**PUNCHESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A meeting of Puncheston Community Council was held via Zoom on Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Mr. Wyn Williams, Mr. Dewi Lewis, Mrs. Susan Collins, Mrs. Anne Thomas, Cllr Bob Kilmister and Mrs. Eirian Forrest (Clerk).

1. Apologies: Nil
2. Minutes of the last meeting (30.06.21)

Copies of the minutes of the last meeting

had been distributed to members. It was proposed by Dewi seconded by Anne that they were a true record and were to be signed.

1. Matters arising from the minutes

* Barclays Bank Mandate – Confirmation received that the changes have been made.
* Casual vacancy – Dewi had spoken to someone who may be interested.
* Fallen 30mph Sign – Susan noted there is only one sign and thought the other one was removed when they resurfaced the access road into the new housing estate. Bob will make enquiries about placing another one further back before the access into the site.
* Bin next to Puncheston bus shelter – Response received from Paul McCarthy advising there was not a suitable location to move the bin to. Dewi suggested to ask if signs could be displayed stating no dog poo to be placed in the bin. The Clerk will respond to Paul.
* Consultation of Qualification of Clerks – The Clerk attended a Seminar on 9th September which Dan Shaw, Corporate Manager PCC who had arranged for Clerks to get their thoughts on the consultation to formulate a response from PCC. The Qualification will apply to Community Councils who are eligible, one criterion to an eligible council is that two-thirds of Councillors must have been elected.

1. Highway matters

Wyn reported he had noticed a number of stones had been dislodged from hedgebanks and had fallen onto the road. Bob suggested to report them when seen or move them from the road.

1. Planning
2. 20/0942/PA – Demolish Single storey side store room and single storey conservatory, erect two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 2 Station View, Puncheston – Conditionally approved
3. 21/0581/PA – Proposed conversion and change of use of an existing redundant agricultural barn into two lettable self-contained units together with an extension of the existing two storey farmhouse into the second attached barn at Penrallt, Tufton, Clarbeston Road – There were no objections, and it was agreed to support this proposal.
4. Cwm Gwaun & Puncheston Broadband project

Bob gave an update, the application has been sent to the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport to gain first stage approval. There is nothing to suggest that it won’t be approved.

1. Puncheston Village Green wall and path

It was agreed that an application will be submitted for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant for funding towards the works required at the green. Firstly, an Expression of Interest form will be submitted, and if approved a full application will be made. The deadline for submission is 22nd November so there will be quite a lot to do i.e., 3 quotes, support from the community etc. before submission. The wall needs re-rendering, the existing path needs replacing and two new benches. Bob has recently done a survey and some complaints received regarding the lack of progress being made in getting the repairs etc. done.

1. General Allowance payments

One Councillor opted out from receiving this payment, the Clerk will process payment for the other three Councillors through the PAYE system and get the cheques ready for signing.

1. Donation requests

Two requests for a donation received from Wales Air Ambulance and Paul Sartori; and annually a donation is given to the Cylch Meithrin and to Rev Richard Davies (Royal British Legion) to purchase two wreaths for remembrance Sunday for the service in Puncheston and Little Newcastle. It was agreed to donate:

* Wales Air Ambulance - £50
* Paul Sartori - £30
* Rev R Davies/British Royal Legion - £40
* Cylch Meithrin - £50
* Cylch Meithrin hadn’t cashed last year’s donation of £50, it was agreed to give issue a replacement cheque

1. Clerk’s salary review

Part of this year’s Audit, one of the requirements was to include minutes at which the Clerk’s salary was set and agreed annually by the Council. The Clerk’s salary had not been reviewed since she commenced in 2017. The current salary is £1050 per year, and it was proposed by Dewi, seconded by Wyn, and agreed to increase the salary to £1200.

1. Puncheston Play area lease

The Clerk had spoken to Huw Bevan, Recreation Committee regarding the play area lease, he was unable to attend the meeting, but advised that the committee would want the community council to continue to pay for the insurance and pay for the grass cutting. Dewi agreed to find out how much it would cost for cutting the grass so that the cost can be included in the budget in readiness for setting the Precept for next year.

1. Parking Issues in Puncheston

Bob recently did a survey and had received a few responses about the same issue. Residents have raised concerns regarding several vehicles parked on the junction by the Drovers Arms joining the main road through the village which are hindering tractors/trailers turning right towards Morvil/Llanychaer, and they have concerns for children walking to school. Bob has contacted the Traffic Department at PCC and asked the Clerk to write to Darren Thomas, Head of Transportation also.

1. Correspondence
2. Welsh Government Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation – PCC are responding to this - noted
3. National Resources Wales Coast Path Team – Farmer and Landowner Survey – noted.
4. PCC Precept payment £900 received 19th August 2021
5. PCC – Direct Payments Service - Social Care vacancies poster – displayed in all notice boards and Facebook.
6. Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County of Pembrokeshire – This review does not affect the Community Council but will affect the County Council seats. The electoral ward will be called Bro Gwaun, loses Dinas Cross and gains Scleddau - noted
7. Western Power Unmetered supply forms – it was suggested to send to Robert Griffiths to complete.
8. VAT refund received.
9. Any other matters
10. Anne reported that some of the tiles on the mosaic that the children made last year are coming off on the Little Newcastle plinth – The Clerk will inform Amanda Lawrence.
11. The Clerk raised that the Annual General Meeting would need to be held before December, it was agreed to have the AGM before the October meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Date of the next meeting via Zoom was agreed as 27th October 21 at 7.30pm

NB: Due to the meeting being held remotely the signing of minutes and cheques etc. will be done later.