**AMBLESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A meeting of Ambleston Community Council was held remotely via Skype on Monday 23rd November 2020. Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

Present were: - Messrs. Julian Harries (Chair), Kevin Morris, Dai Ambrey, Gareth Owen, Cllr. David Howlett, Mrs. Gail Davies and Mrs. Eirian Forrest (Clerk)

1. Apologies: - Nil
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting (26.10.20)**

 Copies of the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed to members. It was

 proposed by Gail, seconded by Gareth that they were a true record and that they

 were to be signed.

1. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
2. Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – The Clerk has written again for an update, but no response received.
3. Casual Vacancy – No interest. Due to the length of the post being vacant the Clerk has emailed Sian Waters to check if the post needs to be re-advertised. No response received.
4. Road surface 20 – 30 yards after Woodstock Cross to Walton East – The work has been done.
5. SLOW sign – Cllr Howlett has reported this and was told that the road is on the batch of post-surface dressings. Will need to ensure that the SLOW sign is not forgotten about.
6. **Highway matters**

A resident had reported a broken streetlight opposite Cartref, Ambleston that wasn’t working. The Clerk had reported this and was told by PCC that this pole belongs to Western Power pole and the matter has been forwarded on.

1. **Planning**

Nil

1. **Ambleston Broadband update**

Cllr Howlett said that Broadway Partners are taking orders online. They have access to the Haverfordwest exchange and that PCC are setting up a timetable for installation.

1. **Wallis Pond**

After the last meeting The Clerk contacted Pete Howe, PCC to enquire about contractors and funding options for the silt removal from the pond. A meeting was arranged and was held today 23rd November with Pete Howe, Gareth, Dai and The Clerk. Matters discussed were the removal of the silt and overgrowth from the pond, rebuilding the stone plinth and the concrete base for the bench alongside possible funding options.

1. Bench – Since the last meeting, Neil McCarthy, PCC has confirmed that the Community Council has permission to remove a bench from the Castle Burgage plots when they become available. The Community Council will have to arrange collection and the installation. Pete Howe will let the Clerk know when they become available.
2. Stone Plinth – Had a look at the damage caused, and it was agreed that the plinth would need to be rebuilt. Pete advised that funding maybe available, and any funding applications would need three quotes.
3. Silt & overgrowth –Pete suggested a couple of options on how to remove the silt. A local company called Aquaclear Water Management have specialist equipment to remove silt, reeds, weeds etc. from ponds and waterways and have carried out this type of work in Withybush Woods and the Mill Ponds, Pembroke. The work would need to comply with environmental regulations and would need to fall outside the spawning and nesting season and a permit would need to be sought from NRW. Funding streams maybe available and will keep the Clerk updated of any. The Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant is an option open to the Community Council.
4. **Budget & Precept**

The draft budget had been circulated with projected receipts of £3965.00, estimated expenditure of £4790.00 which includes 15% contingency of £625.00. It was proposed by Julian, seconded by Gareth to keep the precept for 2020/2021 at £1600.00.

1. **Defibrillator – payment for replacement pads**

When Gail checked the defibrillator for the serial number to registers it on ‘The Circuit’ she found that the defibrillator wasn’t working because the pads were out of date. A note to advise members of the community was put on the kiosk and a post on the community Facebook page. The pads have been ordered but haven’t arrived therefore payment of £37.99 was not made.

1. **Clerk’s Salary and Expenses**

It was proposed by Keven, seconded by Gail to pay the Clerk’s salary of £525.00 and expenses of £26.68.

1. **Correspondence**

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident regarding an issue regarding encroachment onto their land and they have started legal proceedings to evict them off their land. The resident asked if the Community Council could discuss it at the next meeting. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that this was a civil matter and that it wasn’t in the community council’s remit. The clerk will send a response.

1. **Any other business**

Gail raised a query regarding some spikes that have been placed outside Cartref, Ambleston and had circulated photographs. It was agreed that these were on private land; however, as they are so close to the highway they could cause a road safety issue; therefore the Clerk will forward the photographs to the Highway department for their comments.

NB: Due to the meeting being held remotely the signing of minutes and cheques etc. will be done at a later date.

There being no further matters the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm. Next meeting via SKYPE arranged for 25th January 2021 at 7.30pm.