EHP/ABW/MISC.2023

3rd May 2023

**Chairman’s Report, Pencaer Community Council for 2022/2023.**

At the end of March 2022, we were able to return to face-to-face meetings in St. Nicholas Hall. There is also no doubt that the past year from May 2022 to May 2023 will be a year of substantial memories.

At the end of April 2022, three long serving members of the council retired, namely, Barbara Lewis, Eleri Dugan and Raymond Llewhelin. All had served for many years and were thanked for their services and a presentation was made to them in the June meeting. We also welcomed in April Councillor Neil Prior to our meeting and he has been a regular attendance and a most effective member all through the year.

In the May elections, our existing County Councillor Sam Kurtz was elected to serve for the West Carmarthenshire and South Pembrokeshire Area in the Senedd in Cardiff. We expressed our congratulations to Sam and he again, has been an effective member in that work. Also, Councillor Neil Prior was returned to Pembrokeshire County Council for the area with an overwhelming majority.

In the first week of June, we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Thanks to the efforts of Cathy and Michael Kurtz, the jubilee was celebrated on Thursday, 2nd June with a bonfire and barbeque on Garn Fawr. This was highly successful as a community event, and our grateful thanks to all involved, particularly Cathy and Michael and also to everybody who helped with the food and John Davies, Tanmynydd Farm, who allowed his field to be used for the parking.

On Saturday evening following there was at the village hall, a successful supper event.

The Councillors who retired were replaced in the Community Council by Cathy and Michael Kurtz, Karen Roden and Dorian Williams, making a total of 6 Councillors in all, together with County Councillor Neil Prior.

Briefly, I highlight the important issues dealt with during the year.

1. Thanks to Coucillor Neil Prior the council successfully applied for a Pembrokeshire County Council grant to employ a part-time communications officer with an award of £10,000. This now needs to be taken forward over the coming months.
2. Contact was established with the National Trust over the common land in the Pencaer area and further contact is required particularly as local councils are urged to be involved in the local nature and environment.
3. Councillor Karen Roden highlighted this problem over the sewerage outfalls. This matter is ongoing and the council will keep a watching eye on the problem.
4. We await further information from the Welsh Baptist Union over Llangloffan cemetery.
5. Our thanks to Councillor Mike Kurtz, we have a new road sign at Trefasser Cross for Strumble Head Lighthouse.
6. The Invasion of Ukraine brought families to our area and they were represented at the November Remembrance Sunday Service.
7. The council continues to act where necessary as a member of One Voice Wales on a variety of subjects. Councillors also take part in the Working Together Zoom Meetings under Pembrokeshire County Council.
8. In January 2022 the council decided to increase the precept to £7,000 in order to be able to actively participating in more activity.
9. This spring our secretary and finance officer Emma, stated that she will retire after the July 2023 meeting. Emma has been a most effective and responsible officer for the council and in due course we will officially record our thanks to her. We will need also to take steps to find her replacement.

If I have left out anything, please advise at the meeting.