

BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, and online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Tuesday 5th March 2024, 7pm.

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

Apologies: C'llrs Fiona Hart,

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 February 2024 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

White lining. No further progress to date.

Potholes. No progress on repairs to potholes in Rhooseferry Lane. Clerk to report again.

Tree planting. It had been agreed that a large Scots Pine would be planted in the Houghton Playing Field. A Korean Pine was to be planted in the playpark, to serve as a community Christmas tree. C'Ilr Scott Sinclair had met with the P.C.C. officer, and agreed locations for the two Oak trees planned.

Hedge encroachment onto footpath at Prince of Wales Close. Nothing further heard to date. Clerk to chase up.

Highways matters (new bus pull-in to north of Cleddau Bridge). Members were not content with the response received from P.C.C. following the February meeting. However, a site meeting had subsequently been carried out with P.C.C. officers. As a result of this, it had been agreed by P.C.C. that they would widen the junction by approximately three metres. It was commented that the idea of widening to make an additional lane was considered to be feasible, and Members could not understand the P.C.C. comments that this would not be possible. However, Members decided to settle at present for what had been agreed, and monitor the situation.

River quality issues. Members noted the recent exchanges of communications that had been copied over to the community council. It was felt appropriate to just monitor the situation at present, as the community council had no direct involvement, but recognised the matter as one of concern to the community.

Resident request for double yellow lines at Burton Ferry. P.C.C. had responded to the message sent following the February meeting, to say they were going to carry out a detailed analysis of the situation, and would respond further in due course. Clerk to update the concerned resident who had raised the matter.

Playpark maintenance. Clerk to ask Infinity Play to address any minor maintenance issues that might come to light during routine inspections. Major items of concern would need to be reported to the community council for consideration.

Community governor vacancy, Cleddau Reach School. The nomination made had been passed by the Clerk to the school, and the matter was now in their hands.

Request to P.C.C. for consideration to restoration of 30mph speed limit along main road between Burton Ferry and Burton. This had been submitted to P.C.C. for consideration, and was in hand with them to deal with. Their initial response had been to suggest that there were a number of other amendments to the traffic orders currently in place that would need to be implemented and assessed before this could be considered. Members were content to await further information / advice from P.C.C. in due course.

National Lottery grant final report. Clerk to submit the final report with the available photographs, in order to finalise the matter.

Highway verges, Burton. - Members reported that these had now been reinstated.

Plans

Planning consultations received

23/0894/PA - Front gable roof alterations; Site Address: Smugglers Rest, Kiln Park, BURTON FERRY, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NY - no comments.

23/0980/DC - Discharge of conditions 3 (surface water disposal), 5 (CEMP), 7 (external lighting) and 8 (biodiversity enhancement scheme) of planning permission 21/0504/PA (Erection of a Dwelling); Site Address; Galwad-y-mor, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1NY - no comments.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. - Holding message re. footpath at Prince of Wales Close - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 2) P.C.C. - response re. possible consideration to waiting restrictions at Burton Ferry - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 3) P.C.C. - Response re. message requesting re-consideration of 20mph speed limit between Burton and Burton Ferry - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 4) P.C.C. - Consultation on proposed speed limit amendments - noted.
- 5) P.C.C. - Notification of proposed bus stop / footpath works in Burton - noted.
- 6) P.C.C. - Response to message about works to north of Cleddau Bridge - dealt with in 'Matters Arising' above.
- 7) P.C.C. - Invitation to address Planning Committee regarding planning application ref. 23/0769/PA - noted.
- 8) Bevis Musk - Concerns over planning matters - noted.
- 8) Infinity Play - Quotations for playground inspections for 2024/25 financial year - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 9) Jolly Sailor - message regarding closure of public toilet block at Burton Ferry - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 10) P.C.C. - Notification of intention to close the pembstcc.co.uk website in April 2025 - noted, with Members recognising that action would need to be taken in due course.
- 11) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - 2024 report - agenda item for April.
- 12) Frazer - Grass cutting quotation - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 13) Local resident - realignment request for signage in Burton - Clerk to contact Coeval and ask for warranty visit, due to intermittent problems with the functioning of the sign.

Accounts

Payments

Infinity Play (playground inspections February / March 2024)	:	£120-60
Clerk (Salary / fixed expenses January - March 2024)	:	As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax on above)	:	As per contract
R.D. Plant Hire (work in Hill Crescent community garden)	:	£312-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'Ilr Peter Griffiths, seconder C'Ilr John Evans).

Discussion of closure of public toilet block at Burton Ferry

In summarising the current situation, C'llr Paddy McNamara noted that all councils were facing significant budgetary challenges, B.C.C. did not wish to add £5000 to its own precept to run the toilet block, and efforts by the local pub to get the brewery to engage in discussions about the matter had been unsuccessful to date.

C'llr Scott Sinclair noted that it was not a direct matter for B.C.C., but was rather a legal matter for discussion between P.C.C. and Heineken. While B.C.C. could offer support to the pub in their efforts to resolve the matter so as to keep the toilet block open, there was nothing further beyond that to be done by the community council.

Members agreed that would be sad if the toilet block did remain closed, but considered that the community council had done all it reasonably could to date.

As a final effort, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Heineken drawing their attention to the matter, and send the letter to Chris Campbell to forward on. Separately, Clerk to Mr Chris Campbell thanking him for his work, and offering support for any deal struck by them to keep the toilet block open.

As a separate matter to the above, Clerk to write to P.C.C. drawing attention to their obligations regarding the building, on health and safety grounds.

Discussion of grass cutting contract for forthcoming season

Members agreed to accept the quotation ref. 113 from F.J. Groundworks for regular grass-cutting at the Houghton Playing Field and Hill Crescent community garden, to be carried out fortnightly through the growing season (proposer C'llr Scott Sinclair, seconder C'llr Nia Phillips). Clerk to make contact with them to arrange this.

Discussion of Houghton Playpark certification and safety inspections

Members agreed to reinstate the same regime as that previously carried out in the playpark by Infinity Play, based on the quotation provided (proposer C'llr Vicky White, seconder C'llr John Evans). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

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

C'llr Paddy McNamara reported that all had gone well with the project, which was now virtually complete, including levelling, grass-seeding, planting and formation of pathways. The pergola still remained to be installed, but it was considered that this would better be completed once the grass had established itself.

Discussion of unauthorised access formation into Houghton Playing Field, and dumping of grass cuttings in field

C'llr Laurence Price reported that grass cuttings had been dumped about 3/4 of the way up the field inside the main road boundary, with access having been gained through an unauthorised access. Members agreed that the fence along this boundary was in need of replacement. C'llr Paddy McNamara to obtain a quotation for this. Agenda item to be tabled for further discussion in April.

Discussion of request for lighting in Houghton Playing Field car park

Members were in agreement that the existing two lights on the side of the adjacent road supplied enough lighting for the car park, and that no further provision was needed.

Any necessary discussion / updates on future community events

C'llr Nia Phillips mentioned that an Easter Egg Hunt was planned, but as a relatively low-key event. Members thanked those councillors involved in planning the very successful recent events for their efforts.

Any other business

Sardis bus shelter. C'lr John Evans reported concerns over cracks in the bus shelter floor slab. Agenda for April to discuss. Clerk to send round photos of the floor in advance of the meeting.

Footpath along road at Sardis. Ongoing problems with mud, blocked gullies and standing water were reported. These were considered to be due largely due to the level of the path, which was below the adjacent carriageway level. In addition, its use by cyclists was mentioned as a problem. Agenda item to be tabled for April to discuss.

Pontoon by railings, Burton Ferry. C'lr Scott Sinclair reported problems with broken railings, as had occurred in previous years. Clerk to report to P.C.C. on safety grounds.

New Wells Road parking / speeding problems. C'lr Robin Howells mentioned that this had been raised as an issue by a local resident. He had explained to the resident the actions that had been taken by B.C.C. previously to try and get the matter addressed, and was now planning to raise the matter with the local M.P. if the resident concerned did not do so.

The meeting ended at 8-05pm. Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd April 2024