

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 4th October 2023, 7pm.

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

Apologies: C'llrs Scott Sinclair, Laurence Price.

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 September 2023 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'Ilr Derek Jones, seconder C'Ilr John Evans), and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Car boot sale. This had gone ahead, and £29 raised, which was considered reasonable for a first outing under conditions far from ideal.

Speed activated signs, Burton and Burton Ferry. Members reported that these had been recalibrated, and were now functioning.

H₂S emissions, Burton Ferry. Members felt that it was important for BCC to keep abreast of developments in this matter. Clerk to write to Welsh Water to request that results from in-line monitoring of H₂S levels should be forwarded to the community council.

Highway improvements, Houghton. C'Ilr Fiona Hart had been in touch with Mr Bevis Wong in P.C.C. regarding the issues raised by the local resident concerning extent of pavement provision, etc. Discussions were ongoing.

Plans

Application consultations

23/0516/PA – Alterations & extension to inter-generational family dwelling; Site Address: The Berrow, Thurston Lane, SARDIS, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1LD – no comments.

23/0543/PA – Proposed side / rear extension to established car dealership to accommodate the servicing and repair of hybrid / electric vehicles; Site Address: Gareth Hughes Motors Ltd, 25 Burton Road, Sardis, Milford Haven, SA73 1LY – Members supported the application. Clerk to respond accordingly.

23/0552/PA - Proposed Garage; Site Address: Hearson Farm, HILL MOUNTAIN, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NB – no comments.

Notifications of consents received

23/0247/PA – Redesign of previously approved new dwelling on Plot 3 building plot - (Certificate of Lawful Development ref. 17/0489/CL (Implementation of outline planning permission ref. 11/0659/PA (residential development) and approved reserved matters ref. 14/0821/PA (Residential development)); Site Address: Plot 3, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY

23/0414/PA – Rear extension, Site Address: Hazelgrove, HOUGHTON, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NN

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Lease documentation for land at Hill Crescent – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) P.C.C. – Holding reply to message sent requesting consideration to highway improvements at northern end of Cleddau Bridge – noted.
- 3) Pembrokeshire Coast Charitable Trust – Notification of rejection of funding bid to the Force for Nature fund – noted.
- 4) Local residents – request for assistance to get roads completed at Ashmoor Gardens – Clerk to write to B.D. Summons and ask for an undertaking from them to complete work to get the road adopted as soon as possible, and to undertake needed maintenance in the meantime. Clerk to also reply to the residents and inform them of the actions taken.
- 5) Local resident – comments on situation with highway improvements in Houghton, and perceived imbalance with funding for highway improvements in Burton – Clerk to acknowledge message.
- 6) Local resident – Message of objection to 20mph speed limit – Clerk to respond to acknowledge and suggest they might wish to consider signing the online Wales-wide petition against the 20mph limit.
- 7) Local resident (copy of message sent to Welsh Water) – complaint about H₂S emissions at Burton Ferry – covered in ‘Matters Arising’ above.

Accounts

Payments

There were no payments for approval this month.

Quarterly budget review

Members considered the document provided by the Clerk, and were content that the budget appeared to be broadly on track.

Any necessary discussion of progress on project at Houghton Play area

C’lir Paddy McNamara provided an update on the project, as follows –

- Arrangements for the signoff certificate from the installer were agreed and in hand.
- A payment schedule had been agreed with the company whereby the invoice would be paid in two 50% instalments.
- A local resident had been very helpful in providing assistance in the form of electricity supply, etc. Clerk to obtain their details from C’lir Nia Phillips, and arrange to send a message of thanks.
- Arrangements for some crushed stone paths in the Wild Area were outstanding, and some reseeding of grassed areas affected by the works would be needed. Members agreed for C’lir Paddy McNamara to obtain a price for this and for this to be put in hand provided the price was within the single quotation limits for the community council.
- Some pressure washing had needed to be carried out, and it was anticipated that a small bill of around £40 would be forthcoming for this.

Members agreed that the playpark should only be opened once it was completely finished. C’lir Peter Griffiths mentioned that a formal opening ceremony and press release would be a good idea. He also mentioned that the National Lottery would expect recognition for their funding assistance towards the project, and that this would need to be borne in mind.

Discussion of development of land at Hill Crescent for community use

The formal lease documentation had been received from P.C.C. The lease was signed and witnessed in the meeting, and left with the Clerk for return to P.C.C. There was also a 'waiver of security of tenure' declaration to be signed. This was retained by C'llr Paddy McNamara for signature in front of a solicitor, and subsequent return to the Clerk.

Members were delighted to have finally formally acquired control of this area of land for use as a community garden.

C'llrs Nia Phillips and Paddy McNamara had prepared a plan of proposals for the land, and copies of this were circulated to Members. Members were very happy with the plans proposed. It was confirmed that, although the recent grant application for funding had been unsuccessful, there was still a good possibility of funding via the Biodiversity Enhancement team in P.C.C. They had confirmed that, if B.C.C. submitted plans to indicate what was planned on the land, then they may be able to assist with funding and recommendations on contractors, sourcing of trees and shrubs, etc. C'llr Nia Phillips to pursue this as possible.

It was confirmed that the site would need to be cleared first, before any further work could be carried out. C'llr Paddy McNamara undertook to pursue investigations with R.D. Plant Hire for this to be done.

It was confirmed that P.C.C. Housing Department had agreed to assume responsibility for clearing the pathway access and trimming the boundary hedge along the access pathway.

Members formally agreed to pursue the project as per the plans provided and discussed (proposer C'llr Paddy McNamara, seconder C'llr Fiona Hart).

Discussion of Burton Ferry toilet block

Matter left to be followed up by C'llr Scott Sinclair, with a view to enabling a discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion of issues connected with common land at Houghton (boundaries, responsibility for tree-felling, etc.)

C'llr Robin Howells had met on site with the P.C.C. Common Land Officer. The Common Land Officer had indicated that P.C.C. would arrange necessary tree-felling at no cost to the community council.

Regarding common land boundaries, it had been apparent that historical encroachment had occurred, with common land being enclosed within the boundaries of Vale Farmhouse. Because of the length of time since this appeared to have happened, i.e. many decades, the Common Land Officer had indicated that P.C.C. would not pursue enforcement action to remove the boundary enclosures for this area. Members were in agreement that BCC should not pursue enforcement either, due to the length of time since this had happened, and the unlikely event of enforcement being successful. Clerk to seek written confirmation from the Common Land Officer of P.C.C.'s stance in the matter. Matter to be placed on November agenda for further consideration.

Discussion of effect of reduced speed limit changes in community, especially along main road

Members discussed the effects of the altered speed limits. There was a wide difference of opinion on whether it was good or not. It was recognised that this was reflective of the general view in the populace, and that there was nothing that B.C.C. could do in the matter, which was left in abeyance.

Discussion of purchase of new defibrillator pads

Clerk to seek advice regarding the safety of using the Zoll defibrillators on children, Matter to be placed on November agenda for further discussion.

Discussion of future events on Houghton Playing Field, including possible Halloween event

Following the recent car boot sale, C'lr Nia Phillips confirmed that plans were under way for a Halloween event in the Jubilee Hall. They wanted to include older children, etc., and had sold 28 children's tickets to date. The official capacity of the hall needed to be considered, and C'lr John Evans undertook to advise on this. It was confirmed that the Jubilee Hall Committee had agreed to reduce the hall hire fees to 50% of the usual level for all B.C.C.-sponsored events.

Members were agreed that, based on the published guidance and legislation, no events licence would be required, as no alcohol was planned to be served, as the event was not for profit.

Discussion of possible need for highway improvements at northern end of Cleddau Bridge

Matter left in abeyance, as Members were agreed that P.C.C. was unlikely to carry out any significant improvements at this location.

Any other business

Facebook page. Discussion of possible community council Facebook page to be placed on November agenda for discussion. In the meantime, the Clerk undertook to seek information on any guidelines on use of social media by community councils.

The meeting ended at 8-35pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st November 2023