

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Houghton on Wednesday 4th April 2018

Present: Cllrs Paddy McNamara, Laurence Price, Nia Phillips, Derek Jones, Alun Williams, John Evans, Michael Pettit, Scott Sinclair, Iain Wood, Robin Howells, John Mathias; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: None.

Declarations of known interests

C’lr Robin Howells declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in the item about parking problems in New Wells Road.

Minutes of March 2018 monthly meeting

On page 549, Common land issues, Houghton Green, line 2 ‘C’lr Laurence’ was amended to read ‘C’lr Laurence Price’. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’lr Alun Williams, seconder C’lr Derek Jones).

Discussion of parking problems, New Wells Road

Lorraine McHugh, Ruth Morris, Rhys Evans were present as members of the public, and were invited by the Chairman to address the meeting.

They addressed the meeting, explaining the predicament whereby all support staff working at the home in New Wells Road have to travel to work by car, due to inadequate public transport. It was explained that, due to inadequate parking provision on the property, they have no option other than to park on the highway. There would normally be up to 5 or 6 cars associated with the property present during the daytime. They wanted the community council to be aware of the situation, to inform representations to P.C.C. regarding the matter. They explained that it had not been possible to get alterations to the driveway in the property to provide additional parking, and in any case it was not certain if this would even be viable. An additional five parking spaces off the highway were needed in order to address the current problem.

Members explained to all present that the concern of the community council was solely over potential road safety issues, especially around the Ashdale Lane junction. It was not intended as any criticism of those living at / visiting / working at the home, who it was acknowledged faced real problems with securing parking.

Following the discussion, Members thanked the members of the public for attending, and undertook to explore the various options, after which they left the meeting.

Members discussed various options, including additional parking, road-widening, or introduction of a one-way system. It was agreed for C’lr Nia Phillips to approach the church again to ask about possible permission to open the Mission Hall car park for wider use. Clerk to write to Scales of Benton farm to ask if they would be willing to discuss possible provision of limited additional parking on land adjacent to the access track into the Mission Hall.

Matters Arising

Lighting outside Playing field car park. Members were informed that the lighting was now functioning, and the problem was resolved.

Plans

Applications

NP/18/0157/FUL (replacement balcony, 56 Port Lion, Haverfordwest SA62 4JT) – no comments.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – offer of land at Barnlake on long lease at peppercorn rent – discussed in agenda item below.
- 2) P.C.C. – Info. on ‘Enhancing Pembrokeshire’ grants opportunity, including invitation to forthcoming briefing on the grant, to be held on 16th May 2018 – noted. C’llrs Iain Wood and Scott Sinclair expressed a possible intention to attend. If so, Clerk to be notified, so that places could be reserved. Matter to be placed on May agenda for any necessary discussion.
- 3) Tesco.net – Notification of forthcoming closure of Tesco email service – noted.
- 4) P.C.C. – Information on dog-watch schemes – noted. As separate issue, C’llr Michael Pettit requested up to date list of Members’ contact details. List to be circulated by Clerk to all Members.
- 5) P.C.C. – Call for candidate sites for next L.D.P. – noted.
- 6) Royal Mail - response to complaint about non-replacement of postbox at Bowling’s Corner – discussed in agenda item below.

Accounts

Payments

Potters Waste Management (grant landfill levy)	:	£ 500-00
James Horton (work at Burton Ferry)	:	£ 140-00
Adventure Playgrounds Wales (climbing frame, Houghton)	:	£ 6000-00
Clerk (1/3 of computer / peripherals purchase)	:	£ 243-57

Income

PRIDE (grant for climbing frame)	:	£ 5000-00
----------------------------------	---	-----------

Budget review

Balance brought forward to April 2017	:	£ 8888-08
Income during year to date	:	£12874-27
Expenditure in year to date, or scheduled for payment	:	£18389-30
Balance brought forward to April 2018 (provisional figure)	:	£ 3373-05
VAT due to be reclaimed	:	£ 1680-00
Adjusted balance (provisional figure)	:	£ 5053-05

NOTE : Final accounts to be presented to A.G.M. in May.

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C’llr John Evans, seconder C’llr Michael Pettit).

Discussion of works needed on playing field

Mowing. Members were informed that One Stop had quoted £40/cut, and were due to start in April, with cuts being carried out fortnightly throughout the growing season.

Goalposts. These had been damaged. C’llr Nia Phillips undertook to have a look at them, and thought it unlikely there would be much of a problem in fixing them.

Discussion of situation regarding Barnlake

The email from P.C.C. had been read by Members, in which a long lease of the land was offered to the Community Council, at a peppercorn rent. Members agreed that P.C.C. should be responsible for clearing it, as it was in their ownership, and is a public facility. Clerk to respond declining the offer, but explaining that the Community Council has an active interest in the site, so as to leave the way open for possible further dialogue.

Discussion of problem with Burton – Burton Ferry footpath

C’lrr Scott Sinclair had met the maintenance officer from P.C.C. to identify the work needed. They had undertaken to do the necessary work sometime during the next two weeks. Where the bushes are overhanging the pavement, they had said that this would be the responsibility of the relevant householders. C’lrr Scott Sinclair undertook to approach the landowners to ask them to carry out the necessary work.

Discussion of future of NHS services locally

Matter left in abeyance, as a full public consultation exercise had been launched by Hywel Dda Health Board.

Discussion of problem of littering in roadways

C’lrr Derek Jones mentioned that some residents had been complaining about litter along the roadsides in Hill Mountain, and this not being collected. C’lrr Laurence Price mentioned that a P.C.C. operative was going round once a month or so. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to ask if the litter could be cleared more often. Matter to be placed on May agenda for update.

Discussion of common land issues

Church Road. C’lrr John Mathias had been advised by the Common Land Officer that the land by the car park is not common land. Clerk to obtain a plan of the common land from the Common Land Officer. It was thought likely that , if so, the land most likely belongs to the Church authorities. C’lrr John Mathias suggested contacting the church to see if a trade--off could be done, with the Community Council funding improvement works to the car park in exchange for use of the mission hall by New Wells Road care home employees / residents. However, it was generally agreed that it would be inappropriate to use public funds to maintain church-owned land, or to further private interests.

Houghton Green. The Clerk had written to Williamston and Benton Farms as requested, but had received no response from either. C’lrr Laurence Price was still chasing the Police for CCTV footage that might help to identify the perpetrators. He was unsure of the likelihood of success via this route, but undertook to continue to pursue it. In the meantime, Clerk to contact the insurers to see if a claim could be made for repairing the damage. Clerk to also request a quotation from P.C.C. for replacing the bollards.

Church Lane, Sardis. C’lrr John Evans had received further evidence of ongoing fly-tipping on the area in question. Clerk to request an update from the Common Land Officer, and inform him that the situation is worsening. Clerk to also write to P.C.C. regarding the fly-tipping, to ask them to clear it. Matter to be reviewed in the May meeting.

Illegal works at Vale Road. Advice from the Common Land Officer was that the developers have an easement to cross the common, but no legal permission to dig into it or lay services without proper permission. Clerk to write to Common Land Officer seeking advice on the matter. Also, Clerk to write to D.C.W.W. and Western Power drawing attention to the illegal works carried out. Letters to be copied to B.D. Summons (developers) for information.

Discussion of progress on Pride grant work to install play equipment in Houghton

The invoice of £5000 + VAT for the climbing frame had been paid. However, the separate amount of £1500 + VAT for the matting had not been paid, as this exceeded the £1000 + VAT maximum agreed on site with the contractor by C’lrrs Laurence Price and Alun Williams, and the specifically worded order placing a £1000 maximum on this element of the work. Members agreed that the Clerk should confirm this position to the contractors, and request a replacement invoice for no more than £1000 + VAT.

Discussion of progress on works on community assets in Burton Ferry

Signage. C’lIr Scott Sinclair confirmed that replacement of the sign on the wall, and realignment / clearance of the vegetation from the pole-mounted sign were in hand with P.C.C.

New picnic bench. This was now in place & the cobbles cleared and cleaned. It remained to treat both benches with oil or similar. C’lIr Scott Sinclair undertook to arrange this.

Access to pontoon. Members were concerned at the footpath down to pontoon, which gets slippery on occasion. Concerns were also raised over the condition of the railings on the landward side of the pontoon, near the Jolly Sailor. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to request action to address these matters.

Old electricity cabinet. Nothing further had been heard from P.C.C. regarding this matter. Clerk to chase up again.

New seat. Siting in hand with C’lIr Scott Sinclair.

Discussion of non-replacement of postbox at Bowling’s Corner

Members were unimpressed with the responses received from Royal Mail. C’lIr Derek Jones mentioned that a new post box had recently been installed across the road in Houghton, on a metal pole. He could not understand why this could not be done at Bowling’s Corner. Clerk to pursue the matter further with Royal Mail.

Discussion of Remuneration Panel recommendations on Members’ allowances

Deferred to A.G.M.

Report by C’lIr Iain Wood on meeting to discuss future of town and community councils

C’lIr Iain Wood had attended the meeting, and reported briefly to Members. The meeting had been all to do with driving more autonomy / responsibility for town and community councils. The discussions had been general, and light on specific details and means of funding. There was, however, a general acknowledgement that any significant shift from the present situation would affect precepts. C’lIr Iain Wood expressed reservations about the potential effectiveness, due to the apparent lack of experience of those leading the discussions and managing the process. A detailed report was due out in June which would provide more information. Members thanked C’lIr Wood for attending the meeting and reporting back.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

Any other business

Footpath at Hill Mountain. Members concerned at the unsafe condition of the footpath. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in May. In the meantime, Clerk to write to P.C.C. citing health and safety concerns (emergency action).

Fly-tipping in Prince of Wales Close. C’lIr Laurence Price reported this matter to the meeting, thought to be concentrated in the P.C.C. car park at the bottom of the road.

30mph sign going into Burton by Brompton Park. The sign was reported as missing. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to request its replacement (emergency action).

Houghton Playpark. Clerk to ask P.C.C. who has the contract for grass-cutting now.

Defibrillators. C’lIr Alun Williams referred to a recent incident in Llangwm, when a defibrillator could not be used, due to the cabinet being waterlogged. Members were encouraged to check the condition of the defibrillators / cabinets if passing.

Sardis bus shelter. Painting of inside still in hand with C’lIr Iain Wood.

The meeting ended at 8-50pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 2nd May 2018 (to commence with the 2018 A.G.M.)