

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 14th July 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.

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None.

2424 - Declaration of known interests

None.

2425 - Approval of minutes of June 2025 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'llr Louise Jones, seconder C'llr Nina Philpott).

2426 - Opportunity for public representations on tabled agenda items

Glenn Murray was present to make comments regarding the situation with the wooden pavilion. He mentioned that the pavilion was progressively deteriorating, and that some sections may potentially not last through the coming winter. He wished to draw attention to this, and was seeking an understanding of the community council's proposals to deal with the situation.

2427 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

C'llr Aled Thomas had obtained a quotation for a skip. This would be £375 for non-hazardous waste. There was no hazardous waste in the building as far as Members were aware. Glenn Murry, who was present at the meeting, offered to arrange to clear the building out once the skip was delivered. He suggested ordering a skip complete with covers, to lessen the likelihood of it being used for dumping by local residents. Members agreed for C'llr Aled Thomas to arrange for a skip to be hired and delivered sometime after August 9th (proposer C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn, seconder C'llr Nina Philpott).

Regarding proposals for the future of the pavilion, it was noted that P.C.C. would not undertake a valuation of the building. C'llr Neil James outlined the options open to the council. One was to proceed with plans for a new building along the lines of that for which planning consent had been obtained. For reasons previously discussed, this was not considered viable. The second option was to turn the building and site over to a third party organisation, though none had been identified to date. The third option was to pro-actively demolish the building either totally or partly, and replace with shipping containers to house the grass-cutting equipment, etc. These could potentially simply be housed on the existing concrete slab. Whether or not the building was completely demolished, or the newer, better-condition half left to remain, would in part be dependent on likely costings.

C'llr Aled Thomas felt that the council should deal pro-actively with the building, given the comments made about its generally poor condition. Members agreed for Glenn Murray / C'llr Neil James and C'llr Louise Jones to liaise over obtaining

quotations for demolishing all or half of the shed, in readiness for a more detailed discussion in September. Prices for suitable containers to also be sought, with Glenn Murray providing information on what size of container(s) would be needed.

[NOTE – C’llrs Christine Wilkins and Rikki Schroeder entered the meeting at this point]

Matters arising

2428 - Discussion of arrangements to mark recent efforts of local schoolchildren in litter-picking

In hand, with the end of term assembly due to be held later that week, and C’llr Aled Thomas planning to attend.

2429 - Boundary fence between Moors Road and Close Field.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Castle Homes as requested, pointing out the community council’s position that the fence remained the responsibility of Castle Homes. No response had been received to date. However, Members noted that some repair work appeared to have been completed, which was welcomed.

C’llr Aled Thomas confirmed that he had requested a site meeting with Castle Homes and P.C.C. to discuss a range of issues on the site, and this was scheduled for 25th July. He undertook to raise the matter of the boundary fence for discussion.

2430 - Discussion about anti-social behaviour in community

C’llr Nina Philpott had received several reports from local residents with concerns over a range of issues, including anti-social behaviour in Moors Road, Drug use in the Close Field, and complaints about problems allegedly emanating from The Silverdale.

2431 - Discussion of badger activity in Glebelands estate

The Clerk confirmed that he had passed the request to Sean Tilling in P.C.C. for the gap in the fence alongside the access along Cunnigar Lane to be closed up.

2432 - Planning

Planning Enforcement Notices notified

INV/0168/24 - Upper Sandy Wells, Dredgman’s Hill, Merlin’s Bridge, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XL – No comments.

2433 - Correspondence

- 01) P.C.C. – Response to say they cannot undertake valuation of wooden pavilion – noted.
- 02) Local resident – application to join council as co-opted member – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 03) P.C.C. Active Travel consultation – noted.
- 04) P.P.S. Pembrokeshire – June playpark inspection reports – dealt with in agenda items below.
- 05) P.C.C. – Consultation on parking restriction alterations, Cranham Park – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 06) P.C.C. – Notification of Avian Flu outbreak, Roch area – noted.
- 07) Local resident – Concerns about antisocial activities and problems allegedly emanating from The Silverdale – C’llr Aled Thomas had been in discussion about

this issue with P.C.C. officers. As a result, officers from the P.C.C. Housing Department had agreed to attend the September meeting. Agenda item to be tabled for a full discussion of this matter. Members were reminded of the importance of reporting all issues witnessed to P.C.C. and the Police, to build a picture of the ongoing situation, and also to request incident reference numbers from the Police when doing so. It was also recommended that these incidents / reports should be copied to C'llr Aled Thomas, to provide him with needed information to assist him in dealing with the Authorities on these matters. C'llr Nina Philpott confirmed that residents she had spoken to about this matter had been reporting their concerns through both these channels.

2434 - Accounts

Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, June 2025)	: £ 72-00
Easy Websites (direct debit for website / email provision)	: £ 36-96
F.J. Groundworks (INV-0155)	: £ 505-18
Johnston Institute (INV/2146 hall hire)	: £ 200-00
Boverton Nurseries (flowers for community beds)	: £ 453-60
Member allowances for 9 Members (per Member)	: £ 208-00

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

Quarterly budget review

Members considered the budget review document prepared by the Clerk. There were no concerns or questions, as the accounts seemed to be on track, and generally in line with budget projections.

2435 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Boundary fence with K.O. Carpets. This had been repaired by K.O. Carpets.

Litter bin. This had now been installed.

Sheep-netting repairs around play equipment. This was in hand with C'llr Aled Thomas.

2436 - Any necessary discussion of issues in Close Field (including discussion of problem with drug use in Playpark)

Antisocial behaviour. C'llr Nina Philpott reiterated concerns as outlined in agenda items 2430 and 2433(7) above, confirmed that these matters had been reported to the Police and P.C.C., and suggested that robust action was needed to address the problem.

Broken glass. This had been raised on the playground inspection reports. Clerk to ask P.P.S. Pembrokeshire to clear up broken glass when encountered during inspections, on a rechargeable basis.

2437 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

C'llr Aled Thomas had had a call with Sinead Heneghan of P.C.C. regarding the matter. She had provided details of BMX installations at two other playparks in Pembrokeshire, one in Fishguard, and one in Pembroke Dock. C'llr Aled Thomas confirmed his intention to visit both of these to get a feel for the type of facilities installed. Regarding funding, Sinead Heneghan had indicated that this would currently be unlikely to be forthcoming via the Enhancing Pembrokeshire grant

scheme. This was because the fund was already oversubscribed with applications, and also because the level of existing development of the playpark in Johnston meant that it would almost certainly be given a relatively low priority. However, development to reduce anti-social behaviour could potentially attract UK Government funding via other schemes. This highlighted even more the importance of reporting incidents of anti-social behaviour when this was encountered.

Members agreed that henceforth, the focus would be on possible installation of BMX ramps rather than creation of a roller-skating rink. This was due to perceived demand being higher for this type of equipment. Agenda item description to be amended for future meetings.

2438 - Any necessary discussion of land development at Glebelands Field

C’Ilr Neil James had been in further message exchanges with the local residents who had attended the June meeting. They had now suggested either being employed by the council, or working on a quasi-quotation basis, though not on a fully self-employed basis. They had also indicated that they could not undertake risk assessments for work done.

Members discussed the matter in detail, and concluded that employing the residents would not be feasible. Allowing them to carry out work on a rechargeable basis could only work if they were fully self-employed, carried business liability insurance, etc., although C’Ilr Neil James had offered to assist them with preparing risk assessments. Any other arrangement could leave the community council open to unacceptable potential legal liabilities. Clerk to send a message to Matt Sandler to explain the situation, and outline what might be possible in the future subject to them becoming fully self-employed as businesses. Clerk to circulate draft to C’Ilr Neil James before sending.

Members agreed for Clerk to ask George Bevan to undertake necessary grass-cutting as soon as possible as for 2024, and to book Aled Bowen to attend in the autumn to carry out clearance work as for 2024 (proposer C’Ilr Louise Jones, seconder C’Ilr Janet Jeffries).

C’Ilr Neil James mentioned the need for a new sign for the entrance of Glebelands Field, and also a sign to say ‘dogs to be kept on leads’. Members felt that these could be combined into a single sign, about 450mm x 300mm in size. Additional sign needed for the other entrance. Clerk to research wording and circulate a draft for agreement.

2439 - Discussion of applications for co-option of new council member

There had been one applicant for the vacancy to date. Item deferred for consideration in September, to allow further time for potential candidates to come forward. In the meantime, Clerk to send C’Ilr Nina Philpott the casual vacancy co-option advertisement for placing on Facebook.

2440 - Discussion of traffic problems in Old School Lane / Cranham Park

Members noted that the current consultation being circulated by P.C.C. was about removing zig zag lines that had been made redundant since the closure of the old school. Members had no comments to make on this consultation. It was confirmed that P.C.C. was separately in discussion about the current parking / traffic problems being experienced in the area, and would report on their proposals in due course.

2441 - Discussion of problem with illegal parking around junction of Langford Road and Main Road

Members were agreed that the current situation with traffic movements around the junction was highly dangerous. Members reported incidents of illegal parking close to the junction outside the chip shop, delivery vehicles performing U turns at the end of Langford Road, delivery drivers obstructing the pavement, etc. The extremely busy nature of the junction made it likely that an accident could occur without warning. Measures suggested to address the matter included making a 'No Stopping' zone, and installing bollards along key sections of pavement.

Members agreed that the owners of the chip shop should be contacted concerning the problem, with a request to ask their delivery drivers and customers to avoid parking on the roadside at this location. Clerk to write a letter accordingly.

In addition to the above, C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to contact the local Police officer to draw attention to the problem, and also to contact P.C.C. to seek their advice, and raise the matter of possible formation of a 'No Stopping' zone.

2442 - Discussion of maintenance of bat house off Cranham Park

C'llr Aled Thomas had enquired with officers in P.C.C. about the maintenance arrangements / responsibility for the bat house. Officers had confirmed that all necessary post construction checks on the bat house had been completed in 2021 and reported to N.R.W. Since then, the bat house had been left undisturbed. However, any necessary maintenance would be carried out by P.C.C.

2443 - Discussion of speeding problems / pavement provision, Church Road / Hayston Road, with particular reference to considering improvement options put forward by P.C.C.

C'llr Aled Thomas confirmed that the options produced by P.C.C. to date were only in draft form. A P.C.C. officer was due to attend the September meeting to discuss these, by which time it was expected that the proposals would have been refined. As a separate matter, C'llr Neil James referred to a problem with brambles / nettles on Church Road, which were obstructing the pavements. This had been reported to P.C.C., but received a negative response to say that they didn't have the resources to clear this. Members were unimpressed with this, feeling that it would undermine the work to upgrade the pavement provision along the road. This matter to be taken up in P.C.C. by C'llr Aled Thomas.

2444 - Any other business

Overhanging vegetation at The Close. C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn mentioned a problem with overhanging vegetation obstructing the pavement close to her property at The Close. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion of this matter in September.

Street name for The Close. C'llr Janet Jeffries mentioned that The Close had previously been named Langford Close, and felt there could be a case for seeking to get the name reverted to Langford Close. Agenda item for discussion in September. The meeting ended at 8-47pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 8th September 2025.

Signed.....Chairman

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