**Cyngor Cymuned Spittal / Spittal Community Council**

**Report to Annual Public Meeting May 2024**

At the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom in May 2023, Mrs W Oriel was elected as Chair and Rev D Rees elected as Vice Chair.

During the year meetings were held on Zoom and were overall successful.

**Topics discussed by the Community Council included –**

* **Village Green** – the drainage works on the Village Green was completed in September 2023. As part of the project 8 new benches were supplied and fitted, five on the village green and three for the play park. A donation of £500 was received from Spittal Community Forum towards the project.
* **Highway matters**:
* Potholes are an ongoing problem and are reported to PCC.
* Faulty streetlights, drainage problems and other general issues are reported as they arise.
* **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). Spittal Community Council object to the proposals and a consultation response was submitted in December 2023.
* **Casual Vacancy:** Jayne Roberts was Co-opted on 7th November 2023 and decided to resign in February 2024. There is currently a vacancy on the Community Council.
* **Kings Coronation –** a badge to mark the Coronation was given to each child in the community.
* **Withyhedge Landfill –** Since the end of the summer 2023 residents and other communities have been experiencing a strong toxic odour emanating from the landfill. Reports of sore eyes, headaches, coughs have giving cause of concern for people’s health. When Resources Management took over the site there was a list of remedial works needed to bring the site up to required standards. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issued an Enforcement Notice giving a deadline of 5th April 2024 to complete the engineering works required to resolve the issue. The deadline has passed, and the issue has not been resolved. Residents, Colin Barnett, and Sue Lewis started the ’Stop the Stink’ campaign and have been working tirelessly by pressing NRW, Pembrokeshire County Council, Public Health Wales, and other bodies to get this issue resolved. A new deadline of 14th May 2024 has been given to address the issue. The stench is ongoing.

**Finance:**

* Council Tax Precept the precept for financial year 2024//2025 remains unchanged at £3618.00.
* Lloyds TSB account balance on 31.03.24 - £7973.53
* NS&I account balance on 31.03.23 - £2637.99
* End of year financial accounts up to 31.03.24 are attached.
* Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – A mandatory payment of £156 is available to all Community Councillors. All Community Councillors chose to opt-out of receiving this payment.
* Insurance is in place with BHIB Insurance and complies with regulations.
* Service Level Agreement for the playground is in place.
* Annual Audit 2021/2022:

Audit opinion – Qualified. The balance carried forward from the prior year does not equal the balance brought forward in the current year. The difference of £2615.00 relates to an investments account and should have been included within Line 9 for the current year. The arithmetic is incorrect on the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the prior year.

**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 mostly been development to private dwellings, and one for Scolton Manor Country Park.

All planning applications can be viewed on PCC’s website.

**Appeals:**

Donations given this year total:

* Paul Sartori - £200 (2 x £100)
* Wales Air Ambulance - £100

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