**Amroth Community Council**

**Cyngor Cymuned Llanrhath**

**Draft Minutes** of meeting held by Amroth Community Council on Thursday 21st January 2021 online via Zoom.

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

**In attendance:** Mrs Kathryn Bradbury (Clerk); Robert Lake; Shelley Connop; Vicki Connop

**Apologies**:

**Declaration of Interest. None**

**Chair’s Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all Councillors to the meeting.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 17th December 2020 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Roger Harries

Seconded by Cllr. Alec Cormack

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

1. **Matter Arising**
* PCC Street Lighting Engineer has agreed a replacement streetlight for near the entrance of Clos Yr Ysgol and sent through the proposed location, decided based on availability of electricity.
* The Clerk has written to Llanteg Gardening group about taking on additional maintenance work on community owned land.
* PCC have had a tree surgeon survey the trees on the land between the public toilets and Hill House in Amroth. Ownership of this piece of land has still not been established. (It is also infested with Japanese Knotweed which is of great concern to neighbours). PCC have agreed to remove all the Ash Tree’s close to the road. The work will be carried out at the end of February. This will require the road to be closed during the working day, the date/s of which will be published soon.
* PCC have agreed to inspect the stone bridge at Wisemans Bridge for safety following holes appearing where stones have been dislodged by the sea. This is a well-used track by walkers. They will apply enforcement on the owner if required.
* The Grit Bin has been ordered from PCC for the entrance of Clos Yr Ysgol, Stepaside.
* The Play Area, Summerhill. The Playground subgroup met to discuss the proposals forwarded by PCC for the future management of the play area. The proposals are included in the December Minutes. Cllr Tippett Maudsley is liaising with Amroth and District Community Association to inform them of the proposals and discuss the way forward. A meeting is being arranged with subgroup members and the officer from PCC to fully understand the options available to the community.
* The waste bin by Llanteg Bus shelter was removed following misuse.
* Cllr. Cormack reported that the wall was being made ready in Stepaside for the new defibrillator to be fixed to it.
* Cllr Harries reported that the new Seats for the memorial Garden in Amroth would be arriving with him on Friday 22nd January. Cllrs. Harries, Davies and Phillips will meet in the Memorial Garden to agree where they will be sited.
1. **County Councillors Report**

**Council Tax 2021-22**

On 13 January Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) announced a public consultation on its Budget for 2021-22. The closing date for responses is 7 February 2021. I would urge all residents to contribute to this important consultation.

By law local authorities must set a balanced budget; they cannot borrow to finance current expenditure but can for capital projects. The pandemic is cutting PCC revenue, e.g. from leisure centres, while demand for service is increasing. With one in five Pembrokeshire jobs in the tourism and hospitality sectors and with a relatively large proportion of Pembrokeshire’s workforce furloughed, the pressure on household incomes is severe in the county. Furthermore, a quarter of our county’s population is aged over 65. While those on state benefits, such as universal credit, can claim a Council Tax reduction in whole or in part, there are many just above the benefit level who would be adversely affected by an increase in taxation. Thus, setting a fair Council Tax increase for 2012-22 is a difficult balancing act.

The Council meeting on 10th December, endorsed the Cabinet’s recommendation of a 5% increase in Council Tax in the coming financial year. Since then, the Welsh Government has announced its Provisional Settlement of funding to Local Government for 2021-2022 although the Final Settlement will not be announced until 2nd March 2021. The Provisional Settlement was much better than expected with Pembrokeshire receiving a 4% increase in funding compared with 3.8% for the whole of Wales. The Final Settlement is not expected to differ significantly from the Provisional Settlement. The impact of the settlement is to reduce Pembrokeshire’s funding gap from £25 million to £14.5 million.

Consequently, PCC has about £10 million more to spend in the coming financial year than was previously expected, given a 5% rise in Council Tax. Of this £1.3 million has already been allocated to cover a net increase in levies, capital financing costs etc. This leaves £8.7 million to be allocated.

I would argue that some of this leeway should be used to moderate the projected rise in Council Tax. I would also argue that the sum of PCC’s reserves should be used on a one-off basis to moderate the projected rise in Council Tax. PCC maintains some reserves to fund specific projects and I would not argue using these. However, PCC does maintain a cash balance of £7 million, which acts as a working balance and a contingency reserve. A once-in-a-century pandemic surely justifies the use of reserves. If they are not to be used in an emergency why maintain high reserves?

A one percent rise in Council Tax brings in £0.6 million. Thus, reducing the projected Council Tax increase to 3% would mean that PCC would have to find £1.2 million. I would reduce the extra amount for services from £8.7 million to £8.0 million and would reduce reserves by £0.5 million. Certainly, the reserves would have to be rebuilt over the next four years, when hopefully the economy is recovering.

I note, in addition, that the Welsh Government has announced that it will provide an additional £1bn in revenue grants and an extra £729mn in capital grants. How much of this will come to Pembrokeshire is not yet known, nor have we any certainty on any other Welsh Government grants.   However, it is likely that there will be some further monies, but they cannot be relied upon and used to budget.

Given the stress on households I can see no justification for a 5% increase in Council Tax in the coming financial year.

A discussion took place. Councillors endorsed the request for residents to fill in the survey, and asked the Clerk to add the link to the survey to the ACC Facebook Page. Written comments can also be sent via email or post to County Councillor Baron who will pass them on to PCC. Comments can also be addressed to the Leader, David Simpson or Bob Kilmister, Cabinet Member for Finance. Councillors debated submitting views on behalf of the community Council and agreed to do so.

1. **Planning**

**19/1237/PA. Woodland Heights, 1 Clos yr Ysgol, Stepaside, SA67 8NZ. Proposal**; Double storey side extension to provide new holiday let. **This application was refused.**

**NP/20/0303/FUL. Jakar, Wisemans Bridge, Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire, SA69 9AU Proposal:** Part demolition, alterations and extension to existing residential property to create total of 4 holiday letting apartments. Construction of new retaining wall on boundary adjoining public highway. **This application has been withdrawn.**

**20/0674/PA. 6 Summerhill, Summerhill. SA67 8LX. Proposal;** Single storey ground floor extension. **This application has been conditionally approved.**

**20/0691/PA.** **Cwm Awelon, Llanteg, Narberth. SA67 8PU**. **Proposal;** Conversion of an existing conservatory to a sun lounge. **This application has been approved.**

**20/0837/PA. Redwood Lodge, Amroth Road, Stepaside. SA67 8HP. Proposal;** Permanent Rural EnterpriseDwelling. **Comments by 28th January 2021. ACC has No objection to this application.**

**NP/20/0616/FUL. Craig Y Borian Farm, Amroth Road, Llanteg. SA67 8QL. Proposal;** Farm diversification scheme consisting of the siting of a butchers cutting room and refrigeration building and associated works for the processing of home reared produce. **Comments by 2nd February 2021. ACC has No objection to this application.**

**NP/20/0622/CLE. Jakar, Wisemans Bridge, Saundersfoot. SA69 9AU.** Jakar House had planning approval for converting part of the property into a self contained ‘Granny’ annex for the use of an elderly relative approximately 50 years ago. When the relative passed, approximately 40 years ago, the flat was rented out as a self contained flat ever since. This application is to confirm the existing use as a single dwelling. **Comments by 2nd February 2021. ACC has No objection to this application.**

**20/0889/PA 39 Llanteg Park, Llanteg, Narberth. SA67 8PZ. Proposal;** First floor extension and internalalterations**. Comments by 9th February 2021. ACC has No objection to this application.**

**20/0393/PA Land adj 18 Summerhill, Summerhill, Narberth. SA67 8LX. Proposal;** Erection of a dwelling. Reconsultation due to amended plans. **ACC have received written and verbal objections to this application, specifically on access issues. ACC submitted comments objecting to this proposal. Following additional communications, Cllr. Tony Baron will request that this application is withdrawn from Delegated Authority and referred to the Planning and Rights of Way Committee for further scruitiny.**

**New House by The Rookery, Stepaside**. Residents have drawn attention to this construction. An application was agreed in 2011 and there has been an amendment since, however it appears that the actual property has been built at odds to the approved plans. The Architect has agreed to submit amended plans retrospectively. Councillors request that the retrospective planning is dealt with by the Planning and Rights of Way Committee and is not delegated. Cllr Baron will write to this effect**.**

ACC do not approve of retrospective planning and feel strongly that all application made in retrospect should be subject to increased costs. This statement is added to all comments on retrospective plans that ACC submit.

**Correspondence**

* Donation request from Wales Air Ambulance. Cllr. Phillips commented that Wales Air Ambulance provide a vital service to the rural community of Amroth. It has been employed on several occasions to road accidents on the A477. It now offers a 24hour service. He proposed to donate. Following a discussion, Cllr Harries proposed a sum of £500, seconded by Cllr. Tippett Maudsley. All Councillors agreed. The Clerk was asked to invite a representative of Wales Air Ambulance to the February meeting.
* **Keep Wales Safe** have sent out four key messages. These are,

-The way NHS services are accessed has changed – things may look different but services are still running

-The NHS are working hard to keep services running whilst trying to keep the public safe

 - If you’re worried about persistent symptoms you must contact your GP

- Please remember if you have Covid-19 symptoms no matter how mild, self isolate and book a test

* The leader of the Llanteg Walking group has written to say -For anyone interested Country Walking Magazine are running a challenge to walk 1,000 miles over the year, please see the link below

<https://www.walk1000miles.co.uk/>

* **NHS, SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS DAY 5TH JULY 2021 (Bruno Peek)**

Local councils, communities and others throughout Wales are being encouraged to play a leading role in NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day on 5th July 2021, a unique day of celebration and commemoration of those that work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week without any thought of their own safety.

They are asked to do this by agreeing to raise a unique flag at 10am; participate in the Two-Minute Silence at 11am, the Nation's Toast at 1pm, Afternoon Tea at 4pm, the ringing of church bells 73 times with each ring representing a year in the 73 years of the NHS at 8pm, from within their local communities, as a 'tribute' to the Heroes of the NHS, Social Care and those that work so tirelessly on the frontline.

This special day is also being used to raise valuable funds for NHS Charities Together, the official organisation set up to support over 230 hospitals and their charitable trusts, with the money being equally divided to support the health and wellbeing of staff.

The other charity to benefit is the National Care Association who wish to use this opportunity to raise £200,000.00 for the work they undertake in their care homes.

The activities for the day, along with the organisations and others supporting this unique initiative  to date can be viewed at – [**www.nhsfrontlineday.org**](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhsfrontlineday.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C1adde99ccedd485f396c08d8b0b013a5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637453617600912883%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=pSCpLrkle8WVceZT7sjnjAe6P9qMgl1w1yHtBopOd7Y%3D&reserved=0)

**Agreed;** Clerk to add this to February agenda for discussion.

* A resident has written regarding the possibility of getting Christmas lights for Amroth to compliment the displays in local houses. They cheered the village up. **Agreed;** The Clerk will add this to the June agenda for discussion.
* The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority needs your help to shape a new project that aims to ensure everyone is able to access and enjoy the National Park.

The *Experiences for All* project aims to make sure everyone can access and benefit from the National Park.

As part of the survey, we will ask for information to help us to identify opportunities to improve access to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park for under-represented groups.

Whether you live locally or come to Pembrokeshire as a visitor, your opinions and experience are valuable to us and we really appreciate your time. At the end of the survey you will be able to enter our prize draw for the chance to win £50 cash.

[**Click here**](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pembrokeshirecoast.wales%2Fexperiences-for-all&data=04%7C01%7C%7C501beda256dd49d3323908d8b3e2dfbb%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637457134308276538%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fylrTNATqDvsxf3bBLtPSDeVzP%2BKh%2FGWWKsI%2BCSfalE%3D&reserved=0)**to visit the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park website to find out more and complete the survey.** If you do not have access to a computer/smart device or would prefer to provide your views over the phone please call 01646 624800.

* **Cynnal Cymru, the leading independent charity for sustainable development in Wales has sent a copy of their newsletter. The Clerk has a link to it.**
* **Versus Arthritis** offer services to people with arthritis. Arthritis is an umbrella term which covers over 200 different conditions including fibromyalgia, gout, lupus, joint hypermobility syndrome and many more.

Currently we are not meeting face to face but do have online support groups running for people with arthritis and other MSK conditions. These sessions are free of charge and participants can attend as many or as few as they like. The sessions are varied and cover a wide range of different topics such as mindfulness for chronic pain, chair based yoga, craft and much more. The topic is circulated before the meeting.

We are also able to speak to people with arthritis and other MSK conditions over the phone. During these phone calls we can signpost these people to other services, we can offer support for them to access the online meetings, we can arrange for information to be posted out to them and we can be a listening ear for them.  For more information on the support that we can offer then please visit our website:

<https://www.versusarthritis.org/>

* Urdd Cymru have written asking for a donation. Agreed; The Clerk to politely refuse
* Pembrokeshire County Council is asking the public to help the Authority set its budget for the coming financial year, 2021-22. The budget determines the amount of money available for key public services that we all use in Pembrokeshire. This includes education and schools, social services and waste collections as well as leisure facilities, road maintenance, libraries and many other aspects of everyday life.

People can also fill out a short survey to have their say on the budget and ask questions. Cllr Bob Kilmister, the Cabinet Member for Finance, will be providing regular video updates answering residents’ questions.

The Council is facing a £14.5m projected funding gap and is considering the best way to bridge that gap.

The Cabinet is proposing that individual service budgets are flat-lined for 2021-22, meaning all inflationary, demand and other pressures would have to be met through cost reductions and / or efficiency savings.

The Cabinet is also proposing to raise Council Tax to help meet pressures on services. Assuming a 5% increase in Council Tax, there is £10m of additional funding which can be allocated to some services to help reduce some pressures.

With £1.3m of this funding already allocated, residents can use the budget tool to place the remaining £8.7m with the services you feel need it the most.

The budget tool shows the level of money that could be raised per Council Tax option and the level of cost reductions / efficiencies required as a result.

Over the past seven years, Pembrokeshire County Council has bridged a funding gap of £98.1m, mainly through substantial cost reductions and efficiencies, totalling £73.8m.

Other contributions have come from increased Council Tax income, Council Tax second homes income (one-off) and a £700,000 contribution from reserves (one-off).

To give your views please go to <https://haveyoursay.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2021-22> and fill out the short online survey.

Alternatively, please print out a hard copy and once complete, please scan and email to surveys@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or post to: Pembrokeshire County Council, Policy, 2D County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP **The closing date for responses is 7th February, 2021.**

* **The War Memorials Trust** is providing grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials.

These grants are intended to help those who are responsible for the upkeep of war memorials. The grants support the care and preservation of war memorials to a high standard, and to prevent the decay of this important part of our built heritage. Grants will normally be for between 25% and a maximum of 75% of eligible costs. The maximum grant is £5,000 for non-freestanding war memorials while freestanding, non-beneficiary war memorials may be considered up to a maximum grant of £30,000.

The fund is open to anyone to apply; individuals or organisations, including councils.

The next closing date for applications is the 31st March 2021. Link to grant [War Memorials Trust](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.warmemorials.org%2Fgrants%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C20297aaf827f4cf28faa08d8bc8cce67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637466660235989027%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PjBl0F4HUO5Ff3nWbx33IiIIqlHXM%2B6N0%2F5Scwm90LY%3D&reserved=0)

* **Letter from the National Trust at Colby**

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Trust, to inform you that we are planning to change our pricing model at Colby Woodland Garden from a pay for entry site, to a pay for parking site.

Like most organisations, the National Trust has been hit hard by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. We have had to review our operating model at Colby Woodland Garden to ensure we can continue to conserve and maintain the grounds and gardens for ever, for everyone.

We will be submitting a planning application towards the end of January for two pay and display machines, one located in each car park. We will no longer charge an admission fee, as our retail shop where we normally facilitate admissions has closed and our staffing structure at the property has changed. Moving to a parking charge will represent a much more cost-effective day out for visitors to Colby Woodland Garden and the ticket will be transferable across all Pembrokeshire car parks on that day. We believe the new proposals will make Colby accessible to a wider range of people, with funds raised from the pay and display machines directly supporting the conservation of the gardens, grounds and maintaining the facilities. National Trust members will still park for free.

The car parking charge will be in line with our other National Trust car parks across Pembrokeshire (the charge per car will be £6 daily and £3 up to 3 hours). The charges will be in place from 1st March to 31st October from 10am to 5pm.

We recognise the importance of engaging the local community from the onset, hence writing this letter to you. We would be happy to discuss this proposal with you or answer any questions. I could attend (in person or virtually) your next community council meeting to explain the changes and to answer any queries.

1. **Finance as of 31st December 2020**

Account 70121649 – 7,131.08 – less approved December payments

Account 40736856 – £15,193.14 includes 0.38p interest

David Rees £810.58 – inc £23.64 income on 30th November

**Payments;**

**Clerks Wages**

Land rent to PCC - £70 for Summerhill Play area.

External Audit - £281.75

Renewal of SLCC membership - £100

Friends of Narberth Library £20 – agreed annual payment Jan 2020

Donation to Wales Air Ambulance £500

5 seats from Streetmaster £2475 + vat= £3180

**All Payments were agreed**

**Income**

**Precept -**£4333 arrived at the end of December 2020.

**Interest - 38p**

**David Rees - £23.64 from CCLA**

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

The hall is closed for the duration of lockdown.

Cllr. Tippett-Maudsley stated that she has agreement to represent Amroth and District Community Association in any discussions regarding the future management of the play area.

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

The hall has been cleaned and sanitised but remains closed at this time.

1. **Project Updates**
* **Amroth Good Neighbours** – Little increase in demand although there has been an increase in infection in Pembrokeshire. It will remain active over the winter to support residents.
* **Exercise Jantzen –** Cllr. Harvey reported that he is working on the copy and layout for the information board and will bring proposed copy to the February meeting.
* **Play Area**, **Summerhill –** A temporary fix has been carried out on the fence.
* **Brown signs –** Application to PCC has been redirected to the SWTRA.
1. **Matters to be added to the agenda for next meeting**
* NHS, Socialcare and Frontline workers Day 5th July 2021
1. **Other Matters/ Urgent Business not on the Agenda**
* Fair Share scheme – Cllr A. Evans has been approached about this being run again in the bus shelter in Summerhill over the summer. **Agreed;** Cllrs. support this scheme but requested that items be limited to garden produce and plants.
* The maintenance of PCNPA land in Summerhill. This has been carried out by a local resident in recent years who has now left the village. The Clerk has written to the Park on this matter but received no reply as yet.
* Cllr Baron brought up the possibility of a Defibrillator at The Wanderers Rest, Llanteglos for community use. He offered to subsidise half the cost. Proposed, Cllr. Harries, Seconded, Cllr A Evans. All Councillors agreed. The Clerk will contact Tenby & Saundersfoot First Responders to order one.
* Cllr. Davies reported that the road drains along the front at the New Inn end of the village were still blocked by pebbles, preventing water from draining off the road. Two drains in the middle of the road were also not draining water. **Agreed;** Clerk to contact PCC again on this issue and copy in Cllr. Baron.
* Cllr. Davies also reported significant damage to the end of the promenade, so it now ends with a dangerous 8 ft drop on to pebbles. It looks like water is also going under the foundation of the wall. If this continues and road and the bridge will be at risk. The seat located by the start of the Coast Path is also at risk of being lost. **Agreed;** Clerk to contact PCC and request that the damage is surveyed and repairs carried out.
* Cllr. A. Evans reported that the bus shelter in Summerhill needs maintenance (as are the toilets in Amroth). He asked that PCC be contacted to power wash the bus shelter and he would be happy to paint it. **Agreed;** Clerk to contact PCC on this issue.
* Cllr. A. Evans also reported that the waste bins by the play area had not been emptied recently. **Agreed;** Clerk to contact PCC to ask for them to be emptied.
* Cllr. Harries reported that there are no cat’s eyes on the road at the Amroth junction opposite Pen Y Bont on the A477. There are no cat’s eyes on any of the junctions off the A477 travelling through Llanteg. **Agreed;** Clerk to contact the SWTRA to query this.
* Cllr. Harries reported that bags of salt/grit were available from him. Contact the Clerk to arrange collection.

**Date of next Meeting is Thursday 18th February 2021 at 7 pm.**

This will be via Zoom unless informed otherwise.

Anyone wishing to observe online, please send your email address to amrothclerk@outlook.com

**The meeting closed at 8.35 pm**