

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 9th June 2025 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

**Present: Cllrs Yvonne Llewellyn, Tracey Young, Nina Philpott, Rikki Schroeder, Neil James, Christine Wilkins, Louise Jones, Janet Jeffries, Grayham Passmore, Aled Thomas, Len Gale; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies : None.**

2400 - Declarations of known Interests

None.

2401 – To receive the minutes from the May 2025 monthly meeting and 2025 A.G.M.

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'lr Louise Jones, seconder C'lr Yvonne Llewellyn).

2402 - Any necessary discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field

Members welcomed to the meeting Mr. Matt Sandell and an associated group of volunteers, who had been assisting with litter picking in the Cunnigar Woods area. Members expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation for the efforts the group had made to date. They had expressed a willingness to assist with other woodland management activities in the area as well, and had many of the certifications necessary for these activities, including forestry 1st aid, etc.

In terms of future activities, C'lr Neil James confirmed that Aethne Cooke of P.C.C. had expressed an interest in meeting the group on site to discuss what could be done in the future. Mr Sandell confirmed that they would be very willing to do this. In terms of their activities, he said they would be very happy to continue doing what they had done to date, and discuss other activities on a case-by-case basis. C'lr Neil James suggested that grass-cutting in the woodland areas might be a very worthwhile contribution, if they were willing and equipped to do so.

The matter of public liability and insurance were briefly discussed. The Clerk confirmed that, while working on behalf of the community council, it had been confirmed that the group would be covered by the community council public liability insurance policy for any incidents that came under the policy umbrella. It was stressed that the group should only carry out activities for which they held the appropriate certifications. It was also stressed that risk assessments should be completed in advance for all activities, and copies provided to the community council. C'lr Neil James offered to assist with that, and Clerk to forward blank risk assessment forms and some previous risk assessments that may provide a useful template. In terms of costs that might be incurred by the group (fuel, etc.), it was confirmed that the community council would reimburse these on production of receipts.

Potential arrangements for hiring tools, and also obtaining litter-picking equipment, etc., to be investigated by the community council. Clerk to make enquiries about potentially opening an account with a local tool hire company, and liaise with Matthew Sandell concerning the most convenient arrangement.

Finally, the group was asked to inform the community council by email in advance of any planned activities in the woodland, so that a record could be kept. Following this,

the group left the meeting with Members' thanks for their willingness to assist the community in the ways discussed.

Regarding the planned boardwalk, quotations had been received from F.J. Groundworks, and C'llr Neil James had discussed these with Aethne Cooke of P.C.C. She had indicated that this work could potentially be funded via the Places for Nature grant scheme, but that a different specification would be preferred. C'llr Neil James to seek an alternative quotation for the specification described by Aethne Cooke.

2403 - Opportunity for public representations on tabled agenda items

One member of the public was present, and commented on the item discussed regarding Glebelands Field, suggesting that an ecological survey should be done. It was pointed out that this had already been done.

Matters arising

2404 – request for path along main road from Bulford Road to roundabout.

No updates. C'llr Aled Thomas had raised the matter again with officers in P.C.C., and there was a possibility of minor works funding to be used to get this project done at some point, though not necessarily soon.

2405 - Discussion of speeding problems and pavement provision, Hayston Road and Church Road

[NOTE – C'llr Neil James declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in the discussion, as a resident affected by the proposals, but not to an extent greater than other residents in the vicinity]

Options for improving the road had been circulated. There were four of these. Members proceeded to discuss the relative merits of these. C'llr Neil James felt that the community council should hold off from making any recommendation on a preferred option until affected residents had been consulted. Other members agreed. However, C'llr Aled Thomas was unsure if the plans were cleared by P.C.C. to be circulated publicly at this time.

Matter to be placed on July agenda for further discussion. In the meantime, C'llr Aled Thomas to seek advice on whether or not plans could be made public by the community council. C'llr Aled Thomas also undertook to invite Will Davies (P.C.C. Highways Department) to the July meeting.

2406 - Discussion of arrangements to mark recent efforts of local schoolchildren in litter-picking

In hand, with the school Headmaster arranging an assembly at which this could be done.

2407 - Boundary fence between Moors Road and Close Field.

The Castle Homes email reply was read out. Members were completely satisfied that the fence was Castle Homes responsibility. It was pointed out that this eventuality had been flagged up when the fence was first constructed. Clerk to respond accordingly, and to offer a site visit to discuss in detail if this would be beneficial.

2408 - Discussion about anti-social behaviour in community

No updates to report.

2409 - Discussion of schools transport policy consultation

C’Ilr Aled Thomas informed members that a P.C.C. Council meeting was scheduled for the following day to discuss this matter.

2410 - Discussion of maintenance of bat house on land off Cranham Park

Still in hand, with C’Ilr Aled Thomas to discuss with officers in P.C.C. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in July.

2411 - Planning

Planning application consents notified

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: Site to the east of the existing petrol filling station, Pond Bridge, Johnston, Haverfordwest

24/1123/PA - Extension and Attic Conversion; Site Address: 3, Brickhurst Close, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PH

2412 - Correspondence

01) Johnston Men’s Shed – Request for financial assistance – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.

02) Heart of Johnston – Request for financial assistance – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.

03) Castle Homes – Response to message about lower boundary fence – dealt with in 2047 above.

04) Johnston Sports Association – Grass cutting contract for 2025 season – dealt with in 2422 below.

05) Hywel Dda – Invitation to online consultation meeting on future service delivery – noted.

06) Playground inspection reports – dealt with in 2414 and 2415 below.

07) F.J. Groundworks – quotations for work at Glebelands Field – dealt with in 2402 above.

08) P.C.C. – Design concept options for Church Road highway improvements – dealt with in 2405 above.

2413 - Accounts

Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, May 2025) : £ 72-00

Easy Websites (direct debit for website / email provision) : £ 36-96

Clerk (salary, April – June 2025) : As per contract

H.M.R.C. (PAYE tax and Employer N.I. contributions) : As per contract

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Nina Philpott, seconder C’Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn).

Discussion of charitable donations / donations to local groups

Members approved the following charitable / community donations :

Johnston Men’s Shed [NOTE – C’Ilrs Neil James, Len Gale and Grayham

Passmore declared personal and prejudicial interests in this donation, as members of the Man’s Shed or having a proprietary interest in it, and left the room while it was under discussion]NJ / LG / GP declared P&P Interest, and left room]

£500 approved (proposer C’Ilr Rikki Shroeder, seconder C’Ilr Nina Philpott).

Heart of Johnston [NOTE – C’Ilr Louise Jones declared a personal but non prejudicial interest in this donation, as a person involved with the group, but not in a controlling capacity]

£500 approved (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Len Gale).

Johnston Church

£400 approved for grass-cutting in cemetery (proposer C’Ilr Janet Jeffries, seconder C’Ilr Neil James).

Johnston Chapel [NOTE – C’Ilr Grayham Passmore declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in this donation, as a member of the chapel, but not in a controlling capacity]

£400 approved for grass-cutting (proposer C’Ilr Janet Jeffries, seconder C’Ilr Len Gale).

Paul Sartori Foundation

£100 approved (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Len Gale).

Sandy Bear [NOTE – C’Ilr Nina Philpott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this donation, as a trustee of the charity, and left the room while it was under discussion]

£400 approved (proposer C’Ilr Janet Jeffries, seconder C’Ilr Neil James).

Sunshine Club

£500 approved (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn)

Milford Haven Junior Town Band

£100 approved (proposer C’Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C’Ilr Len Gale).

Pembs Y.F.C. [NOTE – C’Ilr Aled Thomas declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this donation, as a trustee of the organisation, and left the room while it was under discussion. C’Ilr Nina Philpott chaired the discussion on this donation]

£100 approved (proposer C’Ilr Louise Jones, seconder C’Ilr Janet Jeffries).

Wales Air Ambulance

£100 approved (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Len Gale).

2414 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Sheep-netting fence. Repair / replacement of fence straining wire in hand with C’Ilr Aled Thomas.

Litter bin. On order, and due to be fitted when received.

Fence bordering K.O. Carpets. The Clerk had reported this to K.O. Carpets, with a request for them to arrange repairs. Clerk to chase up if this had not been done by the end of the month.

Playpark inspection reports. Members noted that the latest inspection report did not include any items deemed important to bring to the council’s attention.

2415 - Any necessary discussion of issues in Close Field

Glass. C’Ilr Nina Philpott had been told by a local resident that they had removed a large quantity of broken glass from the playpark.

Playpark inspection reports. Members noted that the latest inspection report did not include any items deemed important to bring to the council’s attention.

2416 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

In hand with C’Ilr Aled Thomas to arrange for a meeting to discuss options with Sinead Heneghan of P.C.C.

2417 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

C'llrs Aled Thomas and Neil James had been discussing the matter in detail, and had visited the pavilion a number of times to assess the situation. They had concluded that there was a lot of stored materials and items there that simply needed getting rid of. In addition, the aging wooden structure made the pavilion an ongoing liability to the council. In terms of its replacement, they had formed the view that pursuing the scheme as outlined to date might be difficult for the community council to achieve, due to the level of funding required (estimated at around £300,000). Furthermore, it appeared that some of the suggested uses for the planned building might actually not be required at all. It was suggested that, if the pavilion was turned over to a local organisation, and the plans for replacing it altered to a more modest proposal, then funding by an outside organisation for its replacement might be much easier to obtain. If this route was pursued, then it would be necessary to obtain a valuation for the shed, and then proceed to sound out local organisations that might be interested in taking it on.

C'llr Nina Philpott felt that the community council should sound out local groups first, before spending money on valuations, etc., given that the community council had already spent several thousand pounds on plans, etc. However, it was thought that it might be possible to get a valuation done via P.C.C. without cost.

Clerk to investigate arrangements for getting valuation done by P.C.C.

C'llr Neil James to research the cost of a large skip to remove the rubbish and surplus stored items from the pavilion.

2418 - Discussion of applications for co-option of new council member

No applications received.

2419 - Discussion of traffic problems in Old School Lane / Cranham Park

C'llr Aled Thomas had spoken to the P.C.C. Head of Housing, who had the matter in hand, and had indicated that it was a priority for them to resolve. C'llr Janet Jeffries had been approached by someone suggesting that a one-way system in that area could be beneficial. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to pass that on for consideration.

2420 - Discussion of badger activity in Glebelands estate

C'llr Louise Jones had been told that badgers had been coming out of the area around the field, and rifling through the rubbish outside properties in Glebelands, and causing problems. On discussion, it appeared that they were probably accessing the estate through a gap in the railings between Glebelands and Cunnigar Lane. CV'llr Nina Philpott to pass a photograph of the location of the hole in the fence to the Clerk, for this to be passed to P.C.C. with a request for it to be closed up. Also, Members to be aware of monitoring the situation, in order to try and gain more specific information about the problem.

2421 - Any update on Valero community tree-planting initiative

C'llr Neil James and other volunteers, including others from the Men's Shed, had participated in a planting day the previous Friday. Around 130 trees had been planted in the school meadow. Arrangements were in hand for planting of the remaining trees.

2422 - Discussion / approval of 2025 grass-cutting contract

The priced quotation from Johnston F.C. was approved by Members (proposer C'llr Louise Jones, seconder C'llr Neil James). Clerk to inform them accordingly.

2423 - Any other business

Illegal parking. Members had noted various vehicles dangerously parked near the junction of Langford Road and the Main Road, outside the chip shop. Matter to be tabled for discussion in July.

Man's Shed training. C'llr Grayham mentioned that training was available on an ongoing basis, funded by a grant received by the Neyland Men's Shed, but available to other local organisations / volunteers. It was anticipated that this would be a regular / ongoing programme, and free to participants. He undertook to pass details to the Clerk, for this to be circulated to all Members.

Threatening individual on cycle path. Previous reports about someone on the cycle path engaging in threatening and intimidating behaviour had culminated in the individual concerned being arrested and bailed with strict conditions. However, it had been reported that he had again been seen on the cycle path engaging in similar behaviour. Members were asked to encourage anyone affected by this to report the matter immediately to 101.

Ken Rowlands. Members were informed that a recent special assembly had been held to recognise Ken Rowlands' contribution to local community affairs over the years. The School had named the meadow area after him, placed a plaque on the premises to mark this, and also initiated an annual award scheme in his name.

Glebelands. C'llr Neil James reported that the sign on the main gate had been damaged. To be discussed in July meeting.

The meeting ended at 9-22pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 7th July 2025.

Signed.....Chairman

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