

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 14th September 2026 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

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

Apologies

C’llrs. Neil James, Christine Wilkins, Len Gale.

2711 - Declaration of known interests

None.

2712 - Approval of minutes of July 2026 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C’lr Aled Thomas, seconder C’lr Nina Philpott).

2713 - Opportunity for public representations on tabled agenda items

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

Matters arising

2714 - Discussion of problem with illegal parking around junction of Langford Road and Main Road

C’lr Aled Thomas was still awaiting updates from P.C.C. on their proposals for addressing the problem. C’lr Nina Philpott had experienced problems recently due to a vehicle obstructing the pavement.

2715 - Discussion of traffic problems at Old School Lane / Cranham Park

No change.

2716 - Discussion of measures needed to address poor drainage around footbridge, Langford Road

C’lr Aled Thomas confirmed that the situation was ongoing, with discussions between P.C.C. about the acceptability of work already undertaken by Network Rail.

2717 - Potholes / pavement cracks around The Close.

No change, with potholes still awaiting repair.

2718 - Any necessary discussion of P.C.C. proposals for highway improvements at Church Road

C’lr Aled Thomas had spoken further to P.C.C. officers. There was still no progress on addressing the request for a footpath along the road, and the funding situation remained unresolved. It was thought possible that attention may have been diverted from this by the new pavement under construction on the main road.

C’lr Aled Thomas undertook to chase up necessary hedge-cutting along Church Road, as per the comments received by C’lr Neil James in advance of the meeting, which had drawn attention to this.

2719 - Discussion of dog-fouling and littering problems on Hillcroft Field

Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in October, to allow time to see any impact from the new football season fixtures. C’lir Louise Jones had noticed quite a lot of rubbish around the top end goalmouth, which could either have been left there, or blown there in the wind.

2720 - Any necessary discussion of damage to train platform shelter at Johnston Station

Matter still in hand with Transport for Wales.

2721 - Weed growth on pavements

No change. Members were reminded of the need to send in to P.C.C. photographs of specific locations if there was a need for these to be addressed.

2722 - Silverdale-related issues.

Members observed that the overall situation seemed to be fairly calm at present.

2723 - Planning**Planning consultations received**

There were no plans for consideration this month

2724 - Correspondence

01) Local resident – Concerns about various issues in Playpark – Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in October of possibilities for improving access arrangements from St. Peter’s Road. Clerk to draft a response to the resident concerned, and pass to C’lir Aled Thomas for review before sending it off.

02) F.J. Groundworks – Quotation for dog exercise area fencing – dealt with in agenda item 2729 below.

03) Scouts – Invitation to forthcoming A.G.M. – noted.

04) P.P.S. Pembrokeshire – Playpark inspection reports – dealt with in agenda items 2727 and 2728 below.

05) Elder Meadow Nurseries – Quotation for Christmas trees for 2026 – Members accepted the quotation (proposer C’lir Nina Philpott, seconder C’lir Yvonne Llewellyn).

06) F.J. Groundworks – Quotation for tree removal work – dealt with in agenda item 2729 below.

07) P.C.C. – Request for notifications of road closures for Remembrance Day – Clerk to request a closure as for 2025.

2725 - Accounts

Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, July / August 2026)	: £ 144-00
Easy Websites (direct debit for website, August / September)	: £ 73-92
Defib Store (INV 64075 for defibrillator spares)	: £ 124-80
Burton CC (defibrillator batteries)	: £ 8-78
Wales Audit Office (Audit for 2024/25)	: £ 200-35
Clerk (salary, July – September)	: As per contract
H.M.R.C. (PAYE tax / N.I. contributions)	: As per contract
Clerk (expenses, April 1st – September 14th)	: £ 133-97
The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Aled Thomas, seconder C'llr Louise Jones).	

Income

P.C.C. (precept 2nd instalment)	: £13000-00
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2726 - Any necessary discussion of solar farm proposals in locality

C'llr Aled Thomas reported that there had been very little heard on the matter since the July meeting. He had requested an update from Powys Communications, and this was awaited. Arrangements for the public meeting previously discussed and agreed were still to be finalised, as was the circular letter to residents about the matter. C'llr Louise Jones suggested that if a letter was sent, it should stress to people the likely construction phase disruption of the project, to make people realise the potential impact on their travel arrangements, etc.

As Members seemed to be overwhelmingly opposed to the development, C'llr Rikki Schroeder asked if, as a modern progressive council, it would be right for J.C.C. to be opposing a clean energy project such as this. C'llr Aled Thomas responded to comment that the project did not hold any benefits for the local community, which the community council was there to represent. To the contrary, it would involve the loss of over 300 acres of high quality farmland, with consequent loss of employment for local people.

C'llr Aled Thomas to draft a letter to local residents, for circulation to all Members for comment. It was re-confirmed that a public meeting to discuss the project should be arranged, to raise awareness and provide the opportunity for local residents to become involved. Members who were willing to contribute to delivery of the letter were discussed and settled.

It was confirmed that nothing recent had been heard from the Freystrop action group.

2727 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Nothing needing discussion this month.

2728 - Any necessary discussion of issues in Close Field

Safer surfacing. This had been flagged up as needing repair / replacement. Clerk to seek quotation for patching / replacement.

Tree on northern boundary. A request to fell the tree had been received, following a recent occasion when the fire brigade had been called to rescue a child from the tree. Members were not keen to do this, as the tree was not considered unsafe. However, fencing around it or possibly removing low branches were mentioned as possibilities. It was left for Members to monitor the situation for the time being.

2729 - Any necessary discussion of issues at Glebelands Field

Dog exercise area fencing quotation. Deferred for consideration in October.

Tree removal quotation. Deferred for consideration in October.

Grass mulching. Clerk to ask Aled Bowen to arrange this as for 2025.

2730 - Discussion of possible request for dog waste bin below Orchard Court

Members noted that there had been a bin there previously, but this had been removed quite some time previously. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to visit the site and get a precise location for the place where a bin was needed, to assist in identifying the landowner. Once clarified, Clerk to write a letter requesting that a bin be put back there. Agenda item to be re-tabled for October.

2731 - Discussion of situation with Close Field bus shelter

Deferred until October, for joint discussion on this and the above-mentioned issue of possible need for access improvements to the playpark.

2732 - Any other business

Remembrance Day arrangements. Agenda item for this to be tabled in the October meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk undertook to arrange ordering of the wreath.

Dead tree, Langford Road. C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn reported that the tree had been removed.

Village 'warden'. C'llr Louise Jones mentioned that a 'warden' had apparently been appointed by P.C.C., and was doing patrols around the village, asking people to tidy up their gardens.

Christmas festive arrangements. Agenda item to be tabled in the October meeting for discussion of Christmas lighting switch-on arrangements.

The meeting ended at 8-15pm. Next scheduled meeting – 12th October 2026.

Signed.....Chairman

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