**CYNGOR CYMUNED AMBLESTON / AMBLESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A meeting of Ambleston Community Council was held at Ambleston Memorial Hall on Monday 28th February 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Present were: - Gail Davies (Chair), Rosie McDonald, Kevin Morris, Dai Ambrey, Gareth Owen, Julian Harries, Cllr. David Howlett, and Eirian Forrest (Clerk)

Members of the public: Envis Thomas, Alun Thomas, Suzanne McCullagh, Ian Morrison, Stephanie Tee, Polly Tee.

1. **Representative from Pembrokeshire County Council, Patrick Hannon, Broadband Manager:**

**Ambleston Broadband update**

David Howlett introduced Patrick to everyone in attendance and gave a brief update on the position to date.

Patrick started off by explaining that Ambleston is the first of four pilot areas and whilst progress has been slower than planned the Ambleston project is further ahead than other areas. In total 118 orders received for Ambleston and over half of these have been connected. Feedback received to date is that all customers who have been connected are happy with the broadband speed. He explained how Broadway Partners became the chosen company who last October secured 145 million investment. Most of the core network is done, a small patch in Tufton left to do and are working towards to have the network completed by middle of April and aim to have all properties ready for service by June. As part of the network telegraph poles will have a port installed on them to allow future connections to be carried out (ready for service). The cable between posts is inside an insulated glass tube making it resilient and there have been no instances of the connection being lost. Being a pilot area means that errors have been made and they are learning from these mistakes. A working group is being set up to explore ways to improve processes and communication for future projects, and feedback received is that communication needs to have more detailed information and is easier to understand. Support and maintenance will be carried out by Broadway, and the support team operate 24/7/365 and can be contacted by email or telephone.

Gareth was aware that a few people had had payments taken by direct debit before being connected. Patrick advised that this should not be happening and advised anyone affected to contact [broadband@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

With various broadband projects being carried out throughout Pembrokeshire there is a shortage of civil contractors in Pembrokeshire who have the knowledge and skills to do this work and the telecom industry is having to employ contractors from as far as Liverpool to carry out the work. There is an event taking place end of March in the Bridge Innovation Centre, Pembroke Dock to raise awareness for local contractors, and funding streams are being explored which will pay to upskill the workforce.

Patrick left the meeting at this point.

1. **Representative from National Resources Wales, Mair Rees and Pembrokeshire County Council, Jim Dunkley, Common Land Officer:**

**Reintroduction of grazing on Wallis Moor**

Prior to the meeting Gail declared a personal and prejudicial interest and did not participate in the discussion.

The Clerk introduced Mair and Jim to everyone in attendance.

The Clerk had received prior to the meeting questions from two residents which were sent to Mair and Jim to respond directly.

Jim advised that the plans for reintroducing grazing will be in phases, starting on the east side (opposite the pond) and is a three-year project.

Mair and Jim are aware of the concerns of the community of the animals wandering onto the road and are keen to work with the community to alleviate these concerns. Jim advised that the common will be fenced in sections to contain the animals and the existing fencing will be utilized. Currently there are fifteen registered graziers on the east side and there is potential for more; anyone interested in applying for grazing rights are to contact Jim [jim.dunkley@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:jim.dunkley@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) Placing a cattle grid either end of the common was discussed, Steph and Dai would allow one outside their property (Pencastell) to stop animals from wandering further than Wallis. Ground clearance has commenced, and fencing will start in a month’s time, there is funding available for anyone who needs fencing on their property to prevent animals entering their land. Fencing will be double barbed, and triple barbed inside the embankment. Concerns/questions were raised about Tuberculosis and how this would have implications for graziers. Jim advised that if the grazier’s farm boundary adjoins the common this would satisfy the ‘no movement of stock’ regulation; and the law states that all graziers have rights to graze their livestock all at once, however further research and guidance is needed.

Jim may investigate setting up a Graziers Association forum for graziers to discuss options and will open funding potential and will check if residents are able to join the association.

Suzanne said that the bridleway from Ambleston to the pond is well used by runners and dog walkers and had concerns about livestock obstructing these activities. Jim advised that there are no plans for that side of the common yet, and in any event, they will not be able to restrict access to the common. The introduction of grazing on the western side has more complications and will be looked at in the future.

**Silt and overgrowth at Wallis Pond –**

* The consensus from the members of the public present was that the works was overdue and needed doing and questioned why the community were no longer allowed to do the works themselves like they used to. It was explained that the area has since become a designated SSSi and to prevent polluting the fish and other habitat consent is required from National Resources Wales.
* Mair advised that she will be submitting a bid for funding for works to be carried out after nesting season in September/October. A specialist contractor will be contracted to do the work, and a local farmer is willing for the silt to be tipped on his land. Mair will complete the application forms for the various consents, the CC will need to pay £50 for the Land Drainage Consent and will be in touch when notified of the decision of the funding bid.
* Once the works are complete the Community Council can carry out further works to the pond subject to the necessary consents from NRW.
* Dai asked if a pathway could be cut around the pond, he was advised by Mair that consent would be required.

Mair, Jim and members of the public left the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** - Nil
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting (24.01.22)**

Copies of the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed to members, it was proposed by Julian, seconded by Gareth,

and agreed that they were to be signed.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes**
2. DWR Cymru Welsh Water – No response.
3. Pothole outside Slouthy – not done. Gareth will report this via ‘My Account.’
4. Service trench in Woodstock – not done. It is understood that this is Dwr Cymru.
5. Road surface by Cwarre Duon – not done
6. Finger post sign on the crossroad by Parc-Y-Llyn – This has been removed, and it is noted that there is a backlog of signage waiting to be replaced.
7. Wolfscastle sign on Parc-Y-Llyn to Haverfordwest road – not done. As 5e above.
8. Pothole – between Stoney Hook and Henne Fawr – not done.

All the highway issues above Cllr Howlett asked the Clerk to forward him the dates that she reported them, and he will chase up with Gavin Pritchard.

1. Bridleway PP1/14, PP1/11 (1), PP1/10 (2a-e), PP1/10 (3a/b), PP1/6 (4) - No response It is noted that PP1/14 may get the overgrowth cleared as part of the clearance happening on Wallis Moor.
2. **Highway matters**

Nothing to report.

1. **Planning**

For information only – 21/0925/PA Single storey lean to extension to south elevations to provide sunroom/porch link at LLys Heulwen, Woodstock notification was received after the last meeting and the date for determination was prior to this meeting.

1. **Defibrillator for Woodstock & Wallis**

Rosie has received confirmation that the application for a defibrillator for Wallis and Woodstock were approved. Calon Hearts have advised that funding is available towards the heated cabinets (£300 towards each) and needed to know if locked or unlocked cabinets was required. It was agreed that unlocked would be best. Kevin confirmed that the hall committee were happy for the defibrillator to be situated at the hall and the use of the electricity supply. Dai will check with Sue for Wallis. Dai knows an electrician that could install them both. The Clerk advised that now Mair (NRW) is applying for funding for the works to the pond, the amount the precept was increased by (£1100) would cover the amount (approx. £600) for the heated cabinets. It was proposed by Gareth, seconded by Kevin, and agreed that Rosie could proceed and place the order if Calon Hearts agree to donate towards the cabinets.

1. **Defibrillator training**

Calon Hearts have advised that they would be able to carry out the training.

1. **Financial Standing Order - Reconciliation of accounts**

Gareth had reconciled and verified the bank statements, cheque book and accounts and found no issues and signed the form.

1. **Annual Audit**

Audit reports received for the 2020 and 2021 Audit.

1. 2020 – Grant Thornton had misplaced the audit paperwork that had been sent, the Clerk sent photocopies of the originals; one page was missing, and the page signed by the internal auditor was not dated. On this basis a Qualified audit opinion was received.
2. 2021 – A Qualified audit opinion on the basis that the Council had stated that it had completed with relevant laws and procedures, however the Council had not provided its Clerk a written contract or a written statement of the specified terms of employment under S.1 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (EIRA) within two months of starting employment.
3. The required notices and documentation have been uploaded to the Community Council website and placed inside the notice boards.
4. **Correspondence**

* Welsh Government Apprenticeship Scheme opening 28th March 2022 – posted on Facebook page.
* PCC - Queens Jubilee events planned to notify Marc Owen, Streetcare and Parking Manager.
* Acknowledgement of Precept 2022/2023 set at £2700.00.

1. **Any other business**

Julian reported a car accident that happened approximately 3 weeks previous at approx. 6.30 – 7.00pm opposite Bigws Farm, Woodstock. No-one is believed to have been hurt. The Police were involved.

There being no further matters the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm. The next meeting will be 28th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

**Date………………………………………………….**