**Amroth Community Council**

**Cyngor Cymuned Llanrath**

**Draft Minutes** of meeting held by Amroth Community Council on Thursday 21st November 2019.

**Councillors present:** T Baron**;** A Cormack; P Davies; F Evans; R Harries; M Harvey; J James; R Lewis; S Phillips (Chair); R Tippett-Maudsley,

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

**Apologies:** M Megarry; M Morris

**Declaration of Interest;** None

Mr Evans attended the meeting to report;

* Two signs have been knocked down recently, one for a footpath by 1 staggers Hill and a give way road sign by Staggers Hill.
* The Met office have reported possible severe winter conditions. The corner by Staggers Hill gets slippery in icy weather and receives limited sunlight so does not thaw. Mr Evans ask if a Salt bin could be provided as he was willing to spread the salt to make the road safer.
* Road barrier checks. The road barriers between Stepaside and Merrixton are in very bad repair and need urgent attention.

Mr Evans provided photographs of the issues and ask that they be reported to PCC for attention. The Clerk and Cllr. Baron will follow these up with PCC.

 **Chair’s Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all Councillors to the meeting.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 24th October 2019 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Roger Harries

Seconded by Cllr. Pauline Davies

Signed by Cllr. S Phillips following completion of the meeting.

**Matters arising from previous minutes;**

* Cllr. Roger Harries has met with several contractors to survey the Ash trees on community owned land for Ash Dieback disease. Written quotes have been received. Cllr. Harries will appoint contractors to carry out the job once the ground dries out or is hard enough with frost not to make a mess, hopefully shortly after Christmas. He also enquired into having the large tree made into a sculpture, as was done in Stepaside, however this is not possible with Ash Dye Back Disease as the tree dies from within
* Widening of the gateway to Llanteg Church yard. Cllr. Harries reported that there are 2 trees to come down either side of gateway plus some stonework. This should allow access for the mower. He will organise to have the work done which is anticipated to cost no more than £150.
* 4 new memorial seats have been installed on Amroth front. Seats are still available to purchase including 4 seats available to purchase in Llanteg. Contact the Clerk for information.
* Following pressure from ACC, the 30mph speed limit has been extended on the approach to Summerhill. The sign was moved to the end of the layby forcing cars to reduce speed before entering the village.
* There is considerable concern regarding the state of the Sea defences in Amroth, specifically the Groynes by the New Inn. Councillors Baron and Phillips will be meeting with PCC officers on December 16th to discuss Amroth Sea Defences and will report back to the December meeting.
* Woodland Band of Hope. Cllr. Baron has obtained more information regarding this piece of land and has registered ACC’s interest with PCC, with the view to acquiring it for the community. He is also investigating possible grant funding.
* Fly tipping is still an issue in Amroth. Cllr. Davies reported that rubbish has been seen pushed into the old mine vent hole in the middle car park. The Clerk will report this to PCC. Cllr Baron has discussed the issue with Tracy Wareham and Richard Brown at PCC. It seems that some accommodation providers are refusing to buy trade waste bags. It is a criminal offence to pass off trade waste as municipal waste. PCC are aware of the issue and looking at ways to combat this.
* Amroth Castle are interested in hosting the beach wheelchair.
* Cllr. Harries reported that Emyr Williams of PCC is looking into the repair of the slip ways in Amroth to make them more wheelchair friendly.

**County Councillors Report**

* Cllr. Baron has invited Cllr. Bob Kilmister, Councillor for Finance at PCC to address Amroth Community Council and residents of Amroth ward at Llanteg Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd January at 7 pm. This will allow residents to ask questions regarding council spending and inform Cllr. Kilmister of what issues should be prioritised.
* **Budget Preparations Delayed**

The calling of the General Election on 12 December has delayed the process by which PCC determines the rate of Council Tax for the coming fiscal year starting in April 2020. The planned Council Members’ November Budget Seminar was cancelled, and PCC is affected by the period of political ‘purdah’. The full Council meeting scheduled for 12 December has been postponed to 19 December. There is still very little clarity about what financial settlement PCC will receive from the Welsh Government but by law the Council must decide upon its Council Tax rate before the fiscal year starts and cannot vary it thereafter. Decisions will have to be taken without full information and to meet the required deadlines a public consultation on Council Tax Rates will be undertaken from 6 January 2020. I have asked Cllr Bob Kilmister, the Cabinet Member for Finance, if he would be prepared to present budget options again to ACC members and local residents as he did for this year’s budget. He has agreed and I would suggest we propose dates to him asap before his diary fills.

* **Community Asset Transfer/ Band of Hope Woodland**

PCC is reviewing its Community Asset Transfer Policy and intends, should it be agreed, to place all assets it is willing to transfer on to its website with condition reports. Such reports are likely to be undertaken in the Spring. I have registered an interest in the Band of Hope Woodland so that it is not sold before ACC has a chance to fully investigate the desirability or otherwise of taking over responsibility of the Woodland. I have requested a plan showing the location of any mine shafts. I understand that the condition report would not include a full appraisal of the cost of decontaminating the part of the Woodland used for land fil.

Cllr. Kilmister has agreed that the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant could be used to turn the Woodland into a public amenity, and we would need help in exploring what other grants would be available. I would recommend in any case that a CAT should only be agreed when suitable grant funding has been obtained in principle.

* **Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant**

PCC Members are being asked what to do with unspent year one Enhancing Pembrokeshire funding. I have argued that the money should be rolled again because it takes time for community councils to development knowledge of the application process and to develop costed business plans for projects. The pot allocated to our area is relatively large because of the large number of second homes in the Ward. It is clearly becoming a case of use it or lose it.

* **Pleasant Valley/Heritage Park**

Note that under the terms of the lease from PCC, whatever planning permission has been given or could be given on Heritage Park cannot be implemented without the consent of PCC as the owners of the land and of WG under the conditions of the grant originally given to the site.

* **Waste Collection**

The move to kerbside sorting has been achieved as well as could be expected given the logistical complexity of the change. This has still meant that several residents have had difficulty in getting their waste collected and even in getting the new containers. Also, residents have had difficulty in contacting PCC, given the large volume of calls to the Call Centre caused by the change in system. I am happy to take up any case where residents are experiencing difficulty in obtaining action from PCC and to report any undue delays in phone calls being answered. Please let me have the date and time of ringing PCC and the length of time before being answered by a human being and if the call was abandoned, your place in the queue when giving up the attempt to speak to an officer. It is best to contact me by email tony@tonybaron.com.

* **Schools**

Parents of children born between 1st September 2015, and 31st August, 2016 will need to apply for a Reception/Primary school place for September 2020, by the closing date of 31st January, 2020. Applications received after this date will be considered late which may have a bearing on whether the child gets a place at his or her preferred school.

**Planning**

**19/0557/PA Caledonia, Summerhill, Amroth. SA67 8NS. Proposal;** single storey sun lounge extension. **Conditionally approved.**

**19/0482/AD land at West Llanteg Farm, SA67 8QA. Proposal;** Signage for residential development. **Reconsultation due to amended plans. Conditionally approved.**

**NP/19/0511/FUL Graig Y Don, Amroth, Narberth. SA67 8NG. Proposal**; Erection of glass balustrade on existing front elevation patio/balcony. **Comment; No Objections**

**NP/19/0573/Ful**. **Glen View, Amroth, Narberth. SA67 8NA**. **Proposal**; Garage and multi-gym with roof garden above. **Comments By 28th November 2019. Comments; No Objections.**

**NP/19/0626/DOC. Penglyn, Amroth, Narbeth. SA67 8NA. Application for the discharge of condition 4 of application NP/19/0394/Ful as approved in September. Condition 4 reads;** Prior to the commencement of development works, a biodiversity enhancement scheme to include provision of at least two features for bat roosting or bird nesting shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. **This has been done and a report, carried out by kite Consulting, has been submitted for approval.**

**NP/19/0619/OBS Heritage Park, Stepaside,** **SA67 8LN**

PCC are duty bound to consult with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) on this application because of its proximity to its boundary. PCNPA are very clear that their role is to maintain or improve the National Park. They have been specifically asked for observations as to whether the development will have any ‘adverse visual impact’ on the National Park. Andrew Richards, Case Officer will be visiting the site any day to make his report. It is unlikely that PCNPA will have an objection based on visual impact.

**Correspondence**

* It has been reported by a regular visitor to Summerhill Park that visibility is poor for cars exiting the park and joining the C3014 due to the hedges on either side of the junction obscuring the view. Following conversations between ACC and PCC it was established that neither PCC nor ACC have the authority to take any action on this issue. It had been suggested a mirror could be installed opposite the exit to improve visibility. A full discussion ensued. ACC do not have the official power to install road signage and if a mirror was required it would need to be purchased jointly by the occupiers of the 15 properties in the park who have not commented on this issue to date. If a mirror was to be acquired, it would need to go on council land opposite the exit and so planning permission would need to be obtained.

 **Agreed; It was agreed that ACC would take no further action on this issue.**

* **Securing Biodiversity Enhancements**

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 10 sets out that *“planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity*” (para 6.4.5 refers). This policy and subsequent policies in Chapter 6 of PPW 10 respond to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016\*.

* Welsh Government have sent information ona PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE (ENFORCEMENT) ORDER 2018**.** The proposal is an amendment to Article 21 of the 2018 Order which currently states the cap on fines is £20K. This is to be amended to ‘Fine’ removing the cap to bring it in line with recent changes to other punishment legislation.
* The Older Peoples Commissioner has launched a campaign against Ageism. Ageism is often overlooked or ignored, or seen as being harmless, but has a negative impact on older people, affecting their physical and mental health, recovery from illness, levels of social exclusion, access to services, employment opportunities and even life expectancy.

By sharing the #EverydayAgeism campaign messages, you can help people to understand the impact that ageism has, not only on older people, but also on society, and why it’s so important we end ageism and age discrimination.

* Community Health Councils (CHCs) are independent statutory watchdogs of NHS services in Wales. CHCs encourage and support people to have a voice in the design, development and delivery of healthcare services for people and communities in Wales.

At a national level, they want to hear what the focus across Wales in the year ahead should be and why.

This may be about:

* How NHS services are currently working across Wales
* Planning, developing, varying or changing NHS services regionally or nationally
* Working collaboratively to strengthen the voice of patients and the public in their NHS
* Developing how the Board and CHCs work together in the interests of people living in Wales.

**Finance – as of 30th October 2019**

Financial matters were discussed and agreed. All details are available from the Clerk.

**Budget Review**

The budget was discussed and agreed. It was agreed to wait until the December meeting to agree the precept for 2020/21

**Report by Amroth and District Community Association**

The Hall continues to go from strength to strength. The new tables have arrived. On Saturday 30th November there is a Tabletop sale in aid of Stepaside Chapel.

**Report by Llanteg Village Hall Committee**

* Walking Group. For information contact Jill Roberts on 01834 831 142 jill75roberts@gmail.com
* The Gardening Groupfuture activity**.** - practical pruning of fruit trees and how to make Christmas wreaths and door decorations. All to be confirmed. For information contact roy.james1536@gmail.com or 01834 831 468.
* Short Mat Bowls every week**; Badgers Bowls** Tues & Fri and **Llanteg Bowls** Mon & Thurs
* Superfast broadband is up and running
* Trees to replace those removed with Ash Dieback can be obtained through the Woodland Trust.
* The Hall is submitting an application to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire fund for hearing/audio facilities, disabled parking spaces and access and other works that need carrying out.
* The entrance into Car Park is difficult to see coming up hill, especially in the dark. Improvements are being investigated.
* On Friday 29th November there is a coffee morning with proceeds to Wales Air Ambulance. WAA is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions.

**Monthly Police meeting –**

* NHS now has own **non-emergency** medical helpline. The number is 111.
* There was no Police meeting In November. The next one is on December 9th.

**Update on Exercise Jantzen**

* Following a successful bid, we are waiting to hear from the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund team that the project can start. All the paperwork has been signed and returned as requested. Cllr. Harvey has written to Kevin Shales at PCC for an update and is awaiting his reply. Cllr Harries reported that the Royal British Legion are interested in the project. The plan is to have the official unveiling of the project on VE day 2020.

**Update on the possibility of free Wi-Fi for Amroth**

* Cllr. Cormack reported that on 29th November a final survey will take place at the Amroth Arms, Temple Bar and The Pirate Café to test the signal. It is planned to have antennae on the Amroth Arms and Temple Bar with the Pirate as back up if required.

**Environmental Arts festival**

* Cllr Megarry reported that she had met with Tina Cunningham and drafted a proposal. The plan is to hold 4 festival days in early August, each day starting at 10 am, tide permitting. Two workshops are also planned, one in conjunction with the Youth Club and one open to all.

The Beach Art Team with apply for Lottery funding to support the two workshops and ACC will apply to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund to support the 4 Beach Art days. Cllr Megarry has drafted a comprehensive budget which commits ACC to a maximum match funding contribution of £1224.00. Some volunteer time could count towards this plus any donations from local businesses.

The Beach Art Team also welcomed the news regarding the acquisition of a beach wheelchair as this would make the festival more accessible.

**Future Projects**

* Councillors were asked for any future project ideas. There is still funding available to Amroth via the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant. Any ideas can be sent to the Clerk.

**Matters to be added to agenda for next meeting**

 None

**Any other or urgent business**

* Crisp packets, Biscuit wrappers, toothpaste tubes, bread liners etc can be recycled by Pembrokeshire Care and Share.
* The Educational Charity of David Rees. Cllr. Phillips informed the meeting that income was increasing faster than being spent and proposed a meeting to discuss how the money could be better employed. The meeting was arranged at 6.30 pm on 23rd January immediately before the monthly Council meeting.
* Cllr. Megarry reported that the numbered trees at Heritage Park, reported to be diseased, are not Ash trees. Cllr. Baron will enquire into this with reference to the lease with PCC, as this would constitute a material change to the land.
* Cllr. Evans reported a telephone Scam. Fraudsters are ringing residents saying they are from HMRC and informing residents that they are being investigated for fraud.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 19th December 2019 at Llanteg Village Hall starting at 7.00 pm**

**The meeting closed at 21.03**