Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 9th March 2026 in the Johnston Institute, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.
Present: Cllrs Yvonne Llewellyn, Rikki Schroeder, Neil James, Janet Jeffries, Len Gale, Nina Philpott, Tracey Young, Grayham Passmore, Aled Thomas; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies
C'llrs. Christine Wilkins, Louise Jones.

2583 - Declaration of known interests
None.

2584 - Approval of minutes of February 2026 monthly meeting
The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'llr Grayham Passmore, seconder C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn).

2585 - Opportunity for public representations on tabled agenda items
A local resident was present to make representations concerning The Silverdale. He said there was a problem with working out lines of responsibility there, with P.C.C. leasing it from the owners, and then subcontracting certain aspects. He mentioned the banks of CCTV screens, security fencing, doors with panels out, and generally poor state of maintenance, as adversely affecting the ambience of the premises, and creating a somewhat depressing air. He said the staff were good, but conditions could be extreme. Residents were not allowed to stay out overnight without prior consent, no visitors were allowed, and there was no guest room where one could meet and spend time with visitors. He felt that lots of things there could be better.
C'llr Aled Thomas mentioned the ongoing problems in the playpark with anti-social behaviour and alcohol abuse. The local resident said that most people staying at The Silverdale were ok, pleasant, and in many cases victims of their own past, due to childhood abuse, etc. Regarding the issue of alcohol abuse offsite, he was asked if the onsite alcohol ban was a contributing factor to this problem. He acknowledged differing views on this, which could be difficult to reconcile. The possibility of introducing a ban on alcohol in public places was also mentioned, but felt to be difficult to enforce, and have unintended consequences.
The resident also mentioned the proposal to revert the speed limit through the village to 30mph. He said that it was difficult to cross the road now, and dangerous. He suggested that sanctuary islands in the middle of the road would help. Members took the point on board, while pointing out the presence of a pedestrian crossing.
The resident also mentioned vomit in the St. Peter's Road bus shelter as a problem.

2586 - Discussion with NaCRO officials regarding The Silverdale
The NaCRO officer was not present at the meeting, so the item was deferred for consideration in April.

Matters Arising
2587 - Discussion of problem with illegal parking around junction of Langford Road and Main Road
C'llr Aled Thomas had spoken with officers in P.C.C., and also with the P.C.C. Cabinet member for transport issues. A loophole in legislation existed which made

enforcing breaches of the double yellow line restrictions difficult. Other measures, such as 'spiking', had been mentioned as possibilities, which would mean vehicles were banned from stopping at all. It was left for C'llr Aled Thomas to set up a site meeting with the Cabinet member and P.C.C. officer to look at the issue more closely. It was also left for C'llr Aled Thomas to try and speak to the business owner, to see if any acceptable compromise solution could be identified.

2588 - Discussion of traffic problems at Old School Lane / Cranham Park
C'llr Aled Thomas reported that a job ticket had been issued for the lining work. However, this needed to be carried out in dry weather.

2589 - Discussion of measures needed to address poor drainage around footbridge, Langford Road
C'llr Aled Thomas confirmed that the matter was now with Network Rail to address, and they had scheduled inspections / work to address the problem.

2590 - Potholes / pavement cracks around The Close.
No change, with pothole repairs still awaited.

2591 – Correspondence Matters Arising
The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the landowners of the Brickhurst Park lane, and passed on to them the issue of poor surface conditions. The owners of Longview had made contact to say they were planning remedial works when the opportunity presented itself. The complainant had been informed of the actions taken.
Members were informed that A Patients' Group meeting had been arranged by Neyland Health Centre, to take place on 20th May in the Johnston Village Institute.

2592 - Planning
Planning consents notified
25/0855/PA - Temporary cabin for children's ministry; Site Address: Johnston Baptist Church, St Peters Road, Johnston, Pembrokeshire

2593 - Correspondence
01) P.C.C. – Notification of rejection of 2025 Places for Nature grant application – dealt with in agenda item 2601 below.
02) Norrard's Electrics – Confirmation of willingness to assist with formal switch-on of Christmas lighting in 2026 – dealt with in agenda item 2604 below.
03) Powis Communications – Update on progress with solar farm consultations, etc. – dealt with in agenda item 2596 below.
04) Local resident – Concern over litter in Close Field Playpark – dealt with in agenda item 2598 below.
05) P.P.S. Pembrokeshire – Quotation for 2026/27 playpark inspections – dealt with in agenda item 2597 below.
06) Amey – acknowledgement of consultation response sent in concerning proposed speed limit changes in Johnston – noted.
07) P.C.C. – Consultation on proposed cemetery extension to Thornton Cemetery – No comments.
08) Local resident – Application to join council – Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in April.

09) P.P.S. Pembrokeshire – Routine playpark inspection reports – dealt with in agenda items 2597 and 2598 below.

2594 - Accounts

Payments for approval

Easy Websites (direct debit for website / email provision)	: £ 36-96
Clerk (salary January – March)	: As per contract
H.M.R.C. (PAYE tax / N.I. contributions)	: As per contract
Clerk (incidental expenses October – March)	: £ 114-69
West Wales Pest Control Ltd. (INV-27159)	: £ 456-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr Rikki Schroeder, seconder C'llr Len Gale).

Internal auditor for 2025/26 accounts

Members approved use of the same internal auditor as previous years.

2595 - Discussion of arrangements for completion of annual community council asset and financial risk assessments

Clerk to carry out financial risk assessment.
C'llr Neil James to carry out asset risk assessment.

2596 - Any necessary discussion of solar farm proposals, Johnston and Freystrop

Katie Powis of Powis Communications had sent an update. The scheme plans had been changed somewhat to provide a 50m buffer zone between the installation and neighbouring properties in certain locations. No indication had been provided on timescale for the project, and no mention had been made of the community benefit element. A public exhibition was planned to be held in the Village Institute on 17th March, and the Johnston Baptist Chapel also booked for sometime in May. C'llr Aled Thomas mentioned that the BBC was planning a programme about solar farms in Pembrokeshire.

2597 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with Vine Field

Playpark inspections. Members accepted the P.P.S. quotation for playpark inspections for 2026/27 (proposer C'llr Aled Thomas, seconder C'llr Neil James). It was noted that the increase was in the region of 17% above the current year's prices. Members were prepared to accept this on the basis that the work involved may only have become fully apparent over the course of the first year. However, they asked for the matter to be flagged up with P.P.S. Pembrokeshire, in expectation that any increase next year would be broadly in line with any cost of living increase.

Damaged fence around playpark. Clerk to seek quotation from F.J. Groundworks and Fencing for repair of the fence, including an alternative quotation for complete replacement of the sheep netting. Clerk to also ask them to look at the fallen branch mentioned in the report, and advise on this / quote for removal.

2598 - Any necessary discussion of issues in Close Field

Litter problems. Members considered the message received from a local resident regarding litter problems in the playpark, and also the subsequent message sent in about broken glass. Members discussed various options. Members to monitor the situation for the next month. In addition, it was agreed to co-ordinate a community litter-pick, this to be carried out in late March, to coincide with the Spring Clean

Cymru initiative being promoted throughout Wales. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to check with the school for any equipment they might have that could be used for this purpose. In the event that this was unsuccessful, he would contact Keep Wales Tidy. It was decided to obtain the necessary equipment first, before setting a definite date for the litter-pick. Once arranged, it was suggested that residents of The Silverdale should be invited to join in the arrangement. This was agreed as a good idea, though it was suggested that councillors should also be there. Clerk to contact the resident concerned, to let them know of the actions proposed.

2599 - Discussion of possible provision of BMX ramps in Close Field Playpark
Members to investigate options for purchase of suitable ramps for this purpose.

2600 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion
C'llr Neil James reported that surplus materials and equipment had been removed from the pavilion, and the remaining items moved to one end. New internal doors had been made, and the new gable end inside was more or less ready. The roof was due to be taken off imminently. It was mentioned that there was not enough room for all the items stored there, especially for the Heart of Johnston equipment. Ideally, a shipping container would be needed. C'llr Rikki Schroeder mentioned that he possibly had two shipping containers that could be made available, which were surplus from the garage where he worked. Members agreed in principle expenditure of £500 to purchase these (proposer C'llr Nina Philpott, seconder C'llr Neil James). C'llr Aled Thomas thought he might be able to arrange some assistance with transportation.

2601 - Any necessary discussion of land development at Glebelands Field
Members were disappointed to learn that the Places for Nature grant application for 2025 had not been successful. C'llr Nail James thought this might have been due to limited plans for community involvement. It was noted, though, that the window for new applications was expected to re-open in April 2026, which would provide an opportunity to apply again for funding.
C'llr Grayham Passmore mentioned the boundary fence alongside the sports field at the pavilion end of the field. Some fence posts had been removed backing onto the parking area in Glebelands. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to make enquiries about the ownership of this fence. In the meantime, Clerk to seek a quotation from F.J. Groundworks and Fencing for repair / replacement.

2602 - Any necessary discussion of P.C.C. proposals for highway improvements at Church Road
C'llr Aled Thomas had spoken with a P.C.C. officer about the state of play with the proposals. It had been pointed out that the feasibility study was complete, but that there was currently no funding in place for the work itself. It had been suggested that the project would be too big to be covered under the minor works programme, and that finance would need to be sought from other funding streams. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to seek a further substantive update before April meeting.
C'llr Aled Thomas had spoken to the owner of Johnston Hall about the pavement / hedgebank along Church Road. This had not provided any clarity on ownership / responsibility. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to go back to P.C.C. to check on this.

2603 - Discussion of possible adoption of an Internal Resolutions Policy for Members

Members resolved to adopt the Internal Resolution Policy for Members, and the Grievance Policy for employees (proposer C'llr Rikki Schroeder, seconder C'llr Tracey Young).

2604 - Discussion of consideration to formal switch-on of Christmas tree lights in 2026

Members were informed that Norrard's Electrics had indicated that they could assist with a formal switch-on of the Christmas lights, and at no extra cost. Members agreed to work towards this for 2026. Clerk to let Norrard's know, and ask them to bear this in mind for a likely date in early December. Agenda item to be tabled for July to start detailed planning.

2605 - Discussion of dog-fouling problems on Hillcroft Field

C'llr Nina Philpott had received multiple messages about the problem, which was of ongoing concern to many residents. C'llr Aled Thomas confirmed that he had spoken to the P.C.C. Envirocrime team, and it had been confirmed that P.C.C. was currently considering bringing the enforcement element back in house. C'llr Aled Thomas to speak with Steve Morbey of the P.C.C. Environmental Health team, to see what actions were possible. Members discussed briefly the possibility of putting up signage. Clerk to check on previous correspondence with P.C.C. to see whether the idea of J.C.C. providing signage had been discussed, and if not, ask for this to be considered. Clerk to also revisit with P.C.C. the request for a litter bin.
Matter to be placed on April agenda for any necessary further discussion. Agenda item title to be altered to include litter as part of the subject under discussion.

2606 - Any other business

Mud on footpaths at The Close. This was mentioned as a serious problem, due to vehicle owners driving over the grassed area. C'llr Aled Thomas confirmed that the matter had already been raised with P.C.C., and arrangements had been made for an inspection.
Damage to train station shelter. It was reported that the waiting shelter at the train station had been vandalised. C'llr Nina Philpott undertook to report this to the British Transport Police for any possible action. Agenda item to be tabled for any necessary discussion in April.
Litter between Old School Lane and cycle path. This had been reported as a problem. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to report to P.C.C.

The meeting ended at 9-01pm. Next scheduled meeting – 13th April 2026.

Signed……Chairman Date……..