# **Pontarfynach Community Council**

# **Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022**

The Local Government and Democracy Act 2021 (Wales) requires Community Councils to publish an annual report on the activities of the Community Council for the previous financial year.

Please see a summary of the discussions of Pontarfynach Community Council. Full details of the discussions and resolutions can be found within the minutes of the Community Council meetings found on the Web Site.

# **Community Councillors**

There are 8 seats on Pontarfynach Community Council which are taken up by Robert Davies, Brython Davies, Eluned Evans, Jane Hopkins, Rhodri Jenkins, Phil Lloyd, Gareth Jones, Robert Pratt with their terms of office ending in May 2022.

Councillor Gareth Jones was Chair until 13th May 2021 when Councillor Robert Davies was elected Chair at the Annual General Meeting for the year 2021/22 where he was previously Vice Chair. Councillor Robert Pratt was elected Vice-Chairman for the year 2021/22.

**Payments to Community Councillors**

The recommendations of the Independent Panel for Wales Annual Report 2021/22 in respect of payments and allowances to Community Councillors were accepted. The IRPW report dated February 2021 (section 42) makes the payment mandatory but there is a clause that allows small Community Councils (group 5) to make the payment optional. All the Pontarfynach Community Councillors subsequently decided to abstain from receiving the mandatory allowance of £150.00 for the year 2021/22.

## **Meetings**

During the year eleven monthly meetings were held usually on the first Thursday of the month, with the exception of August when no meetings are scheduled. Four face-to-face meetings were held and the remainder held virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions. Each meeting is a public meeting where members of the Community are welcome to attend or make presentations.

One Special Meeting was arranged to discuss a planning application and the Community Council does not operate Sub-Committees.

Representatives attended a Virtual Meeting with Senior Officers and the Leader of Ceredigion County Council.

**Attendance at Meetings**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Councillors: | Number of meetings attended out of a possible 12 meetings: |
| Brython Davies | 9 |
| Robert Davies | 10 |
| Eluned Evans | 10 |
| Jane Hopkins | 11 |
| Rhodri Jenkins | 7 |
| Gareth Jones | 11 |
| Phil Lloyd | 8 |
| Robet Pratt | 9 |

# **Financial Situation and Accounts**

Precept (the amount requested from Ceredigion County Council to implement the Community Council's budget which in turn is funded by taxpayers through Council Tax).

The Community Council operates on a budget of £3,500 annually.

**Financial Situation**

Balance 31st March 2021 £4,033.26

Receipts: £8,760.51

Payments: £5,336.63

Balance as at 31st March 2022 £7,457.14

Within the above payment figure £1,050.00 of financial donations were distributed under the terms of Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 Expenditure of the Limit for 2021-22 to eleven local Associations and Charities.

Included in the receipts figure is an amount for grant funding for the defibrillators.

**Accounts**

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, Regulation 14 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (the 2014 Regulations) requires local government bodies in Wales to prepare their accounts each year up to 31 March, this includes Town and Community Councils.

An Internal Auditor is required to audit the accounts and relevant documents before the Community Council approves them. The last Internal Audit of the 2020/21 accounts took place during May 2021, received by the Community Council on the 3rd June 2021 before forwarding to the External Auditor, Audit Wales.

Following audit by Audit Wales an unqualified judgement was received on the 2020/21 accounts which states that all was in order.

**Defibrillators**

Two new defibrillators were purchased to be placed in Devil’s Bridge and Cwmystwyth and three heated boxes purchased for the existing defibrillators within Devil’s Bridge and Cwmystwyth. These purchases were funded from grant funding from Cefn Croes Windfarm Community Fund.

The Community Council is grateful to the Hafod Hotel and Pwllpeiran Farm on agreeing to site defibrillators and boxes on their property.

# **Maters brought to the attention of Ceredigion County Council**

Pontarfynach Community Councillors work diligently for the Villages of Cwmystwyth, Devil’s Bridge and Trisant and work closely with Ceredigion County Council and County Councillor Rhodri Davies to ensure that effective services are provided by the County Council for local residents. The following are issues highlighted to Ceredigion County Council during the year 2021/22 for action.

* Road problems from potholes to flooding, trees and hedges needing to be cut back which are dangerous or impairs visibility.
* Occasional problems were noted with recycling, food waste and household waste collections.
* Hazards were reported on public footpaths, and footpath signage needing replacing or repaired.
* Dyfed Powys Police were contacted bringing attention to vehicles travelling quickly through the villages of the area late at night.

**Flower Boxes**

Six new handmade Flower Boxes were commissioned to be located underneath village signs at Devil’s Bridge and Cwmystwyth.

**Speed Limit**

A request for a 20 m.p.h. speed limit has been requested to Ceredigion County Council for the Village of Cwmystwyth.

**Rural Internet – Broadband Upgrade Fund Coordinators**

A representative of Broadway Partners Company attended a meeting of the Community Council to share information of what the Company can offer in terms of fast broadband service within the area under a grant scheme from Welsh Government. The Community Council agreed for a joint letter between Melindwr Community Council and Pontarfynach Community Council to be distributed to all households within Devil’s Bridge, Cwmystwyth and Trisant areas via the Company to invite declaration of interest of a faster broadband upgrade.

**Street Lighting**

The Community Council looked into the possibility of installing Street Lighting on the Footpath leading from the Railway Station towards the Hafod Hotel but after receiving quotations for the installations it became apparent that the cost was not within the Community Council’s Budget.

Councillors are currently looking into the possibility of installing occasional lighting around the War Memorial at Devil’s Bridge for lighting during Remembrance Service and other special occasions.

**Remembrance Service**

A Remembrance Service is held every year at Mynach Community Centre. The Service is held in combination with the local Chapels and Churches, Blaenrheidol Community Council and Pontarfynach Community Council where the Local County Councillor and the Chair of both Community Councils place a Poppy Wreath on the War Memorial at Devil’s Bridge..

# **Planning Applications**

Five Planning Applications were discussed during the year following a consultative request from Ceredigion County Council seeking the Community Council's opinion on applications. It is noted that it is the County Council and not Community Councils that make decisions on planning applications.

It was decided that the Community Council had no objection on four of the applications and comments/objections were sent on the other application.

**Community Venues**

Request to identifying Community Venues to act as possible Emergency Rest Centres and the following venues were referred to Ceredigion County Council:

Mynach Community Centre, Devil’s Bridge; Ysgoldy Goch, Cwmystwyth; Siloam Chapel Festry, Cwmystwyth.