**Amroth Community Council/Cyngor Cymuned Llanrhath**

**Draft Minutes** of meeting held by Amroth Community Council on Thursday 17th February 2022 online via Zoom.

**Councillors present:**  T Baron; A Cormack; P Davies; A Evans; F Evans; R Harries (Vice Chair); M Harvey; J James; M Morris; S Phillips (Chairman). R Tippett Maudsley.

**In attendance:** Mrs Kathryn Bradbury (Clerk); R Lake, B Hiscock. H McLeod-Baikie.

**Apologies**: B Mills.

**Declaration of Interest. None**

Helen McLeod Baikie (Chief Property Officer at PCC) addressed Councillors on the proposal to issue a new lease for Summerhill Play Area for a period of 125 years at a peppercorn rent. An area of concern raised by ACC was the cost of grass cutting, which in the current lease is carried out and paid for by PCC until 2038. The new lease passes this liability to ACC. Mrs McLeod- Baikie offered a compromise of PCC continuing to cut the grass at no cost until 2030. Further discussion took place under agenda item 7.

Cllr Tippett Maudsley spoke about lack of parking at Amroth Parish Hall and agreed to meet with Mrs McLeod-Baikie at a later date.

Cllr. Baron asked if a piece of land could be made available in Stepaside for a new play area for small children, as the old one was being sold. Mrs McLeod-Baikie agreed to approach the leaseholder of Heritage Park to ask if there was space there that would benefit the community and not inconvenience the tenant. There is already a play area on Heritage Park for older children.

Cllr. Cormack asked that the public car park signs be reinstated at Heritage Park as it is not clear that there is public parking there. This should be done prior to any consultation into their use.

**Chair’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all Councillors to the meeting.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 20th January 2022 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Roger Harries

Seconded by Cllr. Alec Cormack

Cllr. Phillips printed off a copy of the January Minutes and signed them on completion of the meeting.

**1.Matters Arising**

* Beach Art Festival. – Decision is under Projects.

**2.County Councillors Report**

**Council Tax for 2022-23**

The Cabinet meeting held on Monday 14 February formally decided to recommend a 5% increase in Council Tax for 2022-23, which will be decided by the Council Meeting on 3 March. The public consultation undertaken by PCC showed that the most popular option amongst those who responded was for just a 0.5% increase in Council Tax. This option was supported by 63% of respondents while the next most popular option for a 5% increase was supported by 19% of respondents. My own soundings with Amroth residents indicates support for a 5% increase when taking into account the pressures on the education and social care budgets, which account for about 70% of total PCC spending. I am, however, concerned that, despite my formal request last autumn for information about the economic circumstances faced by Pembrokeshire residents, there has been no formal impact assessment carried out on the consequences of any Council Tax increase. With inflation at 5.5% and rising, there is no doubt that some families will face substantial difficulties in April. I will be requesting therefore that funding for third-sector organizations, in particular the Citizens Advice Bureau, is not cut in real terms.

**Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant Funding**

The Cabinet meeting on the 14th February also decided to approve the funding recommendations of the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant Panel. Consequently, ACC’s community cinema and second phase of the Summerhill play area redevelopment projects were awarded the requested grants amounting to £26,217.98 in total.

**Extraordinary Council Meeting 1 February**

The Extraordinary Council Meeting on 1 February considered the report issued by the Auditor General of Wales on 13 January. This report detailed the deficiencies in PCC’s governance and decision-making relating to the departure of the authority’s former Chief Executive. A majority of Council Members voted to consider the matter in public. Council accepted the report’s findings that the £95,000 settlement agreement payment to the former Chief Executive was unlawful and decided to take no further action, given that either ratifying or rejecting the settlement payment would undoubtedly result in heavy financial cost to PCC and Council Tax payers. As it is, the failure to follow proper decision-making processes has cost several hundred thousand pounds. The total cost has yet to be determined but could be close to 1% of Council Tax

**6 Wesley Close**

Mr. William Bramble, PCC’s Chief Executive, visited 6 Wesley Close on the morning of 17 February to see for himself the problems faced by the residents. Cllr. Cormack also attended and reported that while there was no decision made at the time, the meeting was a positive one. Cllr Cormack outlined the uniqueness of this situation and that an attempt will be made to find a solution.

**3.Planning**

**21/0920/PA. Sea Breeze, Llanteg, Narberth. SA67 8PY. Proposal,** 2 Storey extension to old Headmasters Cottage and Change of use to holiday let accommodation. **Comments by 18th February 2022.** **No Objection**

**NP/22/0019/FUL. Parsonage Bungalow, Amroth, SA67 8PR. Proposal,** Proposed construction of a single linked granny annex to Parsonage bungalow which involves the demolition of derelict bungalow together with new access to rear year and ecological mitigation. **Comments by 18th February 2022 No Objection**

**Notification Re; Sections 80,81,82and 83, Buildings Act 1984. Proposed Demolition**

**DM/0721/21. Merrifields, Amroth. SA67 8NW. Proposal;** Demolition of existing bungalow and annex **Only Advisory**

**4.Correspondence**

* An invitation was received to attend the AGM of Friends of Narberth Library on 16th February 2022. Cllr A Evans attended on behalf of ACC. **Agreed**. It was proposed by Cllr Harries to increase the annual donation from £20 to £50. Seconded by Cllr. Davies and unanimously agreed by all Councillors.
* Apply for an Age Friendly Communities ‘Happy to Chat’ Bench for your community! Closing Date – 23rd February 2022. The ‘Happy to Chat’ benches feature a simple sign which reads ‘Sit here if you don’t mind someone stopping to say hello’. **Agreed;** It was agreed to apply for a bench to be located by the signpost to Amroth in the village of Summerhill, a popular spot to stop for walkers. This has been applied for
* Pre-Consultation for Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water’s draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 . The Clerk has full details
* **Tree Planting to Commemorate the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park’s 70th Anniversary in 2022**.

The National Park Authority invite the community of Amroth to join with us in marking 70 years since the designation of the National Park in 1952 by planting 70 new trees. Planting trees can provide an opportunity for the community to come together both to plan and plant the trees but also to look forward to the next 70 years as the trees grow and mature, providing benefits for wildlife, the climate and the landscape. At a time when our climate is changing and ash dieback is increasingly affecting our native trees and woodlands, planting new trees is more important than ever.

 Thanks to the generous support of the Greener Camping Club and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust, we are able to offer 70 trees free of charge to each community. Rangers will be able to support your community to identify suitable locations, prepare the sites and plant the trees. The trees will be chosen to be appropriate to the area and situation and will be native species or we may be able to provide some traditional fruit tree species. **Agreed**, Councillors welcomed this opportunity and agreed to invite PCNPA Ranger Chris Taylor to the March meeting to discuss possible locations and how to proceed.

* The Long Course Weekend returns to Pembrokeshire for 2022. Taking place July 1st – 3rd, the 3-day weekend will follow its usual format of swim, bike, run. The event is now televised in over 100 countries worldwide. Amroth will be impacted by the cycle section of the event with road closures.

**5.Finance as of 31st January 2022**

Account 649 – £2,926.74

Account 856 – £15,094.66

David Rees - £1406.83

**Income February**

PCC EP Payment ( Road Signs) £691.41

PCC EP ( Signage Summerhill) £768.00

**Payments;**

Clerk’s wages

Annual Donation to Friends of Narberth Library £50

Payment to PCC for WiFi Agreement legal costs £210 +vat

 Bla Translation for Exercise Jantzen £159.60

**All Payments were agreed**

**The Audit Completion Notice has been received from the Audit Wales and is published on the Pembs TCC website and notice boards.**

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of: Amroth Community Council

**Auditor General’s Report Audit Opinion**

On the basis of my review, in my opinion, **no matters** have come to my attention giving cause for concern.

• The Council has carried forward reserves of £26,328, compared to its annual precept of £13,000. Although there has been a significant increase in 2020-21 due to COVID19, the closing balances have been steadily increasing for a number of years. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 only allows the Council to set a precept to fund planned expenditure and requires it to take its reserves into account when setting the precept. To ensure that it sets a lawful precept, we recommend that the Council reviews its reserves and its plans to apply these reserves when setting its 2022-23 budget and precept.

*Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales Date: 27/01/202*

The Clerk reported that the reserves were properly stated and that the additional reserves noted were from a successful Lottery grant to be spent on new play equipment for Summerhill Play area. The money was spent during the next financial period on the new play equipment.

**6.To discuss and resolve asset and ward maintenance issues**

* PCC has agreed that the Notice board can be relocated to Pleasant Valley.
* Quotes for Notice board – Cllr Harvey agreed to source quotes for ‘all weather’ boards. Further discussion took place. **Agreed.** Due to the age and condition of all boards it was agreed to apply for funding to replace all current boards and site a new board in Pleasant Valley.
* The valuation has been received from JJ Morris and the report is with the Clerk. One objection had been received by the Clerk to the proposal which was read out to Councillors. **Agreed.** After consideration it was agreed that
1. A full written proposal will be drafted
2. The land will be advertised for garden use **only.**
3. Offers in excess of £15k will be invited
4. Legal fees will be paid by the purchaser
5. A letter explaining the decision will be sent to the objector
6. Any monies raised will go towards matching the cost of the Amroth Free Wifi project/ other community benefit projects

**7.To discuss and resolve the lease of Summerhill Play Area grounds from PCC**

**Agreed.** Following discussion here, and on the basis that all legal fees will be paid by PCC (The Clerk is to check this), Amroth Community Council unanimously agree to the terms offered by Mrs McLeod Baikie. A new lease will be signed with PCC responsible for grass cutting to 2030 after which ACC will take over the liability

**8.To discuss and resolve possible changes to seasonal dog restrictions on Amroth beach**

A meeting was held with the PCC Coastal and Rivers Engineer, Head of Public Health and the Beaches Officer. Cllr. Phillips stated that a full discussion took place on the seasonal dog restrictions, enforcement, and access to the non-restricted, dog friendly area at the New Inn end of the beach. The role of the Byelaws was explained. Points raised included

1. A new map will be drawn up and published clearly showing the seasonal dog restricted and non-restricted areas.
2. Enforcement is likely to be taken inhouse by PCC
3. Safe access to the dog friendly section of Amroth beach at the New Inn end is only possible via the slip way, especially for less abled walkers, but is illegal according to the Beach Byelaws. The current access across the pebbles is unsafe for many. Ideally a designated route needs to be agreed to enable dog walkers to use the slipway opposite Amroth Castle, turn left at the bottom, with dogs kept on a lead until in the dog friendly area. Currently PCC officers do not have the authority to make this happen. **Agreed,** ACC will write to the Chief Executive of PCC to request that a flexible approach can be taken by PCC officers to enable a designated route to be agreed.
4. The Coastal Engineer stated that it is proposed that the steps between the groynes are to be removed as they are worn and dangerous. Councillors highlighted that this leaves a safety issue as there will be no safe exit from between the groynes for people cut off by the tide. **Agreed,** ACC will write to the Coastal Engineer to request a meeting before the steps are removed to find a safe solution.

**9.To discuss and resolve parking issues at Amroth Parish Hall**

Cllr. Rosemary Tippett-Maudsley will meet with Helen McLeod- Baikie to discuss this on behalf of Amroth Parish Hall Committee.

**10. To discuss and resolve a memorial to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee**

This will be added to the March agenda.

 **11. To Discuss recruiting a Youth Representative**

Letters have been sent to the Heads of Sixth Form at Greenhill School and Ysgol Dyffryn Taf. Greenhill have acknowledged the letter and said it will be publicised to pupils.

**12.Report By Amroth and District Community Association**

The hall is in regular use. Booking enquiries should be directed to Mr Roy Lewis.

The AGM was held in January which attracted a good turnout and new committee members were recruited. The committee welcomed the news regarding the proposed film club and wondered if it would be possible to include Matinee showings for children.

A games night is to be held in the hall on 18th March and there will be some new courses starting on Wellbeing. A Facebook page is being set up to aid communication and a Jubilee Tea Party is being planned.

**13. Report by Llanteg Village Hall Committee**

* The AGM has been held with all officials re elected
* A new defibrillator has been installed at the hall and at Llanteg Park following successful fund raising
* A grant application has been submitted for new solar lighting at the hall entrance and for a ‘Happy to Chat’ bench outside
* A sub committee has been set up to plan Jubilee celebrations
* The hall has facilities to offer film nights and hope to partake in the local film club when it is up and running
* Tree’s have been planted at the Clay Pits

**14 .Report by Play Area Representatives**

**Summerhill**

* The Play area reps will be meeting with PCC inspection Team. Provisional date is 25th February, to discuss reporting methods primarily.
* Inspection quotes. Comparative quotes were discussed for the inspection of Summerhill Play Area. PCC have produced a three year SLA proposal which councillors agreed was competitively priced. Assuming Cllr. Harvey gains agreement that reporting process will be improved to comply with insurance requirements, Councillors agreed to award the contract to PCC for the next three years.
* The board to help non-verbal children communicate has been installed.

**13.Project ideas and Updates**

**Amroth Free Wifi –** A 16-page agreement with PCC has now been received. A legal cost of £420 was requested. A contribution of £210+ vat was proposed and accepted. Since the initiation of the project, delays from Covid and PCC have resulted in a significant cost increase for the equipment. Cllr. Cormack has looked at achieving cost savings by reconfiguring the signal path.

**Agreed,** it was proposed to order the BT line by Cllr. Tippett Maudsley, seconded by Cllr Harries and agreed by all. Additional costs not covered by grant funding can be paid from the sale of the memorial garden**.** Proposed Cllr Harries, Seconded Cllr. Davies and agreed by all.

**Exercise Jantzen –** The interpretation board is being printed. Help is needed to draft the text (historic information) for the QR code trail. Contact Cllr. Harvey or the Clerk to get involved.

**Milestone Markers –** The Clerk has emailed CADW again but still no reply.

**Replace the Multi Play in the play area, Summerhill –** The application has been approved. Work will start one PCC agree a start date.

**Film club –** The application has now been approved. Work will start once PCC have agreed a start date.

**Allotments –** A Survey will be drafted to gauge interest and sent out to the Newsletter contacts. Cllr Cormack will also contact Llanteg Gardening Club who have a similar interest in the provision of Allotments.

**Seats in Summerhill and historic interpretation panel –** The Clerk has been unable to trace the original manufacture of the panel.

**Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch-** This will be discussed after the May Elections and will be added to the Survey to gauge interest.

**Beach Festival -** It is proposed to hold a 2day event at Amroth and Wiseman's bridge (either 1 day each location or, 2 days at Amroth) during the first week of August 2022. The total cost of the proposed Beach Art Festival is £2940 for which ACC would be asked to match 20%, so £588. The Clerk has the full cost breakdown**. Agreed,** while councillors were generally supportive of the idea as it fitted with the Clean Seas (Bertie) environmental message, it was suggested that alternative funding be sought from local business or other funders by the organiser to limit the cost liability on ACC. ACC would be more comfortable paying a smaller contribution for a two day festival. It was suggested that a later date in September may be a better option to include local school children and attract visitors to Amroth outside the busy summer season.

**Happy to Chat bench** – The Clerk will apply for one to be located on the grass at the Amroth road junction in Summerhill.

**14.Community matters –**

Six memorial seats have been ordered. These will be the last on the Sea front.

**15.Determine matters Councillors wish to be added for discussion at the next meeting**

* Please send through matters for discussion to the Clerk by Thursday March 17th 2022
* Queens Jubilee
* Tree Planting for the PCNPA Celebration. – Ranger Chris Taylor.

**Date of next Meeting is 24th Thursday March 2022.**

**This will be held Via Zoom** Anyone wishing to observe please contact the Clerk amrothclerk@outlook.com . Virtual attendance will be possible via zoom.

**The meeting closed at 21.45 pm**

**If you would like to be kept informed as to information regarding matters affecting the parish, road closures, public consultations, sea defences etc please email the clerk and you will be put on our secure mailing list (GDPR compliant).**