**Cyngor Cymuned Ambleston / Ambleston Community Council**

**Annual Report 2021/2022**

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month (except August and December). Ambleston Community Council has six councillors, Eirian Forrest is Clerk and can be contacted by email amblestoncc@gmail.com or 07896 591221. Meetings are open to members of the public to attend.

It has been a busy year for the Community Council and have worked around Covid 19 restrictions to the best of our ability. During the start of the year meetings were held virtually on Skype, and from June 2021 the AGM and Ordinary meetings have been held in Ambleston Memorial Hall, Woodstock.

At the Annual General Meeting on 28th June 2021, Mrs Gail Davis was elected as Chair with Mr Gareth Owen elected as Vice Chair.

The minutes and other documents are available to view on the Ambleston Community Council’s website, and the Community Council has a Facebook page.

**What has happened/happening:**

* Ambleston broadband project toimprove connectivity in the area commenced over 12 months ago and is now almost complete. Ambleston is the first of four pilot areas and whilst progress was slower than planned the Ambleston project is further ahead than other areas. Feedback received to date is that all customers who have been connected are happy with the broadband speed.
* National Resources Wales (NRW) has submitted a funding bid for the removal of silt and overgrowth at Wallis Pond, if successful, the works will be carried out after nesting season in September/October. A specialist contractor will be contracted to do the work, and a local farmer is willing for the silt to be tipped on his land.
* A new bench and picnic table has been placed at Wallis Pond.
* The stone plinth at Wallis Pond was damaged and has since been rebuilt.
* National Resources Wales are working with Jim Dunkley, Common Land Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council ona three year project to reintroduce grazing on the moor.As the land is designated as SSSi, a local grazier proposes to turn cattle out onto the common, initially to the east of the Letterston road, but consideration is being given to grazing on the western side too, if it can be facilitated safely. No trees will be removed apart from limited Willow scrub, as well as gorse etc. Fencing will be erected to contain the cattle to stop them venturing out onto the road. Some scrub clearance works have been undertaken and further clearance work is planned on the eastern side and more extensively on the western side over the winter.
* Funding for two Welsh Government funded defibrillators has been awarded for Woodstock and Wallis.
* Defibrillator training will be arranged when the two new defibrillators have been installed.
* Gail Davies has been registered as the guardian for the defibrillator in Ambleston.
* **Highway matters reported**/**discussed:**
* Potholes and road surface issues are an ongoing problem and are reported to Pembrokeshire County Council.
* Faulty streetlights, drainage problems, signage and other general issues are reported as they arise.
* Blocked bridleways
* Road safety concerns that parents are parking for the school bus by the Chapel in Woodstock

**Finance:**

* Council Tax Precept set for the financial year 2021/2022 was £1600.00, £2700.00 for 2022/2023. The increase was agreed for funding towards works at Wallis Pond.
* End of year financial account up to 31.03.22 – Total receipts £3676.46. Total payments £2744.53. Barclays account balance on 31.03.22 - £931.93.
* Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – A mandatory payment of £150 is offered to all Community Councillors and can choose to opt-out of receiving this payment.
* Insurance is in place with Zurich Municipal Insurance and complies with regulations.
* The 2020/2021 annual audit received a ‘Qualified’ audit opinion on the basis that the Council has not provided its Clerk with a written contract or a written statement of the specified terms of employment under S.1 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (ERA) within two months of starting employment. A written contract is now in place.

**Donations given:**

* Wales Air Ambulance - £30.00
* Cruse Bereavement Care - £30.00
* Paul Sartori Hospice at Home - £30.00

Appeals for donations are considered for local charities or of direct benefit to the local community.

**Planning:**

* The Local Development Plan review (LDP2) is ongoing and has been delayed due to new guidance from National Resources Wales on Phosphates.
* Planning applications considered have been development to private dwellings and an extension to provide a dementia unit at Parc Y Llyn nursing home.

All planning applications can be viewed on Pembrokeshire County Councils website.