

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 3rd April 2024, 7pm.

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

Declarations of known interests

None.

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present.

Approval of minutes of the March 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

White lining. No further progress. Clerk to chase up progress with P.C.C.

Potholes. Following further reporting, P.C.C. had responded with a schedule of proposed temporary repairs to potholes along Rhooseferry Lane.

Tree planting. It was confirmed that planting of the Scots Pine, two Oak trees and six fruit trees had been carried out in the Playing Field, and the Korean Fir had been planted in the playpark.

Hedge encroachment onto footpath at Prince of Wales Close. P.C.C. had confirmed that they had sent a formal notice to the adjacent landowners, requiring them to clear overhanging growth from the footpath.

Highways matters (new bus pull-in to north of Cleddau Bridge). Members were informed that remedial works to install the pedestrian island and carry out junction improvements were scheduled to commence on 7th April. In the meantime, C'lr Peter Griffiths had had a near miss when negotiating the junction, which he put down to the failure to install the pedestrian refuge island. This had been reported to P.C.C., and a response had been received. This had not been viewed by Members as satisfactory. Nonetheless, it was decided to await the forthcoming works, and monitor the situation afterwards, before deciding on any further representations that may be needed. Agenda item to be tabled for any necessary further discussion in May.

Burton Ferry toilet block. C'lr Danny Young had indicated that P.C.C. had no intention of voluntarily re-opening the toilet block. Separately, the Clerk had sent the letter as requested to Star Pubs Ltd., and had received an acknowledgement.

Resident request for double yellow lines at Burton Ferry. The Clerk confirmed that he had informed the resident who had made the initial contact of the actions taken.

National Lottery grant final report. The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted the final report with the available photographs, and this had concluded the actions required as a condition of the grant.

Speed-activated signage, Burton. The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the matter to Coeval, and asked for the matter to be dealt with as a warranty claim. This was understood to be in hand.

Pontoon railings, Burton Ferry. These had been repaired.

Plans

Planning consultations received

23/1086/PA - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 08/0687/PA (Extend the period of submission of Reserved Matters contained in planning consent 04/0210/PA for residential development) and reserved matters 11/0430/PA to allow design amendments to plot 2
Site Address: Formerly known as Plot 2 - Now known as Number 14, 2, Houghton Nursery, Houghton,, SA73 1NW - no comments.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. - Update on situation with narrowed path at Prince of Wales Close - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 2) Star Pubs - Acknowledgement of letter sent to them regarding closure of toilet block at Burton Ferry - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 3) Tree consultants - quotation for tree survey in community - Members agreed to proceed with the tree survey as quoted (proposer C'Ilr Peter Griffiths, seconder C'Ilr Derek Jones). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.
- 4) P.C.C. - Response to message sent in about issues at northern end of Cleddau Bridge - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 5) P.C.C. - Information on forthcoming changes to bus schedules - noted.
- 6) P.C.C. - Further information about proposed closure of Pembstcc.co.uk website - agenda item to be tabled for discussion in May.
- 7) P.C.C. - Reply to message sent about potholes in Rhooseferry Lane - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (incidental expenses, December 2023 - March 2024) : £184-95

FJ Groundworks (fencing) : £225-18

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

Interim end of year financial statement

This had been circulated to all Members. There were no comments or discussions on the statement.

Discussion of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales 2024 report determinations

Members resolved to maintain the same position as that agreed for the previous years (as minuted in December 2019, June 2022, and April 2023 (proposer C'Ilr Derek Jones, seconder C'Ilr Robin Howells).

Discussion of recently-completed risk assessments

The updated financial and asset risk assessments had been completed and circulated to all Members.

Discussion of cracked floor slab, Sardis bus shelter

C'Ilr Peter Griffiths undertook to see to getting the cracks filled as necessary.

Discussion of unauthorised access formation into Houghton Playing Field, and dumping of grass cuttings in field

Following the problem having been raised, arrangements had been made to get the unauthorised access from the main road into the playpark closed up with a new section of post and rail fencing. This work had now been completed, and it was hoped that this had resolved the problem.

Discussion of problems with footpath from Hill Mountain - Sardis

C'Ilr Paddy McNamara had discussed the matter with C'Ilr Danny Young, who indicated that he would try and arrange to get the road drains cleared along the affected stretch of footpath.

Members commented that, in many parts, the path was barely wide enough for two people to pass one another. It was noted that P.C.C. usually cleared overgrowth from the footpath on an annual basis. C'Ilr John Evans also mentioned concerns over the path being used as a cycle path, even though there was no certainty over its designation as such.

Clerk to write to P.C.C. to raise H&S concerns over the condition of the path, and to ask for it to be cleared of mud and encroaching growth. Message to also request clearing of the blocked road drains along the affected section, and ask for confirmation of the status of the path, including whether or not it was an official cycle path (proposer C'Ilr Peter Griffiths, seconder C'Ilr John Evans).

Discussion of condition of information board, Houghton Green

Members noted that the information board was in bad shape. C'Ilrs Laurence Price and Fiona Hart undertook to make enquiries locally with someone who may be able / willing to provide a new frame for the information board. Clerk to be informed of the outcome of these enquiries, and to seek other quotations if necessary.

Discussion of 2024 community council Annual Report

The Clerk had circulated the annual report in draft form. Members noted the significant work completed during the 2023/24 year, and approved the report as drafted (proposer C'Ilr John Evans, seconder C'Ilr Robin Howells). Clerk to arrange publication on the community webpage.

Any necessary discussion / updates on future community events

An Easter quiz had been prepared and circulated in the community.

Members mentioned informally that they would like to see the successful fete held in 2023 in conjunction with the Coronation possibly repeated in some form.

Any other business

Surface water, Hill Crescent. C'Ilr Peter Griffiths mentioned ongoing problems with standing water in the road at the bottom end of Hill Crescent. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in May.

Activity alongside highway adjacent to new bus shelter, Houghton. C'Ilr Fiona Hart mentioned some disturbance and damage to the boundary hedgebanks at this location. It was thought that it was being caused by local agricultural contractors gaining access at that location.

Highways issues, New Wells Road. C'Ilr Robin Howells had discussed parking and speeding problems with P.C.C. officers. They had indicated that no action would be taken over and above the measures currently in place in the community.

Jubilee Hall deeds / ownership issues. Matter to be tabled for discussion in May. In the meantime, the Clerk undertook to review relevant documentation provided by C'Ilr John Evans.

The meeting ended at 7-35pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st May 2024