**AMBLESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A meeting of Ambleston Community Council was held on Monday 23rd September 2019 at the Memorial Hall, Woodstock. Meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

Present were: - Messrs. Kevin Morris (Chair), Julian Harries, David Ambrey, Cllr David Howlett & Mrs. Eirian Forrest (Clerk). Also in attendance: Mrs. Gail Davies, Mr. Gareth Owen.

1. **Apologies:** - N/A
2. **Minutes of the last meeting (22.07.19)**

Copies of the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed to members which were agreed that they were a true record and signed.

1. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
2. Speed watch – The team have been out over the summer. Currently there are two local volunteers plus one from Clarbeston Road. The Team has to consist of three and more volunteers are needed.
3. Defibrillator – The Clerk had a price for the indoor cabinet - £96.95 + VAT. It was proposed by Dai, seconded by Julian to order the cabinet.
4. Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – works have not commenced.
5. Wallis Pond - works to the pond was discussed and it was agreed to find out more about the Pembrokeshire Enhancing Grant and to ask Trevor Theobald and Peter Howe from PCC to walk the site and give advice.
6. SLOW sign in Wallis – Not done. Cllr Howlett agreed to chase this up.
7. Van parked at Woodstock Cross Roads – Kevin had a word with the owner and has since sold the van.
8. Anne James Resignation

Anne’s resignation email was read out. It was agreed that Kevin would arrange to get a leaving gift and card. Kevin will be reimbursed at the next meeting.

1. **Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk read out both expressions of interest emails received from both Gareth and Gail. It was proposed by Dai and seconded by Julian and agreed to co-opt both onto the Community Council. They were handed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form to complete and return to next meeting, and also the Code of Conduct. The Clerk will try to arrange Code of Conduct training.

1. **Highway matters**
2. Gail reported that the road in Ambleston village had been resurfaced, but the road around the church had not been done because the machinery was too wide to access the road. The Clerk will report this.
3. Kevin reported a small pothole on the edge of the carriageway appearing between Chapel House and The Stables on the back road to Woodstock Farm.
4. Dai reported a wasp nest on the grass verge on the right hand side on the road to Wallis Mill before Lledrog.
5. **Planning**

Gail thinks that the LDP Affordable Housing Policy for Ambleston which 100% affordable housing is putting buyers off buying a plot in the village and should be changed. She had emailed the LDP Team at PCC and received a response saying that the policy was in force until 2022. Cllr Howlett explained to Gail that the LDP is currently under review with a new plan being adopted in 2022. He also explained that the affordable housing targets are driven by Welsh Government.

1. **Barclays Bank Mandate**

Dai took his ID to a Barclay’s branch and got his signature verified. Dai was told that he was now a signatory.

1. **Audit Report**

Grant Thornton awarded the Council with an unqualified audit report. This means they consider we have robust systems in place to ensure reliable Governance and Accountability and financial stability. There were a few minor points which do not affect the audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council**.**

Annual Governance Statement (Part 2):

1. Box 1 of the Annual Governance Statement (part 2) was answered ‘Yes’ for the 2018/19 return. However, from communication with the clerk we have confirmed that the council has adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations after the year end, therefore Box 1 should read ‘No’.
2. Box 2 of the Annual Governance Statement (part 2) was answered ‘N/A’ for the 2018/2019 return. However from communication with the clerk we have confirmed that the council will follow the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations adopted on the 29/04/19.

High level of reserves:

1. It was noted that the council holds a high level of general reserves, approximately 1.21 times the annual precept for 2018/19. The council should consider the level of general reserves required and consider taking steps to reduce the level of reserves in future years in necessary.

The Clerk will seek clarification on the point regarding high level of reserves and it was understood that the community council needed to have a 25% of the projected expenditure as a contingency.

1. **Correspondence**
2. Natural Resources Wales Engagement Workshop – 4 events taking place. Dai & Gareth are interested in attending. The Clerk to find out the time of the event.
3. Pembrokeshire County Council – Precept received 19.08.19 - £533.00 – noted.
4. Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner Annual Report – no interest.
5. **Any other matters**
6. Gail raised concerns regarding Wallis moor which is overgrown as there are no animals grazing the land. Cllr Howlett attended a meeting with the graziers and Jim Dunkley, PCC over the summer regarding this issue. It was noted that without fencing the animals can wander onto the road or be stolen. This is something that needs monitoring before it becomes unmanageable.
7. Cllr Howlett said that due to the issues in the area with broadband, PCC are running a scheme to access fibre broadband. PCC have employed two engagement officers to engage with householders and businesses to raise awareness of this scheme. Ambleston is in line to receive fast broadband which will cover approximately 230 properties from Ambleston, Tufton and Henrys Moat. Central government grants are available, £1500 for residential, £5500 for businesses. The success in this scheme will depend on the level of interest. Letters are being sent to all properties in this area.

There being no further matters the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Date of the next Meeting was agreed – Monday 28th October 2019 at 7.30 pm