

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 11th November 2024 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present: Cllrs Aled Thomas (Chairman), Yvonne Llewellyn, Martyn Spilsbury, Neil James, Christine Wilkins, Tracey Young, Nina Philpott, Janet Jeffries, Grayham Passmore; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'Ilr. Louise Jones.

2232 - Declarations of known Interests

None.

2233 – To receive the minutes from the October 2024 monthly meeting

The minutes of the October 2024 monthly meeting were approved as written (proposer C'Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C'Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn).

Matters arising

2234 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

Members reported that the necessary work was finally complete.

2235 – request for path along main road from Bulford Road to roundabout.

It was thought that this section of footpath was part of the scheme currently being planned by the Trunk Road Agency, and expected to be put out to consultation at some time in the near future.

2236 - Discussion of speeding problems and pavement provision, Hayston Road and Church Road

It was reported that the current roadworks on the main road were not helping the problem, Members were agreed that this was likely to worsen when the traffic lights on the main road were moved further up towards the southern end of the village. Members to continue to monitor the situation. C'Ilr Neil James commented that it was entirely like that a collision would occur sooner or later around the junction of Hayston Road and the road towards Rosemarket.

2237 – Flower / bulb planting along trunk road.

Nothing further to report to date.

2238 - Discussion of arrangements for repair of bus shelter broken panes

C'Ilr Aled Thomas had been promised a list of contractors who could undertake the necessary work, and had chased this up with PCC. However, subsequently, PCC had advised that no contractors were available to do this work, but had suggested that any handyman could do it.

Members recognised the importance of ensuring that the correct specification of Perspex was used for any repairs. C'Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to seek clarification on the specification from PCC. Clerk to ask David Banfield if he knew anyone who could potentially do the work.

2239 - Discussion of possible litter bin provision, Hillcroft field

PCC had replied to reject the request to supply a bin for this area. Clerk to ask them, if J.C.C. were to pay for supply of a litter bin, would they install and empty it. This message to make mention of the ongoing litter problem on this land, and the likelihood of further problems for P.C.C. if it remained unaddressed.

2240 - Community Council documentation.

All documentation was now with the Clerk for safe-keeping.

2241 - Discussion of arrangements for completion of license application for memorial bench installation at Church Road

The Clerk reported that the Highways license application had been successfully submitted and registered, but the license not yet granted. Andrew Gray had been unable to complete the work before Remembrance Day, but had confirmed his availability to carry out the work towards the end of November.

2242 - Discussion of damage to cycle path entrance on Brickhurst Park road

C'llr Christine Wilkins reported that Sustrans employees had been on the site the previous week, and had been unaware of the problem. They had filled the post hole in, thus making the area safe.

2243 - Footpath through Fairview towards school.

Members commented that the site was looking quite tidy at present. The hedgebank at the end of the path had been set back a little further during British Gas works, thus improving visibility at this location.

2244 – Correspondence – message from local resident with concerns over school transport arrangements from Johnston to Haverfordwest High School.

C'llr Aled Thomas mentioned that a debate was due to be held in the P.C.C. Schools and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee later in the month concerning the matter of school catchment areas. This would bring the matter into the open, and provide opportunity for opinions to be aired. Agenda item to be tabled for December to discuss anything further.

2245 - Discussion of arrangements to mark recent efforts of local schoolchildren in litter-picking

C'llr Aled Thomas was now in possession of the names of the children concerned. A suitable event in the school was being planned between him and the school.

2246 – Remembrance Day arrangements

Members thanked C'llr Neil James for co-ordinating all the arrangements for the event, which had been very successful, including the arrangements for the road closure. C'llr Neil James had collected the wreath, and paid the required £20 for it. He felt that in future years, it might be good for the community council to pre-approve an additional donation amount to enable this to be given when the wreath was collected. Thanks were also expressed by Members for the music put on by the Milford Haven Junior Town Band, including the bugler. Members approved a £20 donation to the bugler as a small gesture of appreciation for her input. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to her, and arrange the transfer of the £20 via the bank details provided.

2247 - Railway Bridge, Langford Road.

C’Ilr Aled Thomas had spoken to the Head of Highways in P.C.C. He had acknowledged that there had been a lot of complaints about the footbridge, but had not identified any significant problems during inspections undertaken. He had, however, undertaken to re-inspect. Further update expected in due course.

2248 - Planning

Application consultations received

24/0604/PA – Barn conversion to provide expansion of holiday let business.

Site Address: Johnston Hall, Church Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HD – No comments.

24/0630/PA – Alterations & Extension; Site Address: 10, Cranham Park, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PU – No comments.

24/0719/PA – Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Consent

23/0421/PA – (Proposed Outbuilding) to allow changes to approved plans

Site Address: Springfield, Kiln Road, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3PE – No comments.

2249 - Correspondence

01) The Circuit – Notification of expiry of paediatric pads on defibrillator adjacent to NISA store – Clerk to obtain replacement paediatric pads.

02) P.C.C. – Notification that no bin provision could be funded at Hillcroft – dealt with in 2239 above.

03) Infinity Play – Operational and routine Inspection Reports for Vine Field and Close Field Playparks – dealt with in agenda items below.

04) Easy Websites – Quotation for website – dealt with in agenda item below.

05) Sports Association – Report on poor condition of footbridge across railway line in Langford Road – dealt with in 2248 above.

06) P.C.C. – Active Travel consultation – dealt with in 2235 above.

07) P.C.C. – Formal notification of proposed Highway works on A4076 – Members questioned the decision-making process behind the proposal. C’Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to double-check with P.C.C. on the actual plans. Members noted that the formal consultation exercise on the proposals was still pending.

08) P.C.C. – Quotation for collection and installation of community Christmas trees – Members resolved to accept the quotation.

10) Dyfed Powys Police – Notification of closure of investigation into damage at Close Field Playpark – noted.

2250 - Accounts

Payments for approval

David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning, October 2024) : £ 72-00

Neil James (reimbursement for Remembrance Day wreath) : £ 20-00

Remembrance Day bugler (ex gratia payment) : £ 20-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C’Ilr Nina Philpott).

2251 - Discussion of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales 2025 report determinations

Members resolved to maintain the same approach towards all the optional determinations as that taken in the current year Existing determinations (proposer C'Ilr Aled Thomas, seconder C'Ilr Christine Wilkins). These were as follows :

Senior allowance	:	Not approved
Travel costs	:	Right reserved to pay where claimed
Overnight stay costs	:	Right reserved to pay where claimed
Financial loss compensation	:	Right reserved to pay where claimed
Attendance allowance	:	Not approved
Chairman payment	:	Right reserved to pay if appropriate
Deputy Chairman payment	:	Right reserved to pay if appropriate

2252 - Discussion of need for co-option of new council member

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no call for an election, and the co-option notice had been advertised. No applications had been received. Members to advertise vacancy via their various networks. Agenda item to be tabled in December meeting for discussion of any applications received.

2253 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field (including discussion of close-boarding gap at end of chainlink fencing)

Fencing works. The Clerk had sought a quotation for the fencing work to close up the boundary gap with 13, Brickhurst Park from Chris Thomas, and also from J.R.J. Landscaping. Both had been unsuccessful. Members asked the Clerk to seek a further quotation from David Rees Fencing.

Parking on Brickhurst Park. C'Ilr Grayham Passmore had been approached by a resident in Brickhurst Park who had experienced a serious problem and verbal abuse from someone obstructing their driveway, while parking to visit the playpark. Members recognised that parking along Brickhurst Park was a problem. The possibility of exploring parking provision outside the adjacent business park was again mentioned. C'Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to approach the owners about it informally, though it was felt this could be difficult and expensive to achieve. Another option that was discussed was the possible provision of parking within the playing field itself. This would require formal acquisition of part of the playing field not currently in J.C.C. ownership, which may need to be done by adverse possession. While it was accepted that this area had been included in grass-cutting by the J.C.C. contractors over many years, this could not necessarily be proved. Members commented on the benefit of specifying this area directly on any future grass-cutting contracts, in order to build up a picture of control over this land for any future possible attempt to acquire it.

2254 - Discussion of issues in Close Field (including possible consideration of CCTV coverage)

CCTV provision. Plans for a site meeting still in hand with C'Ilr Aled Thomas.

Anti-social behaviour issues. Members commented that problems seemed have abated somewhat. C'Ilr Aled Thomas had attended a meeting with various parties concerning The Silverdale. Some troublesome residents had now been evicted, and problems had reduced. He had requested more communication and co-operation between The Silverdale, P.C.C. and J.C.C. concerning these and related issues. He

mentioned that an agreement had been reached for officers to attend a future J.C.C. meeting to discuss concerns and ways forward.

C’Ilr Nina Philpott commented that, notwithstanding suggestions that the situation had improved, there had been reports of problems with drug use, shop-lifting, anti-social behaviour, etc. reported by the staff at the petrol station. C’Ilr Aled Thomas said evidence would be required to make a direct link with The Silverdale.

C’Ilr Neil James described a recent incident in the NISA shop, where a large number of police officers had been in attendance. C’Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to seek information on that incident. Members were dissatisfied with the current situation, and approach being taken by the Police. They felt that in the light of such occurrences, it was unacceptable for the Police to decline to attend in a timely fashion when incidents were reported.

2255 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in Close Field Playpark

In hand with C’Ilr Aled Thomas, who was currently working through the analysis of the survey responses. Further agenda item to be tabled for discussion in December.

2256 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

No update to report.

2257 - Any necessary discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field

Senedd Places for Nature event. C’Ilrs Neil James and Aled Thomas planned to attend this event on behalf of the community council. It was hoped that this could potentially be used as a platform for obtaining further Places for Nature grants in the future.

Dog fouling. Members discussed the ongoing problem, and possible ways to tackle it. The Clerk had looked into the matter. It was confirmed that there was already a Public Spaces Protection Order (P.S.P.O.) in place covering the entire County, that enabled enforcement against dog-fouling. Clerk to ask P.C.C. for suitable signage to be placed at the entrance to the recreational area to draw attention to the possible fines, etc., that could be levied against offenders. If none could be obtained from P.C.C., Clerk to look into purchasing some at A1 size. C’Ilr Nina Philpott to place a post on the community Facebook page concerning the matter.

Badgers. C’Ilr Neil James reported that the situation had improved greatly. However, he felt that extending the fence along the rear of the picnic area adjacent to the sports pitch would further help the situation. Members approved funding of up to £2000 for a further 250m of fencing to be provided (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Nina Philpott). C’Ilr Neil James to make appropriate arrangements for this to be done.

CCTV. C’Ilr Neil James suggested that provision should be considered for CCTV around the pavilion area as an addition to any scheme arranged at the Close Field.

Tree-felling required pursuant to recent Treeworks survey. Currently in hand with C’Ilr Neil James to arrange.

Dog control measures. Members discussed the possible options to require dogs to be kept on leads on parts of Glebelands Field. It had been ascertained that this could only be achieved legally via a P.S.P.O. these could only be enacted by P.C.C. as the principal authority. However, P.C.C. had seemed unwilling to consider this option in

