

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held online on Wednesday 1st July, 2020, 6pm

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

The meeting was chaired by C'lr Scott Sinclair (vice-Chairman).

Declarations of known interests

C'llrs Derek Jones and Nia Phillips declared personal and prejudicial interests in the planning application ref. 20/0120/PA, as close friends / neighbours of the applicants.

Minutes of June 2020 monthly meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and held by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C'lr Alun Williams, seconder C'lr John Evans).

Matters Arising

Jubilee Hall request for grant assistance. No further information received to date.

Common land / bridleway at Houghton. No further developments to date. Note to hold for future discussion as and when necessary.

Maintenance work at Pond, Church Road. Nothing further to report to date.

Downgrading of services at Withybush Hospital. Nothing further to date. Held for discussion at future meeting.

Working group for footpath to Village Hall. The Clerk had informed P.C.C. that C'llrs John Evans and Laurence Price would be representing B.C.C. on the joint working group. An acknowledgement of this had been received from P.C.C., with a note that no further progress was anticipated until after the Coronavirus restrictions had been lifted.

Risk assessment actions needed in connection with potential absence of Clerk. Held for discussion at a future meeting.

Potential lease of land off Hill Crescent. Members were informed that a site meeting between B.C.C. and P.C.C. to discuss a possible lease had been agreed, to take place after the pandemic. C'llrs Nia Phillips, Derek Jones and Scott Sinclair had looked at the land. They felt that P.C.C. should be asked to generally tidy up the land prior to commencing any lease arrangements. They were generally of the view that using the land as an open area of amenity land would be preferable to creating allotments. It might be a good idea to put up a seat, goalposts, picnic bench or similar, and keep the area relatively easy to maintain.

C'lr Vicky White asked if the land would be dog-friendly. Members commented that this hadn't been considered in detail. However, it was thought likely that it would be subject to a similar arrangement to that currently in force at the Houghton Playing Field.

Matter placed on hold pending the initial meeting on site with P.C.C. officers.

Works around Sardis Sewage Pumping Station and bus shelter. C'lr Laurence Price had informed the Clerk that difficulties had been experienced in finding contractors willing to quote for the necessary work, due to the current restrictions in place. C'lr Alun Williams felt it important to try and get the work around the bus shelter completed before the schools went back in September, due to depressions in and around the footpath. Clerk to contact C'lr Laurence Price and ask him if this aspect of work could be expedited for this reason. If significant problems were experienced in achieving this, then the matter to be brought back to Members via email.

Plans

Applications

20/0120/PA - Single storey extension to dwelling

Site Address: 5, Hill Crescent, HILL MOUNTAIN, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1ND – No comments.

[NOTE – C’lrs Nia Phillips and Derek Jones both declared personal and prejudicial interests in the application, as close friends and neighbours of the applicant, and muted themselves during discussion of this application]

20/0198/PA - Proposed Attic Conversion and Reconfiguration of Existing Dwelling

Site Address: Warriors Reach, Kiln Park, BURTON FERRY, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY – No comments.

Planning consents issued (for information)

20/0074/PA - Construction of Conservatory to Front Elevation

Site Address: Ambercroft, HILL MOUNTAIN, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NB

Urgent correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Confirmation of C’lrs John Evans and Laurence Price as nominated B.C.C. contacts for footpath scheme between Houghton Playing Field and Village Hall – noted.
- 2) Ben Blake, P.C.C. – Update on Burton Speed reduction scheme, and request for certain additional information – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 3) P.C.C. – Consultation on proposed removal of payphone at Foxhall – C’lr Alun Williams mentioned that a notice had already been placed on the callbox by B.T. informing the public of their intention to remove it. Clerk to respond to the consultation mentioning this, and asking for the callbox to be removed as soon as practicable.
- 4) P.C.C. – Notification of seasonal opening of Burton Ferry pontoon, with Covid-19-related restrictions on use – noted.
- 5) Mrs. Andrea Thomas – Concerns over dog agility sessions on Houghton Playing Field – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) P.C.C. – Consultation on Traffic Orders in connection with works at Burton / Burton Ferry – deal with in agenda item below.

Accounts

Payments

C’lr Nia Phillips	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150
C’lr Laurence Price	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150
C’lr Derek Jones	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150
C’lr Paddy McNamara	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150
C’lr Alun Williams	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150
C’lr John Mathias	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150
C’lr John Evans	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150
C’lr Vicky White	(Member’s allowance for 2020/21)	:	£150

Quarterly budget review

The Clerk had circulated to all Members the quarterly budget review effective June 30th 2020. Members were content with the accounts as presented.

C’lr John Mathias raised a question regarding the precepted figure for graveyard maintenance. It was confirmed that this was for Burton Churchyard.

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C’lr Derek Jones, seconder C’lr John Evans).

Discussion of traffic calming scheme in Burton and Burton Ferry

C’lr Scott Sinclair provided an update to Members. The formal submission of the proposals had been sent to P.C.C. by the Clerk following the June meeting. P.C.C. had indicated informally that they were happy with these, but had asked for some clarification on the specifications for the posts and solar panels. It was expected that we would have clarification on these matters within the next few days. It was understood that once the current public consultation on speed limit changes was completed, the time needed for completion of the necessary works was expected to be in the region of eight weeks.

C’lr Scott Sinclair mentioned the need to apply for a Streetworks License. The fee was thought to be £156, but could potentially be £312 if both signs had to be paid for separately. Mr. Ben Blake of P.C.C. had informally agreed that they would complete the technical details on the license application form, since they were going to be carrying out the work involved.

Members resolved that P.C.C. be asked to waive the license fee. In the absence of an agreement to this, request to be made for one fee of £156 to be accepted to cover both signs. If this could not be agreed, then Members accepted that the maximum fee of £312 should be paid (proposer C’lr Alun Williams, seconder C’lr John Evans).

C’lr Scott Sinclair to liaise with Clerk over making all the necessary submissions to P.C.C. during the next few days.

Members then considered the formal P.C.C. consultation on proposed changes to speed limits.

Members agreed to support the proposals in their entirety (proposer C’lr John Mathias, seconder C’lr John Evans). Clerk to respond to the consultation accordingly.

It was agreed that the Clerk and C’lr Scott Sinclair would keep in touch over the timing of ordering the signage.

Discussion of situation at Badger Wood, Llangwm

The Clerk had sought updates from both P.C.C. and Dyfed Powys Police. There was no meaningful information to date. The Planning Enforcement Officer had spoken to the landowner, but not visited the site, due to the current Coronavirus movement restrictions.

C’lr Alun Williams expressed concern over the Planning Enforcement Officer’s response. A number of different versions of what had happened on the site had apparently circulated on social media. It was felt that the suggestion that the work had been carried out to assist an injured cow was unrealistic. A full quad bike track with jumps, etc., had been formed in a woodland that was probably over 100 years old. It was noted that various properties nearby were involved in tourism. The use of the land for quad-biking could potentially cause many problems for them, as well as for nearby residents. It was felt important that the Community Council should robustly challenge the version of events provided by the landowner.

It was agreed that the Clerk should press for a substantive response from P.C.C. and the Police. Clerk also asked to contact C’lr Rob. Summons, to seek his input in moving the matter forward.

C’lr Alun Williams suggested a joint site meeting between a representative of the Community Council, the landowner, and the Planning Enforcement Officer. The Clerk was uncertain how willing P.C.C. would be to facilitate this, especially given the current situation with the pandemic. However, he undertook to ask the question of P.C.C.

Discussion of request from Western Power to site equipment on Houghton Common

C’lr Laurence Price had met officers from Western Power at the site. He was recommending supporting their proposal to site the sub-station on the common land, as no alternative site seemed to be available.

Members resolved to accept this recommendation, with a caveat that, in addition to the annual wayleave payments (understood to be around £80/year), a community lump sum contribution should be requested from Western Power in recognition of the loss of community amenity. This

sum should be requested at £1500, with a minimum of £500 being acceptable (proposer C’lr John Evans, seconder C’lr John Mathias).

Discussion of request to hold dog agility sessions on Houghton Playing Field

The complaint received from Mrs. Andrea Thomas about the recently held sessions had been circulated to Members.

It was confirmed that currently there was no blanket ban on dogs being allowed onto the field. Members discussed the various aspects of the matter, including insurance issues, potential conflict with other users of the land, payment for use of the land for commercial purposes, need for a clear contractual basis for any arrangements made, potential for dog-fouling issues, noise issues, etc.

C’lr Scott Sinclair commented that, although there had been a strongly-worded complaint, it was important to address the issue even-handedly. Members agreed that there was no reason to rule out use of the land for this purpose in principle, but that further details were needed to enable an informed decision to be made on the matter.

It was arranged that the Clerk would contact Katie Gurney to obtain as much detailed information as possible about the proposed way in which she wished to run the business, insurance details, etc., with a view to enabling a final decision on the matter at the September meeting. This information to be circulated to Members when received, to provide opportunity for additional points to be clarified prior to the September meeting if necessary.

Any Other Business

Speeding through Hill Mountain / Sardis. C’lr John Evans raised the issue of speeding through Hill Mountain and Sardis. Matter to be placed on the September meeting agenda for discussion. In connection with this, C’lr Scott Sinclair reminded Members that the current initiative under way in Burton was the first phase in an ongoing programme to tray and address these issues throughout the Community area.

The meeting ended at 7-20pm. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 2nd September 2020, unless urgent matters required a meeting prior to that.