**Cyngor Cymuned Amroth Community Council**

**Confirmed Minutes** of meeting held by Amroth Community Council on Thursday 19th October 2023 in Amroth Parish Hall. ( Note, there was no September meeting due to Clerks illness)

**Councillors present:**  T Baron; A Cormack; A Evans; F Evans; M Harvey; M Morris; S Phillips, R Tippet Maudsley; E Wyn Morgan.

**In attendance:** Mrs Kathryn Bradbury (Clerk),

**Apologies**: J James, R Lake.

**Declaration of interest. Cllr F Evans declared a personal interest on planning application NP/23/0438/FUL. Westfields, Wisemans Bridge. Cllr Cormack declared a personal interest on Planning application 23/0570/PA Pinecroft, Pleasant Valley.**

**1.Chair’s Welcome**

Chairman Cllr. Baron welcomed all Councillors and observers to the meeting and asked for any apologies.

He informed councillors that Cllr. James was still recovering and all Councillors sent their best wishes to Cllr J James for his continued recovery.

A Community Councillor Vacancy has arisen following the resignation of Cllr Harries. The Clerk was asked to inform the Electoral Office and a process will be followed. The vacancy will be advertised in approximately four weeks.

He explained that Standing Orders empower the Chairman to allow members of public to address the Council for ten minutes before the start of the meeting. A resident has requested to read a statement regarding the Memorial Garden. A second Observer has questions on the proposed sale. He explained that the land on the front in Amroth also known as the Memorial Garden is being called the Old Hall Garden by ACC as this is how it is written in the Charity Commission Scheme.

The Chairman announced that a further public consultation meeting will be held on the 16th November to enable further discussion on the options for the garden going forward.

He acknowledged that a considerable amount of work has been done to the garden by volunteers and this will be taken into account when decisions re the garden are made by the trustees. The agreement tonight will address the definition of Inhabitant as was agreed at the last Public meeting.

A question was raised by a resident asking if Cllr. Roger Harries was still involved in the sale of the garden following his notice of intention to resign. Cllr Harries has not been involved since his notice of resignation.

The following statement was read out at the meeting on behalf of the Friends of the Garden.

*Thank you for giving me the floor. We request this notice, and ensuing points be recorded in the minutes, with copies available for all council members.*

*Before beginning, Councillor Baron has gone to lengths to point out that our group does not represent the whole community. He is correct, just as the views of the individuals on this council do not represent the whole community.*

*I am representing the views of 61 registered voters from Amroth, Summerhill, and Llanteg tonight. Our group exists because we do not see our opinions represented in this council's discourse on the sale of Amroth Memorial Gardens.*

*To be clear, we are not against ACC providing a recreational area in Crunwere; what we are against is the taking of something held in Trust for the benefit of the residents of Amroth to fund it.*

*The issue surrounding Amroth Memorial Garden necessitates resolution. As such, it is crucial for ACC to confront the following:*

1. *Sixty-one community members have effectively rebutted ACC's rationale for land sale,*

*as set out at ACC's September 14th meeting.*

*2.       Our collective actions have met the purchaser's halt condition on the sale, specifically the intervention of Tim Evans, a qualified auditor, during the ACC meeting on September14th.*

*3.       In the last thirty days, we have raised sufficient funds to manage and improve the gardens for the next eighteen months, with a commitment from local businesses to support ongoing fundraising, demonstrating our efforts' sustainability.*

*In meeting ACC's and the purchaser's conditions, we request that the land be withdrawn from sale. I now submit the following written statement to ACC.*

**Title: Statement on Behalf of the ‘Friends of Amroth Memorial Garden’ Action Group Regarding the Proposed Sale of the Memorial Garden Amroth.**

 Regarding Amroth Community Council Meeting 19th October 2023 Agenda Point 9 To avoid any confusion before Agenda Point 9 is discussed could the Chairman confirm that Amroth Old Hall Gardens are one and the same as the land that has been known as Amroth Memorial Gardens since first landscaping and as indicated by road signage (see EXHIBIT 1) and if so, please explain why they are now being referred to by a different name.

**Statement**

At the Public Meeting held on September 14th called by the Trustees to discuss the sale of the land known as Amroth Memorial Gardens, the reasons cited for the sale were given as:

1. The land was no longer required as a garden due to lack of public interest and use.

2. The garden had become overgrown, and rubbish was being dumped there.

The timeline relating to these points coincided with lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lack of resumption of ongoing maintenance by the council.

3.The garden was costly to maintain, although no one on the council could quantify the cost.

The residents of Amroth, the beneficiaries of the charitable trust, totally refute the claims that the gardens are no longer required and following the meeting formed the ‘Friends of Amroth Memorial Garden’ Action Group, who have 25 active volunteers and a much wider support base, all of whom are opposed to the sale of the gardens. This group, with the permission of the Amroth Community Council Chairman, has since committed over 100 hours of labour into restoring the gardens, including tidying up the rubbish left by a contract gardener employed by the prospective purchaser (see EXHIBIT 3). The labours of the group were commended by Counsellor Baron at the Group’s Community Meeting at The Templet Bar on October 2nd, stating he was impressed by how well the community had worked together to tackle the issue and that as Chairman of the Community Council his wish was to foster such community spirit and had no wish to be divisive, a sentiment agreed by all present.

The ‘Friends of Amroth Memorial Garden’ Action Group hereby propose to Amroth Community Council that they be granted the right to maintain and manage the gardens on a long-term ongoing basis subject to submitting a plan for approval by the Trustees and cotemporaneous with the withdrawal of the land from sale.

The ‘Friends of Amroth Memorial Garden’ Action Group has a charter (see EXHIBIT 2) and has secured funding for the ongoing maintenance by way of committed annual donations from local businesses along with other fund-raising events. We have a very committed large number of residents who will provide free labour, including local tradesmen, with the necessary building, groundworks, and landscaping skills, together with all necessary insurance coverage.

We believe this proposal resolves all the Amroth Community Council issues related to the reasons for selling the land, it also aligns with the prospective purchaser, Tim Evans’ statement at the meeting of September 14th, as per the minutes.

 *“Tim Evans said the family would be delighted to see the land used as a garden and if the community got together and did something positive for the garden”.*

The proposal also removes any financial liability for the council, freeing up funds to be put towards other projects.

The ‘Friends of Amroth Memorial Garden’ Action Group have clearly demonstrated that the gardens are extremely important to the residents of Amroth who have displayed an amazing cohesive community will to preserve the gardens in public ownership for the benefit of all, residents and visitors, not only for now but as a place of public pride for future generations and most preciously for the memory of all who have lived and loved Amroth and who are sadly no longer with us.

They will, however, always be with us for as long as there is a memorial garden in Amroth.

For and on behalf of the friends of ‘Friends of Amroth Memorial Garden’ Action Group

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The **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 24th August 2023 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Alan Evans Seconded by Cllr. Mark Harvey Vote – unanimous

Cllr. Baron signed the August 23 Minutes.

**2.Matters Arising**

* PCSO Ffion Thomas will be holding monthly drop-in surgery on the third Wednesday of the month starting in November. She will be in the Regency Hall between 2.00-3.00pm, supported by Saundersfoot CC and in Llanteg Hall between 3.30pm and 4.30pm supported by Amroth CC Starting on Wednesday 15th November 2023.

**3.County Councillors Report**

**Defaced 20 MPH Speed Limit Signs**

Following the introduction of the 20 MPH speed limit there has been a high level of vandalism of the 20mph signs county-wide.  This is currently preventing the PCC sign unit from carrying out other essential “sign & line” maintenance works.

Residents should continue reporting defaced signs, PCC are compiling a list of affected areas and intend replacing all defaced signs in a single operation in a few weeks, by which time it is hoped that the vandalism will have abated.

Cllr. Harvey pointed out that the speed through Llanteglos should be reduced to 20mph but the signs have not been changed as yet. Only one sign has been erected in Summerhill and elsewhere. Legally there should be two signs. Cllr Cormack/ Clerk will report the discrepancies to PCC. They are causing confusion.

The speed through Stepaside goes from 20mph to 60mph for a section of 100yds and then drops back to 20mph. This makes no sense. Clerk will again draw PCC’s attention to this and request that the 100yds at 60mph should be dropped to 20 or 30mph.

**Petition -  No New Caravan Sites in 6 “At Capacity” areas: Pleasant Valley, Summerhill, Narberth, Penally, New Hedges, Broadmoor.**

Last month I organised a petition with the aim of stopping any new caravan sites in the six areas that are identified as being already at capacity in a 2019 PCC-commissioned study by independent experts, White Associates.  The six sites included Summerhill and Pleasant Valley in Amroth Ward.  [The petition](https://cllr-alec-cormack-amroth-and-saundersfoot-north.mailchimpsites.com/petition) received 1251 signatures, which I believe is the most any PCC petition has ever gained.  It will now be debated at full council on Friday November 10th.

**Cutting of Verges in Llanteg Area**

[A revised proposal for Verge Cutting in the Llanteg area](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HORvj9fFKP8ZRfn2a3zEFakm6of-LCkK/view?usp=sharing) was proposed by PCC Highways Maintenance over the Summer. The proposal was circulated via the Amroth Community Council Newsletter and I also held a public meeting in Llanteg Village Hall on Friday 25th August to discuss the proposal.

There were views expressed both for and against changing the existing cutting regime.  With all respondents and attendees recognising that the number one priority had to be safety of road users – pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles.

Subject to the overriding safety requirement – there was general support for maximising the opportunity for biodiversity among the plant species within the grass verges.

There was concern expressed over the problems this year resulting from breakdown of PCC’s cutting equipment and communication with the maintenance teams, but attendees felt that having a clear plan, like the one circulated, would help avoid any confusion next year.

So while there were still some potential concerns, the overwhelming majority of people I have communicated with were prepared to try the new proposal. I have communicated this to PCC and I will consult again next year over how well the new proposal has worked.

**1300 Over 65’s Received Flu Jabs on September 30th**

Over 1300 over 65 residents received their flu jabs at the Regency Hall, Saundersfoot on Saturday 30th September.  Thanks to everyone from the surgery and volunteers for helping.  and volunteers including myself and County Cllr Chris Williams helped manage cars in the Regency car park.

Anybody over 65 who missed out on the vaccine at the Regency Hall should contact the surgery

**Saundersfoot Surgery**. Cllr Tippett Maudsley raised the subject of Saundersfoot Surgery. Cllr. Cormack reported that the County Cllrs are still meeting with the surgery regularly. The surgery has increased the number of staff answering phones but there are still issues in making an appointment by telephone. Cllr. Harvey and Cllr Wyn Morgan reported specific issues and asked that the phone system itself is checked as it cuts callers off randomly. Cllr. Harvey agreed to let Cllr. Cormack know date, time and number he was calling when he was cut off. Also the advisory message re emergency care has been dropped from the English option.

**Pembrokeshire is Number 1 in Wales for EV Charging Points**

Pembrokeshire remains number one in Wales and in the top 20 per cent in the UK for the number of battery EV charge points, according to official figures.

The [Department for Transport data](https://maps.dft.gov.uk/ev-charging-map/index.html) from July 2023 shows that there are 172 public EV charge points across Pembrokeshire.

Pembrokeshire County Council has been installing electric car charging points over a number of years, mostly in off street car parks.  The EV charging points are for the benefit of residents and visitors as part of the transition to a low carbon future.

The chargers also aim to meet the needs of communities by providing charging hubs for those residents who do not have off-street parking for the charging of their cars.

**Secondary school places deadline approaching**

Parents of Year 6 pupils in Pembrokeshire will need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2024 by the closing date of December 20th 2023.

Applications received after this date will be considered late which may have a bearing on whether the child gets a place at his/her preferred school.  There is no automatic admission to a secondary school, even if they are living in catchment – an application must be made.

However, if parents wish to apply for a different secondary school they must apply within the deadlines noted above.  It is important to note that a school place will not be allocated unless a formal application is received.

The online application form can be found on the [Pembrokeshire County Council website](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning) under ‘Apply for a School Place’.

**4.Planning**

**23/228/PA** **Tig Bhan Holiday Complex, Llanteg, Pembrokeshire, SA67 8QA. Proposal** Expansion of Tig Bhan Holiday Complex under policy GN17 with creation of 3rd holiday unit, additional parking and ecological enhancements. **This application was refused**.

**23/072/PA. Rose Park Caravan Site, LLANTEG, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, SA67 8QJ.** **Proposal**, Proposed relocation of 2 static caravans and 2 touring pitches, alterations to parking arrangements and landscaping (partly in retrospect). **This application was refused**.

**23/0209/DC Pantglas Caravan Park, Tavernspite. SA34 0NS. Proposal,** Discharge of conditions 7 (surface water disposal), 8 (landscaping) & 9 (landscape management plan) of planning permission 20/0802/PA (Siting of 36 self-catering units, associated infrastructure, and ecological enhancements). **This application was part granted and part refused**

**23/0400/PA. Marlow, 4 Wesley Close, Pleasant Valley. SA678NT. Proposal,** Alterations and extension. **This application has been conditionally approved.**

**23/0555/PA. Cwtch Corner, Clos Yr Ysgol, Stepaside. SA67 8NZ**. **Proposal,** Single storey extension, rear dormer roof windows & insertion of roof lights as part of loft conversion. **Comments by 24th October 2023.**

Following discussion, Amroth Community Council have No Objection to this application.

Cllr Cormack declared an interest then left the room before the next application was discussed.

**23/0570/PA. Pinecroft, PLEASANT VALLEY, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, SA67 8NY** Proposal: Demolition of existing extension, new replacement rear extension with overflow annex for a family member + associated alterations. **Comments by 27th October 2023**

Amroth Community Council have No material Objection to this application but will submit the following comments. It is a large extension and not in keeping with neighbouring properties.

Cllr Cormack returned and Cllr F Evans declared an interest and left the room before the next application was discussed.

**NP/23/0438/FUL. Westfields, Wisemans Bridge. SA67 8NU. Proposal,** 2.5 storey with three bedrooms dwelling. With integral garage and associated external works. **Comments by 27th October 2023**

Following discussion Councillors object to this application and wish to draw attention to the following.

The location plan shows the building is located towards the cliff. It is a large property for the plot size as well as being behind the current building line. Councillors believe it will have negative impact on natural light to neighbouring properties.

While the National Park approved a building of similar size in 2015 we dispute a statement in this application that it will not be visible from the Coast Path. It will be seen clearly from the Coast Path and from Summerhill so we ask that this be taken into account when deciding on this application.

Councillors have also raised a concern about the facilities for waste. A cess pit seems an unsuitable option for a property of this size. This will need regular emptying which will also impact the neighbours. A treatment plant would be more sensible.

Councillors have also queried if the application is compliant with the LDP2? Will this encourage every property owner with a large garden to apply to build a sizable property in the garden?

Amroth Community Council Object to this application on grounds of over development and suitability of the waste provision. Also its visibility from the coast path, visual impact on the Coast Path and impact on close neighbours.

Cllr F Evans returned.

**Amroth Castle Caravan Park**. The Clerk has been contacted by several members of the Public querying the ground work and arrival of lodges at Amroth Castle Caravan Park. The Clerk has contacted the Planning department in PCNPA who are investigating following queries to them by Amroth residents.

**20/0413/PA. Roslyn Hill, Stepaside**.SA67 8JW. RE: Building works not in accordance with approved plans under 20/0413/PA. The Enforcement Officer has confirmed this breach has been thoroughly reviewed by planning officers, the decision reached is that it’s not expedient to pursue. Arrangement will now be made to close this investigation.

**5.Correspondence**

* **LDP 2. Publication of Further Revised Delivery Agreement including the Community Involvement Scheme**

A further revised Delivery Agreement for Pembrokeshire County Council’s Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP 2) has been published and is available to view on the Council’s website:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/local-development-plan-review/delivery-agreement-including-the-community-involvement-scheme>

* **Destination Management Plan.**

The **2020-25 Destination Management Plan (DMP)** for Pembrokeshire, which is our shared plan to grow tourism for the benefit of all, was launched in February 2020. Since then, many things have changed and last year Visit Pembrokeshire, working with PLANED, organised a series of online seminars to get input from local stakeholders & the community into a review of this plan.

 One of the recommendations from this was to increase community engagement with the DMP on an ongoing basis and we are therefore looking to set up a **DMP Community Panel** as a way of doing this.

The Panel will meet biannually to discuss tourism in the county and how we can work together to ensure that it contributes positively to local communities. These discussions will help inform and monitor the progress of the DMP.

**A discussion took place**. General feedback is that a tourist tax is not helpful to businesses in Pembrokeshire, however it was acknowledged that it may provide a source of income for the Public toilets at Amroth East. There is currently a financial squeeze on the public sector and a Tourist Tax may help mitigate this. There are difficult decisions to be made in balancing the budget for Pembrokeshire. It was agreed that if the Tourist Tax affected all areas of the UK, the impact on Pembrokeshire would be lessened. Cllrs queried how the Tax would be collected? Any decision on implementation will need to address this. Business should not end up being an unpaid tax collector.

This is enabling legislation. Pembrokeshire would have to decide whether to introduce it.

Cllr Cormack ( Cabinet Member for Finance at PCC) explained that the inflation rate has remained higher than expected, impacting budgets at PCC. The National Park has recently agreed to help finance some public toilets in the Park for a couple of years in the hope that the Tourist Tax will be introduced to pay for them. Cllrs pointed out that Amroth East Toilets are used by residents and locals as well as visitors.

It was agreed to add this to future agenda for a fuller discussion.

* **Audit Wales – Fee Scale Consultation 24/25**

This consultation includes information on proposed increases to our fee rates from April 2024, and a proposal to switch funding for some of our local performance audit work from fees to the Welsh Consolidated Fund to help facilitate our thematic and cross sectoral reviews.

Following the consultation, Audit Wales will submit a Fee Scheme 2024-25 for consideration by the Senedd Finance Committee early in 2024.

[**https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/2023-09/Consultation-on-Fee-Scales-2024-25-Eng.pdf**](https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/2023-09/Consultation-on-Fee-Scales-2024-25-Eng.pdf)

**Amroth based on income – Transactional Audit – £181-213 or £379-463**

 **Limited Audit – £117-138 or £223-266 –**

* The Committees of the Welsh Parliament are seeking information to inform their scrutiny of the [Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25.](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.senedd.wales%2FmgIssueHistoryHome.aspx%3FIId%3D41001&data=05%7C01%7C%7C82626166da3540043fbb08dbbdb1776d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638312342153849827%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FiUCKHxKnxy5IOiUBsRaSVoUE%2FILRSxOYfPLYIx7RPQ%3D&reserved=0)

 Anyone wishing to contribute can do so by submitting a formal response to the [consultation](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.senedd.wales%2FmgConsultationDisplay.aspx%3Fid%3D529%26RPID%3D1034633617%26cp%3Dyes&data=05%7C01%7C%7C82626166da3540043fbb08dbbdb1776d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638312342153849827%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PKwQdEkFdi9oiQHT%2Bu6bTaCsazHQUBJIN0kVJGrZjPM%3D&reserved=0) by**30 November 2023**.

* **D Day 80th Celebration – 6th June 2024** – It was agreed that ACC would look at holding a celebration and include other organisations who may be interested, Proposed Cllr Martin Morris, Seconded Cllr. Fleur Evans. This will be added to the November Agenda for further discussion.
* **Hywell Dda Consultation**

The 12-week public consultation, held between 23 February and 19 May 2023, sought the opinions of members of the public, health board staff, organisations, and the broader community on the three site options for the new urgent and planned care hospital in the south of the Hywel Dda area – two near Whitland and one near St Clears.

To ensure independence of the consultation process, Opinion Research Services (ORS) was appointed to advise and collate and manage the consultation responses. This included the production of a final report on the consultation findings. This report can now be found on the health board’s website at: [https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/healthier-mid-and-west-wales/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhduhb.nhs.wales%2Fabout-us%2Fhealthier-mid-and-west-wales%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cb1b2dca2e66c437dc5a908dbb0752ae1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638297789502898685%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vbamrTxC5WJCzmvE2kS8GySH1NnoSQnFISDuEh%2Bf68U%3D&reserved=0) The consultation process for the selection of a site for the new hospital  has achieved a Best Practice Quality Assurance from the Consultation institute.

Printed copies of the Executive Summary can be obtained by emailing hyweldda.engagement@wales.nhs.uk or by calling 0300 303 8322

* A letter was received from residents with thoughts regarding the future of Amroth Old Hall(Memorial) Garden. The Clerk has a copy.
* A letter has been received by a resident asking to view documents relating to the Old Hall (Memorial) Garden, Minutes and accounts. The Clerk will arrange for the information to be put into the public domain.
* The Committees of the Welsh Parliament are seeking information to inform their scrutiny of the [Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25.](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.senedd.wales%2FmgIssueHistoryHome.aspx%3FIId%3D41001&data=05%7C01%7C%7C82626166da3540043fbb08dbbdb1776d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638312342153849827%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FiUCKHxKnxy5IOiUBsRaSVoUE%2FILRSxOYfPLYIx7RPQ%3D&reserved=0) Anyone wishing to contribute can do so by submitting a formal response to the [consultation](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.senedd.wales%2FmgConsultationDisplay.aspx%3Fid%3D529%26RPID%3D1034633617%26cp%3Dyes&data=05%7C01%7C%7C82626166da3540043fbb08dbbdb1776d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638312342153849827%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PKwQdEkFdi9oiQHT%2Bu6bTaCsazHQUBJIN0kVJGrZjPM%3D&reserved=0) by**30 November 2023**.
* [The Bevan Commission](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bevancommission.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1022dba2d483446bf1a208dbc424996c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638319433703692475%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=va%2Brl2590i%2F%2BlshJOnoCP5trmJOxydfqUo6UlWVafAM%3D&reserved=0), has asked us to share details of a series of face to face engagement events that are taking place across Wales this autumn, inviting members of the public to have your say about Health and Social Care Services in Wales via **Zoom on** 7 November 2023. 1800-2030. To register use the link below

Eventbrite link: [Conversation with the Public: National Online Conversation Tickets, Tue 7 Nov 2023 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fscanmail.trustwave.com%2F%3Fc%3D261%26d%3DlO755JGmi7VyakdS-OdY1LGGshDbb0Sq6RvKqstF6w%26u%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.eventbrite.com%252fe%252fconversation-with-the-public-national-online-conversation-tickets-713665190797%253faff%253dodcleoeventsincollection%2526keep_tld%253d1&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1022dba2d483446bf1a208dbc424996c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638319433703692475%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WqmrbDNOiPoZgUKvpMTTMgFF%2FRAQ60QvAqHBA8j%2FRb8%3D&reserved=0)

* **The Welsh Government** has created a [Democratic Health Task and Finish Group](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.wales%2Fwritten-statement-democratic-health-community-and-town-councils%23%3A~%3Atext%3DMy%2520officials%2520have%2520been%2520working%2520with%2520One%2520Voice%2Cfor%2520action%2520to%2520consistently%2520improve%2520engagement%2520and%2520participation.&data=05%7C01%7C%7C437ba6463a2947a5d82d08dbcfbd55fc%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638332184330884499%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1yp%2FJRy4bSMbrQFuhJ1AgLcabPKDatsb%2FzF0SOP%2FF98%3D&reserved=0) to review the health of community and town councils in Wales. The group is exploring ways to:
* improve engagement between communities and their community councils, and
* increase the number and diversity of candidates standing for election to community councils.

We have launched a [survey](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.smartsurvey.co.uk%2Fs%2F0X0M05%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C437ba6463a2947a5d82d08dbcfbd55fc%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638332184330884499%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YaFyDibgfk%2FExTBRk1XcQKV9yWMcq6DUHN1mUKuzlPY%3D&reserved=0) to understand your views and experiences and help the group understand the real issues and propose positive actions. Their aim is to help build stronger and more inclusive communities across Wales. Please respond by visiting:

[www.gov.wales/awareness-engagement-and-representation-community-and-town-councils-call-evidence](http://www.gov.wales/awareness-engagement-and-representation-community-and-town-councils-call-evidence) The survey closes on: 27 November 2023

* **From PCC**

It is proposed to vary the present Off-Street Parking Order for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

The proposal will be advertised in the local press on Wednesday 18th October 2023.  A copy of the Notice will also be erected at each car park on that date.

The Clerk has copies of the Proposed Order, Statement of Reasons and the Public Notice.  Please note that the closing date for any written objections is 9th November 2023 and should be sent to Mr Darren Thomas, Head of Infrastructure & Environment,PCC.



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A Discussion took place. Councillors queried this decision to increase parking charges. A 50% increase is significant in the light of current financial cost of living pressures. Cllr Cormack was asked to check that the decision is being made by the National Park and not by PCC, who manage some administrative duties for the National Park. Once it is confirmed who is proposing the increase, a letter of protest can be sent. Proposed Cllr Baron, Seconded Cllr Harvey. Vote Unanimous.

**6.Finance as of 29th September 2023**

**a. Statement of accounts**

 Account 649 – £9615.87

 Account 856 – £4,817.13

 David Rees - £1031.53 (-£400 grant awarded)

 **b. Income sept 23**

 Grant £140.80 + £59.38 Film Club.

 Interest £12.87

 Precept August 2023 £6,666.

 **c. Payments**

 Clerk wages & expenses inc Petrol for strimmer £16.64 plus £499 for new Laptop

 Clerk attending SLCC Conference £60.

 New Printer £120.00 Inc VAT

 Cllr. A Evans -Expenses petrol for strimming work in Stepaside £9.00 ( paid Sept 23)

 2x Wifi monthly payment to West Wales Systems £67.20 inc. vat by DD

 August Payment to Filmbank Distribution for £181.20, and October payment of £164.40

 Amroth Hall hire £50 for Public meeting 14th September 23 and Oct Council meeting

 Llanteg Hall Hire, contribution to hall costs for PCSO Ffion Thomas, suggested £30 for 6 months.

 Cllr M Harvey expenses – Film Club 9.99 and repairs to Notice Board £7.99=£17.98

  **d. Donation Request**– Wales Air Ambulance. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Finance committee and report back to November meeting with a recommended amount- ACC are positively disposed to the Air Ambulance.

 **All Payments were agreed.**

Proposed Cllr. Martin Morris, Seconded, Cllr. Alec Cormack. Cllrs voted unanimously.

**e. External Audit**

The external audit has been completed by Audit Wales who raised no issues and have issued an unqualified report. Councillors thanked the clerk for her efforts in producing a unqualified report.

**7.To discuss and resolve asset and ward maintenance issues and transport**

* **Village Gates-** it was suggested that village gates be installed by properties at each end of Llanteglos to help slow traffic speed as these have been seen to work well in other villages. The Clerk will obtain prices and contact PCC highways for approval. It was proposed to arrange a meeting in Llanteg with residents to discuss measures with PCC Highways / Road Safety Partnership on traffic management possibilities in Llanteglos and along Sea front at Amroth East.
* **Village Sign, Llanteg**. Request from resident of Llanteg for village signs with a strap line ‘Proud to be a community that cares for people and nature’ and a Speed Indicator Device thanking drivers for observing the speed limit. **Agreed**. This will be included in the discussion proposed above.
* The lack of directional sign to Amroth on the Summerhill junction has been reported to PCC. The Clerk will request a temporary yellow road sign directing traffic to Amroth. Copy in Cllr. Cormack.
* **Footpath Diversion.** -The diversion order for footpath SP1/43/1 Amroth that has been made.(MAP)
* **Dog Access signs**. Cllr Alan Evans secured the dog access signs to the railings in Amroth and has since removed them for safe keeping following the end of restriction period.
* **Bus Timetable Boards**. Cllr Harvey highlighted repairs needed to the Bus timetable noticeboards. PCC addressed this within 24hrs. A note of thanks was sent.
* **Flooding on Amroth Road.** A Resident reported in fill of culvert by earth works at garage causing flooding on Amroth road just below the junction with the A477. This was reported to PCC.
* **Bulb Planting –** The Clerk has been contacted by Llanteg Gardening Group asking if they may plant bulbs around the community in memory of residents no longer with us. While ACC are in favour of this, the issue of road safety was raised and verge cutting. It was suggested that larger plants be planted a metre back from the verge so they do not get cut off in their prime.
* **Proposed bus stop improvement for Summerhill**.

PCC will not be removing the existing block shelter as agreed at the site meeting with Councillors, but are planning bus bay improvements & upgrades to improve accessibility. PCC state that..

a. The Proposal will only improve the bus stop area outside the block shelter, improving the accessibility for users entering & exiting the bus service.

b. The Proposal will create a safer area for users to use the within the bus stop site itself and using the surrounding assets (post box, notice board etc.).

*Cllr Harvey raised the following points..*

He queried the implications of the pavement works around No. 1 Summerhill ( drop curbs etc.). Also, the conversion of the existing bus pull-in and changing it to an on-road bus bubble. While this will likely not aggravate traffic and could in fact slow traffic down as the bus will be stopped on the road ( as it currently is on the opposite side ), it will stop cars pulling into and parking in bus layby. The changes will also incorporate a raised pavement to allow better accessibility. Full details are with the Clerk

A discussion took place. A Drop Kerb is needed on the right hand side of the bus shelter to access the raised Kerb area . The Clerk will send amended drawings to PCC to point this out.

* **Fflecsi Bus** -  Could the Fflecsi Tenby zone cover Amroth areas on Winter Saturdays providing an on-demand service to this area? The 351 was pulled on Saturdays without any prior communication with residents. Could it be extended further to include Llanteg? Better communication is needed to inform residents on how the service works. The App is not user friendly. Visit Pembrokeshire are encouraging visitors to come out of season but are not providing a public transport service. **Agreed,** Raise the issue with Owen Roberts and copy Cllr Cormack into the email. Also include in the Newsletter and post on Facebook to encourage residents to demand a service.

**8.To update following the meeting with PCC Coastal Engineer**

A site meeting was held with PCC Coastal Engineers to point out Health and Safety concerns around the Groynes, Sea wall steps and railings. Discussion also took place around the future of the Sea Defences in Amroth and Wisemans Bridge. Wisemans Bridge is currently under the policy of **No Active Intervention** whilst Amroth remains under a policy of **Hold the line.** Further discussion will take place in the near future regarding the policy of Sustainable Coastal communities before a Public meeting will be called to inform residents of the situation.

Cllr Cormack has also written to PCC asking why Amroth is being treated the same as Wisemans Bridge when the policies are different. It feels like there is a Policy of abandonment for Amroth. Norfolk has sourced wood for groynes, why can’t Pembrokeshire? Hold the line should mean upgrading the current sea defences. Research papers show that groynes are still effective.

**9. Amroth Old Hall Garden**

The Friends of the Old Hall (Memorial)Garden and the gardener employed by Mr Evans have made a significant improvements to the Old Hall Garden for which the Community Council are most grateful. Discussion continues with the Friends Group to try to reach a mutually acceptable compromise.- see statements at beginning of meeting.

 Following contact with the Charity Commission, ACC have agreed the definition of inhabitant (as listed in the Charity Scheme) as

“***‘Inhabitant is someone who is on the electoral role, and is over the age of 18 as this is stated in the Charity Commission scheme for the Amroth Old Hall Garden 1996’***

Proposed Cllr Alec Cormack Seconded Cllr. Eleri Wyn Vote Unanimous.

**10. Amroth East Toilets** - Marc Owen, the PCC Public Realms manager has advised that the parking at Amroth East is listed as on street parking as it is located on the highway. ACC requested an off street order but it was denied. Only Off Street parking locations can be used by the Local Authority to support public toilets. This is why Amroth East toilets are due to be closed unless ACC steps in.

Residents will be consulted as to whether they wish ACC to retain the toilets on a seasonal basis, based on the projected increase in costs to the Council tax bill to fund the required increase in Council precept. The current cost to maintain the toilets is just under £5k, which is a quarter of the current Precept.

Cllr Cormack declared an interest as PCC Cabinet Member of Finance. He agreed that if ACC took responsibility for the toilets, money would just be coming out of a different pocket. Some toilets in the National Park were generating income but PCC were still financially supporting them. The National Park has agreed to support some toilets in the Park for the next two years. ACC need to decide if they are willing to increase the precept. If ACC do not agree to pay maintenance the toilets will not reopen in 2024. A recent survey conducted through the newsletter by ACC had highest response rate of all gone before. 50% of subscribed members of the Newsletter responded. 90% of those responding voted to keep the toilet open.

Can Enhancing Pembrokeshire fund toilets? Could apply but not guaranteed to get the money.

A proportion residents pay Council tax in the Amroth CC wards. If we add toilet costs on to the precept it will be borne by proportion of residents. The loss of the toilets at Amroth East threatens the blue flag however, the toilets will cost a high percentage of ACC’s budget and one major issue could increase costs massively. If ACC carry out another consultation it needs to ask who is paying the precept and are they willing to pay the increase?

Cllr Cormack stated that closure of toilets across the county will save the Council around a hundred thousand pounds. Cllrs queried toilet closure impact on the blue flag status? Loss of the Blue flag impacts all businesses.

If ACC do not take on the toilets, they would be mothballed in case the visitor tax is introduced and raises funds.

The Lifeguards use the toilets – would they still come if Amroth East toilets were closed?

Do PCC have data on number of Council tax payers in the ward? It would be a valid use of data to ask those already paying if they are willing to pay more?

**Agreed**. It was proposed that ACC write to PCC to say that the provision of public toilets is a basic service that should be provided as statutory. The Clerk will also write to RNLI Office to confirm that the toilets are needed whilst on duty Councillors will also look at Enhancing Pembs. Grant and fundraising as income generators.

**Add to November agenda for further discussion**

**11. Response to Boundary Commission review.**

Cllrs Phillips and Harvey and the Clerk attended the ‘Working better together’ meeting with PCC on the Boundary review. Since then a sub Group meeting was held to discuss the contents of the meeting and agree an official response to the consultation.

ACC proposal includes the merge of Amroth and Crunwere wards into one to reduce election costs. Boundaries should follow the ridge line instead of river in Pleasant Valley to incorporate the valley into the Amroth ward. Protect the electoral base so include the small pockets north of the A477 and the few properties in Stepaside that currently fall into Kilgetty CC. Go for modest proposals that make sense. Point out that Saundersfoot and Amroth are very different communities.

**12 Allotments – Update**

The water has been connected. Rent invoices have been emailed out.

A meeting was held in September by plot holders and several requests have been made that were sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting. There is approx. £1800 left in the grant pot.

**Quotes** received based on Plot holder requests, below

* Communal shed – SM Garden sheds, 6 x10ft = £610 (or alternative) plus Gravel and slab base.
* Rehanging the entrance gate, (inc. new wider gate) =£250-300. Plot holders asked if ACC could obtain the price of a gate with pedestrian access.
* 2 x IBC containers for second water point on Plot 9W = £260-300 approx. (Note- it may be possible to obtain second hand IBC’s at very low cost. Clerk will investigate).
* Communal Mower £400-£500 – is this needed in addition to the strimmer?
* Bark on the paths. – costs needed.

Plot holders have also asked about keeping Bees. The Clerk will contact the National Trust to ask if Plot holders could locate hives in the woods they are creating.

**Agreed.** Cllrs. agreed to authorise expenditure up to £1800. Proposed Cllr Phillips seconded Cllr Tippet-Maudsley. Vote unanimous. Plot holders will respond with a list of priority projects.

**13.Report By Amroth and District Community Association**

The usual activities Church Group; Kick Boxing; Table Tennis and the Sewing group continue to attract good numbers

The film night which meets on the second Friday of the month is ŵell supported and this month there  were several newcomers. On 26th November, in addition to the Friday night film, there is going to be a Sunday afternoon matinee. We will send details for the newsletter.

The craft group has restarted and is now every Tuesday 1-4 and there will a Mother and Toddler Group starting in January 2024.

The hall continues to be used for Children’s parties, band and dance practices.

There is a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2 December 10- 1pm in aid of Stepaside Methodist Church, there will craft items for sale, Turkey rolls, bacon butties and mince pies. Your support would be welcome

Following on from the success of our Coronation party, we are holding a New Year’s Eve party. There is a buffet and Entertainment by Billy Cole. Tickets are £15 and are going well. have only just become available and already they are selling like hot cakes!! Numbers are limited so don’t delay order yours!!

**14. Report by Llanteg Village Hall Committee**

Committee

The last Committee meeting took place on 4th October. The next planned meeting will be the AGM in January 2024 as much of the grant funded capital works have now been completed, reducing the need for committee decision making. A new draft constitution is under development and will be put forward for adoption at the AGM to replace the existing Trust Deed which is now accepted by fewer and fewer institutions (especially banks).

Events

The last Coffee Morning took place on Friday 30th September however the turnout was disappointing, especially as the event was linked to MacMillan Coffee Mornings.

The various Community Groups, Art, Craft, Book, etc all held their regular sessions, with craft now back on a fortnightly basis having reduced to monthly during the summer. The short mat bowls season is now in full swing with up to four evenings per week between the two resident teams.

We have had a number of commercial bookings in the period and there is no indication that our increased hire rates have put anyone off.

Grants

**Sustainable Development Fund from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority** – The project to install 4 solar powered lights is now formally closed out.

**Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant from PCC** – The external insulation and render to the west wall has now been completed, bringing the funded works to a close. Reports have been submitted and all funds paid. Separately, we have accepted a quotation to paint the remainder of the external elevations and these works will now proceed subject to weather.

**The National Lottery** – The remainder of these funds have contributed to the match funding that we required for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant.

**Supporting Communities Action Fund Round 7 from PCC** – the Committee has approved a budget plan to make best use of the £4,500 that we have been awarded. It will be used from October to March 2024. As well as supporting existing groups, plans include 3 additional themed quiz evenings, 2 Saturday breakfast mornings and the new monthly indoor table games evening. Our inaugural games evening took place on Friday 13th October and whilst the children’s session attracted a limited number of attendees the adult session was better attended and thoroughly enjoyable.

**Co-op Local Community Fund** – our application for funds has not been successful.

**15. Report by Play area representatives**.

Query when PCC Grass cutting contract finishes. ACC will need to arrange a new contract for the 2024-2025 season. Interested parties should contact the Clerk. Apple Music station needs repairs. The supplier is waiting for a bracket. Cllr Harvey will chase.

**16.Project ideas and Updates**

1. **Opening up paths between other CC areas - such as the Knights way**- Martletwy CC, Templeton and Lampeter Velfrey have expressed interest. Llawhaden were also contacted but the route has been updated there is recent years and is in good repair. Proposal to survey the route prior to a meeting to ascertain work needed and costings.

1. **Open up the Old Sea Wall path below Mole End in Amroth-**A meeting will be held with the Coastal Engineer soon when this proposal can be discussed.

1. **Restart the Community Police meetings in the ward** - PCSO Ffion Thomas will be in the Regency Hall between 2-3pm and Llanteg Village Hall between 3.30-4.30pm every third Wednesday of the month starting on October 18th. Llanteg Village Hall have asked for a donation of £30 to cover the cost of the room for 6 months. This was agreed unanimously.
2. **Befriending scheme**. PAVS Community Coordinator has forwarded several useful contacts on setting up a befriending scheme. A plan on how to take this forwarded is needed.
3. **Film night continuation** – Funded up until end of the year. Apply to National Lottery for additional funding.

**17.Community matters –**

* SLCC Virtual Conference 8th November- Topics inc. CC Governance, Finance, Resilience, CATs and FOI requests. Cost is £60 . The Clerk was given permission to attend.

**18.Determine matters Councillors wish to be added for discussion at the next meeting**

* Please send through matters for discussion to the Clerk by Thursday November 16th 2023.
* Budget
* Amroth East Toilets
* Amroth Old Hall Gardens
* Boundary Commission review.

**19. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 23rd November 2023 in Amroth Parish Hall.**

Anyone wishing to observe please contact the Clerk amrothclerk@outlook.com . Virtual attendance will also be possible via zoom, if required.

**The meeting closed at 21.54 pm**

**If you would like to be kept informed as to information regarding matters affecting the parish, road closures, public consultations, sea defences etc please email the clerk and you will be put on our secure mailing list (GDPR compliant).**

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