

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online, on Wednesday 18th May 2022, 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Robin Howells (Chairman), John Evans, Fiona Hart, Vicky White, Scott Sinclair, Derek Jones, John Mathias Nia Phillips, Paddy McNamara (vice-Chairman), Laurence Price; County Councillor Danny Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: None.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

No members of the public were present.

Approval of minutes of the April 2022 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C’Ilr Scott Sinclair, seconder C’Ilr Derek Jones) and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Potholes – Sardis potholes still unrepaired. Church Road junction not done properly, with just a temporary repair. C’Ilr Laurence Price mentioned the sunken manhole at this location, which needed separate reporting. Clerk to action this, and report the potholes again.

Trinity House drain. No further progress to date.

Planning Enforcement investigation, Sardis. No change.

Hywel Dda. An acknowledgement had been received to the message sent after the April meeting, but no substantive response. Agenda item for June.

Jolly sailor road markings. Members noted that this was due to be done this month.

Burton Ferry area project. C’Ilr Scott Sinclair confirmed that the project was getting under way. The benches had been delivered. No contact had been received from Tom Greenwood regarding the information board, and it was not known whether this aspect would be subject to cost increases or not. It was thought likely that there would be a modest increase on the main contracting cost. However, the skip had come in cheaper than budgeted, which it was hoped would offset other increased costs. Any extra costs identified beyond that would be brought to subsequent meetings for consideration.

Bin at Burton Ferry. Clerk to forward email from P.C.C. on this to C’Ilr Scott Sinclair.

Plans

Applications

22/0018/PA – Extension and alterations; Site Address: Hawn House, 14, Hawn Lake, BURTON, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1LW

No comments.

22/0032/PA - Proposed vehicle & secure garden/agricultural equipment shed; Site Address: 66, Hill Mountain, Houghton, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NB

No comments.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Defibrillator request – Clerk to respond thanking them for the offer, but pointing out that there is already a community defibrillator near the pontoon.
- 2) P.C.C. – Confirmation of proposed bin location at Burton Ferry – Clerk to forward the relevant emails from P.C.C. to C’lr Scott Sinclair.
- 3) Playground Repairs Ltd. – Operational inspection report for Playpark – noted.
- 4) P.C.C. – Response regarding road markings, signage at Burton Ferry – noted.
- 5) D.B.F. – Concerns over Ash Dieback at Houghton Playing Field – noted, as tree survey had already been commissioned.
- 6) Treeworks – Tree report – C’lr Paddy McNamara commented that, as all the actions listed were moderate risk, to be actioned within 12 months, the matter could be re-visited in the Autumn. He felt that the Community Council should deal directly with the practical aspects of removing the trees. C’lr Fiona Hart also undertook to make enquiries with a local tree surgeon that she knew. C’lr Scott Sinclair suggested that perhaps action should be taken soon to move the benches from underneath the trees listed for removal, in case of falling branches, etc.
- 7) Marc Owen – Holding response regarding tree on Sardis Green – noted.
- 8) Western Power – Request for consideration of use of land adjacent to Playpark for substation – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 9) Denise Mayr – Internal audit report for 2021/22 accounts – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.
- 10) Zurich – Insurance renewal – members approved the renewal As quoted. Clerk to make necessary arrangements.
- 11) Stevie Taylor – Request for donation towards Jubilee event – Members were supportive of making a donation, and agreed a £150 donation towards the event (proposer C’lr Scott Sinclair, seconder C’lr John Evans). Members separately agreed a £75 donation towards the cost of the street party planned for Vale Road, and being organised by C’lr Fiona Hart and some other local residents (proposer C’lr Paddy McNamara, seconder C’lr Nia Phillips).
- 12, 13) Peter Griffiths and Bronwen Scale – Separate applications to join council – Members had difficulty in choosing between the two applicants, both of whom were considered to be excellent potential assets to the Council. After considerable discussion, it was decided with difficulty to co-opt Bronwen Scale (proposer C’lr Paddy McNamara, seconder C’lr Laurence Price). Clerk to contact her accordingly. Clerk to also write to Mr Griffiths, expressing their thanks for his application, explaining the difficulty experienced in making a choice between two excellent candidates, expressing the hope that he could be co-opted on at a future opportunity, and expressing the hope that he would be willing to assist the community council in various projects being considered in the community.
- 14, 15) Letters from two local residents, raising concerns over speeding in Houghton, and concerns over dog-fouling in the playing field – C’lr Paddy McNamara referred to previous speed surveys carried out, and felt that another updated one should be requested. C’lr Fiona Hart mentioned that she had spoken to Claire Williams in P.C.C., who had again offered to come down to the Village and look at the situation on site. Clerk to contact Claire Williams to ask her to confirm a date for a site meeting. C’lrs Fiona Hart And Derek Jones offered to attend this meeting when arranged. Traffic calming was mentioned as a possible measure to pursue. It was mentioned that this had previously been ruled out by P.C.C. However, some Members felt that it was the only thing that would work in achieving improvements. C’lr Scott Sinclair felt that raising local awareness of the issues involved would be key to achieving momentum towards improvements. Agenda item to be tabled for June to discuss further. Regarding dog-fouling, an agenda item to be tabled for discussion of this in June.

Accounts

Payments

Denise Mayr (Internal audit)	:	£ 80-00
George Bevan (grass cutting)	:	£ 240-00
Glasdon (benches)	:	£1873-83
Treeworks (Tree survey)	:	£ 471-00
Scott Sinclair (reimbursement for skip hire)	:	£ 150-00
Zurich	:	£ 637-41
Donation to B Ferry Jubilee event	:	£ 150-00
Vale Road Fiona Hart	:	£ 75-00

The above payments were approved (proposer C’lr Robin Howells, seconder C’lr John Evans).

Internal audit report

The internal audit report for the 2021/22 accounts was accepted by Members (proposer C’lr Robin Howells, seconder C’lr Derek Jones).

Annual Governance Statement

The Audit Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 was completed and approved by Members (proposer C’lr Robin Howells, seconder C’lr Paddy McNamara).

Discussion of Independent Remuneration Panel determinations on Member allowances for 2022/23

Clerk to circulate last year’s decisions for information, and to inform discussion in an agenda item to be tabled for June. Member allowances for current year to be paid in June to all Members who had not waived them in writing.

Discussion of Western Power request for siting of sub-station on Community Council land

Members were agreed that the money charged for removing the Leylandii trees from the playpark had been extortionate, and the work not carried out to a good standard. There were many dead trees there in need of removal, and the whole area was in need of tidying up. C’lr Paddy McNamara felt that the Platinum Jubilee year was a good opportunity to try and revitalise a community spirit, with actions being co-ordinated by the community council to redo the playpark and adjacent area. This would need to include repairs / replacement of fencing, tree removal, possible new equipment, etc. It might be possible to pursue some funding in the community. In connection with the proposed sub-station, Clerk to write to Western Power, reiterating their previous commitment to supporting a substation on the common, asking for a site meeting to discuss this, with a reminder of their previous commitment to offer some financial support to the Community in exchange for this support. C’lrs Paddy McNamara and Laurence Price offered to attend a site meeting, with C’lr Price indicating a preference for Friday pm.

Discussion of possible extension of Houghton Play area into adjacent wooded area

C’lr Paddy McNamara suggested that a decision in principle needed to be taken regarding initiating an overall project for improving the playpark and adjacent wooded area. This would need to involve community support, and would need to include fencing works, removal of trees, landscaping and works to play equipment, etc., etc. It was stressed that this would need an agreement in principle from Members, with some Members appointed to co-ordinate the project. This was agreed by all present. C’lr Scott Sinclair felt that it would be good to have an initial proposal for the whole project, to include an indicative budget. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in July. Members appointed C’lr Paddy McNamara to take the lead on preparing a plan and budget for discussion in July.

Discussion of progress towards a return to meetings in Jubilee Hall

The Clerk mentioned that around £50 - £60 would need to be spent for a webcam and cabling. Members were agreeable to this. Regarding linking into internet, Members were content to continue the arrangement based on tethering to mobile phones.

Discussion of situation regarding possible lease of land at Hill Crescent

C'lr Paddy McNamara outlined the unsuccessful efforts to achieve progress so far. C'lr Danny Young offered to look into the matter to try and achieve some progress.

Discussion of possible request to P.C.C. for a pavement between the Jubilee Hall and the layby some distance along the road in the Burton direction

C'lr Fiona Hart outlined the difficulties being experienced by some residents living directly adjacent to the carriageway with no pavement. C'lr Danny Young undertook to look into this in County Hall. C'lr Paddy McNamara suggested that a view should be sought from P.C.C. as to whether or not there was room for a pavement along this stretch of road. Clerk to write to P.C.C. accordingly.

Any other business

Junction at northern end of Cleddau Bridge. Problems at this junction to be tabled for discussion in June.

The meeting ended at 8-50pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st June 2022.