

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, on Wednesday 6th February 2019

Present: Cllrs Laurence Price, John Mathias, Alun Williams, Derek Jones, John Evans, Iain Wood, Scott Sinclair (vice-Chair); Peter Horton (Clerk).
Apologies: C'llrs Nia Phillips, Robin Howells, Michael Pettit, Paddy McNamara.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Minutes of January 2019 monthly meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C'lr Alun Williams, seconder C'lr Derek Jones).

Discussion / report from Welsh Water officers about sewage disposal infrastructure, Houghton

Members welcomed Mr. Richard Davies from Welsh Water to the meeting. He was present to provide an update / feedback on the situation regarding sewage disposal infrastructure problems in Houghton and the surrounding area. He referred to the brief review provided at the previous meeting he attended in 2018.

He had investigated the available data back to 2010 regarding calls received by them. He had used this information to assess the nature of any problems identified. He mentioned that since 2010 there had been quite a high number of calls (68) reporting issues. However, these were not all related to operational issues on the sewage disposal network. 34 operational issues had been reported since 2010 over the whole catchment. Breaking that down, the root cause of these calls had been blockages and / or pumping station failures. They had not related to hydraulic problems or problems related to a lack of capacity on the network. He mentioned that the general trend of incidents was heading upwards, with typically 2-3 historically per year from 2010 on, but 4 in 2017 and 5 in 2018. He mentioned that they had carried out a camera survey of the main lines, and found them to be in good condition, and more or less free of problems from ingress of clean water into the system. However, a high level of grease had been identified in the pipelines, and these had now been cleaned out. Regarding the pumping station failures, he mentioned that they had set the cut-in level in the pumping chamber to its lowest possible level, and anticipated that this might improve the situation. However, he did acknowledge that there was relatively little scope for adjustment in this chamber.

In addition to the measures already carried out, Mr. Davies outlined the future actions proposed. He said that the camera survey carried out would be repeated in the summer, and the situation re-assessed then, and annually thereafter. He was confident that by this means they would be able to keep on top of the potential potential problem of further grease build-up in the system, with an associated drop-off in anticipated failures on the system. He also mentioned that, while there appeared to be little overall problem with ingress of clean water into the system, there did seem to be some coming in from the pipework associated with the new development on the Houghton Nursery site, possibly from an open pipe. This was currently under investigation. Regarding the existing pipe into the stream, Mr. Davies said that Welsh Water holds a consent for emergency discharge via this pipe, but not for storm water discharges. This being the case, discharges should not be triggered by rainfall events, but only by pump failures or similar. He also reiterated that no current problem had been found by them with inadequate capacity in the system, and the capacity was adequate for all new development currently planned.

In summary, it was left that Members would continue to monitor the ongoing situation, and report any issues or incidents to Welsh Water. Members were also reminded that any incidents

involving sewage overflows should be reported to N.R.W. on their pollution hotline 03000 653000.

As an associated issue, C’lir Alun Williams raised the issue of periodic sewage overflows at Foxhall, occurring at times of heavy rainfall, and causing effluent to come out of manholes there. Mr. Davies undertook to look into the matter and contact C’lir Alun Williams directly with his findings.

Following the discussion, Members thanked Mr. Davies for attending, after which he left the meeting.

Matters Arising

One Voice Wales. The Clerk confirmed that the membership had been activated.

Planning consultation, Houghton school site. The Clerk confirmed on request that the consultation had gone in following the January meeting, and a copy had been sent to the neighbouring resident for information.

Benton woods public footpath. Members noted that this matter had been investigated by P.C.N.P.A., and the footpath was found to be intact and correctly signposted.

Plans

Applications

18/1063/PA - Variation of condition 2 of outline planning permission ref. 11/0373/PA to allow a minor amendment to the approved plans (condition 1 of supplemental Reserved Matters Consent ref. 14/0254/PA that defines the approved plans); Site Address: 6, Sardis Cross, SARDIS, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1LX – no comment.

Decisions

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

NP/18/0544/FUL - Attic conversion, Hazeldown, Houghton, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire SA73 1NJ.

Correspondence

- 1) P. Griffiths – Request for additional footpath maintenance in Sardis / Hill Mountain – it was noted that work had been carried out by P.C.C. following receipt of the message.
- 2) Zurich – Risk assessment information / guidance – noted.
- 3) P.C.C. – Response to enquiry relating to effects of forthcoming toll removal on Cleddau Bridge – discussed in agenda item below.
- 4) Wales Audit Office – Report on internal audit function – left with Clerk for any necessary action. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in March 2019.
- 5) Citizens’ Advice Bureau – Impact report, 2017/18 – noted.
- 6) Police and Crime Commissioner – Newsletter – noted.
- 7) P.C.N.P.A. – Response to enquiry about footpath in Benton Woods – dealt with in ‘Matters Arising’ above.
- 8) P.C.C. – Draft street trading policy consultation – noted.
- 9) Paul Davies, A.M. – Notification of advice surgery dates for 2019 – Clerk to arrange to place these in noticeboards.
- 9) Hywel Dda Health Board – Response to letter about changes to N.H.S. services at Withybush Hospital – Clerk to respond to letter, asking for more information on the proposed timescale for construction of the planned new hospital, raising concerns over the apparent ongoing progressive removal of services from Withybush in advance of the new hospital provision, and seeking further comments / assurances on this matter.

Accounts

Payments

There were no payments for approval this month.

Quarterly budget review

It was noted that this had effectively been covered in the budget discussions in January, in connection with the setting of the precept for 2019/20. Next quarterly budget review to be in April 2019.

Re-appointment of internal auditor for 2018/19 accounts

It was agreed to re-appoint Ms. Denise Mayr to carry out the internal audit for the 2018/19 accounts (proposer C’llr John Evans, seconder C’llr Alun Williams).

Discussion of common land at Sardis

The Clerk had obtained confirmation from the Common Land Officer that placing boulders on the land would not require Welsh Government consent. The Chairman mentioned that C’llr Paddy McNamara had offered some boulders for this purpose. Members resolved to arrange the placement of boulders after the tree-planting had been carried out (proposer C’llr John Evans, seconder C’llr John Mathias). C’llr Scott Sinclair to discuss with C’llr Paddy McNamara, with a view to initiating arrangements for this. Detailed discussion of arrangements for the tree-planting were deferred until the March meeting, with C’llr Iain Wood to formulate proposals for this in advance of the meeting. C’llr Scott Sinclair undertook to ask C’llr Paddy McNamara if he had a back-hoe that could be used for the tree-planting if necessary. Hiring a mini-digger was also considered as a possibility.

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

Members noted that the new postbox was now in situ. Matter considered as resolved.

Discussion of roundabout at northern end of Cleddau Bridge

Members noted that the tolls were due to be removed from 31st March 2019. It was decided to leave the matter in abeyance for the time being, to see the effect on traffic flows, etc., following that date. Once the effect had been seen, any further actions could be considered as necessary. The Clerk confirmed that nothing further heard about the proposed ‘gating’ of the lower road.

Discussion of needed maintenance of flower boxes, Sardis and Hill Mountain

C’llr Laurence Price mentioned that Mr. Clive Walters, who had provided the previous flower boxes, had been ill. It was left with C’llr Laurence Price to speak further with Mr. Walters about this when he was better, with a view to obtaining a price for new boxes.

Members raised the issue of the needed maintenance for the noticeboards, and noted this as a potential safety issue. Clerk to obtain pricing for new noticeboards, for possible comparison with the cost of repairing / altering the existing noticeboards. Matter to be placed on the agenda for further discussion in March.

Discussion of arrangements for Summer fete to be organised by Jubilee Hall Committee

C’llrs Iain Wood and John Evans confirmed that plans were well under way for the fete scheduled for June 29th 2019. Members were happy to proceed to formalise an agreement for the use of the playing field for this purpose, subject to (1) all the necessary arrangements being made by the Jubilee Hall Committee, and (2) copies of public liability insurance and risk assessment for the event being provided to the community council at least a month in advance of the event date. The formal agreement was signed to this effect, and copies retained by the Clerk on behalf of the community council, and C’llr Iain Wood on behalf of the Jubilee Hall Committee.

Discussion of annual risk assessment

Members were informed that the annual risk assessment had been completed by the Clerk. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in March 2019 to highlight actions required. In the meantime, Clerk to contact Western Power to ask them to deal with the breach in the site boundary left behind as a result of their recent works. Members were informed that the risk assessment had incurred the Clerk in six hours of work. It was agreed that this would be added into the next payslip at the standard rate.

Discussion of drainage problems, Rhooseferry Lane

Members were informed that some remedial works had been carried out by P.C.C. at the bottom of the road. However, as C'lr Paddy McNamara was not present, it was decided to place the matter on the March agenda for any necessary discussion of other works that may also require attention.

Discussion of purchase of scanner, digital safe and pdf-editing subscription

Members agreed for the Clerk to proceed with purchase of a scanner and digital safe, at a likely cost to the community council of around £125, based on a 1/3 share of the total cost. The matter of possible purchase of a subscription for pdf-editing software was left in abeyance for the time being, as the Clerk had discovered some work-arounds that might make this unnecessary.

Any other business

Christmas tree. C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that he had the tree, but was yet to arrange to plant it.

Houghton Green. C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that he might be able to obtain some topsoil in a few months' time that could be used for reinstating the grass areas if necessary.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting ended at 8-25pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 6th March 2019