

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Tuesday 2nd July 2024, 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Paddy McNamara (Chairman), Robin Howells (vice-Chairman), Derek Jones, John Evans; County Councillor Danny Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies: C'llrs Nia Phillips, Peter Griffiths, Fiona Hart, Scott Sinclair, Vicky White, Laurence Price

Also present : P.C. Neil Lees, Dyfed Powys Police.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to make representations.

Approval of minutes of the June 2024 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'lr Derek Jones, seconder C'lr John Evans), and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

For sale signage on common land at junction of Vale Road and Main Road. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted the two estate agents involved, and advised them that the signs needed to be removed by the date of the meeting. Members confirmed that the signage was still in situ. It was agreed that the signage would accordingly be removed directly (proposer C'lr John Evans, seconder C'lr Derek Jones). Regarding grass-cutting of the area in question, it was agreed that arrangements would be made for F.J. Groundworks to carry out grass-cutting there when necessary (proposer C'lr John Evans, seconder C'lr Robin Howells).

Information board, Houghton Green. Arrangements for remedial work in hand with C'lr Paddy McNamara. Matter to be tabled for discussion in September.

Cleddau Reach School public parking. Members acknowledged that nothing further could be done. It was recognised that concerns over the situation had been made clear to P.C.C., and that the Authority would make any future decisions regarding land use at this location. Matter left in abeyance.

Use of common land by building contractors for parking. Members noted that the problem appeared to have ceased.

Plans

Consents issued

23/1086/PA - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref. 22/1112/PA to approve details in relation to surface water and foul water drainage; Formerly known as Plot 2 - Now known as Number 14, 2, Houghton Nursery, Houghton, SA73 1NW

Correspondence

01) Boundary Commission for Wales - timetable for publication of draft boundary proposals - noted, and Clerk to circulate these once received.

02) Welsh Government - Notification of intended review of 20mph speed limits - noted.

- 03) C'Ilr Michael John - Response to message about parking outside Cleddau Reach School - dealt with in 'Matters arising' above.
- 04) Local resident - Message outlining concerns about parking outside playpark in Vale Road - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 06) Infinity Play - Annual Inspection Report, Houghton Playpark - noted.
- 07) F.J. Groundwork & Fencing Ltd. - Quotation for guttering work at Hill Crescent Community Garden - Option 1 of the quotation was agreed, at a cost of £321-80 (proposer C'Ilr Derek Jones, seconder C'Ilr John Evans). Clerk to inform F.J. Groundwork & Fencing accordingly.

Accounts

Payments

Batemans (gardening services, Burton Ferry, June)	:	£ 60-00
Frazer James (Grass cutting, invoice ref 0073)	:	£120-00
St. David's Diocesan Board of Finance (lease for Houghton Playing Field)	:	£200-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Derek Jones, seconder C'Ilr Robin Howells).

External audit of 2023/24 accounts.

The Clerk informed Members that the accounts had been sent to the external auditor as required, and the right of residents to inspect the accounts had been advertised as required, both in a community noticeboard and on the webpage.

Discussion of surface water problems in Hill Crescent

Members noted that this was essentially a private matter between C'Ilr Peter Griffiths and P.C.C. It was also noted that P.C.C. had already undertaken to carry out a review of the drainage arrangements in Hill Crescent at some future date, and consider possible options for work to improve the situation. Clerk to contact P.C.C. asking for a copy of their review report when available. Matter left in abeyance.

Any necessary discussion of ownership issues relating to Jubilee Hall

Deferred for further consideration in September, as deed copies had not been received.

Discussion of traffic / safety issues outside Houghton Playpark

Members noted that the original playpark had been installed around 46 years previously, with its entrance at the same location as the current one. They also noted that there were plastic bollards along the roadside around the playpark entrance, that the road was adequately wide for vehicles to park without obstructing access to properties opposite, that when Planning consent was granted for the new residential units opposite, there had been no objection from B.C.C. on access / egress grounds. Around £66,000 had been spent on the newly-refurbished playpark, and Members had no wish to take actions that could limit its use for visiting residents. Members also noted that the playpark project was carried out after a public consultation, which indicated overwhelming support by local residents for the project. There had been many donations given by local residents towards the cost of re-developing the playpark. Regarding use of the car park on the opposite side of the main road, it was noted that this had been provided on acquisition of the playing field, to prevent the need to cross the main road to gain access to it, and also to the village hall. Members were not willing to pro-actively encourage users of the playpark to use the car park, as this would effectively be encouraging them to cross the main road. Regarding the comment of the member of the public who had addressed the meeting in the public forum in June, to the effect that C'Ilr Paddy McNamara had given undertakings to arrange for signage to be erected directing people to the car park on the opposite side of the road, C'Ilr Paddy McNamara commented that he had no recollection of ever having given any such undertaking. Clerk to respond to the letter received from a local resident who had expressed concern over the

current situation, outlining the above factors (proposer C'llr Derek Jones, seconder C'llr Robin Howells).

Discussion on any needed actions from recent tree report

Deferred for discussion in October, when the season for doing the necessary work would be imminent.

Discussion of current council vacancy open

The clerk confirmed that the administrative process for advertising the vacancy was under way. Matter to be placed on September for further discussion, In the meantime, Members were encouraged to seek potential suitable candidates.

Discussion of optional member allowances

It was agreed that Members who undertook significant work for the community council should feel free to pro-actively ask for the optional senior Members' allowances to be made available to them, and Members were encouraged to be aware of this.

Discussion of dog-fouling problems in community

Clerk to contact the P.C.C. Envirocrime team to ask them to increase patrols in the community, due to ongoing dog-fouling problems. In addition, Clerk to contact P.C.C., to ask if they would assume responsibility for emptying an additional litter bin at the Houghton Playing Field, if the community council was to arrange to have one installed.

Discussion of issues related to title deeds of Jubilee Hall

Deferred for consideration once the requisite deed copies had been received.

Discussion of arrangements for maintenance of wild area at Houghton Playpark

C'llr Paddy McNamara had spoken with C'llr Fiona Hart regarding the situation. The wild area was developing well, but there had been some encroachment of growth over the pathways. Members agreed for arrangements to be made for F.J. Groundworks to edge / trim down the sides of pathways in the wild area (proposer C'llr John Evans, seconder C'llr Robin Howells). C'llr Paddy McNamara undertook to make the necessary arrangements. In autumn, C'llr Fiona Hart would arrange ongoing maintenance with local volunteers.

Discussion of trees on boundary of Jubilee Hall property

Members were informed that this matter had now been resolved, with the neighbour having agreed to remove the trees as necessary.

Discussion of public access down to water front at Barnlake

Deferred for discussion in September.

Discussion of use of grass area at Prince of Wales Close for skip storage

This land was thought to be in P.C.C. ownership, Clerk to contact P.C.C. to confirm this. Matter to be deferred for further consideration in September.

Any necessary discussion / updates on future community events

No events currently planned.

Discussion of non-information received about planned hospital relocation

C'llr Derek Jones commented that it had been around two years since the presentation by Hywel Dda Health Board to the community council. Members agreed that an update on the situation

was overdue. Clerk to write to Hywel Dda Health Board, asking for information on progress, and an update on the current situation (proposer C'Ilr Derek Jones, seconder C'Ilr John Evans).

Any other business

Speed limit signage. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in September.

Lighting at Houghton Playing Field entrance. C'Ilr John Evans had been approached by some local residents asking for additional lighting at this location. However, Members noted that this had been previously discussed. As there were already three new lights around this location, further action was not considered necessary.

Double yellow lines, New Wells Road. Agenda item to be tabled for September.

The meeting ended at 7-45pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 4th September 2024.