

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held online on Wednesday 6th October 2021, 7pm.

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

Declarations of known interests

None.

Approval of minutes of the September 2021 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'lr Robin Howells, seconder C'lr Derek Jones).

Matters Arising

Potholes. The Clerk confirmed that these had been reported yet again, but no substantive response received regarding when they were expected to be repaired.

Sardis Planning. The Clerk reported no change, or expectation of rapid progress in the investigation due to staffing issues in the P.C.C. Planning Department.

Houghton Playpark. Members were informed that the fencing work at the playpark had been completed.

Meeting with Clerk. C'lr Robin Howells confirmed that he now had forms suitable for use in connection with a meeting, which could now be arranged. The Clerk was asked if he had any preference for a face-to-face meeting or one held on Zoom, and confirmed that he had no preference, and was happy to go along with either arrangement. The matter was left to be organised between the Chairman, vice-Chairman and Clerk at a time / date to be arranged.

Hill Crescent land. The Clerk confirmed that he had once again sought progress from the P.C.C. Property Services Department, but without success in even obtaining a response. Clerk to write to the P.C.C. Director of Community Services, seeking his input in resolving the matter, and making reference to health and safety concerns over the current condition of the land (proposer C'lr John Evans, seconder C'lr Paddy McNamara). Copies of letter to be forwarded to C'lr Rob. Summons and C'lr Paddy McNamara. Letter to make specific reference to the length of time since the request for the lease was first made to P.C.C.

Drain outside Trinity House. The Clerk confirmed that he had been in communication with P.C.C. over the matter. He had been told that the matter was in hand, with P.C.C. arranging a joint inspection of the pipeline with Western Power.

Plans

Applications

21/0474/PA – Proposed new field gate access & closure of existing access; Site Address: Field adjacent to Penry Point, Hill Mountain, Houghton – No comments.

21/0504/PA - Erection of a Dwelling; Site Address: Plot 1, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY.

Following extensive discussion, consideration of messages received from local residents, and representations by one local resident in attendance, Members voted to object to the application (proposer C'lr Robin Howells, seconder C'lr Fiona Hart). Reasons for objection were (a) the potentially detrimental effect on the landscape, (b) possible breach of a previously-imposed Section 106 legal agreement controlling development on the land, (c) wildlife and

environmental concerns, and (d) scale of the development, which was considered to be too large and high for the location.

The matter of protection of the reedbeds, sewage gas problems, and status of the footpath running up the side of this plot to be tabled as an agenda item for discussion in the November meeting.

Planning consents issued

21/0246/PA – Residential development of 3 two storey dwelling and associated works

Site Address: Land adjacent to Lawnswood, School Road, Houghton SA73 1NN

21/0293/PA – Proposed roofing over of existing dairy cattle yard; Site Address: Mead Lodge, Burton Road, HOUGHTON, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NS

Planning refusals issued

21/0369/PA - Erection of a Dwelling; Site Address: Port Hand, BURTON, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NX

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Request for consideration to download of data from speed-activated signage – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) P.C.C. – Information on proposals for work around the vicinity of the pontoon, Burton Ferry – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 3) P.C.C. – Further holding response re. situation with road drain at Burton Ferry – dealt with in ‘Matters arising’ above.
- 4) I.R.P. – Consultation on proposed remuneration guidelines for future years – noted.
- 5) J.R.J.’s Garden Services – Quotation for work on pedestrian shelter – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) Bevan Lawncare – Quotation for work on pedestrian shelter – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 7) Tom Greenwood – Quotation for work on pedestrian shelter – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 7) O.V.W. – Update on arrangements for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations – noted.
- 8) Calon Heart – Information offering maintenance for defibrillators – Members were interested in making an arrangement with Calon Heart. Clerk to contact them to ask for details of what they could offer. Matter to be placed on agenda for further discussion in November.
- 9) Local residents – Letters from a number of residents with comments over proposals for the area around pontoon, in response to the consultation document circulated – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 10) Local residents, concerns over speeding-related issues around Houghton – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 11) Local residents, concerns / comments over planning application ref. 21/0504/PA – dealt with in ‘Planning’ above.
- 12) The Circuit – notification that pads about to expire on defibrillators – noted.
- 13) PCC – confirmation of Community Works grant application approval for replacement of footpath to Sardis bus shelter.

Accounts

Payments

C’lfr Fiona Hart (Member allowance for current year, pro-rata) : £100-00

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C’lfr Robin Howells, seconder C’lfr Laurence Price).

Quarterly budget review.

The Clerk had circulated round copies of the most recent budget review, effective September 30th 2021. Members had no comments to make on this.

Discussion of traffic-related issues in Community

The Clerk confirmed that he had sent a message to Clare Williams in P.C.C. requesting contact to make arrangements for a site meeting. No response had yet been received. C’lr Laurence Price noted that there had been speed cables in the community during the last few weeks, evidently in connection with a speed survey being undertaken. Also, GoSafe had put two new vans on the road, and had been active in the Community recently. Clerk to chase up P.C.C. in connection with arranging the site meeting.

C’lr Scott Sinclair referred to the road markings at the road junction close to the Jolly Sailor, which had still not been refreshed, despite this having been agreed in connection with the other works undertaken the previous year. Clerk to chase this up with P.C.C.

Discussion of enhancing the area by pontoon in Burton Ferry

C’lr Scott Sinclair had circulated details of the proposals to all Members. A consultation exercise had been carried out to 50 properties in Burton Ferry, and also placed on the webpage, and in the Community noticeboards. A number of responses had been received from local residents. As a result seats that would be more accessible than picnic benches were proposed. An email expressing concerns had also been received from the landlord of the Jolly Sailor. Suggestions had also been made on the possible use of a large boulder or similar as the base for a new information board.

Details of a potential scheme, accounting for all the comments received, were discussed by Members, who were very appreciative of all the work carried out by C’lr Scott Sinclair. As a result, it was left for C’lr Scott Sinclair to formulate revised proposals, for final consideration / approval in the November meeting. The need to obtain quotations for the work was also mentioned.

In connection with the scheme, Members were in agreement to raise the potential scheme budget to £6000, with a potential £1200 contribution towards this from B.C.C. (proposer C’lr Scott Sinclair, seconder C’lr Robin Howells).

Discussion of P.C.C. request for consideration to downloading data from speed-activated signage

Members were in agreement to allow P.C.C. to download data from the vehicle-activated signs to assist their County-wide analysis on an ongoing basis. This to be on the understanding that no vehicle-specific data would be involved, and that all data thus downloaded would be used appropriately and legally. Necessary login information to be provided to P.C.C. for this purpose (proposer C’lr Scott Sinclair, seconder C’lr John Evans). Clerk to contact P.C.C. accordingly.

Discussion of Western Power enquiry about siting sub-station on land to S of Houghton Playpark

After discussion, Members voted to reject the request from Western Power, preferring that the sub-station should be installed on the common land (proposer C’lr Paddy McNamara, seconder C’lr Laurence Price). This was because it was felt that any such installation on the land adjacent to the playpark could compromise its potential future use for community purposes. Clerk to contact Western Power to inform them of the decision made.

Any update on applications received for co-option onto Council

The Clerk confirmed that no applications had been received, though one expression of interest / request for further information had been received, and was ongoing. Matter to be deferred for further discussion in November.

Discussion of arrangements for maintenance of pedestrian shelter, Bowling's Corner

Members considered the three quotations received.

It was agreed to award the contract to Tom Greenwood, who had submitted the most competitive quotation. This to be on condition that Sikkens should be used, rather than any other make of woodstain, and the work should be completed before the onset of winter (proposer C'lr Robin Howells, seconder C'lr Laurence Price). Clerk to contact Mr. Greenwood accordingly.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Any other business

Withybush Hospital. Downgrading of services to be placed on agenda for discussion in November.

Manhole cover close to junction of Church Road / Main Road. C'lr Laurence Price mentioned that this had deteriorated further, and was quite bad now. Clerk to report again to P.C.C. on safety grounds.

Rhoseferry Lane culvert. C'lr Paddy McNamara reported that the post and rail fencing edging the carriageway at the location of the culvert had gone. Clerk to report to P.C.C. on safety grounds.

Development in vicinity of pontoon, Burton Ferry. C'lr Scott Sinclair mentioned the importance of considering future maintenance as part of any discussions on the project being contemplated. He also asked Members to let him know of any ideas for where diggers / equipment could be obtained in the local community.

Covid-19 vaccinations. Some Members reported issues with being asked to go long distances to Llanelli or Carmarthen for vaccinations, only to discover that they could have gone to Haverfordwest instead. Members were encouraged to be aware of this apparent glitch in the NHS system.

The meeting ended at 8-30pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd November 2021.