

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 15th May 2023 in the Johnston Institute, Church Road, Johnston, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present: Cllrs Aled Thomas, Nina Philpott (Chairman), Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Neil James, Len Gale, Louise Jones, Christine Wilkins, Kaidan Alenko, Martyn Spilsbury; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : None

1734 - Declarations of known Interests

None

1735 – To receive the minutes from the April 2023 monthly meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and retained for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’lr Len Gale, seconder C’lr Yvonne Llewellyn).

Matters arising

1736 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

C’lr Martyn Spilsbury was currently awaiting final drawings for approval.

1737 - Discussion of quotation for work on bus shelter, St. Peter’s Road

The Clerk had chased the matter up, and been told by P.C.C. that the replacement of the bus shelter was indefinitely on hold. This being the case, Members considered that basic painting of the shelter, and possibly basic maintenance to the roof, should be carried out. C’lr Janet Jeffries to ask her nephew for a quotation to do the necessary work.

1738 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

The Clerk had written to Uzmaston Projects Ltd., but no response had been received to date. A neighbour of C’lr Neil James had been in an accident after tripping over the fingerpost sign. Clerk to write to P.C.C. again to get some pressure applied to resolve the situation on safety grounds.

1739 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators

C’lr Neil James confirmed that he had checked the defibrillators in April. C’lr Janet Jeffries to carry out the checks in May.

1740 - Discussion of establishment of vexatious communication policy

Matter still in hand with Clerk.

1741 – Correspondence on Close Field fenceline.

Infinity Play had put up the new playpark sign as requested, and expected to complete the boundary fence repairs prior to the June meeting.

A message had been received from P.C.C. expressing concern over the amount of broken glass being left around the bins in the Close Field playpark. Clerk to ask P.C. Neil Lees to carry out additional patrols in the playpark as possible.

1742 - New Council houses at Cranham Park

No change, with construction still ongoing. C'Ilr Aled Thomas reported that completion and occupation was now expected to be around the year-end. No houses had been allocated to date. Members were concerned about the situation with Tiers Cross residents rehoused for the duration of the rebuilding of the houses in Tiers Cross now becoming eligible for the houses in Johnston, but Johnston residents not being eligible for the Tiers Cross houses once complete. Members were informed that, apparently, as a result of this issue, one or two of the Tiers Cross houses were apparently to be made available to Johnston applicants.

1743 - Fibre optic cable installation works, The Close.

The Clerk confirmed that he had again reported the matter to P.C.C. However, members reported no change in the situation, apart from an improvement due to the dry weather. Matter to be kept in abeyance until later in the year, and re-assessed at that time.

1744 – fly-tipping.

Clerk to carry out Land Registry search prior to the June meeting, and circulate results when known.

1745 – Damaged panel on bus stop, Glebelands.

Members reported that the damaged panel had now been replaced.

1746 - Discussion of community litter bin provision

P.C.C. had declined to offer a discount for emptying two bins, and also suggested that their stock of new bins for installation was low.

Members resolved to accept the P.C.C. quotation for emptying the Glebelands bin. Additionally, Clerk to ask P.C.C. to supply a specification for the new bin required for Vine Field, ask them if they could install it, and if so the cost. If this was agreed and the bin ultimately installed, members resolved that the two bins should be emptied by P.C.C. at a quoted rate of £10-84 for each bin, based on a twice-weekly emptying frequency (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Nina Philpott).

Orchard Court – Clerk to ask P.C.C. if a bin could be provided at Orchard Court. In the meantime, members to be conscious of diligently reporting any incidences of littering to P.C.C.

1747 – The Close pathway.

The Clerk had reported the overhanging shrub, and members confirmed that the work had now been done to remove this.

1748 – request for path along main road between Bulford Road and roundabout.

The Clerk had passed the matter to Paul Davies S.M. to seek an update from the Welsh Government. This was currently awaited.

1749 - Discussion of closure of GP surgery for maintenance

Work was currently ongoing on the building, based on observations by individual members.

1750 – Impending speed limit reductions in Village.

C’llr Aled Thomas had checked, and the entire stretch of the main road apart from a short section at the southern end of the village on the southern end was due to be reduced to 20mph.

1751 - Discussion of arrangements / support for Coronation-related events

C’llr Louise Jones had been informed that the community event held at the school had gone well, and thanks had been expressed for the donation towards the event made by the community council.

1752 - Loose drain cover on main road by chip shop.

The Clerk confirmed that he had reported this to P.C.C. Members reported that nothing had been done. Clerk to report again. C’llr Martyn Spilsbury to forward a video of the location showing the movement around the chamber, for use in reporting the incident.

Planning

1753 – Withdrawal of planning applications (for info).

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.

Correspondence

1754 - P.C.C. – Response to message about parking issues around Glebelands – noted.

1755 - P.C.C. – Acknowledgement of message about overhanging growth on footpath between The Close and Main Road – dealt with in 1747 above.

1756 - Internal auditor – Internal audit report for 2022/23 accounts – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.

1757 - Sean Milson – Preliminary drawings for Glebelands pavilion replacement project – Dealt with in agenda item below.

1758 - P.C.C. – Response to message requesting update on bus shelter replacement project – dealt with in 1737 above.

1759 - Paul Davies – Acknowledgement of message concerning non-response from Welsh Government about footpath provision on main road – dealt with in 1748 above.

1760 - P.C.C. (via Aled Thomas) – Information on strategic planning for homelessness, including use of Silverdale – dealt with in agenda item below.

1761 - Sustrans – Invitation to event online to discuss effect of forthcoming 20mph speed limit changes, to be held on 17/05/23 – noted.

1762 - Local resident – concerns about traffic problems in Brickhurst Park as a result of the new playpark – dealt with in agenda item below.

Accounts

1763 - Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning April)	:	£ 72-00
Denise Mayr (internal audit fee 2022/23)	:	£ 170-00
Infinity Play (picnic bench supply and installation Glebelands Field)	:	£3007-66
Infinity Play (Installation of Happy to Chat Bench at Glebelands)	:	£1308-71
Infinity Play (Replacement of concrete slab and fixing of bin)	:	£ 161-32

The above payments were approved by members (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Martyn Spilsbury).

1764 - Income

Precept (first instalment) : £12000-00
VAT return (2022/23) : £11043-60

1765 - Internal audit of 2022/23 accounts

The internal auditor had submitted a report. No matters were raised requiring attention. Members voted to accept the report (proposer C'llr Len Gale, seconder C'llr Janet Jeffries).

1766 - Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23

Members completed the annual governance statement and voted to accept it as completed (proposer C'llr Christine Wilkins, seconder C'llr Neil James). The statement was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

1767 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with new playground installation in Vine Field, including neighbouring boundary fencing issues, possible provision of goalposts, etc.

Regarding the unauthorised goalpost on the field, the Clerk informed Members that it was understood to have been removed earlier that day. Members authorised the Clerk to inform the resident concerned that if the goalpost was replaced on the field again without consent, it was liable to be removed and disposed of.

Regarding outstanding work to instal two picnic benches and carry out boundary chainlink fencing, the Clerk confirmed that he understood this was due to be completed within the next month.

Regarding the boundary fencing, members accepted that if the resident concerned should erect a feather edge or similar fence along the boundary, then it may be necessary to erect the chainlink fence slightly into the field.

A letter had been received about reported parking problems at Brickhurst Park as a result of the playpark. Members discussed the matter at length, but could not envisage any simple solution to the perceived problem, and did not necessarily accept that it was as serious as described. Various suggestions were considered, including making parking spaces in the access lane, or seeking ways to make parking provision on the field. However, none were pursued in detail, or seriously considered as viable ways to improve the situation, at least in the short term. The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident concerned, acknowledging their concerns, undertaking to place a notice on the community Facebook page asking residents to exercise consideration, and informing them of the P.C.C. arrangement whereby certain categories of residents in qualifying situations could apply for a dedicated disabled parking space outside their home.

The Clerk informed members that a quotation for provision of goalposts on the field should be available in time for the June meeting.

1768 - Discussion of provision of speed-activated signage on main road

C'llr Len Gale had originally mentioned this, feeling that such a provision could combat speeding. Members agreed with this, but felt it would be better left until after the implementation of the 20mph speed limit. Clerk to ask P.C.C. if any signage could be funded by their arrangement with the Welsh Government in connection with the funding of replacement speed-activated signage needed as a result of the amended speed limit arrangement. Query to be framed for both ends of the village.

1769 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

C'llr Kaidan Alenko had been in communication with the school about the possible project, and asked them to place a notice on their website seeking views on this. Agenda item to be tabled for June, by which time it was hoped that some useful feedback may have been received. In the meantime, C'llr Kaidan Alenko undertook to prepare some initial sketch of possible proposals.

1770 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

Initial sketch plans had been received from the architect for comment. No costings had been included at this stage. Members were happy with the proposals. Clerk to respond asking him for full plans and costings. C'llr Len Gale suggested instead knocking down the pavilion, and re-building it further down the field. However, after discussion, members felt that the existing building footprint was best, and access, utilities, obtaining planning consent, etc., could be serious obstacles to such an approach, and seriously delay any project, potentially for years. In addition, it was pointed out that part of the building was in use by the Sports Association for their equipment, etc.

1771 - Any necessary discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field

C'llr Neil James informed members that P.C.C. had planted 15 trees, which were doing well. The next stage would be to sort out the muddy sections on the track. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Gray and Sons, who had promised to provide a quotation for the work needed. However, no quotation had been received to date. Clerk to contact him again.

As a separate matter, it was mentioned that litter-picking could be carried out by individual young residents as part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, with J.C.C. signing off the forms to certify their activities. Mention of this to be posted on the community Facebook page.

1772 - Discussion of possible one-way system in Glebelands

The Clerk confirmed that while the basic summary of the previous survey had been retained, the forms themselves, with details of individual names and addresses, had not. This meant that any survey carried out would need to be done from scratch. After further discussion, it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance. Members were not aware of any recent complaints, and did not feel that there was much momentum behind the initiative in terms of public pressure or support.

The Clerk confirmed that he had sent a message to Johnston Business Park about the possibility of forming an entrance onto the Glebelands Field, and also about gates opening onto the pavement. No response had been received to date.

Item to be removed from future agendas.

