

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 12th November 2018 in Johnston Institute.

Present: Cllrs Jones, F. James, Wilkins, Jeffries, Young, Philpott, Rowlands; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'llrs N. James, Spilsbury, Pratt, Morgan.

In the absence of C'lr Spilsbury, the meeting was chaired by vice-Chair, C'lr Philpott.

9499 – Declarations of known Interests

C'lr Rowlands declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the tree-felling application 18/0752/TF up for discussion, as an immediate neighbour of the application site potentially affected by the works proposed.

9500 – To receive the minutes from the October 2018 monthly meeting

C'lr F. James was added to the list of those present. With this amendment the minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the vice-Chair (proposer C'lr Rowlands, seconder C'lr Jeffries).

9501 – Presentation of Johnston in Bloom awards for 2018

The following prizes had been awarded by the judges :

Large garden category

Winner : Violet Shaw, 38 Milford Road.

Runner up : Collette Bethwaite, Fairways, Hayston Road.

Small garden category

Winner : Mr. & Mrs. Evans, 44 Hillcroft

Runner up : Jude & Phil. Brookes, 13 Milford Road.

Commercial premises category

Winner : The Railway Inn

Runner up : Mike Howlin Motors

It was arranged that the prizes and winners' shields would be distributed to the award-winners by C'llrs Philpott and F. James.

9502 – Public Forum (ten minutes maximum)

Kathy Spurling was present to further discuss the issue of problems with inconsiderate parking of vehicles around the entranceway of The Windsor. She referred to a mention in the October meeting of a possibility of getting yellow lines put down. However it was explained that this was referring not to the roadway around The Windsor, but the car parking area opposite The Village Institute. This matter was still being looked into by officers in P.C.C. Regarding the possibility of putting down yellow lines along the road, C'lr Rowlands explained that this was a complicated process, involving consultation by the P.C.C. Highways Department with various parties, and a lengthy legal process. This was currently being looked at, and the outcome was not known. C'lr Rowlands also mentioned that the matter had been brought up at the Community Police Forum. As a result, the Police had carried out some patrols, and reported back that they could find no problem with illegal obstruction of the entranceway to The Windsor. Kathy Spurling took issue with this, as she maintained that there were regular problems. She said that she had called the 101 Police number on occasions to report incidents, and been told that 'they do

not deal with that kind of thing'. Members encouraged her to take up the matter of a possibly inadequate response from the 101 service at the next Community Police Forum meeting.

Mrs. Jean Swann was present to ask for an anticipated timescale for painting the yellow lines on the steps of the Village Institute. C'llr Rowlands mentioned that this had been discussed at the Village Institute Committee meeting, and arrangements were in hand for it to be done, the work having been programmed into the schedule of proposed works. He undertook to raise it again at the next meeting, scheduled for the following day. Mrs. Swann offered to pay for the paint if this was an issue.

Mrs. Bishop was present to make a progress enquiry regarding development of the site of the old school. C'llr Rowlands explained that there was no current timescale, and no plans had yet been prepared for development of the site. Once plans had been prepared, they would be put out to public consultation in the normal way.

Matters arising from the October 2018 monthly meeting

9503 – Greening of quarry bunds.

C'llr Rowlands confirmed that monitoring was ongoing.

9504 – problem with inadequate lighting on the public footpath under the railway Bridge.

C'llr Jones pointed out that the problem was not with a need for lighting under the railway bridge, but rather on the footpath over the bridge. Members concurred with this. C'llr Rowlands mentioned that the matter of improved lighting for the footpath over the bridge was currently being looked at by P.C.C.

9505 – Highway safety issues in Langford Road.

C'llr Rowlands explained that the matter of a possible reduction in speed limit to 20mph was still being looked at by P.C.C., and would take some time to complete.

9506 – Bus shelter / seat outside NISA Shop

C'llr Rowlands informed Members that there had been no response from the NISA Shop. P.C.C. was exploring an alternative option for a shelter by the Railway Inn.

9507- Close Field Skatepark

C'llr Rowlands reported that the recently-replaced swings had again been damaged, and removed by P.C.C. on safety grounds. The matter of working out costings for a combined lighting /CCTV scheme was currently under consideration by P.C.C.

9508 – Boundary fenceline with Dawnus development

C'llr Rowlands had been in discussion with Dawnus. They had explained that they were pleased to have been able to do the recent work on the boundary fence. However, they had also explained that this had been as a favour, and henceforth their Legal Department would only allow them to do work for which they had a legal responsibility. Matter to be placed on the December meeting agenda for further discussion. In the meantime, Clerk to obtain copies of the relevant planning consent for the Dawnus development. The matter of responsibility for future maintenance of fences on developments such as this and the one at Hayston View was a matter of ongoing discussion between C'llr Rowlands and officers in the Planning Department.

9509 - Discussion of possible formal signage provision for businesses around railway bridge

C'llr Philpott reported to Members that there were currently a number of occupancy changes taking place at the business park, which was making it difficult to arrive at a decision on an appropriate course of action. Matter to be placed on the January 2019 agenda for discussion, by which time it was hoped that things would have settled down. In general, Members were agreed that signage with provision for individual names to be changed would be a good idea.

9510 - Discussion of overhanging tree, Church Road

The Clerk reported to members on the feedback from P.C.C., who were not proposing any action to address the narrowed pavement at this location, citing low traffic and pedestrian levels, and consequent lack of justification for the work. Members were not happy with the response. C'llr Rowlands to pursue further with P.C.C. to see if any change of approach could be achieved.

9511 - Bolton Hill Quarry fence

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted the Quarry, and a site meeting had been suggested by them to confirm the exact line of the proposed fence before commencing work. Clerk to contact the quarry to inform them that C'llr Rowlands will be in touch to co-ordinate a site meeting with them.

9512 - Discussion of ways to promote community spirit via community events

Members were informed of a number of recent / planned events organised by the Johnston Community Spirit group. A pumpkin walk had been held at Halloween, and had been successful with around 127 people participating.

A Christmas Fair was planned for the following Sunday in the Village Institute. Commencing on Saturday 24th November, Christmas bingo was being held at the Village Institute for four weeks.

C'llr Rowlands expressed sincere commendation and gratitude to the Members involved in arranging these events, and offered the best wishes of the Community Council for the future success of the group.

C'llr Jones raised the question of possible funding assistance from the Community Council to aid future initiatives. Matter to be tabled as an agenda item for December, to include a discussion on formally appointing Community Council Members to represent the Council in Johnston Community Spirit meetings.

9513 – Fence, Cunnigar Lane

C'llr Rowlands reported that the matter had been further discussed with P.C.C. He had mentioned to them the ongoing cost to P.C.C. of clearing fly-tipped rubbish from the lane, and the fact that this problem was worsened by the lack of a suitable boundary fence along the edge of the Glebelands estate. He had requested a quotation for a fence to be erected along the boundary, citing possible cost savings in rubbish clearance as a reason to justify the work. The matter of a possible cost contribution from J.C.C. towards any work undertaken had also been mentioned.

9514 - Bushes growing in lane at The Close.

C'llr Rowlands had been informed that the dead bushes had been removed. However, this was at odds with reports from some other Members who had viewed the site within the last day or two. C'llr Rowlands to chase the matter up again.

9515 - Brambles on footpath to school.

C'llr Jones reported that while the growth alongside the path did not look pretty, the problem had lessened, due to the die back of brambles over the winter. C'llr Rowlands undertook to mention the issue to P.C.C. officers to see what could be done on an ongoing basis.

9516 - Narrow footpath outside Johnston Farm.

Nothing further to report at present.

Planning

9517 - Applications

18/0752/TF (Tree Felling - Johnston Hall, Church Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HD)

[NOTE – C'llr Rowlands left the room during discussion of this application]

Members noted the lack of detail on the application, especially in relation to the number and size of the trees affected. As Mrs Bishop was present, the vice-Chair asked her if she could supply any additional details. She explained that the application for removal of the trees was for safety reasons, due to their proximity to a neighbouring property. She further said that the trees were tall but not particularly broad, and the exact number affected was not known to her.

Clerk to respond to offer no objection to the application, providing that the neighbour's concerns were fully considered as part of the application process, especially in relation to possible loss of privacy.

18/0818/PA (Erection of 3 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow (resubmission of planning permission 18/0537/PA) - Land Adjacent to Northways, Brickhurst Park, Johnston, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PA) - no comments.

9518 - Decisions

18/0557/PA (Proposed extensions and alterations & change of use of front amenity area to form off street parking, 49, Glebelands, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PW)

Correspondence

9519 - P.C.C. – Request for flower orders for 2019 season – Clerk to respond to ask for a repeat of the 2018 planting arrangements.

9520 - P.C.C. – Request for information on areas of poor broadband provision – noted.

9521 - P.C.C. – Invitation to dementia-friendly communities event, to be held in Hermon, Tuesday 13th November – noted.

9522 - P.C.C. – Playground Inspection report for The Close – noted, and Members informed that the high risk item had been addressed temporarily with the removal of the affected swings.

9523 - Hywel Dda Health Board – Stakeholder briefing on recent developments – noted.

9524 - P.A.V.S. – Invitation to Pembrokeshire Funding Fair and P.A.V.S. A.G.M., to be held on Weds. 14th November, Queen's Hall, Narberth – noted.

9525 - One Voice Wales – October 2018 news bulletin – noted.

9526 - PATCH - request for financial grant towards Christmas Toy Appeal (held for consideration from October meeting) – Members agreed a £100 donation.

9527 - 1st Brownies Group – Request for financial assistance (held for discussion from October meeting) - Members agreed a £60 donation.

9528 - Johnston Sports Association – Request for financial assistance towards maintenance costs for pavilion upkeep (held for discussion from October meeting) – Members agreed a £200 contribution towards the work undertaken.

Accounts

9529 - Payments

D. Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 60-00
Johnston Football Club (grass cutting)	:	£150-00
Royal British Legion (Remembrance Day wreath)	:	£ 17-00
N. Philpott (reimbursement for Johnston in Bloom costs)	:	£110-40
PATCH (Xmas toy appeal)	:	£100-00
1 st Brownies Cub Group	:	£ 60-00
Johnston Sports Association (repairs to pavilion)	:	£200-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Jeffries, seconder C'llr Rowlands).

9530 - Discussion of Risk assessment actions required

It was noted that C'llr Pratt had been awaiting quotations for work to the bus shelter, which had not yet been received by the Community Council. Matter to be held over for further discussion in December.

9531 - Discussion of possible further defibrillator provision

The Clerk informed Members that he had sent three emails to Cariad, but not received any response as yet. Clerk to continue efforts to contact Cariad regarding the arrangements to be made.

9532 - Discussion of possible purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

Matter held for discussion in December, when it was hoped that more Members would be present to further the matter.

9533 - Discussion of draft 2019 Independent Remuneration Panel Report

C'llr Rowlands said that there had been a view expressed by many that the Welsh Government should have shouldered the responsibility to decide on levels of Members' allowances, rather than leaving it to councils to effectively decide these matters for themselves. Clerk to pass on these concerns to O.V.W., with a request that they pass them on during any discussions with the W.G. on the subject. Matter to be placed on the agenda for further discussion in December, especially in relation to agreeing the Council's stance on the proposed allowances listed.

9534 - Discussion of Community priorities for possible investment / service level agreements with P.C.C.

C'llr Rowlands pointed out that meaningful discussion was difficult in the absence of detailed costings for the various items of work to be considered. Matter held for further discussion in December.

Any other business

9535 - Remembrance Day service arrangements. C’llr Jeffries suggested that it could be a good idea to set up a formal committee to oversee all the arrangements in future years, to ensure that they are done in an appropriate and fitting way. She mentioned that this might make it easier to arrange a proper parade, as well as ensuring that all the other arrangements were well organised. C’llr Wilkins mentioned that there had been a problem with those outside not being able to hear what was going on. It was suggested that the matter of possible formation of a committee be included for discussion at the 2019 A.G.M.

9536 – recent problems with train services. C’llr Wilkins mentioned a problem experienced by her daughter, who had gone to take the Friday 1-15 service from Johnston, which it was then discovered had been cancelled. no-one had let them know that the train had been cancelled. The bus took them round the villages, and they eventually got to Carmarthen too late for their ongoing connection. She was concerned at the disorganisation, and wished to flag up the matter so that it could be passed on by C’llr Morgan to the appropriate parties.

9537 – New business in Old Post Office, Main Road. C’llr Young mentioned that work was under way for a new café / coffee shop. It was noted that no planning application had come before the Council. Matter to be placed on December agenda for discussion. In the meantime, Clerk to look into any potential planning issues.

9538 – Bonfire, Hillcroft. C’llr Jones reported debris left from the recent bonfire, including some potentially unsafe items. C’llr Rowlands undertook to pursue this.

9539 – C’llr N. James. Members wished it to be recorded that the usual input from C’llr N. James into recent community events had been sorely missed, and brought it home to all the value of his contribution to community affairs, and how much this should be appreciated.

9540 – Community Christmas trees. C’llr Rowlands confirmed that arrangements for this were well in hand.

9541 – Loose cables behind 19, Fairview. Members had been made aware of a problem with some unspecified cabling hanging down at this location. C’llr Rowlands undertook to get it looked into, though it was thought that a temporary repair had already been carried out.

9542 – Annual Chairman’s dinner. Matter to be placed on December agenda for discussion of possible date to be arranged in January. It was noted for the benefit of the public that the meal is not paid for from Community Council funds.

[NOTE – at this point members of the public were asked to leave the meeting].

9543 - Land opposite Johnston Institute

Members were provided with an update on the current situation. A further communication from the Land Registry was currently awaited.

The meeting ended at 8-40pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 10th December 2018

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....