

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 online, in the Johnston Institute, Church Road, Johnston, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.**

**Present: Cllrs Fran. James, Neil James, Warlow, Morgan, Jones, Young, Wilkins, Philpott, Jeffries, Spilsbury; Peter Horton (Clerk);**

**Apologies : C'Ilrs Pratt, Rowlands.**

### **1183 – Declarations of known Interests**

C'Ilr Louise Jones mentioned a potential interest in the request for a donation by the Heart of Johnston. The Clerk pointed out that, as an appointed representative of the Community Council on the group, she would not be required to leave the room during any discussion.

C'Ilr Janet Jeffries declared a potential personal and prejudicial interest if any discussion should take place on the maintenance work on the St. Peter's Road bus shelter.

### **1184 – To receive the minutes from the March 2022 monthly meeting**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and retained for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C'Ilr Fran James, seconder C'Ilr Louise Jones).

### **Matters arising**

#### **1185 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat**

C'Ilr Martyn Spilsbury had spoken with the fabricators, who were still unavailable. There had been no progress to date. Members thought it might be better to look elsewhere for a supplier. Matter left for further discussion in May following the election.

#### **1186- Discussion of possible request for yellow lines in Hall Court**

No progress on a start to the proposed works. Clerk to chase up P.C.C. regarding a start date for the work.

#### **1187 - Discussion of requirement to report on progress towards producing a plan to encourage biodiversity**

The Clerk had contacted the Biodiversity Officer, who had offered to attend either a site meeting or a Community Council meeting. It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged once the Treeworks survey and report had been completed.

#### **1188 - Discussion of situation at Silverdale, including possible changes of use.**

No change in situation regarding submission of a planning application.

#### **1189 – Work needed on Glebelands Field and adjacent land.**

Nothing further had been heard from J.R.J. Garden Services regarding a definite start date for the proposed work. Members had reported some flytipping in this area. Clerk to report this to P.C.C. with a request to remove it.

**1190 - Discussion of any works needed as a result of the most recent playground inspection report for The Close Field Playpark**

The Clerk had received the annual inspection report for the playpark, and had a telephone conversation with the annual inspector regarding the findings. They had confirmed that the siting of the swing frame was acceptable under current regulations. They had also suggested that the Community Council may wish to take a balanced approach to the findings in relation to the footpath running between the skatepark and the MUGA. They suggested that if there had been no incidents over a long time period, and the cost of remedial works was prohibitive, then it may be reasonable to regard this as an acceptable level of risk. Matter to be discussed in detail in agenda item in May.

**1191 - Discussion of possible footpath provision between Bulford Road and roundabout.**

The Clerk had contacted the Trunk Road Agency, who had confirmed that the survey work was nothing to do with them, but was probably in connection with fibre optic cable surveys.

Clerk to contact Sustrans to ask them to consider a footpath provision along the east side of the main road by the field to the south of Church Road.

**1192 - Discussion of bench collection from Milford School.**

Nothing heard to date about the application for a new bench for the Glebelands Field.

**1193 - Discussion of quotation for work on bus shelter, St. Peter's Road**

No change, with project still on hold for the time being. Matter to be reviewed in May.

**1194 - Discussion of request for zebra crossing outside school**

Members were not aware if anyone had been appointed to man the crossing point, yet, but thought probably not.

**1195 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View**

Members reported no change, with the footpath open, though still not completely unobstructed.

**1196 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators**

The Clerk confirmed that all the defibrillators were now fully functional.

**1197 - Discussion of insurance for sound equipment**

Still in hand with the Clerk.

**1198 - Discussion of establishment of vexatious communication policy**

Matter still in hand with Clerk establishing necessary prerequisites for a scheme to be set up.

**1199 - Discussion of arrangements for tree inspections / reports**

Members were informed that a survey date of May 3<sup>rd</sup> had been arranged with Treeworks.

### **1200 - potholes.**

The Clerk had reported the potholes on Langford Road. Members noted that they remained unaddressed.

### **1201 – Roadworks along main road north of Village.**

C’lir Christine Wilkins reported that signage connected with the roadworks was obstructing visibility when exiting Brickhurst Park. Clerk to report this to the T.R.A.

### **1202 - Planning**

There were no plans for discussion.

### **Correspondence**

**1203** - Heart of Johnston – Request for donation towards Jubilee events proposed – dealt with in agenda item below.

**1204** - P.C.C. – Playground Inspection reports for Vine Field and Close Field Playparks – dealt with in agenda item below.

**1205** - Playground Repairs Ltd. – Playground inspection reports – dealt with in agenda item below.

**1206** - Trunk Road Agent – Response to request for information on recent survey work along main road – dealt with in 1191 above.

### **Accounts**

#### **1207 - Payments for approval / ratification**

SSE Electrics (unmetered supply for Christmas lights)	:	£ 50-95
P.C.C. (Playground Inspections, 2021/22)	:	£1230-00
David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 72-00
Grandiflora (tree-planting)	:	£1785-00
Heart of Johnston (donation)	:	£ 500-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lir Nina Philpott, seconder C’lir Neil James).

#### **1208 - End of year accounts statement**

Members were provided with a basic end of year accounting statement, with a full accounts report to be presented to the A.G.M.

### **1209 - Discussion of work on Close Field towards eventual CCTV installation**

The Clerk had received a response from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, but not with any information that would assist in moving the scheme forward. It was decided to leave the matter for further discussion following the election, when the new County Councillor could be asked to assist with achieving progress.

### **1210 - Approval of annual report for 2021/22**

Members requested some minor amendments to the report as follows :

Audit - year to be corrected from 2020/21 to 2019/20.

Priorities for coming year – reference to Glebelands Field to be expanded to mention a feasibility study into replacing the wooden pavilion, and possibly to apply for grant funding. Clerk to amend the draft report, and bring to May meeting for approval.

### **1211 - Approval of amendments to Standing Orders**

Members approved the amended Standing Orders (proposer C’lir Neil James, seconder C’lir Spilsbury). Clerk to arrange for Chairman to sign the document.

### **1212 - Discussion of possible one-way system in Glebelands**

Still in hand with C'llrs Fran James and Nina Philpott. Matter to be placed on May agenda.

### **1213 - Discussion of ways to commemorate forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

**Jubilee event.** A message had been received from Heart of Johnston asking for financial support for Jubilee events. C'llr Louise Jones explained the plan to have bands, picnic tables, bouncy castle, etc. The arrangements were well in hand. Members were keen to support the events planned.

Members approved a £500 donation to the Heart of Johnston group to support the events being arranged (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Janet Jeffries). It was suggested that consideration could be given to a further donation in the May meeting if this should be needed.

**Tree-planting.** Members were informed that the seven Cherry trees had now been planted on Glebelands Field. The Sports Association had had an input into the planting locations for trees, providing information on the location of underground services. It was mentioned that possible future further planting phases could be considered in connection with future work on the field. C'llr Neil James also mentioned that he would speak to Nathan Jones about scraping off an area of around 20m or so in the corner of the field adjoining Cunnigar Woods, and re-seeding this area.

### **1214 - Discussion of arrangements to commence grant project for Vine Field**

Members were informed that there was no obstacle to commencing the project. Clerk to contact Sovereign Play to get their scheme under way. C'llr Martyn Spilsbury to be a contact on site, with C'llr Neil James a secondary contact. C'llr Neil James reported that the fruit trees had been planted in a copse in one corner of the field, providing a start to the general improvement of the area.

### **1215 - Discussion of needed boundary repairs to Vine Field**

C'llr Neil James mentioned that some boundary repairs needed doing, with 6-8 sleepers needed to prevent slippage from the field into an adjacent garden. He also mentioned that the NE corner near K.O. Carpets was in need of clearance, and recommended that Nathan Jones should be asked for a quotation for these works. In addition, C'llr Neil James mentioned the condition of the lane leading down between the field and the adjacent storage unit site.

Clerk to carry out Land Registry search to confirm ownership of the lane. Matter to be placed on agenda for May to discuss how to proceed.

### **1216 - Discussion of works required from recent asset risk assessment**

Members noted that the Treeworks survey was in hand.

Regarding the drop-off behind the St. Peter's Road bus shelter, nothing further had been heard regarding the proposed improvements mentioned a year or more previously. However, the Clerk had received a recent request for confirmation of ownership of the bus shelter.

In relation to the playground inspection reports, Members reviewed the Risk Assessment wording, and were happy that this adequately covered the current situation, with assessment of risks being effectively delegated to the Playground Inspector.

**1217 - Discussion of possible replacement of wooden pavilion**

C’Ilr Nail James had sought some initial indicative quotations for a replacement building of a similar footprint to the existing pavilion, but split level. The matter was at a very early stage. Matter to be kept as a regular agenda item for the foreseeable future.

**1218 - Discussion of possible donation towards cost of needed alterations in Village Institute to enable multi-locational meetings to be held**

C’Ilr Neil James explained that there would be a cost for the Institute Committee to install the necessary cabling, etc. to facilitate the meeting arrangements. Costings to be brought to the May meeting if available. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in May.

**1219 - Discussion of damage to verge / bank in Langford Road**

The Clerk had not heard anything back from P.C.C. following the message sent after the March meeting. Clerk to pursue the matter of the needed pothole repairs in Langford Road.

**Any other business**

**1220 – Overhanging tree at junction of The Close and Langford Road.** Members were concerned at possible safety implications from the size and location of the tree. Matter to be tabled for discussion in May.

**1221 – C’Ilr Bryan Morgan.** C’Ilr Morgan announced his resignation from the Council. He had been born in Johnston, and served on the Council for around 64 years. Members thanked C’Ilr Morgan for all his work on the Council over the decades.

**1222 – Roadworks on A40.** C’Ilr Christine Wilkins expressed concerns over the extent of speed restrictions on the A40 in connection with roadworks east of Canaston Bridge. The Clerk undertook to pass on contact details for the T.R.A. to her, in order for her to contact them directly.

**1223 – rubble on bank alongside cycle path.** C’Ilr Louise Jones reported rubble being dumped onto the bank by the cycle path from an adjacent property, in connection with building work. C’Ilr Jones to send photographs to Clerk, and provide an address, for this to be reported to either P.C.C. or Network Rail.

**1224 – Unsafe parking on St. Peter’s Road.** Concerns raised by C’Ilr Spilsbury to be tabled for discussion in May.

**1225 – C’Ilr Tracey Young.** C’Ilr Tracey Young announced her departure from the Council at the forthcoming election. She thanked Members for all their help and support during her time on the Council, and mentioned an intention to host a small buffet for Members at some point in the future.

**1226 – C’Ilr Liz Warlow.** C’Ilr Liz Warlow announced her retirement from the Council, and thanked Members for all their support over the years.

The meeting ended at 8-40pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Signed.....Chairman  
Date.....