**Cyngor Cymuned Casmael / Puncheston Community Council**

**Annual Report 2021/2022**

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month (except August and December). Puncheston Community Council has six councillors, Eirian Forrest is Clerk and can be contacted by email [punchestoncc@gmail.com](mailto:punchestoncc@gmail.com) or 07896 591221. Meetings are open to members of the public to attend.

It has been a busy year for the Community Council and have worked around Covid 19 restrictions to the best of our ability. During the year meetings were held virtually on Zoom with the AGM and meeting in November 2021 held in Smyrna Vestry, and a couple of extraordinary meetings were held in between the monthly meetings.

In February 2021 Alison Evans resigned as Councillor which has been a great loss for the Community Council.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd November 2021, Mrs Anne Thomas was elected as Chair with Mr Dewi Lewis elected as Vice Chair. There were two vacancies throughout 2021/2022 which were not filled.

Minutes and other documents can be viewed on the Puncheston Community Council website. Puncheston Community Council has a Facebook page.

**Topics discussed by the Community Council included –**

* Dog fouling – This is an ongoing problem, posters have been displayed and the children of Ysgol Casmael also made posters to display however, the problem is still ongoing.
* Cwm Gwaun & Puncheston Broadband project – new fibre broadband coming in the future.
* Litter and fly tipping.
* Play area lease will be transferred to the Community Council in 2022.
* A defibrillator was purchased for Little Newcastle by a couple who purchased it with their wedding gift money.
* Puncheston cemetery lease of 99 years.
* PCNPA – Tree planting to commemorate the PCNPA 70th Anniversary in 2022
* Happy to Chat bench application submitted to help combat loneliness and encourage community interaction.
* **Highway matters:**
* Potholes and road surface complaints are an ongoing problem and are reported to PCC.
* Faulty streetlights, drainage problems, signage and other general issues are reported as they arise.
* Complaints received regarding speeding in the village.
* Parking issues in Puncheston.
* The road from Puncheston towards Little Newcastle has been resurfaced.

**Finance:**

* Council Tax Precept for the financial year 2021/2022 was £2700.00, 2022/2023 was set at £4800.00. The increase was due to match funding required for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant that has been awarded (see below):
* An award from the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant of £8188 to enhance and refurbish the village green, with new benches and a picnic bench. The Community Council have had to provide match funding by means of finance and hours of labour i.e., project managing, clearing up the site etc.
* Annual Accounts – Receipts £3593.01 Payments £2855.58. Barclays account balance on 31.03.22 - £852.43.
* Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – A mandatory payment of £150 is offered to all Community Councillors, one Community Councillor chose to opt-out of receiving this payment, three members received this payment.
* Insurance is in place with Zurich Municipal Insurance and complies with regulations.
* The external annual audit for 2020/2021 was ‘Unqualified’ meaning all procedures are compliant with legislation and regulatory requirements.

**Donations given:**

* Wales Air Ambulance - £50.00
* Royal British Legion, two wreaths (Puncheston & Little Newcastle) for remembrance Sunday - £40.00
* Paul Sartori - £30.00
* Cylch Meithrin - £100.00

Appeals for donations are considered for local charities or of direct benefit to the local community.

**Planning:**

* The Local Development Plan review (LDP2) is ongoing and has been delayed due to new guidance from National Resources Wales on Phosphates.
* A candidate site at farmland at Llys y Dryw for proposed housing in Puncheston has been submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council which will be assessed by Officers. No decision has been made to date. The Community Council sent a response to the consultation.
* Planning applications considered have been development to private dwellings, conversions, and tree felling.
* All planning applications can be viewed on Pembrokeshire County Council’s website.

**Thanks to:**

* Emily Scott for maintaining the flowers beds on the village green.
* Archie Davies for his great work in collecting rubbish from the hedgerows when volunteering as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.
* To everyone else who also litter picked.
* Cllr. Bob Kilmister for all his help and guidance throughout the year.
* Susan Collins who agreed to be a guardian for the defibrillator in Puncheston and Andy Adams for his help. The guardianship has since been taken over by Gavin Ross.
* Dawn for volunteering to paint the bus shelter.