

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and also online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 5th July 2023, 7pm.

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

Apologies: None.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present.

Approval of minutes of the June 2023 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'Ilr John Evans, seconder C'Ilr Peter Griffiths), and held by the Clerk for subsequent signature by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Litter bins. No change, with implantation by P.C.C. still awaited.

Telegraph pole and overhead cable, Houghton Playpark. The Clerk had chased up the matter with Openreach, who had indicated they would visit the site again to reassess. However, nothing further had been heard. Members were concerned over the H&S aspects, as well as the limited time remaining before work was to commence on the playpark project. Clerk to call Openreach again regarding the matter.

Highway works, Houghton. Members noted the commencement of work on the site. They were highly delighted with the work P.C.C. was doing, and were grateful for the planning and funding for this. Clerk to write to P.C.C. thanking them for carrying out the work. Letter to mention the proposed bus shelter, to thank them for arranging to put it in, and express appreciation for the provision being out in place. Regarding the gateway recently installed at the back of the layby area, Members felt it was for P.C.C. to address any issues over the legitimacy of this. Regarding the existing speed activated sign due to be removed, Clerk to contact P.C.C. to request that it be re-sited to the southern end of the village, to offer to pay for the relocation cost if necessary, and request a quotation for this. As an alternative, message to enquire about the possibility of a second new sign being installed as part of the scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Regarding the request from the local neighbourhood P.C.S.O. for consideration to a donation towards materials connected with the scheme, members left this in abeyance.

Copper beech tree, Upper Burton. This had been reported by the Clerk to P.C.C. as requested, and the matter was being investigated by them. However, Members felt that the tree could be a valuable asset in the community if planted in an appropriate location. C'Ilr Scott Sinclair undertook to discuss the matter with the adjacent property owner, with a view to possibly discussing an arrangement to relocate the tree.

Plans

Application consultations

23/0247/PA - Redesign of previously approved new dwelling on Plot 3 building plot - (Certificate of Lawful Development - 17/0489/CL); Site Address: Plot 3, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY – no comments.

Consents granted (for information)

23/0069/PA - Alterations & Extensions to existing home; Site Address: Mountain View, Ashdale Lane, LLANGWM, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4NU

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Response to Freedom of Information request for covenant on Burton Ferry toilet block – Members were pleased that the covenant document had finally been released. An examination of the document confirmed the obligation on P.C.C. to maintain the toilet block in perpetuity. Clerk to write to the brewery to raise the matter, and ask that the covenant should be kept in force in the event of any request from P.C.C. to be released from its terms and obligations.
- 2) P.C.C. – Acknowledgement of messages concerning Copper Beech tree on verge at Burton, and request for refreshing of road markings at junction to north end of Cleddau Bridge – matter of Copper Beech dealt with in ‘Matters Arising’ above. Members reported that the refreshing of the white lines at the junction north of the Cleddau Bridge had been done.
- 3) P.C.C. – Notification of commencement date for works proposed in Houghton, and request for direction on what to do with the old vehicle-activated sign – dealt with in ‘Matters Arising’ above.
- 4) Bevis Musk (copy of emails to DCWW and NRW) – concerns over sewage discharges and noxious smells in Burton Ferry – noted.
- 5) Common Land Officer (copy of internal email within P.C.C.) – confirmation that Ash tree reported by local resident was situated on the common – dealt with in agenda item below.

Accounts

Payments

Batmans Gardening (June invoice)	:	£ 60-00
St. David’s Diocesan Board (lease of Playing Field)	:	£200-00
C’lir Paddy McNamara (supply of three oak benches)	:	£370-00
Burton Wednesday Afternoon Club (donation)	:	£120-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lir Scott Sinclair, seconder C’lir John Evans).

Quarterly budget review

This had been circulated by the Clerk to all members in advance of the meeting.

C’lir Scott Sinclair suggested an increase in the budget for maintenance and development of the Burton Ferry Garden Area for the current year to £1200. Members agreed this (proposer C’lir Laurence Price, seconder C’lir Peter Griffiths). Clerk to update the budget accordingly. This sum to be reviewed next year as necessary.

Charitable donations

Apart from the Wednesday Afternoon Club donation approved above, Members agreed to defer making any charitable donations generally, due to the current financial commitments connected with the playpark project, and the effect of this on the budget. Regarding grass-cutting donations, it was felt that Burton Church should reasonably be expected to make a formal request for a donation before consideration of this. Regarding Sardis Chapel, C’lir John Evans informed Members that this was now effectively defunct, and could be removed from the budget. He also mentioned that the Jubilee Hall Committee would not be requiring any donation this year.

Discussion of progress on proposed project at Houghton Play area

C’lir Paddy McNamara reported that the project was progressing well, with fencing due to commence on or around 15th July. A quotation from Rupert Davies Plant Hire for necessary pre-fencing clearance was approved by Members in the sum of £750 + VAT (proposer C’lir Nia Phillips, seconder C’lir Derek Jones). Clerk to let Rupert Davies Plant Hire know of this, and ask them to undertake the work as soon as possible.

Regarding the ‘Wild area’, C’lir Fiona Hart mentioned that volunteers to assist with general clearance would be welcomed. It was also mentioned that the two concrete benches in the main playpark would need removal.

Discussion of need to ensure proper publicity / press releases and letters of thanks to donors in respect of playing field project

Members asked the Clerk to arrange written thanks to all donors, and enquiry to be made from them as to whether or not they would be willing for their identities to be made public in any future press releases / publicity concerning the project.

Discussion of development of land at Hill Crescent for community use

Members confirmed the previous decision to defer work until the autumn, due to the nesting season. The site access footpath was noted as being difficult to negotiate, due to encroachment by the hedge belonging to the neighbouring property. C’lir Nia Phillips undertook to have a discreet word with the owner about this.

P.C.C. had provided a list of potential volunteers interested in assisting with work on the land, and had also mentioned that there might possibly be grants available. C’lir Paddy McNamara mentioned that he had been advised that the area need not necessarily be used for allotments, but could be used as an area for community use. Agenda item to be tabled on September meeting for any necessary discussion.

Discussion of boundary issues / tree issues on common land at Houghton

C’lir Robin Howells had met the Common Land Officer on the site. They had discussed the Ash tree that was causing safety concerns. C’lir Howells reported that P.C.C. had agreed to fund the work needed to deal with the tree. He also mentioned that there were a number of other trees causing concern, including potentially affecting overhead cables.

Regarding common land boundaries, there was no discrepancy between the various plans available involving the boundaries between the new plots and common land. However, it was recognised that this did not necessarily rule out any actual encroachment onto the common land. Clerk to approach the Common Land Officer again, and ask him to attend and offer a view on any potential encroachment.

Clerk separately to contact Openreach, and ask them to deal with the trees on the common that were threatening the overhead cables.

Discussion of arrangements for ongoing maintenance of Burton Ferry Garden Area, and possible adjustments to budget for this

Covered in ‘Accounts’ above.

Discussion of possible future events on Houghton Playing Field

C’lir Paddy McNamara rescinded his previous comments about a perceived lack of community spirit locally, as a good community spirit had been very apparent in the recent Coronation event held.

C’lir Nia Phillips explained her idea, which was to have ongoing events, possibly four or so per year, to provide something for local children in particular. It was hoped that these events could be self-funding on an ongoing basis, possibly supported by an initial sum of money donated by the community council if this could be agreed.

C’lir John Evans confirmed that there was no objection in principle to the hall being made available for using toilet facilities, etc., to support events held on the playing field.

One idea mentioned was the possibility of holding car boot sales on the field. However, while not objecting to the idea in principle, C’lir Scott Sinclair did not feel that a car boot sale would actually achieve much in terms of promoting community spirit.

C’lir Derek Jones suggested the possibility of an event to celebrate the opening of the new playpark. Members were supportive of this idea, and one suggestion was for a barbecue. Given the impending summer recess, members agreed for C’lirs Peter Griffiths, Vicky White, Nia Phillips and Fiona Hart to collaborate on the planning of an event, with any necessary communications with other members being carried out via email or WhatsApp over the summer. This would facilitate progress being made towards a possible event in late September / early October.

Agenda item to be tabled for further discussion in September.

Any other business

Cleddau Reach governor position. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in September.

Potholes by Stable Bar. Clerk to report again to P.C.C. on H&S grounds.

Aggressive dog incident. C’lir Fiona Hart mentioned a recent incident where a local resident had been attacked by an out of control dog, and their watch broken. This had been reported to the Dog Warden.

Public footpath between Bowling’s Corner and Hill Mountain. Agenda item to be tabled for discussion in September to address concerns about condition of footpath.

The meeting ended at 8-40pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 6th September 2023.