

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Paddy McNamara (Chairman), Robin Howells (vice-Chairman), Derek Jones, Fiona Hart, Michael Davies, Peter Griffiths, Vicky White, Scott Sinclair, John Evans; County Councillor Danny Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Nia Phillips, Laurence Price

Members warmly welcomed C'lr Michael Davies to his first meeting as a co-opted councillor.

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 September 2024 monthly meeting

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

Matters arising

For sale signage on common land. Members noted that the signage had all been removed.

Dog fouling signage. The Clerk had obtained the signage as requested, and this was now available to be put up as required.

Discussion of possible double yellow line request in New Wells Road. It was noted that this item had not, after all, been included for discussion on the meeting agenda, as the residential home in New Wells Road had closed, thus removing the main cause of the parking problems there.

Request for speeding patrols in community. The Clerk confirmed that a request had been made, but no acknowledgement received. Clerk to chase up a response.

Information board plan for Houghton Green. The plan was ready for laminating and placing in situ. However, no quotation had been received to date for the installation work needed.

Plans

Consultations received

24/0617/PA - Removal of part of existing dwelling and proposed extension and alterations
Site Address: The Dolphins, Barnlake Point, BURTON FERRY, Milford Haven,
PEMBROKESHIRE, SA73 1PF – No comments.

Correspondence

01) Audit Wales – Notification of completion of 2023/24 accounts audit – dealt with in Accounts below.

Accounts

Payments

F.J. Groundworks (hedge cutting, Hill Crescent)	:	£100-00
Clerk (incidental expenses, April – September)	:	£278-18
Michael Davies (Member allowance / consumables allowance)	:	£104-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’Ilr Derek Jones, seconder C’Ilr John Evans).

External audit of 2023/24 accounts.

Members were informed that the audit had been completed, and the accounts given an unqualified approval. The Clerk confirmed that publication of the requisite public notices advertising the audit conclusion had been arranged.

Quarterly budget review.

Members considered the budget review that had been prepared by the Clerk. There were no matters of concern over the standing of accounts. As ownership of the pond area outside Burton Church was uncertain, Members questioned the need / appropriateness of keeping a sum in the budget for its maintenance. It was left for Members to review this at a future meeting.

Regarding the request for grant assistance to cover the recent cost of guttering works at the Hill Crescent Community Garden, Clerk to chase up a response to the request from P.C.C.

Discussion on any needed actions from recent tree report

Clerk to seek quotations for the necessary work from Birch Utilities, John Colnet, and Chris Chester. Matter to be placed on November meeting agenda for further discussion / consideration of quotations received.

Discussion of any issues connected with new Houghton playpark

It was confirmed that the cones had gone from outside the playpark entrance, which was welcomed. Some trimming of the pathway edges had been arranged by C’Ilr Paddy McNamara, carried out by F.J. Groundworks. C’Ilr Fiona Hart offered to look into getting voluntary assistance to carry out ongoing maintenance of the Wild Area.

Any necessary discussion of Hill Crescent Community Garden

C’Ilr Paddy McNamara provided a brief update on the garden, which was looking good, and increasingly well-established. Any problem with bramble growth in the grassed areas was expected to be resolved over time with regular mowing. There had been a minor issue with one resident expressing concern at the possibility of the limited parking availability in the Crescent being swamped by visitors to the Community Garden. C’Ilr Nia Phillips had posted a notice about the garden on the Facebook page, and mentioned that visiting on foot might be preferable. There had been an overwhelmingly positive response to the posting online. One resident had made contact to ask whether there was a public footpath to Hill Mountain from Barnlake. It had been confirmed that there was no direct footpath route connecting these locations. However, it had also been commented that many of the footpaths that did exist within the community area were either poorly maintained, or completely impassable. Clerk to write to P.C.C. and P.C.N.P.A. asking them to inspect their footpaths, and take the needed action to ensure they were accessible and properly maintained.

It was confirmed that there would not be any exclusion of dogs from the Community Garden area. The Clerk was asked to obtain two signs to say ‘Area used by small children – Burton Community Council’, with text in red, and size to be half the size of the A4 ones recently ordered for the Playing Field.

Discussion of possible consideration to seeking control over the Barnlake Recreational area

Site visit to assess current situation in detail still in hand with C’llrs Scott Sinclair and Laurence Price. Matter of possible consideration to seeking control over the Barnlake Recreational Area, and any necessary action in relation to protection of public rights of way, deferred for discussion in November.

Any necessary discussion / updates on future community events

Members discussed at some length the possibility of repeating the successful Halloween event held in 2023. However, due to the lack of time available, Members regretfully decided it would not be possible to arrange anything in the time available. It was decided instead to focus attention on the Carols around the Christmas Tree event, which was agreed for the evening of 21st December 2024.

Discussion of any further information received about planned hospital relocation

The Clerk confirmed that no responses had been received from the Welsh Government Health Minister, First Minister, or from the Westminster M.P. Henry Tuffnell. Clerk to chase up responses, and also write concerning the matter to the new C.E.O. of Hywel Dda Health Board.

Any other business

Replacement website provision. The Clerk confirmed that he had attended online training sponsored by P.C.C., to look at the practicalities of setting up new Google-hosted websites. Members left it for the Clerk to pursue this matter as necessary, including commencing work on creating a new website ready for publishing in due course, and attending related further training sessions.

Illegal signage on Houghton Playpark fence. Members had noticed unauthorised signage placed on the fenceline, and C’llr Fiona Hart undertook to remove this.

New Councillor Michael Davies. C’llr Davies extended his thanks to Members for his recent co-option onto the council. Members expressed their appreciation for his willingness to sit as a councillor, and expressed confidence that his input would be most valuable to the activities of the council.

The meeting ended at 7-55pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 6th November 2024.