

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, on Wednesday 5th June, 2019

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

The meeting was chaired by C'lr Scott Sinclair.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Minutes of 2019 A.G.M.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C'lr John Mathias, seconder C'lr Robin Howells).

Minutes of May 2019 monthly meeting

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

Matters Arising

Summer Fete.

The Clerk had received a copy of the event risk assessment. Insurance document to be emailed to Clerk by C'lr Iain Wood.

Sewage disposal problems, Houghton / Foxhall.

Members were informed that the sign advertising the N.R.W. Pollution Hotline number was now up on the fence adjacent to the stream.

Regarding Foxhall, the message from Welsh Water relating to this matter was read to Members. C'lr Alun Williams suggested that this matter be left in abeyance until the winter, to give time for any further problems in worse weather conditions to be picked up. It was left that if problems did occur then, C'lr Alun Williams would call Welsh Water directly.

Hywel Dda.

Nothing further to report. Note that matter is tabled for discussion in September.

Flower planters, Sardis / Hill Mountain.

Still in hand with C'lr Laurence Price.

Discussion of drainage problems, Rhooseferry Lane

C'lr Laurence Price had visited the site, and noted that a grid had been placed over the inflow end of the pipe. It was left for the situation to be monitored for possible further problems.

Discussion of satellite dish placed on land adjacent to Main Road, Houghton

C'lr Alun Williams commented that the satellite dish was still in situ. C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that the property was apparently sold, with completion imminent. It was his understanding that the satellite dish was due to be removed on sale completion.

Burton Ferry Boat Garden area.

C'lr Scott Sinclair mentioned that repairs to the pontoon handrail had been completed very satisfactorily. Clerk to convey thanks for the work carried out to P.C.C.

Invoice from John Colnet.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to John Colnet to query the grass-cutting element of his invoice, but had heard nothing back.

Cleddau Bridge.

The most recent communication from P.C.C. was read to Members. It stated that the matter would be kept in mind during further works to be carried out around the bridge, but gave little reason to hope that junction improvements were likely to be carried out. Members agreed to leave the matter in abeyance, and await any further feedback that might come from P.C.C.

New wells road ditches.

Members were informed that this matter had been referred internally in P.C.C. to their Highway Maintenance team for action.

Ashdale Lane.

Members were somewhat unhappy with the response from P.C.C., which they felt was rather condescending, and failed to address the legitimate concerns over visibility at the junction. A suggestion of possibly installing a mirror to improve visibility was considered positively. No actions were agreed concerning this, however. C’lir Alun Williams expressed the view that the problem almost certainly had to do with encroaching growth from the boundary hedge at the property on the corner. The suggestion was made to contact the property owners directly concerning this matter. However, some Members felt that this might cause problems, and any approach would be better coming directly from the Highways Department.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact P.C.C. again, mentioning the apparent problem with growth encroaching over the junction visibility splays, and asking for the matter to be looked at. Message to be copied to C’lir Rob Summons.

Plans

Applications

18/1298/PA - Proposed timber garage adjacent to the existing dwelling, Highland, Ashdale Lane, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, SA62 4NU – no comments.

19/0146/PA - Variation of condition 2 of outline planning permission 08/0687/PA and condition 11 of the supplemental reserved matters Application ref: 11/430/PA (V2) to allow for amendments to approved plans for plot 4; Site Address: Plot 4, Houghton Nursery, Houghton, Milford Haven, SA73 1NW – no objections, provided that the proposed number of dwellings remained the same, in which case there would be an objection.

Consents issued

18/1347/NM - Non material amendment of outline planning permission ref. 04/0210/PA, Section 73 permission ref. 08/0687/PA and subsequent reserved matters application ref. 11/0430/PA (residential development of 15 dwellings) to allow for amendments to Plot 13. Site Address: Plot 13, The Nursery, Houghton, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NW.

Applications withdrawn

19/0047/PA - Erection of a dwelling (outline with access, layout and scale for consideration); Site Address: The Rafters, Ashdale Lane, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NU.

Correspondence

- 01) Dyfed Powys Police – Police and Crime Panel newsletter – noted.
- 02) Dyfed Powys Police – Information on Police and Crime Commissioner’s Community Fund – noted.
- 03) P.C.C. – Survey on equality in Pembrokeshire – noted.
- 04) P.C.C. – Feedback on highway related issues at Sardis bus shelter, Ashdale Lane junction with main road, and junctions immediately north of Cleddau Bridge – dealt with in agenda item below (Sardis bus shelter), and in Matters Arising (Cleddau Bridge junctions).
- 05) Citizens’ Advice Bureau – Notification of forthcoming A.G.M. – noted.
- 06) Welsh Water response to issues regarding Sardis Common and sewage disposal problems at Houghton / Foxhall – Sardis Common-related matters dealt with in agenda item below; Sewage disposal problems dealt with in Matters Arising above.

Accounts

Payments

H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax) : £200-40

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C’lr Derek Jones, seconder C’lr Alun Williams).

Discussion of common land at Sardis.

The response received from Welsh Water regarding access arrangements to the site was read to Members. In this, they offered to contribute to the cost of any works carried out to protect the site from fly-tipping, but would not be able to get involved in carrying out any work. Members welcomed this offer.

C’lr Alun Williams had visited the site a couple of weeks previously. The dumped settee had still been there. Some nearby residents had cut their hedge, and dumped some of the cuttings at the back of the land. He mentioned that there was a need to trim around the trees and make it look more presentable. One tree had been uprooted by a trailer. He had re-planted this, but did not know if this had been successful.

The Clerk confirmed that no contact had been received from any local residents following the circular letter sent out to them.

Members were agreed that the boulders should be placed around the site frontage, while leaving the turning area available for use. It was left for C’lr Scott Sinclair to convey this to C’lr Paddy McNamara, who had offered to put this in hand. If any expenditure should be involved, Members noted that it would be worthwhile bearing in mind the Welsh Water offer to contribute to this. C’lr Iain Wood undertook to carry out strimming around the newly-planted trees, which Members appreciated.

Discussion of possible replacement of goalposts on playing field

After some discussion, it was resolved to purchase two combined rugby / football goalposts at a cost of £186-99 each (proposer C’lr Laurence Price, seconder C’lr John Evans). C’lr Nia Phillips to arrange this, and request a VAT receipt in the name of Burton Community Council, to enable the VAT to be reclaimed.

Discussion of P.C.C. Community Delivery Project, Environmental Services

The principle of the document circulated by P.C.C. was that they were looking to transfer responsibility for some services to town and community councils where this could be done. This could be in areas such as grass-cutting, public toilet provision, etc. In cases where there was no statutory duty to maintain services, and these were not taken over more locally, there was the possibility that they could simply be discontinued.

C’lr Laurence Price mentioned that the toilet provision in Burton Ferry was protected by covenant in any case, so there was no need for the Community Council to take it over. Members felt that more specific proposals were needed before any concrete actions could be considered.

C’lr Alun Williams mentioned that the document gave an indication that changes would be brought in from 2020/21 onwards. He suggested inviting someone from P.C.C. to a meeting to discuss the matter in more detail. This suggestion was not taken up by Members. However, the role of O.V.W. was raised. It was felt by some Members that O.V.W. might be in a good position to communicate collectively on behalf of Members councils. C’lr Alun Williams mentioned that O.V.W. had only heard about these proposals at the same time as individual councils, so would not have yet been in a position to arrange anything.

It was left that C’lrs Alun Williams and Iain Wood would raise the matter for discussion in the next O.V.W. area meeting. Matter to be discussed further when more information was available.

Discussion of possible footpath provision between car park and Village Hall

P.C.C. had indicated that the footpath would definitely not be constructed in the current financial year.

Clerk to contact highways and ask the likely timescale for the provision of the footpath, and in particular if it was likely to be carried out during the 2020/21 financial year.

Any necessary follow-up discussion of annual risk assessment actions required, including concrete path to Sardis bus shelter / possible placement of bollards around verge area, and any necessary works at Houghton Playpark.

Sardis bus shelter and environs. C’lir Iain Wood confirmed that he was expecting to have obtained a quotation for the re-laying of the concrete path to the bus shelter in time for the July meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that P.C.C. had consented to the provision of bollards either alongside the path, or around the entire verge area.

Members agreed that bollards should be placed around the edge of the verge. It was left with C’lir Iain Wood to prepare a plan of the proposals for consideration, and obtain a quotation for the work involved. C’lir Alun Williams mentioned that any path provided should be wide enough for wheelchair access.

Houghton Playpark. C’lir Laurence Price mentioned that he had removed the recently fallen tree from the bottom end of the playpark, and put back the fence as well as he could. He had also obtained a second quotation for the fencing work around the playpark perimeter.

Members decided to defer this for consideration at the July meeting, when there would be a quarterly budget review to inform Members on the overall state of the Community Council accounts. In the meantime, Clerk to locate the original quotation received prior to the May monthly meeting. Matter to be tabled as a separate agenda item for July.

Pedestrian shelter. An estimate had been received from Tom Greenwood for replacement of the broken glass, at a cost of £50-£60 for labour, and £50-£60 for materials. Members agreed to proceed on the basis of this estimate (proposer C’lir Nia Phillips, seconder C’lir John Evans). Clerk to inform Mr. Greenwood accordingly.

Discussion of proposals for relocation of noticeboard, Burton Ferry.

C’lir Scott Sinclair confirmed that a quotation for reconfiguring the noticeboard, carrying out some running repairs, and re-mounting it on the wall of the Jolly Sailor had been received from Tom Greenwood for £380. The proprietor of the Jolly Sailor had agreed to the siting of the noticeboard on the building. Members resolved to go ahead with this proposal (proposer C’lir Laurence Price, seconder C’lir John Evans). C’lir Scott Sinclair undertook to liaise with Mr. Greenwood regarding the arrangements.

Discussion of problem of pavement obstruction, Burton Ferry

C’lir John Mathias had received complaints about vehicles being parked on the bend on the main road pavement, and obstructing path. As a result, some pedestrians had been forced to go into the road to get around them. This especially affected those with pushchairs or mobility scooters, and was a real safety issue. He mentioned that the matter had apparently been reported to the Police, but they said they did not have the manpower to deal with it.

C’lir Laurence Price had heard that a number of people had called the Police over this, but that they are not prepared to do anything about it.

It was resolved for the Clerk to write to the Police about the matter, inviting their comments and requesting action to address the problem (proposer C’lir John Evans, seconder C’lir John Mathias).

Discussion of sewage problems / Highway issues, New Wells Road

C’lrr Robin Howells had received complaints from some local residents about smells coming from the sewage pipes in New Wells Road. He mentioned that this pipe had been repaired by Welsh Water about two years previously. There was a particular problem when the weather was very warm. Clerk to report the matter to Welsh Water.

C’lrr Robin Howells also mentioned problems with visibility to the right when exiting New Wells Road at the Ashdale Lane end. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to report this, and request their comments / proposals for resolving the matter.

Any other business

Flower bed, Houghton Green. C’lrr John Evans mentioned that he and his wife had re-done the flower bed around the Information Board. Members were appreciative of the work undertaken.

Dog fouling. C’lrr Iain Wood mentioned that there had been dog-fouling in the Houghton Playpark. Members noted that dogs not even allowed in playpark, so this should not happen. However, it was acknowledged that this was difficult to enforce. Members were reminded that if dogs seen in the playpark, then this should be mentioned to the owners.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the meeting

The meeting ended at 8-30pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 3rd July, 2019