**Wolfscastle Community Council**

A meeting of the Wolfscastle Community Council was held at Penybont Chapel Vestry, on Tuesday, 12th October 2021 at 8:00p.m.

**Members present:** Cllrs. BJ Harries, (Chairman), Gerallt Miles, Gerwyn Williams, Peter James and Michelle Bateman, PCC

**Apologies:** Cllrs Barrie Griffiths, and due to ill health Cllr. TC Griffiths.

**Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday, 14th September 2021 were read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**Matters reported:** The Clerk reported that he had received a acknowledgment from Norman Industries, and the instructions to make 3 notice boards, has been now passed on to the production team.

The Clerk reported that he had made a request to the company supplying the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee for a sample mug before placing an order on behalf of the Community Council.

With regards to the issue raised about Rock View Farm, a response was received from Helen MacLeod-Baikie, Chief Property Officer PCC, stating that “Our intentions prior to COVID was to prepare the property for re-letting. However, as you can appreciate it has been a difficult period over the last 18 months and due to other corporate priorities the letting of this farm has not been progressed. We are currently reviewing the situation. Thank you for bringing the state of the property to our attention, we certainly do not want it to look an eyesore, we will inspect the property and undertake the necessary action.”

**County Council Matters:** In her monthly report, Cllr Michelle Bateman. Reported that Pembrokeshire Public Services Board is carrying out an Assessment of Local Well-being, in order to find out about the well-being of local people and communities, now and for the future. The closing date for any comments is Friday, 22nd October 2021.

**Coffee and Chat:** It was reported that the recent Coffee and Chat morning held in the Vestry was another success, with approximately 24 local residents turning up, and the general feeling of those that who did attend, that the idea should continue, certainly over the winter months, with a possibility of extending further into the coming year.

**Finances:** The Clerk reported that the balance in the Bank Account on the most recent Bank Statement is £8413.53 (**Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Thirteen Pounds and Fifty Three Pence**).

It was agreed to purchase a voucher to the value of £40.00 (**Forty Pounds**), to give to Mr Eric Williams for carrying out the Internal Audit for the Community Council.

**Annual Poppy Appeal:** It was agreed by Councillors that 2 Poppy Wreaths should be ordered, one to be placed at the School on Remembrance Day, and the second at the Letterston Cenotaph on November 14th. The Chairman agreed to represent the Community in both services.

**Annual Audit:** An email was received from the Community Council Audit Team, stating that “A number of unforeseen circumstances has resulted in some delays to the audit work. This email sets out the steps you need to take in the event that you do not receive an Audit Certificate from us before the end of September. It is necessary to publish the enclosed notice, and the annual return on the website as detailed in the notice.”

**Clerk’s Resignation:**  The Clerk had prepared an advert, and a Job Description for the Vacancy of Clerk. The advert will be placed on the Community Council Webpage, also on the One Voice Wales website. Cllr Bateman also agreed to put it on the Wolfscastle Village page, in the hope that a successful applicant can be found by the closing date of December 7th 2021, with interviews being held the following week.

**Correspondence:** The following correspondence were presented to the meeting:-

[a] Darren Thomas, Head of Infrastructure PCC, notifying this Council of a Temporary Road Closure on the Hayscastle Cross to Wolfscastle Road on the 30th September for one day, to carry out Telecom Cabling Works.

[b] Draupadi Stewart, Broadband Engagement Officer PCC, with regards to the Ultrafast Fibre Broadband Project, and to notify residents that Broadway Partners has been chosen by the community to bring gigabit capable fibre broadband to properties in the project area.

[c] Mrs Madeline Cunningham, Lordship Curtilage, (also copied to all the Councillors) expressing grave concern with regards to the destruction of the riverbank and hillside, to make a wide track for a mile from Wolfscastle to the fields at Musland Farm. Not only is the riverbank completely damaged unnecessarily, a beautiful area that hadn’t been touched in Centuries where there were otters, king fishers and many other beautiful wild creatures making their habitat but also the hillside leading down to the tunnel is now a very steep slate quarry. This hillside was the home to foxes, badgers, rabbits, and many wild birds. It is completely demolished. It is now understood that this serious matter is been investigated by NRW, therefore it is out of this Council's involvements.

Mrs Cunningham also expresses concern that the siting of a static caravan for the family overspill and installed at the Lordship seems to have taken more precedence at village council meetings than the destruction of the hillside and riverbank here in Wolfscastle a year ago.

The Clerk was asked to respond to Mrs Cunningham to assure her that this Council were not aware of the Caravan scenario until they had read her email, and that the matter has not been discussed at a previous Community Council meeting.

**AOB:** The Cllrs present reported on matters that need to be addressed:

[a] Cllr BJ Harries reported that there is a blocked drain in the vicinity of St Dogwells Church that need clearing before the winter. It was noted that contractors are in the process of cutting down ‘Dead Ash Trees’ along the A40(T) Road.

[b] Cllr Peter James reported a Street Light not functioning in the Welsh Hook area. The Clerk reported that this can be reported directly to PCC. Cllr James also expressed concern at the recent report in the Western Telegraph that West Wales is among the worst areas in the country for Toxic Landfills. With some of the older landfills not lined could result in toxic chemicals escaping into the environment. Cllr Michelle Bateman agreed to look further into the matter and report back in due course.

[c] The Clerk requested the support of the Community Council to install a ‘feeder pillar’ to supply electricity to the Christmas Tree on the Village Green. The Clerk had spoken to Mr Tom Bevan, to seek his advice, and was informed that this is possible, and would cost a total of approximately £700:00+VAT. Councillors agreed that this needs to be done and were in favour of inviting Mr Tom Bevan to carry out the work.

The Council also agreed in principle to support the idea of erecting a plinth on the ‘Green’ adjacent to the Car Park, in order to install the Britain and Wales in Bloom plaques, rather than them being damaged further in their present position.

As there were no other matters to discuss, the meeting was declared closed. As the Clerk is not available for the next scheduled meeting, it was agreed to hold the meeting at Penybont Vestry on Tuesday, 16th November 2021 at 8.00p.m.

 **Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**