

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 8th September 2025 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

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

Apologies

Cllrs Tracey Young, Louise Jones.

2445 - Declaration of known interests

None.

2446 - Approval of minutes of July 2025 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer Cllr Nina Philpott, seconder Cllr Yvonne Llewellyn).

2447 - Opportunity for public representations on tabled agenda items

None

2448 – Discussion of situation with The Silverdale

Sinead Heneghan, Michelle Bateman, and Emily James were in attendance remotely on behalf of P.C.C.

The Chairman explained that the main subject for discussion was to seek an update on Silverdale, particularly in relation to the plans for the site over the next couple of years or so, problems with anti-social behaviour, and the need for information about future plans for the site.

Michelle Bateman confirmed that it was still the case that the site was not viewed as a long-term solution, and its use was still temporary. However, there was no current exit strategy for ceasing its use. This was not helped by the high ongoing number of individuals needing housing. She said that The Silverdale was not a preferred site. However, there were no plans to change the current situation within the next 1-2 years.

Emily James explained that much had changed since Covid, and even now new legislation was awaited to be confirmed, which would affect the way in which the Authority would be able to address these issues. The likely outcome of this new legislation would be to confirm the current approach by the Welsh Government for the foreseeable future. She reiterated the above comment made by Michelle Bateman regarding numbers of individuals needing placement. These numbers remained very high. The Authority was continually seeking to rationalise the use of various sites to achieve best efficiency and value for money. She mentioned that the current contract with the owners of The Silverdale was due for re-tender the following year. It was not a foregone conclusion that it would continue to be used, but was overwhelmingly likely. Ongoing feedback from J.C.C. was important in informing their discussions, priorities, actions and input by all organisations involved, especially to inform discussions on the detailed requirements for any new contract for The Silverdale arranged.

Cllr Aled Thomas mentioned the problem of anti-social behaviour and vandalism as an ongoing serious issue. He asked Sinead Heneghan for data on what was being

reported. She replied that, problems of anti-social behaviour in green spaces around the village had only prompted one complaint since March. She said this did not indicate a high incidence of rate of reporting. She emphasised that when people are witnessing anti-social behaviour, they need to report it. The agencies involved cannot act on mere hearsay or suggestion, but rather needed clear data. Reporting could be done online or by email as well as via 101.

C’Ilr Aled responded to the above by referencing the numerous reports being made on the community council Facebook page, often quoting crime reference numbers and references from the P.C.C. Contact Centre. He asked if there could be a single point of contact in P.C.C., braised the issue of exactly how these incidents were being reported to the Police. She felt there needed to be a consistent approach, and suggested inviting the Police Neighbourhood Policing Team to attend a future meeting to discuss this. This was agreed by Members as being a good idea. Sinead Heneghan also suggested a sub-group meeting with J.C.C. representatives, though this idea was not taken forward.

C’Ilr Aled Thomas asked about current numbers of residents in The Silverdale, as well as the type of residents. Emily James did not have specific numbers. However, she did confirm that there was a mix of types, including some who had been to prison, as well as with a variety of complex issues, including mental health and substance abuse challenges. Anyone over 16 could be housed there. Each resident would be individually risk-assessed, and a support plan prepared. She mentioned that there was a round the clock staff presence at the site. There were no registered sex offenders. She also mentioned that if residents did not meet the standards of behaviour required, they could be asked to leave.

C’Ilr Nina Philpott mentioned that some ex-residents had ended up in tents on the scrapyard alongside the site, and also in the Close Field Playpark. Emily James confirmed that residents compelled to leave would be given tents, and may end up camping locally, but would normally be moved on relatively quickly. The Authority needed to be made aware of any such situations as soon as possible, to enable appropriate action to be taken.

C’Ilr Aled Thomas sought confirmation from the P.C.C. officers present concerning the plans to extend The Silverdale. Emily James confirmed that proposals for extending the site were completely unrelated to the contract between P.C.C. and The Silverdale, and P.C.C. had no intention of increasing any housing provision at the site currently. If this should change, there would be a wider conversation / consultation locally.

Regarding reporting of incidents of anti-social behaviour, etc., Emily James agreed for all reports posted on the community council Facebook page to be forwarded to the generic Housing Department email address, to be logged by them. C’Ilr Aled Thomas to share this email address with all Members. Also, Sinead Heneghan to forward the Police email address to C’Ilr Aled Thomas and the Clerk to be circulated to all Members.

Michelle Bateman stated her willingness to arrange a further meeting between J.C.C. Members and officers from P.C.C., to help identify factors that would be important in formulating any new contract with The Silverdale.

Following the discussion, the Chairman thanked Michelle Bateman, Emily James and Sinead Heneghan for attending, after which they left the meeting.

2449 - 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 informed Members that the P.C.C. officer scheduled to attend the meeting had been unable to do so due to unforeseen circumstances, but expected to be in attendance at the October meeting.

C'llr Neil James had reported problems with overhanging growth over the pavement to P.C.C. prior to the previous meeting, with no success. However, since then, he had witnessed an elderly person trying to get over the speed ramps in the carriageway pushing a wheelchair, due to the pavement being impassable for that purpose. He had received no response to his contact with P.C.C. on the second occasion. Clerk to write a letter to P.C.C., sending in relevant information and requesting decisive action to address the problem. It was pointed out that if P.C.C. planned to spend a large sum of money on a new section of footpath along Church Road, it needed to be properly maintained. It was also pointed out that the same problem seemed to arise every year, and that what was really needed was proper scheduling of necessary upkeep and maintenance works.

Matters arising

2450 - Discussion of arrangements to mark recent efforts of local schoolchildren in litter-picking

C'llr Aled Thomas informed Members that the presentation was scheduled to take place in the school assembly the following Friday 12th September, at around 9-30am.

2451 - Boundary fence between Moors Road and Close Field.

C'llr Aled Thomas had attended a site meeting with Castle Homes and the P.C.C. Streetlighting Officer. Castle Homes had suggested that, though they had repaired the fence on a number of occasions, this was not their legal responsibility. They had explained that residents of Moors Road needed to be paying contributions towards a management fee for an outside company to manage these areas, and this was not happening.

Members briefly discussed the possible need to look at J.C.C. providing a separate boundary fence if needed, at sometime in the future. At present, though, the fence was basically secure. A sum for a new fence could possibly be included in the budget for 2026/27.

2452 - Discussion of badger activity in Glebelands estate

Nothing further had been heard on this matter, and it was confirmed that the gap in the fencing had not been closed up by P.C.C. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to chase this up in P.C.C.

2453 - Discussion of traffic problems in Old School Lane / Cranham Park

Proposed changes to parking / waiting arrangements were still in discussion in P.C.C. Agenda item to be tabled for October for any necessary discussion.

2454 - Discussion of problem with illegal parking around junction of Langford Road and Main Road

There appeared to be no improvement in the ongoing situation, based on anecdotal evidence by Members. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to follow up with officers in P.C.C.

2455 - Planning

Planning application consultations received

25/0376/PA – Replacement outbuilding to create welfare space as an extension for disabled son with new screening hedge bank and ecological enhancements.

Site Address: Upper Sandy Wells, MERLINS BRIDGE, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1XL – No comments.

25/0437/PA - Single storey double garage; **Site Address:** Alyndale, 24, Bulford Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3EU – No comments.

2456 - Correspondence

01) Local resident – application for co-option as council member – dealt with in agenda item 2463 below.

02) P.C.C. – Notification of six-week public consultation on proposed L.D.P. replacement, to run until 15th September – noted.

03) P.P.S. Pembrokeshire – Message concerning damage to swingset at Close Field – dealt with in agenda item 2459 below.

04) P.C.C. – Notification of W.G. grant scheme for additions to National Forest – dealt with in agenda item 2462 below.

05) Local resident – Concerns about Black Briony apparently growing alongside playing field at Glebelands – C’lir Aled Thomas undertook to look into this.

06) P.C.C. – Notification of window for expressions of interest in Places for Nature grant scheme – dealt with in agenda item 2462 below.

07) Arise – Notification of proposal for solar farm at Great Harmeston Farm – dealt with in agenda item 2465 below.

08) David Charles – Enquiry about requirements for Christmas trees for 2025 season – Members approved the purchase of two 18’ trees. Clerk to inform supplier accordingly.

2457 - Accounts

Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, July / August 2025)	: £ 144-00
Easy Websites (direct debit for website / email provision)	: £ 36-96
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PPS Pembrokeshire (INV-0053 broken glass removal)	: £ 20-00
PPS Pembrokeshire (INV-0058 broken glass removal)	: £ 15-00
George Bevan (grass-cutting)	: £ 864-00
Clerk (salary & fixed expenses July-September 2025)	: As per contract
HMRC (PAYE tax / N.I.)	: As per contract

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lir Nina Philpott, seconder C’lir Janet Jeffries).

Income

PCC (precept second instalment)	: £13000-00
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2458 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Members noted the presence in the field of an unauthorised ramp and some cones. Members to monitor the situation by the next meeting.

C’lir Aled Thomas informed Members that the sheep-netting fence repairs had been carried out temporarily, but that more permanent repairs were in hand.

2459 - Any necessary discussion of issues in Close Field

The quotation from P.P.S. Pembrokeshire on 3rd September 2025 for repair of the swing-set was accepted by Members (proposer C’Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C’Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn). Clerk to inform the contractor accordingly. Members noted no issues of concern on the playground inspection reports submitted since the previous meeting.

2460 - Discussion of possible provision of BMX ramps in Close Field Playpark

Deferred for discussion in October.

2461 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

C’Ilr Aled Thomas had arranged for delivery of a skip the following day, for use in clearing out the pavilion building.

C’Ilr Neil James had received a quotation from Glenn Murray for demolition of the pavilion. A decision on this was currently on hold, pending an inspection of the building once surplus items had been cleared out of it. Quotation to be circulated to all Members in advance of the October meeting.

2462 - Any necessary discussion of land development at Glebelands Field

Path clearance. C’Ilr Neil James confirmed that George Bevan had cleared the paths. However, no contact had been made by him in advance, so certain other needed work had not been completed.

Grant schemes. It was confirmed that details of two grant schemes had come in. One was for additions to the National Forest. It had been too late for J.C.C. to apply for this scheme. However, it was expected that this scheme would be rolled over to the following year if there was insufficient take-up, thus hopefully providing a further opportunity to apply for funding via this route. The other scheme was for the Places for Nature scheme. C’Ilr Neil James had completed an expression of interest form seeking consideration for funding of up to £50,000 for works in the woodlands and surrounding area. Clerk to submit this on behalf of J.C.C.

Ongoing maintenance requirements. C’Ilr Neil James highlighted the need for a proper contract for maintenance of the entire area, due to the increasing areas being developed for recreational use. The need to consider putting out a tender for this work in 2026 was mentioned as likely.

Signage. Clerk to forward to C’Ilr Neil James the draft signage he had prepared for possible placement on the gated entrances to Glebelands Field.

Grounds clearance. The Clerk confirmed that Aled Bowen had been contacted, and had undertaken to attend as he had in 2024.

2463 - Discussion of applications for co-option of new council member

Deferred for consideration in the 2026 A.G.M. Clerk to inform applicants accordingly.

2464 - Discussion of arrangements for renewal of Biodiversity Enhancement report

Clerk to forward Word version of the 2022 report to C’Ilr Aled Thomas for amendment / completion of the updated report.

2465 - Discussion of proposals for solar farm at Great Harmeston Farm

A number of letters of objection from local residents to the proposals for the solar farm had been copied to the community council.

Members noted that, if the scheme was to go ahead, Johnston was most likely to be affected, even though much of the proposed site lay in other community council areas. It was also noted that the scheme was not at any formal stage, not even a formal pre-application stage, but rather the developer's agent was simply raising awareness locally and 'testing the waters' to try and gauge local feeling on the proposals. It was noted as being a project of national significance, which would mean that all formal decisions would be made at Welsh Government level, rather than by the Local Planning Authority. Sometime around November 2026 was expected to be the likely date by which a decision would be made on any formal application submitted, based on current projections.

Members indicative view of the proposed development was overwhelmingly negative, due to visual amenity issues and loss of good quality farmland.

C'Illr Aled Thomas to circulate the email address for the development agents, for any representations that individuals might wish to make.

Agenda item to be tabled for discussion at forthcoming meetings for the foreseeable future.

2466 - Discussion of problems with motor cycle use on cycle path

Members had received some messages of concern about motor cycle activity on the cycle path. However, there had been no very recent reports. C'Illr Aled Thomas undertook to pass concerns on to Sean Tilling in P.C.C. about the failure to place promised signage at the entrance from Glebelands Field onto the cycle path. C'Illr Christine Wilkins mentioned that a directional sign was also needed near the entrance to her property, as many cycle path users were being confused at this location.

2467 - Discussion of problems with removal of postal delivery service on Mondays

C'Illr Neil James had been informed by a reliable source that a cessation of postal deliveries in Johnston on Mondays had been implemented locally over the summer period. He had monitored this, and not seen any postman for a few weeks, until that day. The matter had been separately reported to a Royal Mail national customer service address, and a response received that there was 'no indication' of this. Following this, C'Illr Neil James had received mail that day for the first time in many weeks on a Monday.

Clerk to write to the Royal Mail Haverfordwest Sorting Office to ask for them to confirm or deny that post on Mondays had been affected over the summer period, as this was the perception in the village. Letter to request a clear explanation / clarification of the situation, as well as an assurance that deliveries on Mondays were taking place as required.

2468 - Discussion of overhanging vegetation from properties at The Close

Members reported a very large overhanging Buddleia bush obstructing the pavement close to her property, and which had been reported by a neighbour. C'Illr Aled Thomas undertook to report this to P.C.C. Streetcare.

On a similar note, C'Illr Neil James mentioned the problem of worsening encroachment of growth around the Milford Road bus shelter (West side of main road). Clerk to email Trunk Road Agency to ask for this to be addressed.

Arrangements for the broken Perspex pane in the bus shelter to be replaced was deferred until the growth had been removed.

2469 - Discussion of potential request for re-naming of The Close

C'llr Janet Jeffries asked for the possibility of re-naming The Close to Langford Close, as this had apparently been the historic name until sometime in the 1950s. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to make enquiries with the Street-naming team in P.C.C. about the process for formalising such a request. He suggested that such a change would probably need an overwhelming majority of residents to express a wish for this, so some kind of survey would likely be needed if this was to proceed.

2470 - Any other business

Remembrance Day service. C'llr Neil James mentioned that the vicar would not be available this year. He also raised the issue of the availability of the MH Town Band. Clerk to enquire about this, to ask if the band would be available. Also, Clerk to request the road closure as for previous years. Agenda item to be tabled for October for any necessary discussion of detailed arrangements.

St. Peter's Road bus shelter. C'llr Nina Philpott mentioned that some plaster was coming off the bus shelter walls. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in October.

Lane from Hillcroft to Cranham Park. C'llr Nina Philpott mentioned a large bush that had been cut down and left in the pavement. She undertook to report this to P.C.C.

The meeting ended at 9-02pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 13th October 2025.

Signed.....Chairman

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