**Cyngor Cymuned Casmael / Puncheston Community Council**

**Annual Report 2022/2023**

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 or 07896 591221. Meetings are open to members of the public to attend.

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. Mr Jamie Williams and Mrs Samantha Lewis filled the two vacancies in May 2022.

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 –**

* The village green enhancement works are complete. A ‘Happy to Chat’ bench has been placed, another bench and picnic table to be purchased later in the year. The two old benches were removed by Dewi Lewis, who refurbished them and relocated them to the play area. Legal documents were found which showed the land was already in the ownership of Puncheston Community Council, however, is not registered with Land Registry. Consideration needs to be given to registering the land in the future.
* Two fruit trees planted in the border on Village Green.
* Dog fouling – This is an ongoing problem; the children of Ysgol Casmael made posters which are being made into signs to display around the village.
* Play area lease was to be transferred to the Community Council in 2022, to date this has not happened.
* The defibrillator has been placed inside a heated cabinet and has been placed on the outside wall of the Smyrna Vestry.
* Various trees were planted in Puncheston and Little Newcastle to commemorate the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park’s 70th Anniversary in 2022. Thanks to all the volunteers.
* A donation of £100 was given to the PTA of Ysgol Casmael toward the purchase of medals for the children to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee.
* 20mph speed limit legislation coming into effect in September 2023.
* Sewerage smell by Heol Dewi. Cllr Delme Harries has been in discussions with Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru.
* Section 6 Biodiversity & ecosystem resilience duty report submitted.
* Telephone kiosk in Little Newcastle needs repairs.
* Trecwn Green Energy Hub being developed by Statkraft.
* **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.
* Essex Hill and Lower Puncheston road is on the list to be resurfaced.

**Finance:**

* Council Tax Precept for the financial year 2022/2023 was £4800.00, 2023/20234 was set at £5300.00. The increase was due to having to purchase a new defibrillator cabinet and installation, and benches for the village green.
* Annual Accounts – Receipts £13066.78. Payments £2203.31. Barclays account balance on 31.03.23 - £2203.31.
* 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 2021/2022 was in line with the new cycle of audits, had its first ‘Full’ audit and the conclusion was ‘Unqualified’ meaning all procedures are compliant with legislation and regulatory requirements.

**Planning:**

* The Local Development Plan review (LDP2) is ongoing and has been delayed due to new guidance from National Resources Wales on Phosphates.
* Planning applications considered have been development to private dwellings, conversions, replacement dwellings etc.
* 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.
* Jack Davies for his great work in collecting rubbish from the hedgerows when volunteering as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.
* Cllr. Delme Harries for his help and guidance throughout the year.