

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 10th June 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, Christine Wilkins, Martyn Spilsbury, Kaidan Alenko, Louise Jones; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies : C'Ilrs Tracey Young, Grayham Passmore.**

2119 - Declarations of known Interests

C'Ilr Aled Thomas declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any discussion on possible donations to the Pembrokeshire Young Farmers' Club.

C'Ilr Nina Philpott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any discussion on possible donations to the Sandy Bear charity.

2120 – To receive the minutes from the 2024 A.G.M. and May 2024 monthly meeting

The 2024 A.G.M minutes were approved as written (proposer C'Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C'Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn).

The minutes of the May 2024 monthly meeting were approved as written (proposer C'Ilr Christine Wilkins, seconder C'Ilr Aled Thomas).

Matters arising

2121 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had spoken to officers in the P.C.C. Highways department. The officers had reported that the developers had provided assurances that the final work needed to make the footpath ready for adoption would be carried out shortly. This being the case, it was hoped that the adoption would be able to proceed fairly soon.

2122 – request for path along main road from Bulford Road to roundabout.

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had heard nothing further from the Welsh Government. However, he had discussed the matter with Stephen Crabb, M.P., who felt that the matter was important, and should be pursued as a priority. C'Ilr Aled Thomas recommended that the matter be taken up afresh once the general election had passed.

2123 - Discussion of speeding problems and pavement provision, Hayston Road and Church Road

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had been told by P.C.C. that funding had been approved for the scheme design to be carried out in the current financial year. If there were available funds later in the year, it was possible that construction might also commence, but his was not certain.

2124 - Discussion of possible purchase of planter for village entrance

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had arranged a site meeting to discuss the matter with Trunk Road Agency officers on 5th July. Any community council members who wished to attend would be welcome to do so.

2125 - Discussion of WW1 memorial bench provision

C'llr Martyn Spilsbury had obtained a 15% size scale model of the proposed bench. This was shown to members. The final quoted cost to produce the actual bench would be £2655 + VAT. A 50% deposit would be required in order to proceed with the fabrication. Members agreed to proceed with the Highways licence application, and approved the purchase of the bench, and initial 50% payment (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Louise Jones). Clerk to make arrangements to complete and submit the license application.

2126 - Discussion of littering problem in community

C'llr Nina Philpott mentioned that 4-5 local schoolchildren had been carrying out litter-picking around the village. Members were very impressed with the attitude and initiative being shown by the children concerned. The possibility of making some kind of presentation to them to recognise their work was discussed. It was left for C'llr Nina Philpott to obtain the names of the children concerned, with a view to some kind of appropriate presentation being arranged for July.

2127 - Letter from local resident concerned about traffic speeds in village.

C'llr Aled Thomas had spoken to the resident concerned, who had reiterated their concern over traffic speeds in the village. He had explained to them the role of the Trunk Road Agency in the matter, and informed them of the forthcoming review of speed limits that was planned. The resident had also asked if consideration could be given to placing speed-activated signage at the village entrances. Clerk to write to the Trunk Road Agency to raise this matter for consideration (proposer C'llr Aled Thomas, seconder C'llr Neil James).

2128 - Discussion of arrangements for future community website provision

Clerk to attend initial training session planned by P.C.C. for July.

2129 - Discussion of abandoned caravans and vehicles in community

The vehicles had been reported to P.C.C. by the Clerk. Members reported that the caravan parked by the cycle path, and the van parked in Brickhurst Park, had both gone. It was not known if the black Rover parked in Hillcroft had been removed.

2130 - Discussion of arrangements for repair of bus shelter broken panes

C'llr Len Gale informed Members that the Men's Shed volunteers would not, after all, be in a position to take on this work. Clerk to make enquiries with C'llr John Cole, to see if the contractors he had been contacting about similar work in Merlin's Bridge might be in a position to quote for the necessary repairs. Members agreed in principle to approve the work, subject to informal approval of a circulated quotation when obtained, for subsequent formal ratification. In addition, C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to speak with P.C.C. officers about the matter, to see if anything could be arranged via them.

2131 - Discussion of possible litter bin provision, Hillcroft field

No response had been received back from P.C.C. to the request for a litter bin to be installed in the vicinity of Hillcroft Playing Field. Clerk to chase up a response.

2132 - Community Council documentation.

Still in hand with C'llr Neil James

Planning matters

2133 - Application consultations received

24/0209/PA - Proposed single storey extension to south elevation to dwelling.

Site Address: 42, Langford Road, Johnston, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PX - no comments.

24/0199/PA - Proposed Extension and Attic Conversion; Site Address: 3, Brickhurst Close, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PH - no comments.

2134 - Other Planning matters

C'llr Aled Thomas had received numerous contacts from residents concerned about the recent approval granted for holiday accommodation at The Silverdale. As a result, he had made enquiries with the Planning officers about the consent. It had been confirmed that there were strict occupancy conditions placed on the new units, which would limit stays to no more than 28 days. Assurances had been given that there was no intention to use it for additional accommodation for homeless persons.

2135 - Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. - Acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning 'abandoned' vehicles - dealt with in 2129 above.
- 2) Treeworks - Confirmation of arrangements to carry out tree survey work - noted.
- 3) Infinity Play - Playground inspection reports - dealt with agenda items below.
- 4) P.C.C. - Confirmation of licensing requirement for potential bench installation on verge outside St. Peter's Church - dealt with in 2125 above.
- 5) Johnston F.C. - Completed quotation for community grass-cutting - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) P.C.C. - Confirmation of removal of one litter bin from Close Field - Clerk to ask Infinity Play to re-site the bin currently situated on the area below the play equipment, and which was relatively little-used, and position it on the site of the recently-removed bin (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Aled Thomas). P.C.C. to be notified retrospectively once the bin relocation had been completed.
- 7) Local resident - Concerns over recent planning application for development at The Silverdale - Dealt with in 'Planning' above. C'llr Aled Thomas mentioned that he had responded directly to the resident concerned.
- 8) Boundary Commission for Wales - Information regarding ongoing process to review community council boundaries - noted.
- 9) W.G. - Information regarding forthcoming review of 20mph speed limits - noted.

Accounts (to include approval of 2023/24 accounting statement and annual governance statement, and consideration of charitable donations)

2136 - Discussion of charitable donations

The following donations were approved by all Members :

St Peter's Church (for grass-cutting)	:	£350
Johnston Chapel (for grass-cutting)	:	£350
Sunshine Club	:	£600
Milford Haven Junior Town Band	:	£100
Welsh Air Ambulance	:	£200

(proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Len Gale).

In addition, the following charitable donations was approved in the absence of individual Members who declared conflicts of interest in individual donations :

Johnston Men's Shed : £200 (proposer C'Ilr Christine Wilkins, seconder C'Ilr Janet Jeffries) [NOTE - C'Ilrs Neil James and Len Gale declared personal and prejudicial interests in this donation, as members with responsibility in the organisation. They left the room during discussion and voting on this donation].

Sandy Bear : £200 (proposer C'Ilr Louise Jones, seconder C'Ilr Aled Thomas). [NOTE - C'Ilr Nina Philpott declared personal and prejudicial interest in this donation, as a trustee with responsibility in the organisation. She left the room during discussion and voting on this donation].

Pembrokeshire Y.F.C. : £200 (proposer C'Ilr Louise Jones, seconder C'Ilr Christine Wilkins). [NOTE - C'Ilr Aled Thomas declared personal and prejudicial interests in this donation, as a trustee with responsibility in the organisation. He left the room during discussion and voting on this donation. C'Ilr Nina Philpott chaired the meeting for the discussion on this donation].

2137 - Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 72-00
Clerk (salary and fixed expenses, April - June 2024)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)	:	As per contract
Wales Audit Office (External audit of 2022/23 accounts)	:	£200-00
P.C.C. (Highways license application for memorial bench	:	£197-00
Brilliant Fabrications Ltd (50% deposit for bench)	:	£1593-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C'Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn).

2138 - Approval of 2023/24 Accounting / Annual Governance Statement

This was completed by Members, and held by the Clerk for subsequent signature by the Chairman (proposer C'Ilr Nina Philpott, seconder C'Ilr Kaidan Alenko).

2139 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field (including discussion on protocol to deal with unauthorised items in field)

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had spoken to a resident living adjacent to the field, who had commenced work on a trench to alleviate supposed flooding in the access lane. C'Ilr Christine Wilkins had received representations about grass cutting between the path and northern field boundary, and asked if the resident concerned could cut this herself. Members were not concerned about this being done.

Members did not think the gate from 13 Brickhurst Park had been installed. C'Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to check. If the work was not complete, Clerk to send a letter to say that if the gate was not completed by the July meeting, then consideration would be given to other options.

2140 - Discussion of issues in Close Field (including possible consideration of CCTV coverage, and consideration of measures to address unauthorised excavations around Skate Park)

CCTV. C'Ilr Aled Thomas had discussed the matter with Gem Services. They had offered to provide a formal quotation for CCTV provision if required. The cost of any installation would need to include for getting electricity into the site, obtaining planning consent for a pole, and installing the necessary equipment for monitoring and data storage in an on-site cabinet. Viewing the data would need a formal JCC protocol - possibly something like three members present to view any footage. This would need to be put in place if any installation was to go ahead. C'Ilr Neil James

expressed concern about likely damage to any cabinets installed. C'Ilr Aled Thomas thought this might be able to be incorporated into the actual pole, but would need to be looked at in detail as part of any scheme.

Members were agreed that recent incidents / trends in the playpark made it important to consider the matter in more detail. It was agreed for C'Ilr Aled Thomas to set up a site meeting with Gem Services, to look at the matter in more detail, and inform the process of getting a quotation. In addition, C'Ilr Neil James suggested that it might be worth speaking with P.C. Neil Lees, to see if there was any possibility of grant assistance towards the cost of any such scheme.

Damage around skate park. Members were concerned about recent damage in the vicinity of the skatepark, with bike tracks having been formed around and along the noise barrier. There had also been other recent damage to some safer surfacing in the children's play area. C'Ilr Nina Philpott undertook to put a Facebook post on the community Facebook page, drawing attention to the problem. Posting to make it clear that, if such damage was to continue, it may become necessary to close the playpark. Clerk to ask P.C.S.O. Adam Thomas to carry out additional patrols in the playpark if possible,

2141 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

C'Ilrs Aled Thomas and Kaidan Alenko had prepared a questionnaire to seek residents' views on the idea of providing a roller-skating rink. C'Ilr Aled Thomas had brought these to the meeting. C'Ilr Kaidan Alenko kindly offered to undertake the delivery of the questionnaires throughout the village, which Members appreciated. C'Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to get them to C'Ilr Kaidan Alenko for this purpose. Results to be discussed in July meeting agenda item.

2142 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

In hand with C'Ilrs Neil James and Nina Philpott.

2143 - Any necessary discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field (including wild flower seeding of selected areas)

Nothing to report this month.

2144 - Discussion of grass-cutting contract for 2024 season

Recreational area grass-cutting. Members accepted the priced grass-cutting contract for the community recreational areas as quoted by the Johnston F.C. (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Louise Jones). Clerk to forward completed contract to Glenn Murray.

2145 - Discussion of encroaching growth around the Milford Road bus shelter (northbound side of road)

C'Ilr Neil James reported encroaching growth to the rear / side of the Milford Road bus shelter (west side). Clerk to report this to the T.R.A., with a request for this to be addressed. Message to also include a request to look at a dead Ash tree behind the Vine Road bus shelter (west side), which C'Ilr Christine Wilkins reported as being in poor condition.

2146 - Discussion of need for adult pad replacements on three community defibrillators

Clerk to obtain and install new adult defibrillator pads to three units, on which the current pads had passed their expiry dates (proposer C'Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C'Ilr Christine Wilkins). Clerk to check the units at the same time.

2147 - Any other business

Skip in The Close, outside No. 23. Members had noted an unlit skip at this location, that had been there for a considerable length of time. C'Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to look into this.

Water stopcocks, Moors Road. C'Ilr Christine Wilkins had received a call from a resident of Moors Road who had been unable to turn their external stop-tap off recently, due to it being positioned in the road, and a van being parked over it. It was pointed out that the road was unadopted at present, so there was little to be done. However, it was suggested that the resident involved be advised to contact P.C.C. for advice once the road had been adopted.

Taxi parked on pavement opposite Orchard Court. Members reported a recurring issue with a taxi being parked at this location, and preventing pedestrian passage, as well as blocking the crossing point. C'Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to go down and have a chat with the owners about the matter.

Remembrance Day arrangements for 2024. C'Ilr Neil James had been in conversation with Bronwen Scale, who had offered to look after some musical functions at the service this year. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion / agreement in July.

The meeting ended at 8-50pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 8th July 2024.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....
