

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the Johnston Institute, Church Road, Johnston, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.**

**Present:** Cllrs Aled Thomas, Nina Philpott, Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Neil James, Len Gale, Louise Jones, Martyn Spilsbury, Tracey Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

**Apologies :** C'llrs Christine Wilkins, Kaidan Alenko

Also present – Neil Lees, Dyfed-Powys Police

#### **1676 - Declarations of known Interests**

None

#### **1677 – To receive the minutes from the March 2023 monthly meeting**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and retained for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C'lr Neil James, seconder C'lr Janet Jeffries).

#### **Matters arising**

##### **1678 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat**

C'lr Spilsbury had prepared a sketch of the proposed bench, in a design to be specific to Johnston. The likely cost would be around £1800 + VAT. Members liked the design for the seat back. Members agreed for C'lr Martyn Spilsbury to arrange for a scaled-up drawing for further consideration. C'lr Neil James suggested asking for the legs to be 150mm longer, with tees at their bases, to enable these to be set into concrete.

##### **1679 - Discussion of quotation for work on bus shelter, St. Peter's Road**

No further update regarding the timetable for replacing the St. Peter's Road bus shelter had yet been received. Clerk to chase up further with P.C.C.

##### **1680 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View**

C'lr Neil James reported that three streetlights in the link pathway were out of action, and the street sign and hydrant post were lying against the bank. The Clerk had spoken to P.C.C. about it. They had said they would mention the streetlights to the developer, but had no powers to enforce this, as the pathway was unadopted. Clerk to write to the developer to raise concerns over the issue, and raise the potential for health and safety implications (proposer C'lr Neil James, seconder C'lr Tracey Young).

##### **1681 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators**

The Clerk confirmed that he had checked the defibrillators in March. C'lr Neil James to cover checks in April.

##### **1682 - Discussion of establishment of vexatious communication policy**

Matter still in hand with Clerk.

**1683 - Discussion of arrangements to commence grant project for Vine Field, including consideration of revised quotation from Sovereign Play**

The Clerk had made enquiries with One Voice Wales and the P.C.C. Legal Department, and been advised that establishing byelaws relating to control of dogs in the playparks would not be possible for legal reasons.

**1684 – Correspondence on Close Field fenceline.**

Nothing had been heard from the landowners. The Playpark Inspectors had reported no serious safety concerns with this section of fenceline.

As a separate issue, Members had reported problems with a sagging section on the fenceline along the boundary between the Close Field Playpark and the main road. Clerk to ask Infinity Play to arrange repairs as needed, which Members thought would involve re-tensioning of the top wire along the affected section.

**1685 - New Council houses at Cranham Park**

No change, with construction still ongoing.

**1686 - Fibre optic cable installation works, The Close.**

The Clerk had reported to P.C.C. again. Members reported further and ongoing issues. C'llr Janet Jeffries reported that the area around the garages in The Close was still very muddy. Clerk to pass this on to P.C.C. again for attention.

**1687 – fly-tipping.**

The Clerk had contacted ATEB, who had replied to state that the land in question was in P.C.C. ownership. However, Members thought it more likely that it was in the Railway Authority's ownership. Clerk carry out a Land Registry search to establish ownership, and then make contact accordingly.

**1688 – Damaged trees at Glebelands.**

C'llrs Yvonne Llewellyn and Janet Jeffries reported that the trees seemed to be coming on ok, but were still a work in progress.

**1689 – Damaged panel on bus stop, Glebelands.**

Members were unsure whether or not the panel had been replaced or not.

**1690 - Discussion of community litter bin provision**

The Clerk had contacted P.C.C. regarding emptying of the Glebelands Field litter bin. They had responded to say this would cost the community council £10-68 per week to empty it twice. C'llr Neil James pointed out that one would also need to be provided at the Vine Field. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to ask if they would provide a litter bin at the Vine Field, and to ask if a discount could be negotiated for emptying the two bins.

**1691 – The Close pathway.**

Members confirmed that cutting back of the overhanging shrub had not been carried out. Clerk to chase up again with P.C.C.

### **1692 – request for path along main road between Bulford Road and roundabout.**

The Clerk had chased up a response from Welsh Government, which was currently awaited. Clerk to chase up Welsh Government again for a substantive response.

### **1693 - Discussion of closure of GP surgery for maintenance**

C’Ilr Aled Thomas had investigated the matter. He had been led to understand that the building was in need of some maintenance work, this was being arranged, and that the practice would be re-opening in due course.

As a separate matter, C’Ilrs Janet Jeffries and Yvonne Llewellyn reported serious difficulties in contacting the Neyland surgery by telephone. C’Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to contact the surgery to raise the issue as a concern.

### **1694 – Green area fronting The Close.**

Members reported that the problem had been completely resolved.

### **1695 – Impending speed limit reductions in Village.**

C’Ilr Aled Thomas thought that the entire main road section through the village was to remain at 30mph. However, there was some confusion over whether or not this would apply to the whole length of main road. C’Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to check this again for the avoidance of doubt.

### **1696 – Street-lighting problems, Moors Road.**

The Clerk had sent contact details to C’Ilr Aled Thomas for the landowners. These had been passed on to the concerned residents, and the matter was now understood to be in hand with them.

## **Planning matters**

### **1697 - Consultations**

**22/1161/DC** – Discharge of condition 3 (Coal Mining Investigations) of planning appeal APP/N6845/D/19/3232041 (18/1273/PA – Proposed domestic garage).

Site Address: Land Lying East of Vine Road, Johnston, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PQ – No comments.

### **1698 – Consents issued**

**22/0991/PA** - Erection of open sided single storey roundhouse to provide additional outdoor learning space for the community linked to Johnston school; Site Address: Johnston Cp School, Langford Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PY

## **Correspondence**

**1699** - P.C.C. – Follow up message relating to details on work undertaken at Glebelands Field – dealt with in agenda item below.

**1700** - P.C.C. – Notification of vacancy for community governor at Mary Immaculate School – noted.

**1701** - Ateb – Response regarding fly-tipping on Land behind Acorn Drive – dealt with in 1687 above.

**1702** - Infinity Play – Comments on condition of fence bounding Close Field Playpark and neighbouring property – dealt with in 1684 above.

**1703** - Audit Wales – Proformas and details relating to 2022/23 audit – in hand with Clerk.

**1704** - P.C.C. – Information relating to cost of emptying bin at Glebelands – dealt with in 1690 above.

**1705** - Local resident – offer regarding provision of fencing to northern boundary of Vind Field – dealt with in agenda item below.

**1706** - Police – Comments on traffic / parking situation in Glebelands – dealt with in agenda item below.

### **Accounts (including interim end of year accounting statement)**

#### **1707 - Payments for approval**

Steven Dockerty (tree-felling) : £2800-00

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning) : £ 72-00

Johnston F.A. (pre-season grass-cutting) : £ 260-00

The Above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Louise Jones, seconder C'llr Janet Jeffries).

In addition to the above, the following further payment was formally approved in agenda item below to Johnston School : £1000-00

#### **1708 - End of year accounting statement**

The Clerk had circulated an interim end of year accounts statement to all Members for information. A full accounting statement would be provided to the A.G.M. the following month.

### **1709 - Discussion of completion of community financial and asset risk assessments**

C'llr Neil James had reviewed and updated the Community Asset Risk Assessment, and the Clerk had reviewed and updated the Community Council Financial Risk Assessment. Both these documents were formally accepted by Members (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn).

Possible updating of the Asset Risk Assessment in the light of any changed understanding or information from P.C.C. regarding ownership of community litter bins would be dealt with if and when confirmation from P.C.C. should be received.

### **1710 - Discussion / adoption of 2023 annual report**

The Clerk had prepared a 2023 annual report. This was formally adopted by Members (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Martyn Spilsbury). Clerk to publish the report on the community webpage.

### **1711 - Discussion of completion of biodiversity enhancement report**

C'llr Aled Thomas had completed the updated report, which was formally accepted by Members (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Martyn Spilsbury). Clerk to publish the report and inform Welsh Government as necessary.

### **1712 - Discussion of determinations from Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales 2023 report**

Members resolved to retain the same determinations as for 2022 (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Neil James).

It was agreed that the members' allowances for the current year would be paid in May to any members who had not waived these in writing to the Clerk.

**1713 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with new playground installation in Vine Field, including neighbouring boundary fencing issues, possible provision of goalposts, etc.**

**Goalposts.** Clerk to ask Infinity Play for some indicative prices and options for simple goalpost provision at the Vine Field.

Members were informed that the request to the owners of the unauthorised goalpost at the Vine Field to arrange its removal had gone unheeded. As it was understood that this could bring about insurance liabilities for the council, Clerk to make arrangements for the goalpost to be removed as soon as possible and returned to the owners (proposer C’Ilr Nina Philpott, seconder C’Ilr Martyn Spilsbury).

**Boundary fence.** Members discussed in detail the offer that had been received from the neighbouring landowner. This was offering to provide the labour to erect a post and composite panel fence along the boundary. The message had also requested consideration to a gateway from the property directly into the field. Members were concerned about the precedent that accepting such an offer might set. They were also concerned at the potential legal complications of such an arrangement. For these reasons, Members felt that maintaining the decision made in the March 2023 meeting to erect a chainlink fence along this section of boundary was the preferred option, and did not resolve to alter that decision. Clerk to write to the landowner accordingly, to inform him of this, and also to confirm the contract with Infinity Play to install the fencing as requested.

**1714 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark**

Deferred for discussion in May, as C’Ilr Kaidan Alenko was not present.

**1715 - Discussion of possible replacement of wooden pavilion**

Clerk to prompt architect again for an update on the scheme design.

**1716 - Any necessary discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field, including tree-felling**

C’Ilr Neil James informed Members that all the trees required to be felled had now been felled, thus completing that work before the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. In addition, the P.C.C. contractors had completed the two culverted crossings, and planted 5 fruit trees alongside the trackway, as agreed. C’Ilr Neil James mentioned the need to import some further stone into the area, to combat the boggy nature of the ground there, and had discussed this informally with the contractor working down there. Clerk to write to Andrew Gray & Sons to ask for a quotation to carry out the necessary work to resolve the situation there.

**1717 - Discussion of arrangements / support for Coronation-related events**

The Clerk confirmed that no further information had been received from the school. Nonetheless, it was known that the school was planning an event, and that this would be open to the community at large. Members approved a £1000 donation to the school, as a donation towards the cost of putting on a community event to celebrate the Coronation (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Janet Jeffries). Clerk to make contact with Mr Ross Williams (acting headmaster) to make arrangements for processing the payment.

[NOTE – C’Ilr Aled Thomas left the meeting at this point with apologies]

### **1718 - Discussion of one-way system in Glebelands**

P.C. Neil Lees had visited the site numerous times over the last couple of months, and had prepared and circulated a comprehensive email with respect to the parking situation in connection with football events on the adjacent sports field.

Members thanked him for the work and time taken in doing this, which was very much appreciated.

Members proceeded to discuss possible ways to achieve further parking provision in the locality. One option was in front of the boundary fence to the left of the field gateway, though it was recognised that this would involve moving the fence back, and would be a P.C.C. matter to implement. It was also suggested that there could be room for 6 or 7 cars between the site gateway and the wooden pavilion within the field, if the gateway could be left open and unimpeded on match days.

Clerk to write to P.C.C. to seek their advice on possible ways to improve the parking situation.

Clerk to write to Mr Steven Jones at the business park, to ask him if he could arrange to have the gates on his rental houses opening inwards rather than outwards to reduce general problems in the area. Message to also ask him for consideration to a controlled access between the estate and the Glebelands Field, to facilitate access on match days, and possibly release some further unofficial parking provision (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Louise Jones).

Regarding a possible one-way system, the Clerk mentioned that P.C.C. had previously indicated that support for action to implement such a scheme need to be demonstrated from a minimum 70% of residents. Clerk to locate the responses from the previous survey of residents undertaken, in the hope that this could be used to reduce the number of properties that would need to be visited to complete the exercise.

### **1719 - Discussion of problem with ungated access to cycle path from Glebelands**

C'llr Neil James reported the problem with badgers coming into the field. He also mentioned problems with the field being insecure at this location. It was mentioned that Sustrans had removed the gate that had previously been at this location when the route was initially opened up. Clerk to write to Sustrans to initiate discussions over a solution to the problem (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Nina Philpott).

### **1720 - Discussion of low kerb on main road by junction with Church Road**

Members did not feel that there was anything they could or should do about this matter, which was a long-standing situation, and which it was not felt posed any safety issues. C'llr Nina Philpott had suggested to the resident concerned that they might want to contact the Welsh Government about the matter if they had concerns. Matter to be left in abeyance.

**Any other business**

**Loose drain cover on main road by chip shop.** C'llr Janet Jeffries reported this as a safety concern, and mentioned that the loose cover was causing surrounding tarmac to break up. Clerk to report to P.C.C. on safety grounds.

**Speed-activated signage.** Possible request for consideration to further signage along main road to be placed on May agenda for discussion.

**Silverdale.** Situation to be placed on May agenda for discussion, in order to try and ascertain the current situation. In meantime, Clerk to ask C'llr Aled Thomas to make enquiries about the situation and plans for the site with officers in P.C.C.

The meeting ended at 9-20pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, to commence with the 2023 A.G.M.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

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