

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 20th July 2026 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present: Cllrs Nina Philpott, Christine Wilkins, Grayham Passmore, Aled Thomas, Rikki Schroeder, Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Tracey Young, Neil James, John Bonwick; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies

C'llrs. Louise Jones, Len Gale.

2691 - Declaration of known interests

None.

2692 - Approval of minutes of June 2026 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'llr Grayham Passmore, seconder C'llr Rikki Schroeder).

2693 - Opportunity for public representations on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present who wished to make representations.

Matters arising

2694 - Discussion of problem with illegal parking around junction of Langford Road and Main Road

C'llr Aled Thomas confirmed that he had attended a meeting with P.C.C. officers, who had undertaken to give thought to possible measures to address the problem.

2695 - Discussion of traffic problems at Old School Lane / Cranham Park

No change.

2696 - Discussion of measures needed to address poor drainage around footbridge, Langford Road

C'llr Aled Thomas had checked with P.C.C. officers on the current situation. They had confirmed that they were continuing to 'pressurise' Network Rail to carry out necessary works. No activity had yet been noted on site.

2697 - Potholes / pavement cracks around The Close.

The potholes had not yet been repaired/ C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to chase up progress. In addition, C'llrs Yvonne Llewellyn and Janet Jeffries were recommended to report the matter directly via the P.C.C. website.

2698 - Any necessary discussion of P.C.C. proposals for highway improvements at Church Road

No further progress to date. However, C'llr Neil James mentioned the forthcoming work due to be done around the Sunnycroft Roundabout. He thought it inevitable that the traffic restrictions would lead to rat-running along Church Road. In addition, he mentioned that the footpath was overgrown and virtually unusable. He felt that an accident was virtually inevitable on the Rosemarket road junction. This all pointed to the need for the Church Road improvement works to be carried out as soon as possible. C'llr Aled Thomas to highlight these issues with Will Davies of P.C.C. Regarding the likely problem of rat-running along Church Road, C'llr Neil James

thought that a speed van presence could help. The need for hedge-cutting was also mentioned as a problem along the road. C'Ilr Aled Thomas to forward these matters to the relevant departments / authorities for consideration.

2699 - Discussion of dog-fouling and littering problems on Hillcroft Field

No particular problem had been noted recently, though it was considered likely to be more of an issue when football matches were on. Agenda item to be tabled in the October meeting to assess the situation then.

2700 - Discussion of condition of main road railway bridge parapets

Work to remove the graffiti had been completed.

2701 - Any necessary discussion of damage to train platform shelter at Johnston Station

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had spoken to someone from Transport for Wales, and was currently awaiting further substantive contact about the matter. C'Ilr Nina Philpott had also received a contact from Transport for Wales, though it was uncertain whether this was in relation to the same matter.

2702 - Weed growth on pavements

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had spoken with Neil McCarthy of P.C.C. about the matter. He had explained that weed control along highway areas would be dealt with by the Highways Maintenance department. It had been recommended to send in photos of any particularly bad areas to them for attention. Members to bear this in mind, and post details of any particularly bad areas noted on the Whatsapp group chat.

2703 - Planning

Planning consents notified

26/0113/PA – Replacement conservatory & change from integral garage to habitable room; Site Address: 21, Brookside Avenue, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PQ

26/0115/PA - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 24/0630/PA (Alterations & Extension); Site Address: 10, Cranham Park, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PU

Planning appeal decisions notified

Appeal reference: CAS-04719-P6H0W2 - Site address: Upper Sandy Wells, Dredgemans Hill, Merlins Bridge, Haverfordwest, SA61 1XL; The appeal was made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal by Pembrokeshire County Council to grant planning permission; The application Ref 25/0376/PA, dated 30 July 2025, was refused by notice dated 18 September 2025; The appeal was dismissed.

2704 - Correspondence

01) Tree Consultants Wales – Tree survey report – dealt with in agenda item below.

02) P.P.S. Pembrokeshire – Playground inspection reports – dealt with in agenda items below.

03) Transport Wales – Notification of forthcoming work on Sunnycroft Roundabout – noted.

2705 - Accounts

Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, June 2026)	: £ 72-00
Easy Websites (direct debit for website / email provision)	: £ 36-96
Tree Consultants Wales (Tree survey)	: £ 744-97
Boverton Nurseries (Community flowers)	: £ 494-40
Defib Warehouse (defibrillator batteries)	: £ 52-74
F.J. Groundworks (INV-1083)	: £ 1348-22
F.J. Groundworks (INV-1088)	: £ 120-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’llr Nina Philpott, seconder C’llr Christine Wilkins).

Quarterly budget review

Members considered the budget review that had been circulated. Members had no comments or questions.

Any necessary discussion of solar farm proposals in locality

C’llr Aled Thomas had attended a recent meeting of the Freystrop action group Opposing the solar farm proposals there, along with C’llr Neil James and his wife. The action group had been keen to assist Johnston C.C. in any way possible in co-ordinating opposition to the proposals for the solar farm outside Johnston. Regarding undertakings from the development company, C’llr Neil James mentioned that previous undertakings to provide cash compensation to local communities appeared to have been diluted. Only funding for community projects was now on the table. It appeared that the local community would have to approach the company for funding for individual projects.

It was agreed by all present that the local community Johnston was unaware of the extent of the proposals on the table. Members were agreed that there would be a case for a full maildrop for the entire village, advising them of what was happening, and seeking their views. This could precede arrangements for a public meeting about the project.

C’llr Aled Thomas suggested sometime in September for any public meeting arranged. C’llr Neil James felt that J.C.C. needed to take a clear stance on the project proposals. He commented that there seemed to be some apathy towards the proposals in the local community, considering it would be the second largest solar farm in Wales.

Members were agreed that providing details of the proposals to the wider community should be a priority. This would require crystallising the pros and cons of the proposals, and then providing clear unambiguous information to the community. Members reviewed briefly some of the potential negative aspects of the development, including noise effects, the time that would be required to establish screening growth, etc. The cumulative effect of numerous solar farms in the County was also mentioned as something that appeared to have been largely ignored by the Authorities. The re-categorisation of land for consideration for solar farms in Wales was also mentioned as something felt to be aimed at making obtaining consent for the developments easier to obtain.

C’llr Aled Thomas suggested forming a Whatsapp sub-group of those councillors interested in taking the matter forward, with any arrangements on maildrops, wording of documents, letters, etc., being subject to full council approval. C’llr Neil James suggested encouraging other members of the community to get involved as well. It was thought this could happen after a public meeting.

It was agreed for C’lr Aled Thomas to set up an informal Whatsapp group of Members to formulate a letter to go out to all residents. Up to £200 expenditure for necessary expenses in connection with this was agreed by Members (proposer C’lr Christine Wilkins, seconder C’lr Nina Philpott).

Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Rubber matting. C’lr Aled Thomas mentioned that it may become necessary to replace matting at some point. However, as it was not currently showing up on inspection reports, it was not considered urgent.

Parking / speeding issues, Brickhurst Park. C’lr Grayham Passmore mentioned the ongoing parking problems in the street. However, it was recognised that this had been previously discussed, and there was no simple solution. The problem of speeding traffic along the street was also mentioned as a safety concern. Members considered putting up warning signage. It was recognised that P.C.C. consent would be needed for any signage on the Highway, and the Clerk advised that P.C.C. policy was not to erect such signage, as it was viewed as tacit encouragement to children to play in the Highway. Other suggestions made included speed-activated signage, or signage on the private land at the playpark entrance. Regarding the latter, the matter of acquiring ownership of the strip of land down the west side of the playpark was again discussed briefly, though no actions were agreed.

Any necessary discussion of issues in Close Field

C’lr Aled Thomas had spoken with the Community Police Officer, who had agreed to carry out extra patrols in the playpark.

A second picnic table had been painted over by vandals. It was hoped that the paint might wash off itself. Matter to be reviewed in September.

Any necessary discussion of issues at Glebelands Field

C’lr Neil James had met Fraser James at the field, to look at work needed to form a dog exercise area. A price for the work was currently awaited.

Any other business

Dog waste bin below Orchard Court. C’lr John Bonwick mentioned that there had previously been a dog waste bin at this location, but it had been removed, and not reinstated, following access alteration work carried out by Network Rail. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in September. In the meantime, C’lr Aled Thomas undertook to speak to P.C.C. officers about the matter.

Bus stop by Close Field. C’lr Grayham Passmore requested an update on the proposed work on the shelter. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in September.

Silverdale-related issues. C’lr Rikki Schroeder provided an update to Members on the recent incident of drug-related anti-social behaviour on the roundabout outside The Silverdale.

The meeting ended at 8-19pm. Next scheduled meeting – 14th September 2026.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....