and Glebelands Field – Members resolved to accept option 2 for the work in Vine Field (Proposer C’Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C’Ilr Len Gale). Regarding the tree branch, Clerk to ask for an amended quotation for complete removal of the tree, and planting of three self-pollinating fruit trees. Members resolved to accept quotation 2 for the work in Glebelands (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Len Gale).

03) Johnston F.C. - Completed priced grass-cutting contract for 2026 – Members approved the contract (proposer C’Ilr Louise Jones, seconder C’Ilr Christine Wilkins).

04) Arise – Pre-application consultation on solar farm proposal – dealt with in agenda item 2621 below.

05) Local resident – Concerns about litter and dog mess in Close Field playpark – dealt with in agenda item 2625 below.

06) Audit Wales – Audit documentation for 2025/26 accounts – noted. Members briefly discussed the new initial question in the Annual Governance Statement, and felt that this could justifiably be answered in the affirmative when the time came to complete the statement in May.

2618 - Accounts

Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, March 2026)	: £ 72-00
Easy Websites (direct debit for website / email provision)	: £ 36-96
F.J. Groundworks (INV-1041)	: £ 1411-06
F.J. Groundworks (INV-1044 – work at Glebelands)	: £ 60-00
F.J. Groundworks (INV-1047)	: £ 360-00
One Voice Wales (Membership renewal)	: £ 452-00
W.J.G. Evans (INV-8806, ratification)	: £ 9928-50

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Louise Jones, seconder C’Ilr Grayham Passmore).

End of year interim financial report

Members considered the report circulated by the Clerk. There were no issues of concern. Final report to be presented to the A.G.M. in May.

Income

VAT reclaim for 2025/26	: £3639-30
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2619 - Discussion of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales determinations on Member allowances for 2026/27

Members resolved to maintain the same approach as that adopted in the previous year, i.e. reserving the option to pay any or all optional allowances during the year if deemed appropriate (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Len Gale).

2620 - Discussion of community council asset and financial risk assessments

Asset risk assessment. C'llr Neil James completed the risk assessment. Actions recommended to provide signage to address dog-fouling in Close Field similar to that put up at Glebelands Field was mentioned, but a decision left for consideration in the agenda item below. It was noted that work to provide a ramp up to the Close Field from St. Peter's Road was with P.C.C. for action in due course. Additional fencing /gate provision in Glebelands Field to form a dedicated dog-exercise area was deferred for consideration in the agenda item below.

Agenda item to be tabled for May to consider adding defibrillator checks to the Clerk's employment contract.

Financial risk assessment. This had been completed by the Clerk.

2621 - Any necessary discussion of solar farm proposals, Johnston and Freystrop

No indication of funds likely to be forthcoming to the local communities had yet been received.

C'llr Neil James commented on the statutory pre-application consultation currently under way. He drew comparisons with the approach being taken in Freystrop to the similar development proposed there. It was felt that the approach there was much more pro-active. The importance of responding to the pre-application consultation in a meaningful and detailed way was stressed as very important in potentially affecting the eventual design of any scheme approved. Members acknowledged the importance of doing this in order to ensure the best possible outcome for Johnston Village.

Specific points mentioned included the proposed vehicle access point opposite Hayston View. 40 lorries a day were anticipated as likely to be using this during the construction phase. However, an existing access point further down the road was considered as much more suitable, and it was commented that J.C.C. should oppose the proposed access location. Many ecological points were mentioned as needing close scrutiny, including potential impacts on badgers, bats, otters, Great-Crested newts, birds of prey and sites of special scientific importance. The current approach to noise impact was also questioned as being inadequate, as were the approaches of the developers and P.C.C. towards the assessment of buffer zones.

C'llr Neil James undertook to prepare a consultation response in conjunction with C'llr Aled Thomas, for circulation and discussion / approval at the May meeting, and subsequent submission. C'llr Aled Thomas also mentioned his intention to contact the neighbouring Rosemarket and Tiers Cross councils, to encourage them to make representations.

2622 - Discussion / adoption of Annual Report for 2025/26

The report was approved as drafted (proposer C'llr Grayham Passmore, seconder C'llr Louise Jones). Clerk to arrange publication on the website.

2623 - Discussion of application for council vacancy

Members resolved to accept the application for co-option from Mr John Bonwick (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Aled Thomas). Clerk to inform him accordingly, and deal with associated administration.

2624 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

No issues requiring further discussion this month.

2625 - Any necessary discussion of issues in Close Field

Litter-picking. Members considered the letter from a local resident with concerns about littering in the Close Field. Members considered the possibility of having one or more litter-picking sessions, with potential involvement of school pupils and local residents. C'Ilr Aled Thomas to speak with the headmaster to try and fix a suitable Friday afternoon / lunchtime in May for an initiative involving school pupils. This to be followed up by a Saturday morning arrangement sometime in June for community litter-picking in the Close Field, involving Silverdale residents as well. C'Ilr Aled Thomas confirmed that the sessions could be covered under the 'Keep Wales Tidy' umbrella, with equipment being provided by them, and the sessions being covered by their liability insurance policy.

Dog-fouling. Two dog-fouling / awareness signs to be ordered, similar to those previously used at Glebelands (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Aled Thomas). Clerk to order these.

2626 - Discussion of possible provision of BMX ramps in Close Field Playpark

Deferred for discussion in May.

2627 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

The contractor had completed the work on the pavilion, and been paid. It had been concluded that the shipping containers on offer from the Mercedes Garage would be unsuitable, as they would be too unsightly, and were not in good condition. Members acknowledged that an alternative source for a suitable shipping container would need to be found. C'Ilr Neil James to look into this with the Sports Association. Clerk to check expiry date to the existing application in place, and check on permitted development rights for placing a container on the land.

2628 - Any necessary discussion of land development at Glebelands Field

Members noted the suggestion from a local resident for a dedicated dog-walking / exercise area to be formed. It was felt that the bottom part of the field could potentially be used for that purpose, with suitable fencing. C'Ilr Neil James undertook to look into the possibilities, and examine the feasibility of this.

2629 - Any necessary discussion of P.C.C. proposals for highway improvements at Church Road

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had spoken with P.C.C. officers. Work on the scheme was on hold pending funding sources being identified. Members left the matter in abeyance until there was some indication of funding being identified.

Separately, P.C.C. had indicated that the hedgebank along Church Road was not in their ownership. This would mean that issues of maintenance, encroachment, etc., would be the responsibility of the adjacent landowner to address.

2630 - Discussion of dog-fouling and littering problems on Hillcroft Field

C’lIr Aled Thomas was awaiting further contact from Steve Morbey of P.C.C. regarding the dog-fouling issue. The Clerk had not received any response from Neil McCarthy to the message sent in following the March meeting about litter bin provision and signage. C’lIr Aled Thomas undertook to chase this up in County Hall.

2631 - Discussion of damage to train platform shelter at Johnston Station

Deferred until May, for input from C’lIr Nina Philpott, who had requested the agenda item.

2632 - Any other business

Anti-social behaviour. C’lIr Louise Jones mentioned problems with anti-social behaviour, including some damage caused to properties in the village. C’lIr Louise Jones to discuss details of this with C’lIr Aled Thomas following the meeting, for this to be followed up with the relevant authorities as possible.

May meeting. C’lIr Neil James offered apologies, because he would be unable to attend the May monthly meeting.

The meeting ended at 8-49pm. Next scheduled meeting – 11th May 2026, to commence with the 2026 A.G.M.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

