**Cyngor Cymuned Amroth Community Council**

**Draft Minutes** of meeting held by Amroth Community Council on Thursday 18th January 2024 19:00 via zoom due to the icy weather conditions.

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

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

**Apologies**: J James, A Evans

**1.Chair’s Welcome and Co-option of New Community Councillor**

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

Cllr Baron proposed that, following a successful interview, Mrs Whitney Wood should be co-opted as Councillors to Amroth Community Council representing the Amroth Ward.

Seconded Cllr. Eleri Wyn Morgan

Vote – Unanimous

Cllr Baron welcomed Cllr Wood to the Council.

**2 To deem the minutes of previous meetings as correct documents**

The **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 21st December 2023 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. M Morris Seconded by Cllr M Harvey

Vote – unanimous. ( Cllr Cormack abstained as he was only in attendance for 30 minutes and Cllr. Lake abstained as he was absent at the December Meeting.

Cllr. Baron will sign the December 23 Minutes at the earliest opportunity

**3.Matters Arising**

* 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.

**4.County Councillors Report**

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

A six month closure order has now been placed on the path following a second landslip near the Saundersfoot end of the long pedestrian tunnel.

I met PCC Officers onsite on Monday and their concern was that it would be difficult to safely undertake a survey of the cliff - probably requiring a drone survey.  The survey alone will cost of the order of £30,000.

Once that survey report is available detailed recommendations and design of remedial works funding will need to be obtained before the path can reopen.

I am most concerned that the members of the public are removing the safety barriers blocking the path.  There is a very real risk of danger to life for anyone using that path.  Especially with the amount of recent rain we have had which could lead to a further rock fall.  
  
I have asked the county council to consider erecting CCTV cameras near the barriers so that evidence can be gathered and given to the police for action against the people who are committing this criminal damage that may lead to harm not just to themselves - but also to anyone subsequently, who is tempted to use the path because the barrier has been removed.

**Saundersfoot Surgery**

This month I will be meeting with Saundersfoot Surgery for an update meeting on their service performance.  I continue to receive messages of concern from residents who have difficulty contacting the surgery to book an appointment and I will raise this again.

I do not believe the problem is related to just our local surgery however. This BMA article highlights that due to lack of NHS funding [80% of GPs in Wales express patient safety concerns as GP crisis deepens](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=261&d=y8OF5cNYKf-wXsgKY4GgyRgMLdGa8tyG-SIVx-nG0g&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2ebma%2eorg%2euk%2fbma-media-centre%2f80-of-gps-express-patient-safety-concerns-as-gp-crisis-deepens-in-wales).

It is hard not to conclude that across Wales, the system is far from collapse.

In addition to our local actions, please will you consider signing this petition to Senedd [Fair and Adequate Resourcing of General Practice in Wales](https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/245944)

*Cllrs report continuing issues at the surgery. Lack of resources are an ongoing issue. Main problem seems to be making an appointment.*

**No Fflecsi Bus Service for Amroth**

PCC Recently invited tenders for an Amroth Fflecsi Bus - also known as a “Demand Responsive Transport” zone.  But unfortunately there were no expressions of interest in running the service.  **Agreed** Clerk to Set up a meeting with PCC to discuss the Fflecsi Bus service – extending Tenby service to cover Amroth on a Saturday.

**PCC Reopen the Disabled Resident Parking Bays Scheme**

The  scheme to help disabled people access a parking space near their property if they don’t have a useable driveway or garage is accepting new applications up to Friday 5th April.

The application form for Disabled Resident Parking Bays [is now online](https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/parking-in-pembrokeshire/disabled-persons-parking-places) and all applications must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 5th April 2024. Previous applicants do not need to apply unless there has been a change in their circumstances. A paper form is available on request.

Ten bays were available during the first year, and a further ten bays will be available in 2024. The application process will take a minimum of six months from application to completion for successful applicants.

A permit will cost successful applicants £20 per year, and new successful applicants will pay once works on site have been completed.  [More details are available online](https://newsroom.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/news/parking-scheme-to-help-disabled-people-maintain-their-independence-reopens).

**5 .Planning**

**20/0462/PA. Heritage Park, Stepaside. SA67 8LN. Proposal**, Installation of bases for the siting of holiday lodges (which fall under the definition of a caravan), spa facility, holiday apartments, café and cycle hire, an equestrian stables, manège and associated office, main park office, car and cycle parking, residential garages, landscaping, access, retaining walls, foul and surface water drainage, related infrastructure and engineering works. **This application has been approved.**

**23/0781/PA. 31 Llanteg Park, Legerland Lane, Llanteg. SA67 8PZ. Proposal:** Remove existing side porch anderect single storey side extension**. Comments by 31st January 2024.**

**Following discussion Councillors have no objection to this application**

**23/0806/PA. Caldey View, Llanteg. SA67 8QJ .Proposal:** Proposed 2 Storey Extension. **Comments by 31st January 2024.**

**Following discussion Councillrs have no objection to this application.**

**6.Correspondence**.

* A resident has written about the speed on chapel Lane, Llanteg. It is still 60mph, although residential. The A477 at the end is in a 40mph and at the bottom Amroth road is 30mph. The Clerk will write again to Clare Williams at PCC in her capacity as Road safety officer to ask for a meeting on all speed limit anomalies in the ward.
* **Community Speed watch.** A Zoom Session to learn more about Community Speed Watch: [GoSafe | Community SpeedWatch](https://www.gosafe.org/campaigns-and-operations/community-speedwatch/) and how to get involved will be held on Wednesday 8th of February 2024 at 7pm.  The presentation will be in English, with a Welsh translator present for anyone wishing to make contributions in Welsh. Community Speed Watch is a national initiative where, in partnership with the Police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds. The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down. Could you please register your interest by responding to [kaarina.ruta@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:kaarina.ruta@wlga.gov.uk) by the 31st of January 2024 who will send the instructions to join. The Clerk has registered to attend.
* **Letter from resident following Sea Defence Public meeting**

Following the Public meeting on Sea Defences, a letter was received from a resident asking that simple cost effective preventative measures be considered to help protect the coastal road in East Amroth from further damage.

They highlighted two key issues, one of keeping the stones in place on the beach side to protect the structure and two to reduce the impact of the waves in rough high tides from having an impact on the sea wall.

They asked for an experts thoughts on the use of reusable Jersey Barriers placed on the beach that might help with both issues. Jersey Barriers come in 2m lengths and interlock and are 1/2m high, if placed correctly they could keep the stones in place and also reduce the impact of the waves on the coastal road wall and so provide the level of protection needed to keep the road in place and allow access to Amroth from both the east and the west.

The resident included more details, photographs and costings- the Clerk has a copy of the full letter which was sent to and read by Councillors. The Clerk has sent the full letter to PCC Coastal Engineer for her comments.

* **Letter following Sea defence meeting**

A second letter was received following the Public meeting from local Businesses owners, who highlighted the following constructive points.

- **Development of an Amroth Resilience & Response Plan** - An emergency plan of exactly what the response would be in the event of a major breach that could lead to the road collapsing again and disruption of services to the village. This is an urgent requirement (needed in the next couple of months) that PCC needs to develop alongside the service providers & NRW. The fact that PCC’s response to the question “what would happen if the road and services were destroyed next week” was simply to say it's something they are talking about at the moment, is unacceptable. Why did they not put a plan in place after the incident in 2014? As a business, we are encouraged to have an emergency flood response plan by NRW so why have they not effectively done this themselves. I know you’ll be as concerned as us on this point.

- **Consultation with those directly affected** - In particular we are thinking about the New Inn, Amroth Castle & the owners of the properties that would potentially be lost in the modelling. Getting these people round the table with PCC should again be urgent. Again, it is puzzling that PCC stated that they had not had any contact with the land owners of Amroth Castle. To explore potential options for something like diverting the road, the sooner they get these conversations started the sooner the community can be presented with options.

**- Timeline of Events** - We’ve been told timescales that decisions of some sort need to be made in the next couple of years but a more detailed timeline of events would be very helpful to have an understanding of how long the consultation period will be, when we will be likely to then see some sort of draft plan and when final decisions will be made.

**- Other Stakeholders** - It would be useful to get an understanding of how other stakeholders are being consulted for example the Coastal Park Authority. Could there be a working group set up of these stakeholders which could provide more transparency into the conversations that are being had about this issue?

- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** - Any plan developed will need to comply with this act and the associated National Well-being Indicators Framework. Maybe as a community this could serve a tool for us to use as an assessment criteria? It also gives us perhaps some arguments we can use? For example, if we are being told that a decline in tourism is not something that can be factored in then using some of the economic and heritage indicators in the framework could be a better way to frame our argument?

**- National Lobbying** - One of the concerns that was highlighted was the lack of funding and support for communities to adapt to coastal change through managed realignment. Obviously, there is a challenge in policy and legislation keeping up with the changing landscape surrounding sustainability and net zero. This is an issue bigger than our locality and requires pressure on Cardiff & Westminster. Can we reach out to our MS & MP to open up a dialogue if this has not already been done? Sending an invite to them to come along to a future meeting, or holding a roundtable with them and local representatives from the community? We could write an open letter to them signed by the community council & local businesses or perhaps to go broader there could be a conversation to be had with your colleagues at other community councils for a collective approach on this. The call here is for both governments to look at issues around adaptation and put plans in place to give support to communities to adapt rather than leaving them to fight on their own. Ultimately, the situation is a complex and difficult one.

The Clerk has a copy of the full letter and this was also sent to Councillors to read.

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

* Speeding on Chapel Lane, Llanteg – see Correspondence
* The 20mph signs have been defaced in Pleasant Valley. This has been reported to PCC.

**8. Discuss feedback following the public meeting with PCC Coastal engineers and next steps**

Councillors discussed the meeting, and the correspondence received following it, in detail. The main points were

* While Consultant Greg Guthrie was commended on his presentation and knowledge, PCC were noticeably quiet. It was felt that PCC Officers need to be more involved and seen to be leading on the issues affecting Amroth’s Sea Defence/ Coastline. Cllr. Cormack will feed this back to PCC.
* While the meeting was useful in starting the discussion, and highlighted that the issue of global warming/sea level rise is a worldwide one, there are still many questions from Councillors and residents awaiting basic answers from PCC, specific to the situation at Amroth.
* A Plan of Action/contingency needs to be drafted urgently, especially relating to the road from Mole End to the New Inn. The plan should include actions and timescales, especially on the proposal to move the road inland and protection of the utility pipes. While the utility pipes are not in imminent danger, the road is. Amroth is one big storm away from the road failing with no mitigation in place. It is disappointing that little planning seems to have been done since the major road fail in 2014 and the meeting 3 years ago. ACC will pursue this lack of urgency and resilience planning with PCC
* Arrange a meeting with service providers to understand their action plan and time frame for protection the utility pipes and ensure their understanding of the situation. .
* A more detailed cost analysis is required. A general range from £15-20Million is not adequate. Also the cost of removing the current road – quoted at £2.5K per metre. More transparency is needed on relative costs and relative impacts.

* The Sustainable Coastal Communities Leaflet for Amroth is very detailed. Something more straight forward would be useful to distribute to the General Public and include specifics of how Managed Realignment with affect them in both the short and longer term.
* The Public consultation must not be a tick box exercise. This is an opportunity to include the PCC Chief Exec at ground level.
* As sea level rises the water cannot be held back but no mitigating actions were detailed.
* It was suggested that a working group be set up to work with PCC that meets regularly and is made up of community councillors and residents.

1. Plan for when road goes – now.
2. Formal plans to highlight priorities and agree actions
3. Include service providers to find out when they plan to move services
4. Response should be constructive.

* Make contact with Rivers and Coastal Engineer and Group Engineer, as a previous plan was to put in turning points at each end of the sea defences, We now have an opportunity to influence future actions. Alternatives need to be discussed. Contingency plans need to be developed at pace. Frustrating that there has been no movement in 3 years. Use this as an opportunity to engage properly and draw up a plan that is acceptable although realistically it will not be ideal.

**Agree**- It is proposed that the Clerk will contact PCC, to set up a working group.

ACC will act as conduit and invite councillors and members of the public to take part but in a small enough group to make it workable.

The working group will explore all working options and merits of each option – convey to residents and feed back to PCC.

Aim to work with PCC constructively and build on the engagement start.

**The Clerk will draft a letter to PCC**

**NOTE-** There is a public meeting at the Temple Bar on Monday 22nd January to discuss further.

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

A survey was published asking residents, especially Council Tax Payers, their views on whether ACC should take on the responsibility for the Amroth East toilets to prevent them from closing.

Following an enquiry to PCC about charging machines at Amroth East. This is not an option because

1. There is no electric to run the Machines – this would have to be installed at CC cost. Plus electric bills and the units come with a monthly charging fee.
2. Relatively low usage level as only open seasonally so would not generate income to cover installation and running costs. Cost per side to install is between £12-15k based on other sites in the county. A ( paid for) study would need to be carried out to quote an actual cost.
3. PCC also ensure that charge for toilets have hot water and are generally of a higher standard than non-charged for sites.
4. Only two charged for sites generate income – both are in Tenby with high footfall. The rest only provide a contribution towards costs

**Cost Breakdown**. The actual costs for Amroth East toilets 2023 was £6,337.35 which was in excess of the 5K assumed cost breakdown for 2023. This was made up of water (variable), cleaning staff and equipment, consumables(variable), maintenance (variable depending on damage etc), and Danfo contract overheads.

**Cllr. Morgan who coordinated the survey for ACC was thanked for all the work involved in collating the results .**

There were 160 responses – mostly on line.

* 85% of the 160 wish the toilets to remain open~~.~~
* Many respondents wrote comments indicating their strength of feeling on the subject.

Following Cllr Morgans presentation Councillors raised and discussed several points.

It was agreed that ACC do not want a community asset transfer. It was proposed that the additional £7k cost will be added to the precept.

**Agreed – Councillors voted unanimously to keep the toilets open for the 2024 season. Cllr. Cormack abstained, due to his role as Cabinet member for Finance at PCC.**

**Agreed. Councillors agreed to increase the precept to cover Amroth East toilet maintenance up to £7k max. for the 24 – 25 financial period.**

**The full survey results are available from the clerk**

**10.Finance as of 31st December 2023**

**a. Statement of accounts**

Account 649 –16,294.74 (Jan 18th - 18,058.86 but £6155 is allocated)

Account 856 – £4,817.13

**b. Income Jan 24**

ADCA Film Club donations £1700

Banking of Film Club donations - £131.32

**c. Payments**

Clerk wages & expenses ( paper for survey and Flag)

Free Wi-Fi- £67.20

Filmbank Distribution Jan payment of £164.40

Amroth hall Hire for Jan 24, Public meeting -£25 and Council Meeting- £10

Cllr. Harvey expenses – Film Club £29.98 and office expenses to supply the notice boards £53

Purchase of a Pembrokeshire Flag. Clerk to find out costs.

Land rent, Playing field - £70

**d Approve Payment**

**All Payments were agreed.**

**Proposed** Cllr. Tippett Maudsley Rosemary **Seconded**, Cllr. Alec Cormack. **Cllrs voted unanimously.**

The Reserve account is not currently a savings account and so **Cllr. Baron proposed that ACC investigate moving it to an interest bearing account. Second Cllr. Tippett Maudsley . Vote – unanimous.**

**Agreed. Clerk to look for suitable account.**

**e. Budget discussion and Precept request**

Following the Amroth East toilet discussion, Councillors discussed a £7k uplift for the toilets plus a £1k uplift for inflation.

**Cllr Cormack proposed that the precept be increased to £27,500, offering a £500 inflation uplift. This was seconded by Cllr. Baron. Vote was unanimous.**

**Agreed, The Clerk will send the request to PCC.**

**11. To Discuss and Resolve the Proposal by PCC to reduce the number of Community Councillors to 8 as Part of their size Policy**

Alec brought this proposal below to ACC’s attention at the December meeting after it was presented to PCC Cabinet.

**6.2 Amroth**

Amroth community has 1,005 electors, 12 councillors, and ratio of 1:84. The community is made up of 2 wards: Amroth (9 councillors) and Crunwere (3 councillors). We recommend that the existing warding arrangements are removed. Applying the Council Size Policy, the number of councillors should be reduced to 8, therefore creating a ratio of 1:126, very close to the target average in the policy of 1:120. However, without a change in either the community boundary or a ward boundary, this change cannot be made through this review

Cllr Baron stated that ACC is an active council and all members are needed as each contributes to the efficient working of the council. He pointed out that the Welsh Government is proposing to increase the size of the Senedd to adequately service the needs of the Welsh population. Community Councillors are not paid for their service.

Also ACC has an active policy in encouraging new younger members to take on the wellbeing of the community, through a good succession policy.

Cllr. Cormack stated that there is no risk to Councillor numbers being reduced, assuming the Boundary Commission do not change the boundaries. ACC have petitioned in past to combine two wards to save on election costs.

**Agreed**, ACC will not object formally at this point, unless a change is formally proposed.

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

Existing groups continue to be very successful. In addition to normal groups the hall now hosts a Mums and Toddler group, with 10 Mums and toddlers attending. It is encouraging to see a new age group using the hall. The Film club continues with great success. There is another matinee on last Sunday in January. The film is the Miracle Club. The February Film is The Haunting of Venice.

A Rope Workshop is being held on Saturday in aid of the Fisherman’s Charity

The very successful New Years Eve Party is looking to be an annual event.

Cllr. Rosemary Tippett Maudsley is walking 125 miles in January for St Michaels Hospital in Bristol as 3 local children have benefitted hugely from their work. The charity provided accommodation for Mum to stay with Baby during treatment. It also provides music therapy. Sponsorship is welcome. Cllr Tippett Maudsley has almost completed her challenge. Sponsorship payments can be made directly to Cllr Tippett Maudsley. Contact the Clerk for contact information.

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

**Committee**

The last Committee meeting took place on 4th October. The next planned meeting will directly follow the AGM which is set for Wednesday 21st February 2024. 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 Friday 29th December 2023.

The various Community Groups, Art, Garden, Craft, Book, etc all held their regular sessions and the two short mat bowls teams continued with their league and practice sessions. The local PCSO is holding community engagement sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of each month although attendance has been low.

There were no commercial bookings in the period.

**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, 2 Saturday breakfast mornings 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.

The upcoming events include a sports themed quiz evening on Saturday 3rd February, a Saturday coffee morning with breakfast on 26th February and we continue with the now regular monthly games evenings which we have now moved to the second Wednesday of each month. We started by holding the games evenings on a Friday to best suit the children’s session, thereby avoiding school clubs however attendance has been low and we have taken the decision to stop these sessions.

**Localgiving/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. We have appointed the same contractor that carried out the west wall works with the plan to insulate both the north wall and a small section of the east wall by the end of February. In advance a small number of volunteers have installed a new drain to discharge rainwater and groundwater against the north wall.

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

A copy of the quarterly report has been requested. No further updates.

**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.**

**16.Community matters –**

* Federation of Tavernspite and Templeton Schools – Nomination have been invited for a Governor role. Several Councillors already serve as Governors at local schools and on this occasion no names were submitted.
* Request to PCC - Can the email from PCC re recycling be sent out earlier in the day on a Sunday. Cllr. Cormack will investigate.

**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 February 15th 2024.
* Website

**18. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 22nd February 2024 in Llanteg Village Hall.**

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

**The meeting closed at 22.07 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).**