

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 13th May 2024 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

**Present: Cllrs Aled Thomas (Chairman), Nina Philpott (vice-Chairman), Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Len Gale, Neil James, Tracey Young, Christine Wilkins, Martyn Spilsbury, Grayham Passmore; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies : C'llrs Kaidan Alenko, Louise Jones.**

2093 - Declarations of known Interests

None

2094 – To receive the minutes from the April 2024 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'llr Aled Thomas, seconder C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn).

Matters arising

2095 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

No progress had been noted. C'llr Neil James reported that four street lights were still non-functional. C'llr Aled Thomas mentioned that a response from Darren Thomas of P.C.C. was currently awaited.

2096 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators

The Clerk confirmed that he had checked the defibrillators in April, and all had been in order.

2097 – request for path along main road from Bulford Road to roundabout.

Nothing further heard to date.

2098 - Discussion of traffic issues at junction of Langford Road / Main Road

A response had been received from the Welsh Government, to state that the location was being considered along with others across the trunk road network.

2098 - Discussion of speeding problems and pavement provision, Hayston Road and Church Road

C'llr Aled Thomas had received a further response from P.C.C. to indicate that there was no statutory requirement to provide a footpath, but that works had been put forward for approval under the minor works scheme for the forthcoming year. No formal approval had been given as yet. C'llr Aled Thomas was of the view that, as a minimum, the design work should be done this year, and possibly at least some of the construction work.

2099 - Discussion of possible purchase of planter for village entrance

C'llr Aled Thomas reported on a telephone meeting that had taken place with Welsh Government officers. No site meeting had yet been set up, due to schedule clashes. This was expected to be arranged soon. C'llr Aled Thomas said that planters were not favoured by the Welsh Government, due to safety concerns. Flower beds were preferred. Therefore, it was unlikely that agreement would be reached for planters to be placed at the village entrances. Members felt that any viable option that would enhance the village approaches would be acceptable. C'llr Grayham Passmore

suggested the possibility of raised, planted earth banks as being a possibility that would be visible to approaching motorists. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to let Members know of the planned date / time of the site meeting, so that any members who wished to do so could attend. He also mentioned that the proposed location at the southern end of the village fell outside his ward area, so he had needed to clear his involvement with the relevant councillor.

2100 - Discussion of WW1 memorial bench provision

No further update at present from seat fabricators.

C'llr Neil James had spoken with the church vicar, who had confirmed that the church would have no objections to the proposed location for the seat opposite the cenotaph. It was recognised, though, that permission would be needed from P.C.C., as the land fell in their ownership. C'llr Neil James to forward to Clerk a map of the exact proposed location, for the Clerk to investigate with P.C.C. any potential licensing requirements.

2101 - Discussion of littering problem in community

The Clerk had contacted the Envirocrime Team, who had responded to confirm that they would factor in the information into their schedule of patrols.

2102 - Wild flower seeding.

C'llr Neil James had spoken to Aethne Cooke of P.C.C. about this matter. She had stressed the importance of only scattering native seeds.

Agenda item to be tabled for any necessary further discussion in June. In the meantime, Clerk to forward email to all members to remind them of the importance of restricting any seed-scattering to native wild flower species only.

Planning

2103 - Application consultations received

24/0052/PA - Renewal of variation of condition 1 (Approved Plans) from planning consent 04/0070/PA (Residential Development) to allow the provision of a turning head and additional parking for plots 59-60 and 82-86; Site Address: Site to the east of the existing petrol, Pond Bridge, Johnston, Haverfordwest - no comments.

2104 - Consents issued

23/1061/PA - Single storey conservatory extension to rear elevation.

Site Address: 8, Bulford Close, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3EX

2105 - Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. - Confirmation of bus shelter ownership - noted.
- 2) Treeworks - Quotation for tree survey - Members agreed to proceed with the tree survey as quoted (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Grayham Passmore).
- 3) O.V.W. - Legal advice on matters concerning Vine Field - dealt with in agenda item 2109 below.
- 4) Trueform - Confirmation of arrangements to repair wooden boundary fence adjacent to Moors Road - noted.
- 5) St. Peter's Church - Request for grass-cutting donation - agenda item to be tabled for discussion in June, along with other annual donations.

- 6) Paul Davies, S.M. - Written response to query about Langford Road junction - dealt with in 2098 above.
- 7) Local resident - Message in favour of retaining existing 20mph speed limit along main road - C'llr Aled Thomas to contact the resident privately, to explain the situation regarding responsibility for deciding such matters, and the forthcoming consultation exercise expected to take place. If a further agenda item was needed, C'llr Aled Thomas to advise the Clerk accordingly.
- 8) Internal auditor - internal audit report from 2023/24 accounts - dealt with in 'Accounts' below.

Accounts

2106 - Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 72-00
Denise Mayr (internal audit report)	:	£175-00
Johnston Football Club (pre-season grass-cutting)	:	£260-00
C'llr Neil James (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00
C'llr Janet Jeffries (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00
C'llr Chrisine Wilkins (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00
C'llr Len Gale (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00
C'llr Martyn Spilsbury (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00
C'llr Kaidan Alenko (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00
C'llr Grayham Passmore (member / consumables allowance 2024/25):	:	£208-00
C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00
C'llr Nina Philpott (member / consumables allowance 2024/25)	:	£208-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Aled Thomas, seconder C'llr Tracey Young).

2107 - Internal audit of 2023/24 accounts.

The report was accepted by Members (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Len Gale).

2108 - Grass-cutting contract. Clerk to send this over to Johnston Sports Association for pricing (proposer C'llr Aled Thomas, seconder C'llr Neil James).

2109 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Unauthorised items in field. The Clerk had been informed by the Playground Inspector that, at the time of his last inspection, all unauthorised items had been removed from the field. The clerk had provided him with stickers to affix to any further items that should appear on the field. The Clerk had also obtained legal advice to confirm that the community council would be within its legal rights to remove and dispose of any unauthorised items, following a reasonable notice period. Agenda item to discuss future policy on how to address future occurrences to be placed on July agenda.

Litter bin. It had been reported to C'llr Nina Philpott that the bin had not been emptied for over a month. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to seek to get this issue addressed.

Rear access gate from 13, Brickhurst Park. Members were unsure whether or not the gate had been installed. Clerk to ask the Playground Inspector to check this during his next inspection.

2110 - Discussion of CCTV coverage in Close Field Playpark

Due to recent problems with glass-smashing, etc., some residents had been asking for CCTV to be provided in the playpark. It was noted that this had been considered previously, but ruled out on cost grounds, and due to legal complications.

Nonetheless, it was accepted that the matter could legitimately be re-visited as a period of some years had passed since it had last been looked at in detail. The cost in ongoing repairs, clean-up operations and potential liabilities was a valid factor in considering the overall cost of any potential scheme.

Members acknowledged that introducing CCTV would not be straightforward. It was agreed to place this on the June agenda for further discussion. In the meantime, C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to consult a local specialist company, to get information on possible costs, options, and legal factors that would need to be considered.

2111 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

C'llrs Aled Thomas and Kaidan Alenko had prepared draft questionnaires for use in gauging local opinion regarding the proposals. This was circulated to all Members by WhatsApp for comment. Final versions to be circulated to all Members once complete, via Clerk.

It was agreed that the printed questionnaires would be distributed as soon as practicable, and hopefully within the next 7-10 days following the meeting. A response deadline of 1st July 2024 was agreed, to allow time for responses to be collated in time for a full discussion in the July meeting. In addition, C'llr Nina Philpott undertook to publicise the survey via the community Facebook page.

2112 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

Arrangements were in hand to establish the working group to take the project forward and pursue funding options. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in June, by which time it was hoped the initial meeting would have taken place.

2113 - Any necessary discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field

C'llr Neil James mentioned that P.C.C. was considering placing a plaque at the site of the new footpath, to publicise the funding. She had asked if J.C.C. had its own logo that could be used for this purpose. She had also indicated that she could be available for a site meeting to discuss further work for the current financial year. C'llr Neil James to let other Members know when the site meeting had been arranged, so that any interested Members could attend.

Members thanked C'llr Neil James for his ongoing efforts and input into developing the area for community use, and also for his prompt response to the query over the deposits noted along the path.

2114 - Discussion of arrangements for future community website provision

The Clerk confirmed that he would be attending the forthcoming training sessions being arranged by P.C.C./, with the aim of possibly setting up a free Google-hosted website. Clerk to report back to the council once the training had been completed, so that decisions on the preferred route could be further discussed.

2115 - Discussion of abandoned caravans and vehicles in community

Reports had been received about an abandoned van in Brickhurst Park, and also a caravan on land close to the cycle path near Hillcroft.

Clerk to let P.C.C. know of the vehicle in Brickhurst Park, and also the caravan.

C'llr Grayham Passmore mentioned a black Rover with flat tyres parked on the road in Fairview. The Clerk confirmed that if the necessary details on exact location / numberplate, etc., were provided to him, this could also be reported, if it appeared to be abandoned, due to having no MoT and / or road tax.

2116 - Discussion of arrangements for repair of bus shelter broken panes

The Clerk had received a message from P.C.C., to say that the Authority had insufficient manpower resources to carry out bus shelter repairs for the community council.

C'llr Len Gale suggested that the Johnston Mens' Shed might be a good option. Insurance of the work was considered, and it was confirmed that the Mens' Shed held their own public liability insurance.

It was agreed that the community council would ask the Mens' Shed to carry out the work, with the community council covering any materials costs (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Christine Wilkins). C'llr Len Gale confirmed that they would be able to obtain the materials, and arrange for any invoices to be made out in the name of the community council.

2117 - Discussion of possible litter bin provision, Hillcroft field

Problems had been reported with litter being scattered around, especially during and after scheduled football matches. It was noted that P.C.C. was the owner of the field. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to ask for a litter bin to be sited in the area. C'llr Nina Philpott to forward to the Clerk a plan showing the preferred location for a bin.

2118 - Any other business

Johnston F.C. Members were informed that Johnston F.C. had won the football Division 2 knockout cup in a match against Monkton. Members were very impressed with this achievement. The Clerk undertook to send a letter of congratulation to the Football Team.

Community Council documentation. A large quantity of historical documentation had been obtained by C'llr Neil James from a previous Clerk. He was in the process of sorting this out, and would pass the important documentation to the Clerk when this process was complete.

The meeting ended at 9-00pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 10th June 2024.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....