

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 12th September 2022 online, in the Johnston Institute, Church Road, Johnston, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

**Present: Cllrs Neil James, Louise Jones, Aled Thomas, Len Gale, Janet Jeffries, Martyn Spilsbury, Tracey Young, Kaidan Alenko, Yvonne Lewellyn, Christine Wilkins; Peter Horton (Clerk);
Apologies : C’llrs Nina Philpott, Fran James.**

The meeting was chaired by the vice-Chairman C’llr Spilsbury.

At the commencement of the meeting, all present stood and observed a two-minute silence in memory of the recently-departed HM Queen Elizabeth II.

1380 – Declarations of known Interests

None

1381 – To receive the minutes from the July 2022 monthly meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and retained for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’llr Neil James, seconder C’llr Jeffries).

1382 - Discussion of P.C.C. Housing allocation policy for development at Cranham Park

Nia Davies, Emily James, Gaynor Toft were present, on behalf of the P.C.C. Housing Department. They were present to provide an update on progress with the development, as well as take any questions regarding their draft Local Lettings Policy for the development.

Gaynor Toft provided a brief progress report on the development. This had been beset by delays, due to Covid, and also the main contractor having gone into receivership. Changes in the regulations governing incoming services had also disrupted progress. However, the development was now progressing well, and expected to be complete in Spring 2023. It was hoped to arrange some open days nearer the time of completion.

Following the update, the P.C.C. officers took some questions regarding the development. They were asked if the houses had all been allocated, and confirmed that this was not the case. They circulated a draft Local Lettings Policy which they wished to put to the Council for comment, as they wished to finalise this before going out to potential tenants. Members were particularly interested in the local connections criteria. It was thought likely that applicants with a Johnston connection according to the criteria in the Policy would probably fill the available properties. Members were content with the Lettings Policy as drafted.

Following the discussion, Members thanked the P.C.C. officers for attending, after which they left the meeting.

Matters arising

1383 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

C’llr Spilsbury had produced an initial sketch of a possible design for the bench. Members were happy with the idea, and asked C’llr Spilsbury to go ahead with obtaining the prices for carrying it out in stainless steel. It was felt that, if completed

successfully, it could be a notable and unique commemoration of WW1 in the community.

1384- Discussion of possible request for yellow lines in Hall Court

Work was currently in hand on the junction improvements.

1385 - Discussion of situation at Silverdale, including possible changes of use.

No change in situation regarding submission of a planning application. C'llr Thomas had attended a meeting at The Silverdale with ATEB and P.C.C.. He had been impressed with the situation there. P.C.C. was aspiring to leave the premises as soon as possible. No planning change of use was anticipated by them.

1386 - Discussion of footpath provision between Bulford Road & roundabout.

The Clerk had received a message from Paul Davies, forwarding a letter from Lee Waters of the W.G., committing to getting the matter looked into. Clerk to chase this up if nothing heard by after the October meeting.

1387 - Discussion of quotation for work on bus shelter, St. Peter's Road

In hand with P.C.C., who had plans afoot to replace the bus shelter. No progress to date.

1388 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

C'llr Neil James reported that a fence was currently under construction alongside the path. The Heras fencing was still preventing access to the link footpath, but there was some evidence of movement in the situation. Members were content to review in a further month.

1389 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators

Members agreed for C'llr Aled Thomas to prepare a draft press release for circulation, this to be passed to the Clerk once drafted. Once finalised, it could be sent to the Western Telegraph for publication.

C'llr Neil James confirmed that he had checked a number of the defibrillators in recent months, and all had been in order.

1390 - Discussion of establishment of vexatious communication policy

Matter still in hand with Clerk establishing necessary prerequisites for a scheme to be set up.

1391 - Discussion of needed boundary repairs to Vine Field

C'llr Neil James had approached a firm called Simply Landscaping, and obtained quotations for work at the field. Members agreed to approve the quotation for provision of a sleeper retaining wall in the sum of £1200 + VAT (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Spilsbury). C'llr Aled Thomas had kindly offered to clear overgrowth, etc., with his tractor-mounted whacker. In view of this, Clerk to ask Simply Landscaping to amend the second quotation to leave out the section for cutting back foliage and squaring off, leaving the section involving cutting back and remove roots, etc..

1392 - Discussion of needed alterations in Village Institute to enable multi-locational meetings to be held on an ongoing basis

Work had been completed. C'llr Neil James confirmed that the Village Institute Committee had generously agreed to cover the cost of this work.

1393 - Discussion of possible one-way system in Glebelands

Nothing further heard back from P.C.C. Clerk to chase up.

1394 - Discussion of new Order of Service for Remembrance Day

C'llrs Neil James and Janet Jeffries had met with the vicar, and made good progress on reformatting the order of service. There was still a small amount of work to do, but it was mostly complete. Members agreed to accept the quotation that had been received from Glyn Edwards to print 250 copies at £0.86 per copy (proposer C'llr Neil James, seconder C'llr Spilsbury).

1395 - Discussion of work on Close Field towards eventual CCTV installation

C'llr Aled Thomas had been in discussion with officers in the P.C.C. Economic Regeneration Unit. They had advised that, due to data protection legislation, a professional firm would need to be used to provide such services. They had recommended trying other ideas first, such as prominent signage, review of litter bin locations and numbers, etc. She had suggested that any grant funding from P.C.C. sources for a CCTV installation would be unlikely unless all other avenues had been demonstrated to have been explored thoroughly. It had been suggested that he could have another meeting with P.C.C. to form a possible plan. C'llr Thomas confirmed that he was willing to pursue this. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in October. Members agreed that, given the advice received, consideration of a CCTV installation would be left in abeyance for the moment, to allow other avenues to be explored.

1396 - Discussion of arrangements to commence grant project for Vine Field, including consideration of revised quotation from Sovereign Play

Members were informed that Sovereign Play had made contact to request agreement to a pre-installation survey on October 3rd, with likely installation dates towards the end of November. Clerk and C'llr Spilsbury to be listed as points of contact for the project.

1397 - Discussion of arrangements for siting of 'Stop and Chat' bench

Members were still agreed to arrange for the siting of the bench close to the location of the work planned for the corner of the field, but only once the work had been completed. It was thought that this could potentially be tagged onto the work to clear and level the corner of the field.

1398 – Church Road.

P.C.C. were reported to have bushwhacked the side of the road opposite Johnston Hall, but not the side with the pavement, which was now worse than ever. Clerk to contact P.C.C. again.

1399 – Caravan on land at The Close.

Members reported that the caravan had gone.

Planning matters

1400 - Consultations

22/0380/PA - Single storey rear extension; Site Address: 63 , The Close, Johnston, SA62 3QG – No comments.

Correspondence

1401 - Save Withybush – Request for support for petition to save services at Withybush Hospital – noted.

1402 - Hywel Dda Health Board – Notification of possible closure of GP surgery – an online meeting had been held, which C’Ilr Neil James had attended. No detailed information had been provided that was not already in the public domain. A recommendation on how to proceed was expected by the end of the month, for consideration prior to a final decision later in the year. C’Ilr Aled Thomas said that consensus of opinion was that Hywel Dda could and should take over the surgery and operate it directly. C’Ilr Tracey Young had heard reassurances that there would be a continuation of service, and that access to a G.P. would be ensured in some shape or form.

1403 - P.C.C. – Information on proposed ‘warm rooms’ initiative – noted.

1404 - P.C.C. – Notification of complaint about boundary fence at The Close Field Playpark – C’Ilr Louise Jones was aware of some damage to the chainlink fence alongside the road, but not on the boundary fence with the Old Police House. C’Ilr Janet Jeffries had walked through the park, and had not been able to see any apparent damage on the boundary fence with the Old Police House. C’Ilr Louise Jones offered to ask the resident directly for more details when in contact with her. Clerk to ask the playground inspectors to have a look when next in the playpark and provide a view.

1405 - Playground Repairs Ltd – Quotation for work to repair seesaw in Close Field – Members approved the quotation in the sum of £589-87 + VAT (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Spilsbury).

Accounts

1406 - Payments for approval

Sovereign Play (ratification)	:	£8107-19
Playground Repairs Ltd (repairs in Close Playpark)	:	£2188-16
Clerk (pay and fixed expenses July – September)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax for Clerk)	:	As per contract
David Banfield (July / August bus shelter cleaning)	:	£144-00
P.C.C. (Japanese Knotweed treatment)	:	£ 86-00

1407 - Member allowances for 2022/23

Martyn Spilsbury	:	£150-00
Fran James	:	£150-00
Kaidan Alenko (effective July 2022)	:	£112-50
Len Gale (effective July 2022)	:	£112-50
Yvonne Llewellyn (effective July 2022)	:	£112-50

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Spilsbury, seconder C’Ilr Neil James).

1408 - Discussion of issues at The Close Field, including possible need for signage, and standing arrangements for dealing with safety issues raised in inspection reports.

Clerk to produce draft sign based on published guidance, and circulate this for comment. Matter to be placed on agenda for October. Clerk to ask the playground Inspectors to deal with any serious broken glass issues while on site carrying out inspections, and notify the Council accordingly.

1409 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

C’lir Neil James had been looking into the matter. He had been given the name of an architect in Hook, who could probably do a design for around £3000. A structural engineer would then be needed to produce calculations, which was likely to cost a similar amount. He had been advised that Roger Casey might be able to do an all-in package, and was intending to look into this, as a one-stop shop approach would be preferable, all other things being equal.

C’lir Len Gale felt that a quotation for a blockwork building might be worth obtaining for comparison.

Agenda item for October to discuss further.

[NOTE – C’lir Louise Jones left the meeting at this point with apologies]

1410 - Discussion of project to develop land at Glebelands Field

C’lir Aled Thomas expressed a willingness to carry out hedge-trimming in the field, and Members appreciated the offer.

As Nathan Jones was no longer engaging with the community council, C’lir Neil James had obtained quotations from Simply Landscaping for work at Glebelands Field, as follows :

- Clearing and levelling of area in corner of field - £3750 + VAT. This was agreed by Members (proposer C’lir Neil James, seconder C’lir Janet Jeffries).

- Provision of 25m of fence along boundary, to extend as far as the corner to where the cycle path goes, and provision of concrete pads and supply and installation of four picnic benches and two litter bins. Members agreed for him to revise quotation for two pads, two benches, and one litter bin, along with fencing. If the revised quotation was exactly pro-rata to the itemised quotation, Members resolved to approve this (proposer C’lir Neil James, seconder C’lir Len Gale). Clerk to contact Simply Landscaping accordingly.

C’lir Neil James had also been in discussion with the P.C.C. Biodiversity Team. They had been pleased that the issue of the Japanese Knotweed had been addressed.

There were some issues that needed looking at, such as the location for depositing grass cuttings from the field, which would need to be discussed with Glenn Murray.

C’lir Neil James reported that the Biodiversity team had agreed to open up an ancient lane originally going to Dreen Hill / Tiers X. They were proposing to open that up into a path as phase 1, and join up with the existing boundary. This work would be 100% grant-funded, subject only to an agreement from the community council to undertake to budget and arrange a five-year management plan, likely to cost around £2000 - £3000 per annum. Members resolved to accept this offer (proposer C’lir Neil James, seconder C’lir Janet Jeffries). Clerk to notify P.C.C. accordingly.

It was mentioned that further phases could follow, depending on success of the initial phase and future funding settlements with the Welsh Government. There was also

the possibility of school participation in the management of the area. Members considered using the solar fund to finance the work agreed in this agenda item. C’lr Neil James mentioned that the Biodiversity Team would need a J.C.C. presence on the site during work. He could lead this, but would need assistance. C’lrs Janet Jeffries, Aled Thomas, Kaidan Alenko and Christine Wilkins all offered to assist as possible.

1411 - Discussion of Johnston in Bloom competition results

In hand with C’lrs Fran James and Nina Philpott. Agenda item for October.

1412 - Discussion of arrangements to recognise service of recently-retired members

C’lr Neil James had been in contact with Ken Rowlands, who was uncommitted to a gift choice at present. Members thought a meal might be good to arrange. They briefly discussed possible venues, and wondered if getting a caterer into the Village Hall might be a possibility. C’lr Aled Thomas undertook to look into this. C’lr Tracey Young also mentioned that their venue could be made available if necessary. C’lr Neil James had visited Glyn Edwards, and prepared a ‘Freedom of Johnston’ certificate, which was ready to go, only needing dates inserting. Matter to be placed on agenda for October in the hope that final arrangements could be made.

Any other business

1413 - Railings at top of the close, on walkway through to Playpark. C’lr Yvonne Llewellyn reported that one railing had lost its bolts, and was loose. Clerk to report to P.C.C.

1414 - Possible formation of Whatsapp group. Agenda item for October.

The meeting ended at 9-15pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 10th October 2022.

Signed.....Chairman
Date.....
