

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 5th February 2025, 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Robin Howells, Vicky White, Michael Davies, Fiona Hart, Peter Griffiths, Laurence Price, John Evans, Derek Jones, Danny Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Paddy McNamara, Scott Sinclair

The meeting was chaired by the vice-Chairman C'lr Robin Howells.

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 January 2025 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'lr John Evans, seconder C'lr Laurence Price), and held for signature by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Speed-activated signage data. P.C.C. had informed that the downloading of non-vehicle specific data had been delayed, but was in hand.

Information board, Houghton Green. Members were informed that the new information board was now complete.

Houghton bus shelter maintenance. P.C.C. had responded to say they would make arrangements for the area concerned to be incorporated into their maintenance schedule. reported

Old Houghton bus shelter. In hand with C'lr Laurence Price to carry out re-painting when possible.

Plans

There were no plans for consideration this month.

Correspondence

- 01) Local resident – comment on proposals for Barnlake – passed to C'lr Scott Sinclair for inclusion in the overall analysis of responses received.
- 02) Local resident – concerns over speeding in Burton Ferry, and request for traffic-calming measures – covered in agenda item below.
- 03) Boundary Commission – Notification of publication of final report on boundaries of community councils, for implementation in 2027 – noted.
- 04) P.C.C. – Notification of temporary issues with downloading data from speed-activated signage in Burton / Burton Ferry – dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 05) Michelle Campbell – Application to join community council – dealt with in agenda item below.

Accounts

Payments

Easy Websites (monthly direct debit for website / email provision) : £36-96

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C'lr Peter Griffiths, seconder C'lr Vicky White).

Internal audit of 2024/25 accounts

Members approved the appointment of the internal auditor from the previous year to carry out the forthcoming internal audit if available (proposer C'lr Fiona Hart, seconder C'lr Vicky White).

Discussion of arrangements for annual community risk assessments

Annual asset risk assessment and financial risk assessment to be carried out by Clerk, as for the previous year.

Discussion of situation with current council vacancies

Members resolved to co-opt Michelle Campbell to the council (proposer C'lr Vicky White, seconder C'lr Laurence Price). Clerk to make arrangements with her, and complete necessary associated administration.

Discussion of Clerk's hours of work

Based on the recommendations of the survey / report carried out by One Voice Wales, Members approved an increase in hours for the Clerk to 26 hours per month. Members asked that a review of this be scheduled for discussion annually in February, to ensure that arrangements were satisfactory to all parties (proposer C'lr Laurence Price, seconder C'lr Robin Howells).

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

C'lr Laurence Price informed members that he and C'lr Scott Sinclair were due to visit again to carry out further assessment work. The responses received to date to the public consultation carried out had been largely positive and supportive.

In view of the impending bird-nesting season, C'lr Laurence Price and Scott Sinclair to co-ordinate arrangements to carry out an initial clearance of the public right of way, using local residents who had offered assistance as volunteers. The Clerk mentioned the importance of prior completion of a risk assessment for this exercise. It was confirmed that P.C.C. had offered gloves and litter-picking sticks if needed. They had also said they may be able to assist with some risk assessment documentation, but had not been specific about this.

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

Members discussed possible areas of concern to be discussed with Mr. Tufnell. These included whether services would be reduced at Withybush Hospital in the run-up to a new hospital being provided, whether a new hospital would actually be provided at all, if so exactly when and where, and who would fund it. Other possible questions concerning A&E service problems, general problems with waiting times, and ambulance delays were also mentioned. .

Specifically-worded questions to be sent to Clerk for forwarding to Mr. Tufnell in advance of the meeting. Clerk to contact Mr. Tufnell to ask for the meeting to be deferred from March to April, and preferably to be in person, even if this meant altering the normal meeting date. ask Mr. Tufnell to come in April instead, and preferably in person. Agenda for that meeting to be agreed in the March meeting.

Discussion of problem with excessive traffic speeds through Houghton

Members reported that the speeding problem appeared to be as bad as ever, and was especially bad at night. It was noted that the speed-camera van had been in attendance several times over the previous few weeks. C'lr Fiona Hart was particularly concerned about the problem for residents whose properties opened directly onto the carriageway, with no verge, white-lining or other buffer zone whatsoever. Clerk to write to P.C.C., reminding them that the community council was still awaiting the white lines discussed during the last site meeting. Message to request a follow-up site meeting to discuss this further. In addition, Clerk to contact GoSafe to request increased speed-camera van patrols in the Sardis area.

Any necessary discussion / updates on future community events

Nothing current to discuss.

Any other business

Playing Field car Park lighting. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in March.

The meeting ended at 7-50pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on 5th March 2025.