

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Houghton on Wednesday 5th December 2018

Present: Cllrs Paddy McNamara, Alun Williams, Robin Howells, Derek Jones, John Evans, Iain Wood, Michael Pettit, Scott Sinclair (vice-Chair); Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C’llrs Laurence Price, John Mathias, Nia Phillips.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Minutes of November 2018 monthly meeting

With minor corrections to one mis-spelling and minor alterations to the wording of the agenda item ‘Discussion of common land at Sardis’ the minutes were agreed as an accurate record. , and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’llr Alun Williams, seconder C’llr Michael Pettit).

Matters Arising

Footpath, Hill Mountain. C’llr Alun Williams reported that nothing further had been done to maintain the footpath. The encroaching growth has not been removed. Clerk to report once again to P.C.C., citing H&S concerns over the state of the footpath.

Speeding enforcement, Hill Mountain. Members were informed that speeding enforcement officers had been active along the main road in recent days and weeks.

Barnlake Roundabout. Members were informed that the matter had been passed by C’llr Paul Miller to C’llr Phil Baker (P.C.C. cabinet member for transportation) for attention. C’llr Scott Sinclair mentioned that C’llr Miller had led the initiative to get the bridge tolls abolished, and the potential impact of this on traffic flows and speeds was the main issue at stake, more so than the use of the lower road by through traffic. For this reason he felt that C’llr Miller should be dealing with the matter. It was confirmed that the issue of the potential impact on traffic speeds and flows had been raised in the message sent to C’llr Miller, as well as the issue of junction safety and use of the lower road by through traffic. Members asked the Clerk to chase a response from C’llr Baker. Matter to be placed on January agenda for further discussion.

Letter to Health Minister re. NHS issues at Withybush Hospital. The Clerk confirmed that the letter had been sent to the Welsh Government Health Minister, and copied to the local M.P. and the C.E.O. of Hywel Dda Health Board. Substantive responses were currently awaited.

Barnlake community area. It was confirmed that a letter had been sent to P.C.C., requesting action by Property Services and Rights of Way to improve / maintain the land and public access route. A separate letter had also been sent to Meadow Homes thanking them for their offer, explaining the reason for not being able to take up the offer, and suggesting that they may wish to take up the matter of improving the land directly with P.C.C.

Plans

Applications

18/0901/PA (Alter/extend from the consented plans to incorporate an annex for Disabled use, Robin Hill, 15, Ashdale Lane, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NU) – no comments.

Decisions

18/0603/PA (Extension to existing garage, 6, Cleddau Close, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NQ)

18/0641/PA (Change of use of the land to garden in retrospect, Hideaway Lodge, Ashdale Lane, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NU). Members noted that it would be important to keep an eye out to ensure that there was no further unauthorised encroachment onto surrounding agricultural land.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Consultation on bus services – noted.
- 2) Network Rail – Information re. forthcoming bridge replacement, Merlin’s Bridge – noted, and it was mentioned that the proposals and dates had already been extensively advertised in the local press.
- 3) Welsh Water – Update on investigations into sewage disposal infrastructure problems, Houghton – noted, and further input to be received by mid-January. Clerk to contact Welsh Water to flag up their incorrect spelling of ‘Llangwm’, for the avoidance of doubt.
- 4) P.C.N.P.A. – Consultation on new Park Management Plan – noted.
- 5) Stephen Crabb, M.P. – Update on postbox replacement, Bowling’s Corner – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) Welsh Government – Notification of discretionary spending limit, 2019/20 – noted.

Accounts

Payments

H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)	:	£195-14
Clerk (expenses June – December 2018)	:	£100-83

Budget review

Noted as circulated prior to the meeting. The budget findings were broadly similar to those reported at the November meeting. Detailed report of financial standing and projections for the 2019/20 financial year to be prepared in advance of the precept discussion in January.

Discussion of common land at Sardis

C’lfr Alun Williams had met with the Common Land Officer Mr. Jim Dunckley at the site as arranged. There had been some more fly-tipping carried out, with items such as an animal feeder, old settee and corrugated sheeting dumped / stored on the land recently. They had examined the possibilities for protecting the land from further misuse and fly-tipping. The possibility of placing a line of bollards across, leaving enough room for a car to turn, had been looked at. Jim Dunckley had said he would seek views in County Hall about this, and obtain a price for the work. However, it was thought that this alone might not be sufficient to prevent further fly-tipping, and that some tree-planting might also be needed. The Clerk had sent off the form for the Woodland Trust tree offer, and was currently awaiting a response.

C’lfr Paddy McNamara mentioned the need for a clear objective / end goal, in view of the fact that the land had been cleared, but further problems were already starting to occur. The possibility of making the land into a car park was mentioned, but this was confirmed as illegal on common land.

Members were agreed that a decision on the tree-planting application should be awaited, and then an option to fund the work directly considered if the grant application was unsuccessful, possibly using local voluntary organisations to assist if available.

Clerk to chase up the Common Land Officer to see if any funding was available for the bollards.

C’lfr Paddy McNamara suggested the possibility of placing a line of large boulders across the site frontage, and undertook to look into the possibility of pursuing this option.

C’lfr Derek Jones undertook to look into the cost of a sign to say ‘camera in operation’, or similar, for possible use to deter fly-tipping on the land.

Matter to be further discussed in the January 2019 monthly meeting.

Discussion of situation regarding replacement of postbox at Bowling's Corner

Royal Mail had informed that the replacement preliminary work was now in hand. Matter to be placed on the agenda for discussion in January, for any necessary action if the postbox had not been replaced by then. C'lr Michael Pettit suggested an article for the Pembrokeshire Herald, outlining the problems experienced in getting the postbox replaced, and undertook to prepare a draft for consideration at the January meeting.

Any follow-up discussion regarding sewage disposal infrastructure issues at Houghton

An interim report had been received from Welsh Water, with a further report being anticipated by mid-January. Matter to be placed on February agenda for further updates / discussion.

Discussion of possible membership of One Voice Wales

Members agreed that arrangements should be made to take up membership commencing in January 2019. Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

Any other business

Footpath, Main Road. C'lr John Evans mentioned that one of his neighbours had recently broken her arm due to slipping while walking along a section of the main road at Hill Mountain where there was no pavement. This highlighted the need for one to be put in.

Standards Committee. C'lr Iain Wood mentioned the large sums of money spent on Standards Committee hearings, highlighting one recent hearing involving sanctioning of an individual who was no longer even active in public life.

Date of January 2019 monthly meeting. Members agreed that this should be held on January 16th, subject to hall availability.

Highway ditches, New Wells Road. C'lr Robin Howells mentioned that nothing had been done regarding the blocking of the ditches, and undertook to follow this up.

Flower boxes, Hill Mountain / Sardis. C'lr Alun Williams mentioned that these were looking tatty. Agenda item for possible replacement to be tabled for discussion in January.

School bus transport. C'lr Alun Williams mentioned problems of unsafe parking around the Ashdale Lane / Main Road junction by some parents picking up their children from the school bus. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in January.

Highway flooding on Main Road outside old Stable Bar premises. C'lr Michael Pettit raised this as a safety concern, due to flooding on the eastern side of the carriageway during periods of heavy rain, due to blocked drains. Clerk to report to P.C.C.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting ended at 8-20pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 16th January 2019