

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 8th January 2025, 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Paddy McNamara (Chairman), Robin Howells, Vicky White, Michael Davies, Fiona Hart, Peter Griffiths, Laurence Price, Scott Sinclair, John Evans; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Derek Jones, Danny Young.

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 December 2024 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'lr Peter Griffiths, seconder C'lr Scott Sinclair), and held for signature by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Dog fouling signage. This had been completed.

Speed camera data. Clerk to chase up data requested from P.C.C.

Community carol service in Houghton Playpark. Members reported that this had gone well, and Members thanked C'llrs Nia Phillips, Fiona Hart and Peter Griffiths for assisting with the organisation. One negative aspect had been unpleasant and unjustified complaints from a neighbour about cars parked completely legally outside the playpark.

Information board, Houghton Green. Laminating of the A1 maps had been completed, and these delivered to Frazer James ready to be installed into the refurbished information board.

Plans

Planning application consents notified

24/0751/PA - Extension to west side; Site Address: Hill View, 17, Ashdale Lane, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NU

Correspondence

01) Infinity Play – Routine inspection report for playpark – noted.

02) Henry Tufnell – confirmation of intention to attend the March 2025 meeting remotely – dealt with in related agenda item below.

03) Jeremy Miles, Welsh Government Minister for Health – Response to messages about Withybush Hospital – noted.

04) Nature Partnership – Rejection of grant application for wild flower planting at Wild area adjacent to Houghton Playpark – noted.

05) Nia Phillips – Resignation from Community Council for personal reasons – Members were sad to learn of this, and unanimously appreciative of the work done by C'lr Phillips during her time on the council. Clerk to respond on Members' behalf to convey this to her.

06) Michael Davies – Notification of intended resignation on health grounds, this to take effect once a replacement Member was found - Members were very sorry to hear of this, and the reasons underlying the decision. They expressed sincere appreciation and thanks for the valuable input made by C'lr Davies during his time on the council. Clerk to initiate the process for advertising the vacancy, and that triggered by the resignation of Nia Phillips.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (reimbursement for laminating of community maps)	:	£19-20
Easy Websites (monthly direct debit for website / email provision)	:	£36-96

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lIr Paddy McNamara, seconder C’lIr Fiona Hart).

Discussion / setting of precept and budget for 2025/26 financial year

Members approved the draft budget prepared by the Clerk in advance of the meeting, and agreed to maintain the precept for 2025/26 unchanged from the current year, at £27300 (proposer C’lIr Paddy McNamara, seconder C’lIr Fiona Hart). Clerk to notify P.C.C. accordingly.

Discussion of Barnlake Recreational Area, and if / how to proceed

C’lIr Paddy McNamara made reference to recent postings on some local Facebook pages, with a previous version of the consultation plan for the Barnlake site, and also some negative comments. He referenced the hard work that was being done, and had been done by Members on many fronts, and felt that getting such negative comments was inevitably a discouragement. This was especially the case as so few local residents chose to attend community council meetings, or contact the community council with their concerns via the normal channels. C’lIr Scott Sinclair shared with Members the draft consultation plan prepared by him and C’lIr Laurence Price. Members thanked them for the work carried out in preparing this, and approved the plan subject to a few very minor amendments. It was agreed for this plan to be made public, and for responses to be invited to the community council.

The Clerk confirmed that no response had yet been received from P.C.C. to the request for clearance of the right of way. Clerk to chase up a response / action, and also to ask C’lIr Danny Young to make representations to P.C.C. officers about this.

Decisions on if / when to potentially contact P.C.C. about the land, assigning of Members to lead any project potentially agreed, considering possible community involvement, etc., were deferred pending receipt of the responses, and further discussions regarding if / how to take the matter forward.

Matter to be placed on agenda for further discussion in March.

Discussion of questions to put to Henry Tufnell, M.P., during his visit to the March 2025 monthly meeting

Deferred for discussion in February. In the meantime, Members could send in questions to the Clerk for inclusion in the discussion session if they wished to do so. Clerk and C’lIr Scott Sinclair to liaise over arrangements to seek a face-to-face meeting between the council and Mr Tufnell, even if this meant deferring / altering the planned date of the meeting.

Discussion of maintenance regime around Houghton bus shelter

Grass-cutting around new Houghton bus shelter. C’lIr Laurence Price mentioned the ongoing problem with grass around the new bus shelter not having been included in the P.C.C. grass-cutting schedule. Clerk to take this up with P.C.C.

Old Houghton bus shelter. C’lIr Laurence Price mentioned his intention to paint the bus shelter at some point in the near future.

Any necessary discussion / updates on future community events

Nothing to report at present. C’llrs Fiona Hart and Peter Griffiths undertook to discuss the current plans with Nia Phillips, as she had co-ordinated many of the recent events carried out.

Any other business

Trees on public footpaths by Houghton Moor. C’lr Laurence Price informed Members of ongoing work being led by him and some local residents to clear fallen trees and overgrowth from the pathways.

Fly-tipping in Ashdale Lane. C’lr Robin Howells reported that about 70 empty spirit / wine bottles had been left along the hedgerow in Ashdale Lane. This had been reported to P.C.C., and the bottles had been subsequently collected. C’lr Peter Griffiths said this had been an ongoing problem for several months.

Traffic speeds along main road in Houghton. Residents had been expressing ongoing concerns to C’lr Fiona Hart about excessive traffic speeds through Houghton. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in February.

Clerk hours of work. To be tabled for discussion in February.

Public footpaths through Benton Woods. C’lr Vicky White mentioned that there were ongoing problems with some footpaths benign blocked following the recent storm, and that this had been reported.

Residents’ comments on recent community council activities. C’lr Fiona Hart mentioned recent comments that had been made to her by some local residents, and also posted on social media, to the effect that they felt that the community council should seek feedback on projects such as the Playpark, the Christmas Tree in Houghton Playpark, the ‘Carols around the tree’ event held recently, and also the issue mentioned in the above agenda item concerning potential plans to consider work at Barnlake.

The meeting ended at 8-00pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on 5th February 2025.