

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Wednesday 3rd January 2024, 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Robin Howells (vice-Chairman), Peter Griffiths, Fiona Hart, Derek Jones, Vicky White, Laurence Price, Scott Sinclair; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Paddy McNamara, Nia Phillips, John Evans; County Councillor Danny Young.

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 December 2023 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written (proposer C'lr Derek Jones, seconder C'lr Fiona Hart), and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Welsh Water-sponsored public meeting on foreshore at Burton Ferry. Nothing further was known about this.

White lining, Houghton. Nothing further had been heard about this. Clerk to speak to C'lr Danny Young regarding the matter.

Rhooseferry Lane potholes /drainage. There had been incidents of carriageway flooding around the junction with Rhooseferry Lane over the holiday period, which had apparently impacted some residents. C'lr Peter Griffiths also mentioned that the blocked drains along the main road between Hill Mountain and Sardis remained unaddressed, and had been causing problems with flooding along the road, and slippery conditions on the adjacent footpath. Clerk to report these matters once again to P.C.C.

Burton Ferry Toilet block. Members had nothing to report. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in February if there were any substantive information / developments to report before then.

Tree planting in Community. The Clerk confirmed that the request had been submitted to P.C.C. following the December meeting. Clerk to chase up this matter with P.C.C.

Plans

Planning consents approved

23/0467/PA – Two storey extension creating a ground floor kitchen and utility with a first floor bedroom and ensuite; Site Address: 1, Hill Crescent, HILL MOUNTAIN, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1ND

23/0626/PA - Erection of Cricket practice net facility 30m long x 4m wide x 4m high together with an artificial cricket match wicket 30m long x 2.75m wide; Site Address: Hill Mountain Cricket Pitch, C3007 Sardis Cross To Junction Ashdale Lane Hill Mountain, Sardis, Milford Haven, SA73 1NB

Correspondence

There was no correspondence for consideration this month.

Accounts

Payments

There were no payments for approval this month.

Discussion to set council precept and budget for 2024/25

Members viewed and discussed the draft budget document that had been prepared and circulated by the Clerk.

The budget for 2024/25 was approved as drafted (proposer C’llr Vicky White, seconder C’llr Derek Jones).

The precept for 2024/25 was set at £27300 – a 5% increase over the current year, to allow for inflation (proposer C’llr Laurence Price, seconder C’llr Peter Griffiths). Clerk to inform P.C.C. accordingly.

Any necessary discussion concerning new playpark at Houghton Play area

Playground inspections. Members agreed to reinstate the playground safety inspection regime, this to be implemented as soon as possible (proposer C’llr Fiona Hart, seconder C’llr Robin Howells). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

Maintenance regime on new equipment. Clerk to make enquiries with the playground installer about the recommended maintenance regime to be carried out on the new play equipment.

New gravel surfacing. Members were informed that this had been completed as requested, and the invoice was awaited.

Any necessary discussion of development of land at Hill Crescent for community use

Members were informed that the grant for the necessary expenditure had been submitted to P.C.C., and the funds received. A suitable period of dry weather was awaited to enable the work to be commenced.

Discussion of open community governor vacancy on board of governors for Cleddau Reach School

Matter deferred for consideration in February, when it was hoped that C’llr Nia Phillips, who had been consulting people, would be in attendance.

Discussion of junction at north end of Cleddau Bridge

Members noted that the proposed traffic island / pedestrian refuge in the centre of the carriageway had not been included in the scheme as constructed. Clerk to contact P.C.C. to enquire about this. Clerk to also raise a query with P.C.C. about the possibility of creating a filter lane at the junction of the side road emerging from the Burton Ferry direction, to make it easier for traffic turning left onto the main road from that direction (proposer C’llr Scott Sinclair, seconder C’llr Laurence Price).

Discussion of future events on Houghton Playing Field

Members reported that the recent carol-singing event around the tree had been a success, and very enjoyable. Members thanked C’llrs Nia Phillips, Fiona Hart and Laurence Price for organising this, as well as providing the tree itself.

C’llr Fiona Hart mentioned that the next event planned may be an Easter egg hunt or similar, around Eastertime.

C’llr Scott Sinclair suggested that it would be good for the community council to consider allocating a budget to underwrite these community events. However, no detailed discussion was held on that subject during the meeting, and it was left for consideration at a future date.

The matter of how to handle funds raised during the events was raised. The Clerk advised that they could either be held completely separately, and not be counted formally as community council funds, or alternatively deposited in the community council account, recorded in the community council minutes as such, and held as ring-fenced funds for use on future community events. In the event that such ring-fenced funds should accumulate significantly, some of them could be transferred for use for other purposes, by resolution of the council.

Discussion about possible request for ‘Children Playing’ signage at Prince of Wales Close, Houghton

C’lir Fiona Hart had been approached by a local resident from Prince of Wales Close, who had been involved with an unpleasant incident with a driver complaining about her child riding their bicycle in the Close. She had raised a query about the possibility of having ‘Children Playing’ signage put up in the Close.

Clerk to write to P.C.C. to seek advice on the matter (proposer C’lir Fiona Hart, seconder C’lir Robin Howells).

Any other business

Footpath from Prince of Wales Close to main road. C’lir Fiona Hart had been approached by a local resident concerned at the path being overgrown by adjacent hedgerows. Matter to be placed on February agenda for discussion. In the meantime, the Clerk undertook to seek advice from P.C.C. on the matter, to inform the discussion.

Review of 20mph speed limit. Matter to be placed on February meeting agenda for discussion.

The meeting ended at 8-15pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 7th February 2024