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BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY FULL COUNCIL - 22/09/25 AT 19:00

CHAIR: L ELLIS



PRESENT: L. Ellis, N. Matthews, A. James, I. Shemilt, K. Laurence, J. Jones, H. Hartshorn, B. Ball,

1. APOLOGIES N. Lomas, C. Scott, R. Brace, S. Dunce, Cllr Lyndon Jones

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONNEL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

- None

3. PLANNING

The Pines, Caswell Bay Road

- Duplicate of previously approved pre-application (Ref. 1307).
- No objection proposed.

Tree Preservation Order – 88 Oldway

- Concerning one horse chestnut tree.
- Referred to university arborist for review.

Land Adjacent to 97 Bishopston Road

- Previous similar applications received unfavourable responses.
- New application includes obscure glazing but concerns remain over:
- Highway access and visibility
- Boundary ownership
- Overbearing impact on No. 93
- Driveway safety
- Council unanimously agreed to object.

4. PROJECT UPDATES:

Active Travel track

- No formal updates reported.
- Awaiting update from Pedw

Bishopston Community Park / Murton Park

- Design sent to Cllr Lyndon. Costs estimated at £130,000 (grant £100,000; council £30,000).
- Clerk to now apply for Lottery Heritage for £30,000 for the Community Councils contribution

Copley Woods & Pump Track.

Update from Gareth Govier read by Clerk:

As we are all aware, we are encountering some ongoing issues with this project. We agreed to take on this project as part of the overall skate and wheeled sports masterplan about a year ago, but it has become clear since then, that identifying and agreeing on a suitable location and site for the project continues to be a challenge.

Please see below, list of sites that are, or have been under consideration and a summary of the issues being faced at each:

Murton Green:

The land is owned by Bishopston Community Council as we know, however there are covenants in place which would prevent a pumptrack being developed.

Copley Common:

The issues with this site have been discussed for some time. There are concerns that the costs and timescales involved in progressing with a project in this area would be considerable, especially as planning consent would be required from PEDW as well as Swansea Council's Planning Dept. In addition, and probably more importantly, it's been our understanding from our previous discussion there is also the issue of the requirement for land swap, whereby there doesn't appear to be any land owned by Bishopston Community Council to be used for this purpose. As a result of this, there are naturally no options for us to relocate the project to an alternative site owned by Bishopston Community Council, as there are no suitable sites. However, we will double check with PEDW if land swap is a confirmed or potential requirement.

Bishopston Comprehensive School:

Following our last meeting, Jake and I visited the school site to see if there was an option there. The area circulated below seemed to be the most appropriate location on the school grounds. The fact that this is a dual use site and is Council owned land, is positive, however, having raised this option with Education colleagues there were concerns raised which included safeguarding, parking during the school day and the proposed location being in close proximity to houses. However, our intention is to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher and colleagues from the Education department, in the near future, to discuss this idea further.

Bishopston Playground / Wellfield Rd:

Jake and I also visited the park / play area on Wellfield Rd. Whilst there is a tarmac area at the site, where a facility could be considered, the area is very small which would significantly limit the size of any facility being considered. Also, the area is in close proximity to housing which is not ideal. A very small, mini-wheels type facility could work in this area but that wouldn't correspond with the ambitions for this project really.

Bishopston Primary School:

We discussed this location when we met in July and from memory, we all agreed that this location was not ideal for many reasons.

Council Owned Land in the Bishopston Ward:

As a result of the above issues and constraints, I have discussed the project with colleagues in our Estates team to identify any other potential Council owned land which could be considered for the project. As expected, the feedback was not what we wanted. Other than the two school sites, there are no other suitable options on Council owned land.

Finally, just to add, as a project management team, we remain committed to this project, however it is becoming clear that at the moment, there are no straightforward site options (within the ward of Bishopston) for us to focus on in order for us to be able to take this project forward. It's possible we may need to consider options further afield.

We are working on several other projects at the moment and workload continues to be very intense, so many thanks for your ongoing patience with this. Once we have further updates from PEDW and also from the school/Education department, we will provide further feedback.

ACTION

Council to await further communication from Gareth Govier.

5. Accounts for approval

Report by A James:

- Expenditure: £119,000 to date.
- Variance: £9,808 (due to Wellfield project).
- Staff wages to be listed as “Staff Wages” for confidentiality.
- Community Bus running efficiently; currently in credit.

Actions:

- Continue financial monitoring and prepare VAT claim.
- Schedule Finance Committee to set precept and review reserves.
- Draft delegated expenditure policy for formal approval.

6. COMMUNITY HUB & CHAPEL DISCUSSION

Summary:

- Reviewed progress on acquiring and repurposing the historic chapel building.
- Lease documents and title deeds reviewed—some copies illegible; new versions requested.
- Community Consultation now underway.

Funding Prospects:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Shared Prosperity Fund (capital up to £300k)
- Royal Commission heritage grants

Discussion Points:

- Proposal to establish a Community Interest Company (CIC) to manage the site.
- Potential inclusion of community café or events space.
- Legal review required regarding covenants and Charities Act limitations.
- Agreement that chapel represents a valuable community heritage asset.

Actions:

1. Form Chapel Committee and prepare formal proposal.
2. Obtain clear copies of lease and confirm any restrictive covenants.
3. Engage with SCVS
4. Liaise with Royal Commission and Swansea Archives to verify memorials and records.

7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Bonfire Night: 5th November at 6:15 for 19:00 start

Remembrance Service: 8th November at 10:45

Lantern Parade: 28th of November at 17:00 (leaving the school)

Carol Service: 17th December 18:30

- Awaiting confirmation from Salvation Army.
- Wreath orders to be placed.

7. SWANSEA COUNCIL UPDATE (CLLR LYNDON JONES)

Read by Clerk in Cllr Lyndon's Absence

CHAPEL CONSULTATION:

I delivered my leaflets on Friday and spoke to about 20 people on the route, who were all supportive. Since then, I have had quite a few e-mails on the subject, all but one supportive.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE:

I have spoken to the team at Swansea Council, who have agreed the road closure. I said, as agreed by RFC that it will be from 10.30am to 11.30am on Saturday, 8th November. The form is being sent out for completion on Monday. We have the road closure signs. I have also arranged with Hannah Melling at the Primary School that the choir from the school will sing at the Remembrance Service.

YOUR BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY BUS

We are in discussions with DANSA our bus provider and the Transport Team at Swansea Council, to see how we can enhance this service and will report back. I have had discussions with Cllr. Lynda James and made a number of suggestions. Also Julie, Ian and I are looking at ways to enhance the service.

I have been able to secure a grant of £5000 to enhance the service, which will include running a free Saturday Service in the run up to Christmas on:

- 29th November
- 6th December
- 13th December
- 20th December

THE ROUNDHOUSE AT BISHOPSWOOD:

After a number of meetings, we have applied for a £50,000 grant to repair and make good the Roundhouse, upgrade the footpaths and plant more trees etc. We will know if we have been successful by the 7th October. With the help of the Chief Executive at Swansea Council, I have arranged a meeting with the team at the Swansea Council who organise crowdfunding, to help fund additional work at Bishopswood. I am also pleased to say that the oak trees I funded from my Community Fund and planted at Bishopswood with pupils at Bishopston Comprehensive School are thriving.

BIG CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON:

Father Christmas has been booked for our event on Friday, 28th November. He is fighting fit and looking forward to the event! I have organised the competition with John Owen, the Head at the Primary School, with the winner switching on the Christmas lights. I have discussed the "rolling road closure" with the at the Council and they are ok with it and are sending the form out on Monday for completion.

SOUTH CLOSE:

The new pavements in South Close are now complete.

BISHOPSTON ROAD:

At a meeting with Openreach, I was told that they are planning to upgrade the cable and equipment in the Bishopston Road area, which is great news. I was also able to tell them that Highways were planning to resurface Bishopston Road, so was able to make sure that the work being done by Openreach will be done before Christmas and the resurfacing work will take place in the New Year – I have suggested during the school half term, so it will minimise disruption.

OTHER ROADS:

I have asked for a number of other roads to be considered for resurfacing, including Oldway, The Glebe and Manselfield Road.

NO 14 BUS:

I have now got agreement and confirmation from Adventure Travel that they have reduced the single fare between Bishopston and the City Centre, and vice versa to £3.50. The day return fare remains at £5.90.

The single fare was £5.30, which was ridiculous, so am pleased that we have got there and thanks to Adventure travel for listening.

COMMUNITY CINEMA

After a break in August, the Bishopston Community Cinema is back!

As many of you will know, we show a film on the second Tuesday of each month and the cost per person is a donation of just £4 a head. As I have mentioned before, the terms of our licence do not allow us to advertise the film, but we can let those people who are on our database know! Indeed, 17 new people joined last month alone! So, if you would like to be part of this, please send me your name and e-mail address by messaging me, e-mailing me, Cllr.Lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk, or send me a text to 07880 743578 and I will add you to our database and send you the details! We are also looking for new helpers, so if you think you can help, please get in touch.

CPF / DEFIBBULATOR / CRITICAL BLEED KIT TRAINING:

I am co-ordinating dates for this training, which will also include training at the Comprehensive school.

PUMP TRACK:

I have asked Gareth Govier for an update. When I spoke to him after the last Community Council Meeting, he assured me that the land opposite was still very much in the mix.

CLEANSING:

The following areas have been done or are being done:

- The bench on the millennium trail
- The area at the side of the chapel to Long Acre
- The area on the way into Wellfield Park
- Copley Lodge / Copley Close
- Brandy Cove Road / Headland Road / Headland Close
- Portway

The way this now works is that each councillor gets two days in every 4 weeks. Before, it was done on a first come first serve basis.

8. AOB

JAMIE PORTER

- Contractor Jamie Porter completed drainage works; 50% payment pending December precept.
- Check if he needs other half or can he wait as agreed.
- Drainage fix proposed via speed bump near car park entrance.

Actions:

- Obtain quotes for speed bump installation.

COFFEE CART

Current vendor Anna paying £200/month + £1/day electricity, now closed for winter.

- Concerns about income loss and fairness to other businesses.
- Closed too early, when weather has been perfect and leaving residents without or traveling further afield.

Options Discussed:

- Tender for new winter vendor.
- Reassess terms.

Decision: Deferred pending review with Anna upon return to carpark.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

a) Emergency Committee Formation

- Meeting to include British Red Cross representative, J Jones, S Duncce, I Shemilt, Cllr L Jones.
- Focus on community emergency readiness and communication.

b) Emergency FM Radio Coverage

- Discussion with Data Cabs (Townhill) for mast hosting to extend Welsh Coast Radio coverage.
- Data Cabs willing to donate space in exchange for advertising.

NEWSLETTER

- To be issued mid-October, aligning with Fireworks Night.
- Alternative printers being sourced.
- Design to use high-contrast text for accessibility.

PARKING ISSUES AT COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Verge parking continues during events.
- Signs to be installed: "Parking for Hall Users Only."

SOLICITOR TRANSITION

- Edward Harris retiring; recommends transferring files to Peter Lynn & Partners (£312 + VAT).
- Need to confirm storage duration and costs.
- Re-explore archival storage with Swansea Archives.

END OF MEETING / NEXT MEETING 27/10/25