**Cyngor Cymuned Amroth Community Council**

**Confirmed Minutes** of meeting held by Amroth Community Council on Thursday 24th August 2023.

**Councillors present:**  T Baron; A Cormack; A Evans; M Harvey; R Lake; M Morris; S Phillips, R Tippet Maudsley; E Wyn Morgan.

**In attendance:** Mrs Kathryn Bradbury (Clerk),

**Apologies**: R Harries, J James, Fleur Evans.

**Declaration of interest.**

**1.Chair’s Welcome**

Chairman Tony Baron welcomed all Councillors to the meeting. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2023 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Martin Morris Seconded by Cllr. Alan Evans. Vote – unanimous

Cllr. Baron signed the July 23 Minutes.

**2 .Matters Arising**

* **Amroth East Toilets**. The 8 highway marked parking bays located near the Amroth East toilets are ‘on street bays’ and are not linked or associated with a parking or off-street parking order currently, so there is no link to the scheme protecting the toilets from closure. Also, the ‘wasteland’ area is not currently viewed as official parking by the council and is also not currently covered by a parking Order. The Clerk has written to PCC asking for a parking order to be applied to the 8 bays on the road and awaits a reply.
* **3.County Councillors Report**

**Cutting of Grass Verges in Llanteg Area**

Several residents complained to me about the verges being uncut until around Llanteg, particularly on the road down to Amroth.

I raised this with officers - and the problems this year were caused by two factors, firstly as a result of breakdown of PCC’s equipment, but also from a mis-communication in the cutting schedule for this year, when the officer previously responsible left their post.

Along with Cllr. Baron, Chair of ACC, I met with the PCC officer and others to discuss this year’s issues, but more importantly to come up with a plan for cutting the verges in future years.

All attendees recognised that the fundamental responsibility of the highways’ maintenance team was the safety of road users - car drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.  But within that overriding safety requirement - we should aim to maximise the opportunity for biodiversity among the plant species within the grass verges

PCC have come back with a proposal ([see this map](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HORvj9fFKP8ZRfn2a3zEFakm6of-LCkK/view?usp=drive_link))  which is based on officers’ professional assessment of the risk using the width of road, visibility, volume of traffic etc.

The proposal is that roads coloured red should have two full cuts of the width of the verge from road to ditch annually, the first in July and the second in September.

The blue roads would just have a 1 metre strip next to the road cut in July, leaving the remainder of verge uncut for plants.  Then in September there would be a full cut of the whole verge as with the red roads.  
  
One other suggestion that came up at the meeting was that at the [junction near Stanwell Cottages](https://www.google.com/maps/@51.7532066,-4.6509013,3a,75y,2.5h,89.55t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s4ldVBP6-830s95nvSaeYsw!2e0!7i16384!8i8192?entry=ttu) it would be worth improving the sight lines by moving back the bee hotel and the recently planted tree so that the mower can more easily cut back the grass at that difficult junction?

I agreed to seek residents' views on this proposal by asking the Community Council to email an outline of the plan to residents in their newsletter asking for feedback.  I will also be presenting the proposal to residents at the Llanteg coffee morning on 25th August.

*Councillors Comments – hedges appear very overgrown across the county causing concern for road safety.*

Please email [alec@aleccormack.wales](mailto:alec@aleccormack.wales) with your comments.

* **Enviro Crime Team Established**

PCC has awarded a contract to WISE (Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement) to carry out environmental crime enforcement across Pembrokeshire.

Patrols have now commenced.  WISE enforcement officers can issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for offences including:

* • Littering
* • Fly-tipping
* • Dog fouling
* • Graffiti and fly-posting
* • Breaches of bye laws relating to dogs on beaches

The level of FPN varies between offences but an offence of littering or failing to clean up dog poo will see a £150 FPN issued, reduced to £75 if paid within 10 calendar days.

As an authority there will not be any targets for issuing FPNs and enforcement teams will not have any bonuses or commission set on the number of FPNs issued.  The aim is to drive behaviour change and compliance.

* **Bathing Water Quality**

I attended a meeting with NRW / Dwr Cymru regarding press reports of bathing water quality and will give a verbal report to the meeting.

* **Plum Tree Hall Planning Application - 23/0378/PA**

Modification to previous application in Kilgetty Ward for stable block, tack room & fodder storage area (part retrospective).  As ACC previously objected, I brought this to the attention of the Clerk.

* **Litter Pick**

I will volunteer to organise an Amroth CC litter pick in September on a date/time to be decided, if the meeting agrees? **This was agreed.**

Councillors brought up the number of fly posters around the area. These can be removed once the date has passed. Those who are issued licenses for events should be told to remove promotional flyers afterwards.

**Agreed.** Clerk to write to street cleaning re graffiti.

**4.Planning**

**22/0921/PA** Proposed new dwelling in Garden of 18 Summerhill, Stepaside, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, SA67 8LX. **This application was refused.**

**23/0228/PA Tig Bhan, Llanteg. – This application was refused-** Not in keeping with area and over development in a rural area.

**23/0400/PA. Marlow, 4 Wesley Close, Pleasant Valley. SA67 8NT. Proposal:** Alterations/ extensions. **Comments by 29th August 2023 ACC have No Objection to this application.**

**23/0411/PA. Yard at Band Of Hope, Stepaside. SA67 8JZ. Proposal:** Additional pitches to planning permission 20/0382/PA (2 to 6) with alternative layout with ecological, enhancements & drainage details (resubmission). **Comments by 31st August 2023. Concern has been expressed by residents of the village. ACC maintains their objection to this application as stated previously. There appears to be an infringement of the previous approved planning application.**

**23/0378/PA Plum Tree Hall, Stepaside. SA67 8JX. Proposal**, Proposed engineering works involving cut and fill to level out existing ground and construction of stable block, tack room & fodder storage area (part retrospective). **Comments by 11th September**. ACC will restate the previous formal objection.

**23/0454PA. Blackheath, Llanteg, Narberth. SA67 8QF.Proposal** Minor alterations, renovation and extension to outbuilding to create a studio/hobby space and storage, for the applicant's personal use. **Comments by 13th September 2023. ACC have no objection to this application.**

**5.Correspondence**

* The Ombudsman for Wales has published their 2022-23 annual report – contact the Clerk for the link.
* **Re Memorial Garden Sale.**

An email was received by a resident querying the sale of the Memorial Garden. This was read out to Councillors. **Agreed.** The Clerk will respond.

The Clerk explained the proposal and timeline of the sale for the benefit of newer Councillors. **Agreed.** Cllrs agreed to hold a public consultation meeting on 14th September for residents regarding the sale. Notices will be posted, and everyone is welcome.

**6.Finance as of 31st July 2023**

**a. Statement of accounts**

Account 649 – £4343.01

Account 856 – £4,804.26

David Rees - £1031.53 (-£100 grant awarded)

**b. Income Aug 23**

Precept £6800.25

**c. Payments**

Clerk wages

Wifi monthly payment to West Wales Systems £67.20 inc. vat

Payment to Filmbank Distribution for £181.20, includes rental cost

Llanteg Village Hall hire £10, Monthly meeting 24th August 23,

Strimmer for allotments - £343.74 inc VAT

Alan Evans – Expenses £9.00 petrol for strimmer.

New Laptop for the Clerk – up to £500 ( Clerks dispensation, March 2020)

**d. Donation** – No applications this month

**All Payments were agreed.**

Proposed Cllr. Stephen Phillips Seconded, Cllr. Alec Cormack. Cllrs voted unanimously.

**7.To discuss and resolve asset and ward maintenance issues and transport**

* Trees have been cut back on the land between the Hall and the play area by contractors for the National Grid.
* Damage to the Amroth Sign in Summerhill has been reported and passed to maintenance. The sign will be relocated at a future date.
* The PCC Tree Surgeon has asked for permission to put wood chip and logs at the allotments when work is being carried out in the ward. **Agreed. Cllrs. Expressed concern that the wood chippings may come from diseased trees and for this reason the request was denied.**
* The Clerk has written again to Matthew Cloud re the query on the footpaths in Heritage Park being applied to the definitive map. He reports that there has been no progress on the application to date and is currently working on two cases where the applicants have appealed to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) against non-determination.

It was proposed to put in an appeal to PEDW re the Heritage Park Paths being added to the definitive map. **Agreed. ACC will appeal to PEDW Proposed Cllr. Stephen Phillips, Seconded Cllr. Mark Harvey**

* **From Cllr. Alec Cormack -**Following a recent meeting to discuss grass cutting proposals for Llanteg the PCC Officer responsible has made a proposal for future years’ cutting that the meeting attendees felt was worth consulting with local residents on.  Please can I ask the next Amroth CC to consider undertaking undertake a consultation on this plan via the ACC newsletter? **Agreed. Cllrs agreed to promote the consultation in the ACC Newsletter.**
* **Street Light -** The streetlight opposite the Amroth Arms has been repaired.

**8. To discuss questions for the meeting with the Coastal Engineer**

**Agreed** Proposal- Subgroup to meet with PCC’s Coastal Engineer on Thursday 7th September then ask her to meet with the full Community Council prior to holding a public meeting.

Topics for discussion.

1. Groynes – a health and safety concern- repairs with timber or recycled plastic?
2. Repair fencing
3. Clear drains
4. Steps by Beach Haven.
5. Discuss the Policy ‘Hold the Line’ for Amroth village. See Policy statement below.

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**9.To discuss and resolve the need for a public Meeting on the sale of Amroth Memorial Garden**

UTK Solicitors advise that the public consultation in January and February 2022 was adequate in law, however following the receipt of the email – see 4.2 correspondence above, Cllrs. proposed that a public meeting be held on 14th September in Amroth Parish Hall to allow residents comments to be heard. **This was agreed.**

**10 Allotments – Update**

Welsh Water have at last approved a connection for the allotment field and this will take place on Friday 8th September 2023.

Allotments holders submitted the following requests.

* Can a second water source be installed in the field at the other end?
* Would the Community Council consider grants towards communal equipment?

Unfortunately, funding will not stretch to a second water point at this time and grants cannot be made to individuals. Any equipment purchased will remain the property of ACC.

Social Farms and Gardens have stated that funding cannot be used to subsidise individual water butts however ACC can purchase them and loan to plot holders for the term of their lease.

**Agreed. ACC will ask Plot holders for feedback on what items are needed before any other purchases are made.**

**11. Parking in Summerhill Estate - Postpone to a later meeting**

**12. To discuss and resolve the need for a Health and Safety Policy**

**Agreed.** The Clerk will draft a health and safety policy document and present to Councillors at the September meeting.

Re data Protection, ACC are cognisant of IOC rulings on data protection and refer interested parties to the Privacy policy which incorporates Data Protection.

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

Verbal report given by Cllr Rosemary Tippett- Maudsley.

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

Committee

The last Committee meeting took place on 2nd August. The next meeting is planned for 4th October.

Events

The July Coffee Morning took place on the last Saturday of the month. Going forward it is intended to have three or four Saturday Coffee Mornings per annum to attract those who work on a Friday, and children who would otherwise be at School. The various Community Groups, Art, Craft, Book, etc all held their regular sessions. The short mat bowls has been relatively quiet during the holiday period but will recommence in earnest in September.

The Summer Show and Fun Day took place on Saturday 12th August. Despite erecting marquees at Llanteglos Estate it was deemed unsafe to use them on the Saturday morning due to strong winds (one marquee was badly damaged early on Saturday morning). Fortunately, Tony and Jane Baron had offered their conference facility as a back up so whilst the fun day was abandoned the show went ahead and proved to be highly successful. The raffle raised an impressive £253 which will be put towards the ongoing improvements at the hall.

Grants

**Sustainable Development Fund from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority** – The installation of 4 solar powered lights has been completed using volunteers for all the installation works. Volunteer time, borrowed equipment and a small amount of concreting materials will all count as the requisite match funding. The lights are programmed to illuminate at a low intensity from dusk until dawn. When movement is sensed, the lights brighten to provide a reasonable amount of lighting for the entire car park.

**Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant from PCC** – The external insulation and render is due to commence imminently with the extension of the roof to follow on afterwards.

**The National Lottery** – The remainder of these funds will contribute to the match funding that we need to find for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant.

**Supporting Communities Action Fund Round 7 from PCC** – Planning is under way to make best use of the £4,500 that we have been awarded. It will be used from October to March 2024. Plans are also moving ahead for our new monthly indoor table games evening which will be held on the second Wednesday of each month commencing in October.

**Co-op Local Community Fund** – we await the outcome of our application

**15. Report by Play area representatives**.

No report this month

**16.Project ideas and Updates**

1. **Opening up paths between other CC areas - such as the Knights way**- The Clerk has written to the CC of Lampeter Velfrey, Templeton, Llawhaden and Martletwy outlining the proposal and suggesting an initial meeting of Council representatives to discuss. They will respond following September meetings. The Clerk has also spoken to Sean Tilling in PCC who is very supportive assuming we can obtain funding.
2. **Speed bumps and traffic calming in Llanteg/Llanteglos.** The Clerk has written to Sarah Williams in Highways regarding speed bumps and awaits a reply. Cllrs suggested ‘Gates’ at the village entrance. This has been used successfully in other villages to slow traffic. The next step is to consult with residents.
3. **Open up the Old Sea Wall path below Mole End in Amroth-**A meeting will be held with the Coastal Engineer soon when this proposal can be discussed.
4. **Support the RNLI to extend the Safe swimming area on Amroth beach by purchasing a quad bike.** The Clerk contact Daltons in Lampeter for quotes, ££6k plus vat for a reconditioned quad with power steering and 4W drive, and £8,500 +vat for a new one. **Agreed.** Funding will not allow this at this time plus storage etc would need discussion.
5. **Restart the Community Police meetings in the ward** - PCSO Ffion Thomas is willing to set aside time to meet with residents if the Community Council can provide a room. **Agreed.** ACC are happy to support this. The Clerk will also contact Saundersfoot CC to ask if they wish to join this initiative and provide a room on alternate months.
6. **Report on Community Survey results. –** Cllr. Eleri Wyn Morgan reported on the initial results of the survey. Several points were highlighted, including safety and repair of the groynes- which is on the meeting agenda with the Coastal engineer in early September. The information will inform project discussion going forward. Cllrs. thanked Eleri for all her work on this. It was an extremely useful exercise.

**17.Community matters –**

* The ‘Working better together’ meeting with PCC will take place on Teams on 5th September at 7.00pm. The Council Ward Boundary review will be on the agenda.
* Ffleci Bus – Cllrs. were advised that the more people that write into PCC the more chance of getting the Ffleci bus to cover a bigger area. (Llanteg)
* There are still problems contacting Saundersfoot surgery. Also parking illegally at the surgery is an issue and enforcement will be employed.

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

* Please send through matters for discussion to the Clerk by Thursday September 14th 2023.
* Invite the Coastal Engineer to a public meeting. Sea defence is the primary issue raised in our survey.

**19. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 21st September in Amroth Parish Hall.**

Anyone wishing to observe please contact the Clerk [amrothclerk@outlook.com](mailto:amrothclerk@outlook.com) . Virtual attendance will also be possible via zoom, if required.

**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).**

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