**CYNGOR CYMUNED TREAMLOD / AMBLESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A meeting of Ambleston Community Council was held at Ambleston Memorial Hall on Monday 24th June 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Dai Ambrey, Rosie McDonald, Julian Harries, Gareth Owen, Cllr David Howlett, E Forrest (Clerk)

1. **Apologies** – Carly Skyrme, Kevin Morris
2. **Alex Wilcox-Brooke, Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE) – Wallis Bracken cutting project**

Alex introduced himself and gave a background to the company. CARE is a non-profit company who runs a range of community projects. The aim is to develop a model to roll out to other areas.

He explained that bracken can be valuable to some wildlife, but if left unmanaged for many years will impact biodiversity. The bracken will be harvested, baled, and then turned into solid fuel briquettes. The briquettes are a cleaner fuel and burn for longer than oak.

Site meetings with NRW and contractors have taken place. It is hoped that works will commence after nesting season in August/September.The cutting of the bracken will take one day, it will be left for two days, and the baling and removal will be done in a day. Fifty percent of the bracken will be cut in the first year, this will give animals/habitat the opportunity to move elsewhere. This will be a long-term management plan and it will take several years to have an impact on biodiversity.

Community engagement will take place, by posting leaflets through doors.

The community will not benefit financially but will ecologically by improving the biodiversity. The briquettes will be sold to create an income for the project and CARE to invest back into the community.

The Community Council will be kept updated and is able to attend further meetings in the future.

Alex left at 8pm.

1. **Minutes of the AGM and last meeting (20.05.24)**

 Minutes of the AGM and the last meeting had been circulated to members; apart from one

 amendment needed (Rosie listed twice on the AGM minutes), it was agreed that the

 minutes were to be signed.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
2. Deep ditch on the side of the road by Cromlech Lodge going towards Wolfscastle – Dorian Williams, PCC has said that the ditch can be filled but won’t be done for a couple of months.
3. Finger post sign – Not done. Cllr Howlett said that signs are taking a long time.
4. Defibrillator training – Turn out was disappointing, 7 attendees over the two days. It was agreed that further sessions will be run on demand. Eirian to send a thank you letter to Dr Adrian Storwood who helped run the sessions.
5. Withyhedge Landfill – The smell is ongoing. The Welsh Government are getting involved. Lorries are still delivering to the site. PCC Solicitor is looking into issuing an injunction, he is taking statements from people who have been affected.
6. Blocked drain by Wallis Bridge – Not done.
7. Pothole on road towards Parc Y Wern – Done.
8. Hall Committee Representative – Howard Prior asked for information on what the role involved but hasn’t responded.
9. Working Better Together Seminar 28th May – The notes and the presentation were circulated to members. The second part of the seminar was for Clerks only. The feedback was that Clerks are finding the workload difficult to manage, difficult to keep on top of emails and the continuing changes, Eirian agreed with this feedback. Eirian was asked to give some thought to what could be done to help her.
10. **Highway matters**

Nothing to report.

1. **Planning**
* 24/0088/PA – Alteration to roof height and installation of photovoltaic features at 9 & 10 Nant yr Eglwys, Ambleston – No objection.
* 24/0042/PA – Rear extension and conversion of side barn to provide extra living accommodation with the main dwelling – Refused.
1. **Wallis Pond**
* The bank next to the sluice gate has washed away and has been reported to Mair Rees at NRW. Mair’s response was that it will help lower water levels before work commences.
* A site meeting has been arranged for 23rd July, Mair Rees, Ross Grisbrook (NRW), Pete Howe (PCC), Emily (Nestle), Dai and Eirian will be attending.
1. **Developing Ambleston Community Council website**

Gareth will wait until after the session being run by PCC before doing more research.

1. **Payments**
* Clerk’s Salary & Expenses - £600 and £76.10 – Agreed.
* Reimburse E Forrest – Defibrillator pads for Wallis - £41.28 – Agreed.
* General Allowance Payments (if any) – Dai Ambrey opted out. All councillors have opted out from receiving both payments.
1. **Annual Audit – Annual Governance Statement**

David Weatherburn has completed the audit with no issues reported. The Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chair.

1. **Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant**

Sinead Henehan, PCC said that applying for solar panels and a battery for the hall would be eligible, however said that £15,000 wouldn’t be enough to cover the cost, as a battery would cost in the region of £10,000. It was suggested to research the ECO4 grant and further options.

1. **Dog fouling**

Rosie had circulated the document from West Suffolk Council. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Rosie would amend the document to suit Ambleston and discuss the draft at the next meeting. It was agreed that the illuminated paint idea was a good idea

1. **Correspondence**
2. Wales Air Ambulance – thank you for the donation.
3. Code of Conduct training on 16th July – email it to Carly.
4. Review of Community Arrangements of the County of Pembrokeshire – Draft proposals will be published on 9th July. Consultation will run for 8 weeks closing 2nd September. Discuss the draft proposal at the next meeting if needed.
5. WG – encouraging Town and Community Councils to get involved in the listening programme on 20mph.

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1. **Any other business**
* Birch Utilities had made contact to say they needed permission from the Community Council to trim trees at Wallis on behalf of the National Grid – it was agreed for Eirian to give permission for the works.
* Litter pick in September – Gareth has picked up bags and registered his address with PCC as a litter picker. PCC will collect any litter bags from this address. Litter picking equipment will be collected from Fishguard Leisure Centre.
* Dai has joined the Cleddau Group River Watch and will be testing rivers in the area.
1. **Date of next meeting**

29th July 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further matters, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

**Signed ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**Date………………………………………………….**