**Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council**

**Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 12th July 2017**

The meeting was formally opened by the Chair, before two presentations were made. Two members of the public were in attendance.

**Presentation by Tom Edwards of Arup and Emyr Davies of Welsh Government – A40 bypass plans and current situation.**

They stated that the preferred option at the Eastern end of the bypass was now a staggered T junction, not a roundabout. This decision had been made for various reasons: traffic counts in specific places on the route, including both sides of the petrol station; feedback from the responses during the consultation were 50/50; traffic levels did not justify a roundabout; geography – a roundabout would be obvious in the landscape whereas T-junctions would be lower and less visually intrusive in a cutting. They stated that from calculations and modelling the average exit times would be approximately 18 seconds.

They were asked why all previous plans, dating back years, had included a roundabout; why, if the consultation plans and the pricing had been for a roundabout, it had now changed; why a presentation to PCC had stated that the community was strongly in favour of a T-junction, when the Community Council representing the community clearly was not for many reasons, and very few individuals were. They were also challenged on the 14 seconds, with recent personal examples being given of delays of over ten minute, and the actual timing of the traffic surveys being queried because that fact did not fit with the frequent experience of residents. The safety of a T junction on a 60mph road was also queried, with the recent Red Roses junction cited as a bad example of it.

It also was stated in the meeting that any T-junction would not be lit, whereas a roundabout would be. Lighting was raised by Councillors as a safety essential for the road there. It was stated that placing T junctions there ‘was not a cost exercise’ but later stated that they would be slightly cheaper.

The Council as a whole agreed that their strong preference was for a roundabout for safety and accessibility reasons amongst others. Specific issues against a roundabout regarding traffic in close proximity to houses and the Chapel could be alleviated by a minor revision to the plans which would take the access road around the back.

The next steps are that the design will be frozen in the next couple of months, and there will be another public exhibition in September of the final proposal. Assuming that goes ahead, draft orders for the construction will be done in March. At that point official objections, if any, would be taken. Emyr Davies of the Welsh Government stated that there was a budget, with attached European money, and the WG did want the project to complete. If there were issues with the construction company that would be up to the procurement team of the WG to handle.

Tom Edwards of Arup and Emyr Davies of Welsh Government then left the meeting.

**Presentation by Luke Trehearne of First Responders.**

He talked the meeting through the work that First Responders did – basically volunteers who are the initial medical response to incidents whilst an ambulance is on its way. There are only six ambulances in Pembrokeshire, which is why the service is well used – up to 12 calls a day in summer. He also demonstrated the basic defibrillator that is provided to communities from funding. Each costs £1100 and should be available 24/7, and comes with instructions. He stated that the service is hoping to expand both in number of volunteers and in equipment such as the defibrillators within the county.

Luke Trehearne then left the meeting.

**Present** – Cllrs Wynn Griffiths (chair); Keith Thomas; Jamie Lewis; Tudor Eynon; Meurig James; David Simpson (County Cllr).

Before the rest of business of the meeting began, the Chair expressed his and the Council’s congratulations to County Councillor David Simpson, who had been selected as the Leader of Pembrokeshire County Council recently.

1 – **Apologies for absence**. None were received.

2 – **New Councillors acceptance of office forms**. These were signed by Cllr James and Cllr Lewis.

3 – **Declarations of interest**. None were given.

4 – **Minutes of previous meeting**. There were accepted as a true record and agreed – proposed by Cllr Eynon and second by Cllr Lewis. They were duly signed.

5 – **Matters arising from previous meeting**.

A40 update. A brief discussion on the information provided earlier in the meeting was held. It was pointed out that there will always be individuals with issues, but the Council represented the community and the general consensus they had was that a roundabout was by far the best option. Whilst it was felt the road going around Bethel Vestry was an improvement, there were still also concerns about where the road reduced lanes from two into one, and issues that could cause. It was agreed that it would be worth approaching Simon Hart MP about the issue.

Village planning update. The Clerk distributed the latest information, and stated that there was a meeting on 20th July about this.

Co-option of Councillor. The Clerk stated that no-one had contacted her expressing interest. One of the members of the public present then agreed to join the Council. Cllr Prosser duly signed the acceptance of office form.

6 – **County Councillor’s report**.

The maintenance of Penblewin roundabout continued, with the grass being cut. Concerns had been expressed about reflectors on the layby either side of the road to Clunderwen and also signs on the Llanfallteg road. Some were in place, but Cllr Simpson would check after the meeting that they were adequate. There were plans to pipe the gulley along that road. Hedges had been cut at various junctions, although with PCC reduced from two cuts a year to one, the timing was never easy.

7 – **Correspondence received**.

* Friends of Narberth Library request
* Information about the PLANED AGM and Conference in June
* Workways posters – these had been put up on the noticeboards.
* Angela Burns newsletter
* NHS better health services booklet and questionnaire.
* National playday at Scolton Manor in July.

8 – **Planning**.

17/0063/PA. Proposed dry cattle housing; below ground slurry store; adjoining yard. Longford Farm, Clunderwen. Granted 19-6-17.

16/1313/PA. A single storey extension to side of house. Bryn Farm, Llanddewi Velfrey. Conditionally granted 25-05-17.

16/0722/PA. Appeal – Temporary rural enterprise dwelling. Castell Mawr, Llanddewi Velfrey. Ongoing.

9 – **Finance**.

Clerk stated that the updated mandate had gone through, so there was now full access to the bank account. The next Precept instalment is due in August. Currently the bequest for the war memorial is in the same account as the general Council funds. The Chair suggested approaching a known financial advisor for informal advice on this. This was agreed by all.

It was agreed that the presented payments should be made.

10 – **Councillors’ reports for action at next meeting**.

Cllr Thomas raised the issue of there being no road sign at Llan y Fro. Cllr Simpson agreed to approach PCC about this, either to be provided by PCC or costs to the Community Council for one to be made.

Cllr Thomas also stated that an advertising sandwich board was being placed by the roadside on Parc y Llan. It was agreed this should be removed.

Cllr Griffiths raised the issue with a stone footbridge suffering erosion and becoming potentially unstable. He agreed to send details to Cllr Simpson to take up with PCC. In addition the lane to Fynnon top graveyard is overgrown. Again, he would forward details to Cllr Simpson.

11 – **Next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be on 13th September, in the Hall, starting at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.