

## **BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 7pm.**

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

**Apologies:** C'llrs Vicky White, John Mathias, Danny Young, 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 November 2023 monthly meeting**

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'llr John Evans, seconder C'llr Peter Griffiths), and signed by the Chairman.

### **Address by Welsh Water officers / discussion concerning sewage discharges at Burton Ferry**

John Murphy (P.C.C. Environmental Health Officer), Mike Lyons (Welsh Water), and Owain Coombs (Welsh Water) were present to address the meeting concerning sewage discharges at Burton Ferry, particularly in connection with levels of H<sub>2</sub>S.

Mike Lyons introduced the discussion. He explained that originally the matter had been considered as a network issue. Following the complaints received the matter had been investigated in more depth, logging was carried out to monitor and record levels of H<sub>2</sub>S gas in the locality. Five logging locations had been monitored. As a result, a problem had been identified. They had then sought to identify sources. A specialist company was recruited to help tackle this.

Hot, dry weather had contributed to the problem, as well as the type and volume of input into the system. They identified two areas of concern. The area near Burton Church was thought to be the main source. The area around Smuggler's Cove, Kiln Park, seemed to be a secondary source. Chemicals were used to counteract the gas. This generally seems to have worked well. A solid media was also in use as a second tier back up. It was noted that a temporary shortage of the necessary chemicals had subsequently caused a reoccurrence, and therefore also confirmed their effectiveness.

It was noted that there had also been some problems with pumping systems from a small number of properties - on the right side of Kiln Park. Assistance had been provided to rectify this.

The Welsh Water Officers stressed that at no time had levels of H<sub>2</sub>S gas been anywhere approaching a level posing a health risk. They outlined their routine activities to keep the system in good condition, including regular checking and cleaning. All pumping stations on the network were confirmed to be on telemetry. This system generates auto-refill notifications and also notifies other problems. Chemicals are therefore replenished when necessary.

Members also asked about:

- possible problems from other substances besides domestic sewage being discharged onto the system, such as milk. The Welsh Water officers mentioned that a dairy farm that is close-by had been monitored. No evidence of anything untoward had been identified, but investigations into that were ongoing.
- the continuing problem of foam on the estuary. It was explained that this was being dealt with by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It was felt that this did not originate from the public sewerage system.
- whether recent problems were linked to any under-capacity in the sewage disposal and treatment system. The Welsh Water officers said this would be an asset matter, on which they, as engineers, would not have any information.

Following the discussion, Members thanked the officers from Welsh Water and P.C.C. for attending, after which they left the meeting.

### **Matters arising**

**Public meeting on beach at Burton Ferry.** This meeting was understood not to have taken place to date. Members did not know if it was still planned.

**White lining along carriageway edge in Houghton.** This had still not been completed. C’lir Fiona Hart confirmed that she had passed this on to C’lir Danny Young, who was going to look into the matter.

**Defibrillators.** The Clerk confirmed that new paediatric pads had now been obtained and installed into all the community defibrillators.

**Road drains / potholes, Rhooseferry Lane .** C’lir Paddy McNamara confirmed that the road drains along Rhooseferry Lane remained blocked, and in fact had worsened. The situation with potholes had also deteriorated along the lane. Clerk to report these issues again to P.C.C.

### **Plans**

#### **Planning consents notified**

**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.

### **Correspondence**

01) Update on highway-related matters – Members asked the Clerk to respond to P.C.C., requesting planting of a Douglas Fir tree in the playpark; 2 Sessile Oaks on land by the Burton Ferry slipway; and six native fruit trees around the perimeter of the Houghton Playing Field (C’lir Fiona Hart to meet P.C.C. as necessary to agree the exact locations of the trees in Houghton Playing Field).

02) P.C.C. – Notification of proposed bus stop installation north of Cleddau Bridge – noted.

03) Welsh Government – Notification of expenditure limits for Sec. 137 expenditure during 2024/25 – noted.

04) Chris Campbell, Jolly Sailor – message regarding closure of toilet block at Burton Ferry – dealt with in agenda item below.

### **Accounts**

#### **Payments**

Direct 365 (defibrillator spares)	:£ 549-60
Sturrock & Sons (trees)	:£ 89-97
Adventure Playgrounds Wales (final 50% of playground invoice)	:£25183-20

Clerk (salary and fixed expenses, October – December 2023, including backpay for agreed N.J.C. pay rise for 2023/24) :As per contract  
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax on above payment) :As per contract  
Clerk (incidental expenses for June-November 2023) :£ 258-27  
The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lir Robin Howells, seconder C’lir Peter Griffiths).

### **Any necessary discussion concerning new playpark at Houghton Play area**

The Christmas tree had been put up and lit, and was ready for the forthcoming community carol event planned for 16<sup>th</sup> December.

The matter of putting some kind of footpath around the playpark entrance, as well as the entrance from the main playpark into the wild area, was discussed, due to the wet and slippery conditions there. C’lir Paddy McNamara undertook to speak to the contractor to ask for some pathway / edging to be put down in both entrances. Members approved this in principle.

‘No dogs’ signage still in hand with C’lir Nia Phillips. C’lir Peter Griffiths undertook to affix loops outside the playpark entrance for tying dog leads to.

Any further available photos of the project to be sent to the Clerk, who would then deal with publicity connected with the completion of the project.

### **Discussion of development of land at Hill Crescent for community use**

C’lir Paddy McNamara confirmed that arrangements had been agreed with Aethne Cooke of P.C.C. regarding grant payment for the work needed to form a community garden. Invoices would be paid by B.C.C., submitted as a reclaim to P.C.C., whereupon the grant (exclusive of any VAT elements) would be paid within a few working days. The following payments were approved by Members to be made, and then reclaimed from P.C.C. :

R.D. Plant Hire	: £4200-00
GM8 Group Ltd (Water butt)	: £ 76-00
Boston Seeds (wild flower seed)	: £ 165-99
No Butts Bin Co. Ltd (recycled furniture)	: £1386-00
Woodenbale (gazebo)	: £1850-00
F.J. Groundworks	: £1491-35

The above payments were accepted as being made prior to the work being undertaken, in order to meet the deadline for reclaim of the grant, and were approved as such by Members (proposer C’lir Fiona Hart, seconder C’lir Peter Griffiths).

Clerk to arrange all payments and submission of invoices to P.C.C. as necessary.

### **Discussion of issues related to recent highway improvements in Houghton**

Covered in ‘Matters Arising’ above.

### **Discussion of possible locations for P.C.C.-sponsored tree-planting in community**

Covered in ‘Matters Arising’ above.

### **Discussion of proposed P.C.C. closure of Burton Ferry toilet block**

C’lir Danny Young had confirmed that he had spoken to officers in P.C.C. about the matter, but with no positive indications regarding the matter. C’lir Scott Sinclair reported that the landlord of the Jolly Sailor had confirmed that he was seeking action from the brewery freeholders to address the matter.

### **Discussion of community governor vacancy at Cleddau Reach School**

Deferred for discussion in January.

### **Discussion of future events on Houghton Playing Field / community**

**Carols around the Christmas tree.** C’lir Nia Phillips confirmed that arrangements were in hand for this to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Posters had been placed in the noticeboards, and also on the local Facebook page. The Jubilee Hall had also been hired in case of wet weather. Mulled wine and mince pies were expected to be available.

### **Any other business**

**Church service on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2023.** C’lir Fiona Hart mentioned that a volunteer was being sought for a Bible reading at the church service. C’lir Robin Howells undertook to care for this.

The meeting ended at 8-20pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024