**Cyngor Cymuned Amroth Community Council**

**Draft Minutes** of meeting held by Amroth Community Council on Thursday 21st December 2023 via zoom due to Clerks heavy cold.

**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

**1.Chair’s Welcome**

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

The **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Alan Evans Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Phillips

 Vote – unanimous so Cllr. Baron signed the November 23 Minutes.

**2.Matters Arising**

* A public meeting with PCC Coastal Team will be held in Amroth Parish Hall on Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.00pm to discuss the future of the Sea Defences and the proposal for Sustainable Coastal Communities for Amroth and Wisemans Bridge. All are welcome.
* A public meeting to discuss bathing water quality will be held in Amroth Parish Hall on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.00pm. PCC Public Protection, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water will be attending. All are welcome.

**3.County Councillors Report**

**20 MPH Speed Limit Signs Summerhill to Wiseman’s Bridge**

Following a report by resident’s about inadequate signage of the 20 MPH speed limit on the road down from Summerhill to Wiseman’s Bridge, the Highways Department have agreed to

undertake a review in the new year to ensure that all the necessary signs are in place and in accordance with the Traffic Signs and General Directions.

**Coastal Path Closure Coppet Hall to Wiseman’s Bridge.**

Storm Ciaran which hit Pembrokeshire on November 2nd 2023, and rock falls occurred on the coastal path between Wisemans Bridge and Coppet Hall.  It has been closed since while investigation works have been ongoing.

I have received an update today from the officers - and it is not good news.

PCC completed the rock slope inspection and associated drone survey on the 14th and 15th December as planned. Our provisional conclusions (subject to change during the design stage) are that the existing rock netting system which has failed will need to be replaced by a new draped rock netting system. The installation of this will require scaling of the loose blocks / soil material and removal of vegetation currently present on the slope, and may require localised rock dowels to be installed to support any remaining large blocks (to be determined during the design stage and supervision of the scaling work).

A full report with detailed recommendations and design will be available early in January, but based on all the information available the path will have to remain closed for the foreseeable future pending permanent remedial works.

Currently some pedestrians are ignoring the signs and bypassing the temporary fencing to access the closed footpath. The slope is very unstable with numerous loose large blocks which may fall at any time. Please will everyone observe the signages and using the cliff top path through the woods from Coppet Hall to Wiseman’s Bridge instead.

**Second Home and Long Term Empty Council Tax Premiums from April 2024**

At the Council Meeting of Council on December 14th it was decided to increase the second homes council tax premium from 100% to 200% (in addition to the standard 100% Council Tax charge) from 1st April 2024.

Pembrokeshire has the second highest number of second homes in Wales.  Changes have also been made to the Council Tax premium on long-term empty properties (from 1st April, 2024).

* A Council Tax premium of 100% will apply to properties that have been empty for 24 months or more.
* A Council Tax premium of 200% will apply to properties that have been empty for 36 months or more.
* A Council Tax premium of 300% will apply to properties that have been empty for 48 months or more.

As Cabinet Member for Finance, I said “In my speech to Council I highlighted the unprecedented level of homelessness being experienced in Pembrokeshire with a heavy reliance on the use of temporary accommodation.

“The county’s need for housing has never been greater. We must increase the availability of homes, and affordable homes, to rent or buy in Pembrokeshire and Council Tax premiums are part of the tools to work towards those aims.

“The aim is to bring long term empty properties back into use to provide safe, secure and affordable homes and also support us to increase the supply of affordable housing and so enhance the sustainability of local communities.”

**Pembrokeshire County Council Budget 2024-25**

On 20th December the Welsh Government provisionally allocated a 2.5% increase in AEF funding to Pembrokeshire for next year.  This is significantly below the increase in inflation, and there have been significant increases in demand in the Social Care team for both Adult and Children's Services.

After the additional WG money the Council is still facing a funding gap of £28.5m which must be filled by a combination of Council Tax increases and service cuts.  These will be very difficult choices which the Council will make at its meeting on March 7th.

The Council has created a web page <https://budgetoptions.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/> which allows anyone to test different combinations of budget savings and Council Tax to fill the budget gap.

Councillors have a legal obligation to set a balanced budget - and may not borrow to finance day to day expenditure.

An increase in Council Tax premiums close to 20% may be needed.  If Councillors choose to utilise some of the additional CT premium income for areas of the general budget, to mitigate the impact of second homes on the sustainability of our communities,  then the increase may be lower, but likely still over 10%.

**4.Planning**

**23/0570/PA. Pinecroft, Pleasant Valley. SA67 8NY. Proposal,** Demolition of existing extension, new replacement rear extension with overflow annex for a family member and associated Alterations. **This application has been refused.**

**NP/23/ 0533/FUL. Mellieha, Amroth. SA67 8NA. Proposal,** Change of use of existing guest house (C1) to domestic dwelling (C3)and retrospective permission for the installation of a swim spa unit and associated decking. **Amended Plans. Comments by 28th December 2023.**

**Following discussion, Councillors have no material objection to this application but wish to raise a query regarding possible noise levels during the operation of the swim spa. Also, how the water from the swim spa is to be disposed of without impacting/ polluting the stream nearby. These queries have been raised by neighbours also and will be submitted to the Planning dept of the National Park.**

**23/0669/PA. Solace, Kilgetty Lane. SA67 8JL. Proposal Replace timber balcony and staircase and replace with steel balcony. Comments by 26th December 2023**

**Amroth Community Council have No Objection to this application.**

**23/0742/PA. Cwtch Corner, Clos yr Ysgol, Stepaside. SA67 8NZ. Proposal**, single storey extension, rear dormer roof windows. **Comments by 10th January 2024.**

**Amroth Community Council have No Objection to this application.**

**23/0040/PA Pleasant Valley Caravan Park Pleasant Valley Stepaside Pembrokeshire SA67 8NY.**  Proposed Development: Alteration and change of use of existing garages and stores building to create one self-catering holiday unit. **For Information**. **An Appeal has been made by the applicant to PEDW in respect of this application.**

**Heritage Park.**

It was noted at the November meeting that a Heritage Park Planning Application from 2020 was in the Public Notice section of the Western Telegraph. The reason for this was as follows

*The press advert (and site notice) relates to the current application.  Following the recent resolution to approve by Council, the application is required to be advertised as a “departure from the Local Development Plan”*

*With regard to conditions, the planning permission, that will include conditions, will be placed on the PCC’s website once issued.*

**5.Correspondence**

* A resident has reported that the National Trust has received funding to deal with the invasive species Himalayan Balsam in the Valley below Colby.
* In line with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 the following reports have been published

1. The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft Annual Report February 2024.

2. Draft Annual Report - consultation questions

You can view the report by using the following link:

[Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report – February 2024](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.wales%2Findependent-remuneration-panel-wales-draft-annual-report-2024-2025&data=05%7C01%7C%7C4697ebd3d05e4b02027b08dbef56dbc8%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638366928965821619%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QsW8TfM7QZ%2FJ31KSVDuXLxBEfXprNnQlfEqgcaBvAq0%3D&reserved=0)

* **Bus Services Consultation**

PCC are planning Pembrokeshire’s bus network for 2024 and beyond, and all bus services are being retendered.   Funding pressures and increasing costs mean that it may not be possible for the Council to keep funding all bus services in the same way in the future.

PCC would like your views on the way that they plan to make decisions about which routes and options to fund, in order to deliver the best overall bus network in Pembrokeshire within the constraints of the budget available.

Responses can be sent online

 [https://haveyoursay.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/bus-services-consultation](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhaveyoursay.pembrokeshire.gov.uk%2Fbus-services-consultation&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cbdd6117c9dc6424c99ff08dbfa3d4cba%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638378913432538506%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KL3tUAJVXOLrifYhJZSvB2XVPblblNCMNrUbgW0NC9I%3D&reserved=0)

**By Email:**  public.transport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

**By Post:**  toTransport Unit, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP.

You can request a copy of the survey by emailing public.transport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or by phoning 01437 764551.  **The closing date for responses is 7 January 2024**

* The Welsh Parliament’s Finance Committee is undertaking an inquiry into [**Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.senedd.wales%2FmgIssueHistoryHome.aspx%3FIId%3D42593&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cdcb0eaeccb6a4b70e92308dc0227c20f%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387616993551307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ay5qFeSLp%2FWJ%2BzpkiP8UBVDKf4AmYGcOH%2FllcFx041M%3D&reserved=0). To inform its work, the Committee has issued a consultation. Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference and how to respond to the [consultation](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.senedd.wales%2FmgConsultationDisplay.aspx%3Fid%3D542%26RPID%3D1036994161%26cp%3Dyes&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cdcb0eaeccb6a4b70e92308dc0227c20f%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387616993551307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WmMDx8cS0gBerk9Zg3ExXemzgTdnu2e2Qez8Ta2oaKE%3D&reserved=0) is available on our webpages. 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%3D542%26RPID%3D1036994161%26cp%3Dyes&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cdcb0eaeccb6a4b70e92308dc0227c20f%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387616993551307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WmMDx8cS0gBerk9Zg3ExXemzgTdnu2e2Qez8Ta2oaKE%3D&reserved=0) by **1 March 2024**.

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**6.Finance as of 31st November 2023**

**a. Statement of accounts**

 Account 649 –6387.47

 Account 856 – £4,817.13

 **b. Income Nov 23**

 Precept (Dec 23) £6,666.00

 Grant payment for the Lottery to support the Film club £4455

 ADCA Film Club costs for Oct/Nov/Dec 23 -£435.97

 **c. Payments**

 Clerk wages & expenses -£40 Data protection payment.

 Free Wi-Fi- £67.20

 Filmbank Distribution November payment of £164.40

 Llanteg Hall Hire 21st December- £10

 Amroth hall Hire for Allotment meeting 30th Nov 23 - £10

 Cllr. Harvey expenses – Film Club -£14.99

 Cllr Phillips expenses £13.20 for water maps from Welsh water

 Water Bill for Allotments (Sept- Oct) (inc standing charge)- £49.91

 Audit Wales Bill - £248.00

 **d Donation Request –** From the Educational Charity of David Rees asking for the sum of £200. Proposed Cllr Stephen Phillips Seconded Cllr Eleri Wyn Morgan. Vote unanimous.

The Charity provided financial support to 4 children in the ward during 2023.

**e. Llanteg Gardening group.**

The gardening group have maintained “The Clay Pits” & the “Old Hall Gardens” in the sum of £500 for the last 5 years a 10% uplift was considered appropriate.

Cllr Stephen Phillips proposed the sum of £550, seconded Cllr Alan Evans. Vote Unanimous.

 **All Payments were agreed.**

Proposed Cllr Martin Morris, Seconded, Cllr. Rosemary Tippett Maudsley. Cllrs voted unanimously.

 **e. Budget discussion and Precept request–** Amendments were made to the budget sheet and it was agreed that a letter will be sent again to the Chief Executive of PCC asking for a delay in submitting the Precept request to enable Councillors to survey Council tax payers in early January. Council Tax payers will be asked if they wish to see the Amroth East toilets kept open with the cost per council tax band being published. If residents agree to keep the toilets open the Precept request will be for min. £28k, if the toilets are to be closed and mothballed, the precept request will be min. £21k.

The Clerk will contact PCC for a full cost breakdown for Amroth East toilets.

Cllr Cormack stated that the introduction of a Tourism Tax would raise income to support toilet facilities, however the enabling legislation is not in place and so it will be at least two years until WG make a decision on this.

Decision on precept request to be decided at next meeting.

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

* **Verge Cutting**. A resident has requested that the verge on the road up to Colby is added to the grass cutting maintenance schedule. The Clerk will write to PCC with this request. They also reported high levels of litter on this verge through the summer.
* **Mud on Road** .A resident reported that excess mud on Crosslands Road, Llanteg following crop harvesting caused a minor traffic accident. The road had been cleaned by the following morning.
* **Blocked drains**. The blocked drain at the bottom of Summerhill Park was reported to PCC

As was the blocked drains on the road/sea front at Amroth.

* **Bathing Water Quality** – PCC have forwarded information to aid the drafting of a poster/information about bathing water quality. **Agreed**, Information will be drafted early in the New Year.
* **Temporary Road Closure**. Class III(C3015) road at Wisemans Bridge- from a point near the property known as Woodside, east to junction with the access road leading to white Park Farm caravan site. From Tuesday January 9th 2024 for 5 days between 8.00am and 4.00pn. Ask Taf Valley how they will manage this. Smaller bus may be the answer. Clerk to enquire.
* **Bus stop Summerhill**. Work is due to start on 9th January 2024 and will take approx. 5 weeks.

**8. Superfast Broadband update**

The latest information is that Broadway partners have been taken over by a company called Voneous. It is thought that Vouchers will be valid but residents should not be surprised to hear from new company. Agreed, Ask Cllr Cormack to find out what is happening going forward.

**9. To agree feedback from Sustainable Communities Meeting**

Cllr Phillips has drafted a list of points following the meeting with ACC to feedback to PCC Coastal Engineer prior to the Public meeting on 15th January. These were reviewed and agreed by Councillors. The Clerk will send these to the Coastal Engineer.

**10. To Discuss and Resolve the proposal to shut Amroth East Toilets** –

A letter asking that the decision to close Amroth East Toilets be reversed has been sent to the Chief Executive of PCC with a request to delay the precept request until all information on costs has been gathered and reviewed. The financial impact on each Council tax band payment to keep the toilets open through ACC has been calculated. The likely overall cost to maintain the toilets for the summer season is £7k increasing the precept by a third.

**10 Allotments – Update**

A very positive meeting was held with Allotment and Council representatives. It was agreed to go ahead with hanging the new gate and to install a second water point by Plot 9. These will be carried out in January.

**11. Recruitment of New Councillor**

One application has been received from a suitable applicant. They will be invited for interview in January.

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

Existing groups continue to be very successful. The Film club is a great asset and now has funding for another 2 years thanks to Cllr Mark Harvey for his work in securing this. A Matinee was held in November which was well supported and two more are to be held in January and March.

The Hall remains busy with Parties etc and the New Years Eve event is a sell out!

Cllr. Rosemary Tippett Maudsley is walking 125 miles in January for St Michaels Hospital in Bristol as 2 local children have benefitted hugely from their work. An appeal for sponsorship with be launched on New Years Eve.

**13. 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 February 2024 as much of the grant funded capital works have now been completed, reducing the need for committee decision making. A new draft constitution has been developed 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 Saturday 25th November where we provided free breakfast food and beverages to the 50 attendees!

The various Community Groups, Art, Craft, Book, etc all held their regular sessions. The short mat bowls season is now in full swing with up to four evenings per week between the two resident teams who are now both in the local league.

We have continued to have a small number of commercial bookings in the period, including a toy & baby clothes giveaway.

On Saturday 16th December we held a successful Christmas themed quiz where we provided free food and beverages. Whilst we only had 30 attendees at least 10 of them were new attendees at such an event.

On Tuesday 19th December a Christmas wreath making event attracted 22 attendees.

The third games evening is taking place on Friday 22nd December and the last coffee morning of 2023 tales place on Friday 29th December.

Grants

**Supporting Communities Action Fund Round 7 from PCC** – this is being used from October to March 2024. As well as supporting existing groups, plans include 3 additional themed quiz evenings (the first noted above), 2 Saturday breakfast mornings (the first noted above) and the new monthly indoor table games evening. Given that the funding relates in part to the cost of living crisis we have replaced raffles with free draws for staple food items as well as holding collections for the Narberth Food Bank. At the coffee morning and quiz night virtually all winners donated their items resulting in around 30 kilos of food items being delivered to the Food Bank.

**Local giving/National Grid** – we applied for and were successful in obtaining grant funding to carry out further external insulation/render on the north gable and install additional loft insulation.

Separately, we have had the external elevations painted.

**14. Report by Play area representatives**.

The Annual inspection is due in January. The Clerk will ask PCC for a copy of the last quarterly report. A bench in memory of Joyce Lewis has been sited in the Park. There is concern that it may be too close to play equipment. The Inspector will advise. The Clerk is to chase PCC re grass cutting.

**15.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. **No progress to report**.

1. **Open up the Old Sea Wall path below Mole End in Amroth- No progress to report.**

1. **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 – **No progress to report.**
2. **Film night continuation** – Cllr Harvey has successfully applied to the TNL Lottery Fund at the National Lottery Fund and received two years additional funding for the project. Cllr Harvey was thanked and congratulated on his success. The funding will pay for 12 monthly session, 3 matinee sessions and an additional session in December. Also a Blue Ray player has been purchased and will be available to borrow to enable those who are housebound to borrow films from the film club. Match funding will come from donations.

**16.Community matters –** No Matters to report this month.

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

* Please send through matters for discussion to the Clerk by Thursday January 11th 2024.
* Budget and Decision on Precept request.
* Boundary Review
* Toilets- review of survey and decision.

**18. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 18th January 2024 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 21.08 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).**