**Ambleston Community Council / Cyngor Cymuned Ambleston**

**Annual Report 2024/2025**

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 clerk@ambleston-cc.gov.uk or 07896 591221. Meetings are open to members of the public to attend.

At the Annual General Meeting on 20 May 2024 Mr David Ambrey was elected as Chair with Mr Kevin Morris elected as Vice Chair. A new Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed in the Annual General Meeting on 2 June 2025.

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:**

* Wallis Pond - The project to improve water quality by removing the silt, overgrowth and a replacement sluice gate is complete. The works were funded by Nestle UK for which the Community Council are grateful for. Positive comments have been received from members of the community. The improvements have seen an increase in wildlife at the pond.
* Boundary Commission Review:A review of Community Boundaries being conducted by Pembrokeshire County Council and the Boundary Commission under sections 25 and 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act). Ambleston Community Council objected to the proposals and the final report has recommended that Ambleston Community Council remains as is, and not merge with New Moat Community Council as proposed.
* Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE) – the project was hampered by waiting for NRW to issue the necessary permit to carry out works on the SSSI. NRW have now issued a license for this year, subject to providing a detailed cutting plan for approval before any works take place. Once ground nesting bird season is over, they should be able to carry out works which will have a greater effect for the biodiversity.
* Withyhedge Landfill - Work to line the cells with clay is complete. There have been very few incidents of smell being reported.
* Community Council Website – the website which was hosted by Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) was decommissioned 31st March 2025. The community council has a new website <https://www.ambleston-cc.gov.uk/> which is funded by the Community Council. The clerk has a new email address clerk@ambleston-cc.gov.uk
* Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant – The community were invited via Facebook to submit suggestions for projects which will be considered.
* Dog fouling – following comments about dog fouling on the moor an action plan was agreed which aims to deal with and escalate different levels of the issue, using bins, signage, spray paint stencil on the ground. The action plan was uploaded to Facebook. Spray chalk paint has been purchased and is being used to highlight any dog faeces that has not been picked up. Members of the community are invited to help with this campaign.
* Defibrillator training – two sessions was held by Rosie McDonald, Carly Skyrme and Dr Adrian Storwood. The turnout was disappointing and it has been agreed that further sessions will be run on demand.
* Litter pick – picks were carried out in Ambleston, Wallis and Woodstock.
* Christmas tree – A tree was kindly donated to the community which was sited in Ambleston and decorated with solar lights. For 2025 it is hoped that the lights can be connected to an electric supply rather than solar.
* Millenium Community book update – In July a history event will be held at the Memorial Hall which will have historic photographs and artifacts on display. The decision will depend on the turnout and interest shown.
* **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, fly tipping and other general issues are reported as they arise.

**Finance:**

* Council Tax Precept set for the financial year £2800.00.
* End of year financial accounts up to 31.03.25 – Total receipts £5033.95. Total payments £3215.60. Barclays account balance was £1758.35 on 31.03.25.
* Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – A mandatory payment called General Allowance Payments - £156 & Consumables Allowance £52 is available to all Community Councillors. All Community Councillors chose to opt out from receiving these payments.
* Insurance is in place with Zurich Municipal Insurance and complies with regulations.
* The audit conclusion for the year ended 31st March 2024 was Qualified. Basis of conclusion: unable to conclude whether or not the Accounting Statement properly/fairly presents the Council’s receipts and payments/income and expenditure and financial position: The Clerk’s payslips refer to PAYE deductions of £240. However, I have been unable to confirm that this sum has been paid to HMRC. NB: The Clerk pays the income tax direct to HMRC.
* Financial Standing Orders were adopted.

**Donations given:**

* Wales Air Ambulance - £25.00
* Paul Sartori - £25.00

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 on private land.

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