**CYNGOR CYMUNED TREAMLOD / AMBLESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A meeting of Ambleston Community Council was held at Ambleston Memorial Hall on Monday 26th June at 7.30 pm.

Present: Rosie McDonald (Chair) Gareth Owen, Gail Davis, Julian Harries, Dai Ambrey, Cllr David Howlett, E Forrest (Clerk)

1. **Apologies** – Nil
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting (22.05.23)**

Minutes of the last meeting had been distributed to members which were agreed by all that they were to be signed.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
2. Willow trees near Wallis Bridge – One side has been clipped, but the pond side still needs doing. David Howlett will put in a request for the other side to be done.
3. Blocked drain by Cwarre Duon and surface water other side of junction – Response received from Dorian Williams, PCC - at this location there are mainly open ditches which tend to take the water off the carriageway but due to the large amount of surface water runoff from adjoining fields, the ditches cannot contain the said volume and it does tend to flood the road in wet conditions. The ditches often get driven over by large agricultural vehicles which then deem the ditches not fit for their purpose! The ditches will be re-opened from Sept/Oct.
4. Scrap vehicles on the common - more vehicles have been removed and clearance is ongoing.
5. **Highway matters**

Nil

1. **Planning**

Nil.

1. **Wallis Pond**

Eirian contacted Mair Rees, she replied saying that she might be able to help you with the forms. She advised to apply for enough money to fix the sluice gate and dredge the pond partially (over two years). Land drainage consent is not needed. Mr Evans has agreed to take the spoil. A sort of waste transfer licence or exemption is required but this can be sorted once funding is in place. SSSI consent is needed from NRW, which will need exact details of the work and area to be dredged. This won’t take long, and it can be done when funding is in place. There are no fees. The contractor she had in mind is expensive and suggested that it may be better to use someone more local and said she would ask Adrian Johns who is on the PCC framework.  She was going to arrange a meeting with him and get a quote. Eirian will chase her up.

1. **Payments:**

* Clerk’s salary and expenses - £600 and £58.39 – payment agreed.
* Reimburse Clerk for defibrillator pads for Ambleston - £84 – payment agreed. To note, the pads expire November 2025.

1. **General Allowance payment –**

Rosie opted out from receiving this payment.

1. **Broadway Partners gone into administration.**

This news has come as a shock to the community. Everybody should have been notified by email from Broadway Partners. Since this news, there has been three major outages, one due to vandalism. The Scrutiny Committee was recently having an update on broadband in the County. There seems to be good optimism that the company will be sold within the next ten weeks. It is sad for those who have lost their jobs; however, the technical team have been kept on.

1. **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (General Allowance) changes**

The basic member allowance during this current year (starting April 2023) has gone up from £150 to £156. In addition, the report has introduced a new allowance called a consumables allowance. The council must decide in a meeting whether members should receive this as a lump sum or not. If they do, it is £52 which is in addition to the basic £156 member allowance, making £208 in total. If members do not want to give the consumables allowance as a lump sum, then members must be able to claim expenses for consumables (pens, printer ink, paper, etc. on production of receipts. If members want to waive the allowances, they must waive them separately. It was proposed by Julian, seconded by Gareth, and agreed that the consumables allowance be paid as a lump sum.

1. **Annual Audit – Annual Governance Statement**

David Weatherburn has completed the audit, and the Annual Governance Statement was signed.

1. **Correspondence**

* Urgent and Emergency Children & Young People’s (Pediatric) Services at Withybush and Glangwili Hospitals: Drop in session on 3rd July at Haverfordwest Rugby Club. David Howlett is attending.
* Consultation on catchment area changes – Ysgol Brynconin; Ysgol Maenclochog; Ysgol Bro Preseli; Ysgol Caer Elen – send any comments to Eirian by 21st July.

1. **Any other business**
2. Eirian queried with British Heart Foundation when should the defibrillator battery be changed, they recommend changing it when its at 1 bar or 1 flashing bar. Allowance for a new battery to be factored into the budget.
3. David Howlett said that the ten year Boundary Commission for Wales review for town and community councils has begun. The County Council starts the process and then hands it to the Boundary Commission. Full Council have set up a small committee and will attend a meeting on 4th September. The concern is that small community councils may merge, which he will fight against. The work that small community councils do is valued.
4. Gareth attended the Trecwn Green Energy Hub event in Letterston, it didn’t go as expected as it wasn’t structured and not constructive. The three proposed wind turbines will be the tallest in Pembrokeshire. The solar farm will cover 22 hectares. They propose to give the community £70,000 per year for community benefits.
5. Gareth and David Howlett may not be able to attend the next meeting.
6. **Date of next meeting**

24th July 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no further matters the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

**Signed ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**Date………………………………………………….**