

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 13th March 2023 in the Johnston Institute, Church Road, Johnston, and also online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present: Cllrs Aled Thomas, Nina Philpott, Janet Jeffries, Yvonne Llewellyn, Neil James, Len Gale, Louise Jones, Christine Wilkins; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'llrs Kaidan Alenko, Martyn Spilsbury, Tracey Young.

1570 - Declarations of known Interests

None

1571 – To receive the minutes from the February 2023 monthly meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record, and retained for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C'llr Janet Jeffries, seconder C'llr Yvonne Llewellyn).

Matters arising

1572 - Discussion of purchase of WW1 commemorative memorial seat

Still in hand with C'llr Spilsbury.

1573 - Discussion of quotation for work on bus shelter, St. Peter's Road

No further update regarding the timetable for replacing the St. Peter's Road bus shelter had yet been received.

1574 - Discussion of link footpath from Church Road to Hayston View

The Clerk had reported the matter to P.C.C., and received a holding response. However, Members noted no change, with the open, but the road sign still not re-erected. Also, the hydrant indicator post was still awaiting re-fixing, and there were still problems with the street-lighting in the area. Clerk to seek an update from P.C.C.

1575 - Discussion of arrangements for future maintenance of defibrillators

It was not known whether or not the defibrillators had been checked in February. The Clerk undertook to check them in March, as Fran James was listed, but was no longer on the council.

1576 - Discussion of establishment of vexatious communication policy

Matter still in hand with Clerk.

1577 - Discussion of possible one-way system in Glebelands

Matter in hand with P.C. Neil Lees, who had undertaken to look into possible measures to address the problem. Matter to be tabled as an agenda item for discussion in April.

1578 - Discussion of arrangements to commence grant project for Vine Field, including consideration of revised quotation from Sovereign Play

Members were informed that the new playpark had been added to the council's insurance. Members noted that the wooden fence around the playpark was now complete. C'llr Neil James had placed two 'No Dogs' signs on the fence. Clerk to investigate the process for invoking a formal byelaw to exclude dogs from the immediate playpark area.

1579 – Correspondence on fenceline.

Nothing had been heard back from the landowners, or was now expected to be, in view of the passage of time. Clerk to ask the Playground Inspector to comment on the condition of fence, and advise whether or not it was in a serviceable condition.

1580 - New Council houses at Cranham Park

No change, with construction still ongoing.

1581 - Fibre optic cable installation works, The Close.

Clerk to report this to P.C.C. again, as Members were reporting ongoing issues with pavement blockages, without provision of any pedestrian walkways. Members were asked to take photographs and forward these to the Clerk if this was noted again. Members also reported issues with the failure to signpost blocked access from Greenhall Park, with resultant problems for traffic driving through the street, only to find the far access blocked off without warning.

1582 - Orchard Court

C’lir Aled Thomas reported that the matter was in hand with P.C.C., and that in reality it was no longer a matter for the Community Council, as the issue had been raised. Matter to be left in abeyance.

1583 – fly-tipping.

C’lir Nina Philpott reported that the area adjacent to the cycle path entrance from Hillcroft had been cleared up by P.C.C., and growth removed. It was hoped that this would lead to an overall improvement in the situation regarding fly-tipping there. Regarding the area behind Acorn Drive, this had been reported to ATEB, and acknowledged by them. However, Members reported no improvement. Clerk to chase this up with ATEB.

1584 – Damaged trees at Glebelands.

C’lirs Yvonne Llewellyn and Janet Jeffries reported that the trees seemed to be coming on well.

1585 – Damaged panel on bus stop, Glebelands.

The Clerk had chased this up again, and been informed by P.C.C. that the broken panel should be repaired within 30 days.

1586 - Johnston School donation request.

The Clerk confirmed that no further details had been received from the school regarding their plans or likely costings, to enable a decision on a donation to be made. C’lir Louise Jones confirmed that the school had been finalising arrangements for an event at the school. She undertook to ask them to forward information to the Clerk in advance of the April meeting. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in April of Coronation-related matters, including consideration of any donation requests received by local organisations wishing to mark the occasion. Local groups or organisations in and around the Village wishing to seek assistance from the community council in funding their events were encouraged to contact the Clerk with details in advance of the April monthly meeting.

[NOTE – C’lir Len Gale entered the meeting at this point].

1587 - Discussion of community litter bin provision

The Clerk had enquired of P.C.C. regarding this matter. They had said that bins had been relocated / removed / replaced due to a review that indicated that some bins were not being used properly. Members were concerned about the ownership of the bins, which had previously been understood to be in the community council's ownership. This needed clarification for the asset register and insurance purposes. C'llr Aled Thomas undertook to ask P.C.C. about this informally. In the meantime the Clerk recommended that they should be kept on the community council asset register and included in the asset risk assessment if they were replacement bins in the same location as previously, or were the same bins in new locations. New bins in new locations should not need to be covered.

1588 – The Close pathway.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the householders of the adjacent property following the February meeting, but had received no reply. Clerk to report the matter to P.C.C. as a safety issue, with a request for action to address the problem.

1589 – request for path along main road between Bulford Road and roundabout.

The Clerk had chased up a response from Welsh Government, which was currently awaited.

1590 - Planning

There were no plans for consideration this month.

Correspondence

1591 - Infinity Play – quotation for playground inspections 2023/24 – approved by Members (proposer C'llr Janet Jeffries, seconder C'llr Nina Philpott). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

1592 - Neil Lees (Dyfed Powys Police) – holding response re. traffic issues at Glebelands – still in hand with P.C. Neil Lees.

1593 - Hywel Dda – Notification of forthcoming consultation events to do with new hospital provision – noted. C'llr Aled Thomas intended to attend one of the events, and undertook to circulate any information of interest.

1594 - Independent Remuneration Panel – 2023 report – Agenda item to be tabled for any necessary discussion in April. C'llr Aled Thomas drew attention to the discussion on the draft report in an earlier meeting, and felt it unlikely there would need to be any further substantive discussion, as the final report was not thought to have changed significantly.

1595 - Local resident – complaints about fencing at rear of their property adjacent to Vine Field – dealt with in agenda item below.

1596 - ATEB – holding response re. fly-tipping on land behind Acorn Drive – dealt with in 1583 above.

1597 - Treeworks – Message concerning trees in woodlands at Glebelands – C'llr Neil James confirmed that Treeworks had been out to inspect the trees. There was no immediate concern regarding the trees around the newly-opened pathway. C'llr Neil James also had a meeting scheduled with Nathan Greene later in the week to discuss arrangements for tree-felling in accordance with the requirements of the tree survey, as necessary.

1598 - Adam Thomas (Dyfed Powys Police) – Litter-picking initiatives – Members were interested in the information provided. C’Ilr Aled Thomas mentioned that he planned to do a litter-picking session with M.P. Stephen Crabb on the bypass later in the week. Anyone who wished to attend could do so.

1599 - P.C.C. – Information regarding UKSPF funding applications – noted. Members were interested to know if this could be a possible source of funding for the new building project currently under consideration on Glebelands Field. C’Ilr Aled Thomas undertook to look into this.

1600 - Infinity Play – Quotation for chainlink fencing, Vine Field – dealt with in agenda item below.

1601 - Infinity Play – Quotation for picnic bench supply and installation, Glebelands Field and Vine Field Playpark – dealt with in agenda items below.

Accounts

1602 - Payments for approval

O.V.W. (Membership renewal)	:	£ 370-00
Infinity Play (fencing work, Vine Field)	:	£3531-71 + VAT
Infinity Play (playground inspections, 2022/23)	:	£1240-00 + VAT
Neil James (reimbursement of signage purchase)	:	£ 13-84
West Wales Pest Control (mole control)	:	£ 380-00 + VAT
David Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 72-00
Clerk (salary January – March)	:	as per contract
H.M.R.C. (PAYE tax on above)	:	as per contract
Johnston Institute (hall hire)	:	£ 176-00
Zurich (insurance additional premium)	:	£ 179-30

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

1603 - Discussion of completion of community financial and asset risk assessments

Clerk to complete the review of the financial risk assessment prior to March 31st. C’Ilr Neil James confirmed that the asset risk assessment renewal was largely complete, and would send this over to C’Ilr Nina Philpott for review once complete.

1604 - Discussion of completion of biodiversity enhancement report

C’Ilr Aled Thomas confirmed that he had almost completed the updated document, and just needed to add one or two final details. Document to be sent to Clerk for circulation to all Members once complete. Agenda item for April to adopt this.

1605 - Any necessary discussion of issues connected with new playground installation in Vine Field, including neighbouring boundary fencing issues, etc.

Members accepted the quotation from Infinity Play for the supply and installation of two picnic benches at the playpark (proposer C’Ilr Neil James, seconder C’Ilr Nina Philpott). Clerk to inform them accordingly.

Regarding the boundary issues with No. 13 Brickhurst Park, no further contact had been received by email from them with any concrete proposals in advance of the meeting.

Members were very mindful of their duty of care in relation to the security of the site boundaries.

Clerk to send a letter to the owners of No. 13 Brickhurst Park, informing them of the intention to erect a chainlink fence along the boundary of the playpark behind their property anytime after 14 days from the date of the letter. Letter to be sent by Royal Mail Signed For or hand delivered for the avoidance of doubt.

The quotation from Infinity Play for the provision of the chainlink fence was accepted in principle, to be confirmed after 14 days if no negotiations had been entered into with the owners of No. 13 Brickhurst Park regarding any other possible approaches (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Nina Philpott).

Clerk to write to the occupiers of No. 15 Brickhurst Park, to inform them of the proposed cutting back of the overhanging sections of their Leylandii tree.

Clerk to send a letter to the owners of No. 13 Brickhurst Park asking them to remove the unauthorised goalposts from the playpark. Letter to inform them that consideration was being given by the community council to the possibility of installing goalposts at the site.

1606 - Discussion of closure of GP surgery for maintenance

C'Ilr Aled Thomas confirmed that he had been in discussion with the C.E.O. of Hywel Dda Health Board regarding the matter. However, no meaningful information had been received, beyond a statement that the premises were closed for maintenance purposes. It was understood that Paul Davies S.M. was going to ask questions in the Senedd about the matter. However, it was not necessarily expected that this would result in any further details being forthcoming, and more information was awaited.

1607 - Discussion of possible provision of roller-skating rink in community

Matter deferred for discussion in April, when it was hoped that C'Ilr Kaidan Alenko would be in attendance.

1608 - Discussion of progress towards possible replacement of wooden pavilion

Nothing further had been received from the architect to date. Clerk to contact him to request an indicative timescale for initial design documents. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in April.

1609 - Discussion of progress on project to develop land at Glebelands Field

C'Ilr Neil James confirmed that an email had been sent to P.C.C. regarding various matters raised by them in connection with the project, but nothing further had been heard since then. Clerk to send follow up email to them seeking an indication of how they intended to progress from this point on.

C'Ilr Nina Philpott raised the possibility of carrying out some planting at the site in recognition of the impending Coronation of Charles III.

The quotation for two new picnic benches on Glebelands Field provided by Infinity Play was approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Nina Philpott). Clerk to inform them accordingly.

Members reported that the litter bin in Glebelands needed re-setting in its concrete base. Clerk to ask Infinity Play to look at this and provide a quotation for the necessary remedial work.

Arrangements for siting of 'Stop and Chat' bench currently in hand with Infinity Play.

Any other business

1670 – Green area fronting The Close. C’Ilr Yvonne Llewellyn reported problems with someone from one of the properties dumping cuttings, etc., on the green area in front of their property. Clerk to write to the property, and ask them to desist from doing this, as it posed a safety issue, and was illegal.

1671 – Impending speed limit reductions in Village. C’Ilr Christine Wilkins had received complaints from a local resident in Acorn Drive about problems with speeding in the Village. C’Ilr Aled Thomas was familiar with the resident concerned, and undertook to discuss the matter with them.

1672 – Goalpost provision, Vine Field. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in April in response to requests received for goalposts to be put up in the field.

1673 – Street-lighting problems, Moors Road. C’Ilr Aled Thomas had received contact about problems with non-functioning street lights in Moors Road, which was currently unadopted. Clerk to forward contact details for the site owners to C’Ilr Aled Thomas in connection with this.

1674 – Pothole, Church Road car park. C’Ilr Neil James reported that this had now been repaired by P.C.C.

1675 – Pavement kerb, Main Road close to Church Road junction. C’Ilr Nina Philpott had received concerns from residents about the lack of a proper kerb at this location. Agenda item to be tabled for any necessary discussion in April, though it was thought unlikely that J.C.C. could have any meaningful input.

The meeting ended at 9-00pm. Next scheduled meeting – Monday 17th April 2023.

Signed.....Chairman

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