

Pendine Community Council

Annual Report 22/23

A warm hello to all the residents of Pendine.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, introduced as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, that a community council must prepare and publish a report (an “annual report”) about the council's priorities, activities and achievements during that year.

This is our report for 2022/2023, Pendine Community Council hopes this will be of heed to you. There were Six Councillors, two resigned and as of November 2022 there are four members of Pendine Community Council. Councillors are office holders who sign a declaration of acceptance of office upon their election or appointment - they are therefore a part of the local government structure of Wales. Although they carry out many community activities on a voluntary basis, they are not volunteers.

At the head of the Council is the Chairman, who is elected annually from among its serving Councillors. The Chairman for 2022/23 was Councillor Andrew Shaw, the Vice-Chair was Councillor Charlotte Eiles. The council has the opportunity to appoint two Youth Representatives. A Community Youth Representative represents the youth sector and is a ‘voice’ on the Community Council for local issues affecting young people. Our Youth Representative was Lestyn Comey.

Historically, the council met on the third Tuesday of the month but due to venue availability, we currently meet formally on the third Wednesday evening of the month at 7 pm at Llanmiloe Resource Centre. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings.

These are very structured meetings with very full agendas. Anyone is welcome to observe and there is an opportunity at the start for public questions, but it is a working meeting rather than a public presentation. Depending on what projects are being dealt with, in order to be more proactive, members may meet in between monthly meetings and bring matters back to the full council.

Your Community Council

The Community Council owns the foreshore from the MOD sign right through to the New Inn at Amroth, the play area by St Margaret's Church (at the top of the hill) and the grass areas on the hill. The Council provides promenade lighting, seats throughout the community and Christmas lights.

Organisations can apply to the Council for small grants to organise community events and activities. The Council works with Carmarthenshire County Council and as a statutory

consultant, comments on planning applications. The Council is not responsible for Rights of Way, but regularly brings access issues to the notice of Carmarthenshire County Councils Rights of Way Officer.

Your Community Councillors for 22/23 were:

Cllr Andrew Shaw

Cllrs Sara Bruce-Goodwin

Cllr Steve Rundle

Cllr Hayley Thomas

Cllr Charles Davies

Cllr Phil Williams

Cllr Charlotte Isles

Youth Representative Lestyn Comey

Message from the Chair for 22/23 – Cllr Andrew Shaw

It has been an honour and privilege to have served Pendine Community Council as Chair for the past year. This year has been a busy and challenging one, that said we have realised a significant amount during the year.

I would personally like to thank the dedication of all Councillors, it has really opened my eyes the level of commitment required to actually make a difference to the local community. Whilst we don't have a full cohort of Councillors, I feel the dynamic and differing backgrounds/skill sets of each councillor bring an extremely positive 'can do' attitude to everything we do – my thanks to you all.

I would on behalf of Pendine Community Council thank Emily for setting up so many systems and keeping us on track.

I have recognised the efforts of all other councillors and the clerk. It should also be noted the wider support we receive from others in the village, whilst I am not going to name any individuals, the support from all volunteers, businesses, beach collectors, helpers and adjacent communities all contribute to the greater good of the community – we could not achieve what we have without you all, thank you!

Achievements for 22/23

- **The Council successfully negotiated with the MOD for the reduction of the fees in relation to the removal of the covenant on the land of the former Parry Thomas Hall. They negotiated the price down from £15,000 to £12,000 and to be paid over**

a 3-year term. This land is currently being developed as a 10-pitch Motorhome park.

- The Council successfully negotiated exiting the original contractor and tendering for a new contractor to complete the Motorhome Park. This will be operational in 2024.
- Negotiations took place with Carmarthenshire County Council to enable Pendine Community Council to purchase the Slipway in its entirety from the MOD (vs. the original 20% proposal). It is with Sincere thanks to Mr Donald Holmes of Bellevue, Pendine, for providing the Council with an interest-free loan to make the purchase possible.
- During June 2023 we had a very successful VHRA Hot Rod racing event, drawing huge numbers and revenue into the village. It raised a total of £ for the community. We hope to build on this success in 2024.
- All Councillors have undergone training to ensure they are working to the best of their ability and ensuring best practice and governance are achieved.
- In a very difficult financial climate, Pendine Community Council has frozen the Precept at 21/22 levels.
- Successful beach cleaning event before Easter.
- Numerous filming and beach events.

As we move forward it's important we maximise our income, so that we can reinvest into the village. We will listen to the community on ideas how we should invest our income. The motorhome, carpark and beach are significant assets for which we need to yield maximum income.

We have some exciting ideas for what we can achieve in 2024, and the next chapter begins.....!

Andrew Shaw – Chair Pendine Community Council

Vision Statement

The Community of Pendine is at the heart of everything we do. The needs and wishes of the residents are at the forefront of Pendine Community Council's priorities. Our aim is to foster community spirit and engagement to ensure Pendine is a safe, welcoming place to live and visit. Our objective is to enhance the facilities where possible for the wellbeing and benefit of all our residents and visitors.

Budget/Precept

The Precept for 22/23 was £7404.75. Pendine Community Councils objective is to keep the precept as low as practically possible. We intend on keeping the Precept at current levels for 23/24.

The Precept is a Tax that the Community Council charges their local residents in order to cover spending on services delivered in the community. We are very conscious of the cost of living crisis and took the decision to freeze the precept at 22/23 levels for 23/24.

Audits

Each year an audit is conducted on all the council's financial activities.

Internal Audit

An Internal Audit was carried out in September 2023 for the year ending 31st March 2023. The following recommendations were made:

- *The monthly minutes need to be more detailed and comprehensive. This will ensure more transparency in Council affairs and will demonstrate good governance to the wider public. All expenditure is approved for payment at the monthly council meetings.*
- *The Council needs to ensure that all items of expenditure are listed on the monthly Financial Statements in the future as evidence of approval.*
- *All items of expenditure should be supported with some form of documentary evidence. This not only supports the justification of the expenditure, but it also demonstrates only legitimate expenditure is being incurred.*
- *The Council should carry out a risk assessment on an annual basis. A risk assessment identifies risks to an organisation which in turn allows the implementation of reasonable control measures to remove/reduce the risk. Good budgetary control helps organisations stay on track to meet its financial goals and to deliver objectives. It is recommended that the monthly actual results are compared against the budget to demonstrate good budgetary control. It is recommended that the 2022/23 actual figures are compared against the budget, variances are investigated and recorded in the monthly minutes.*
- *It is recommended that all car park machine receipts are retained and reconciled to the cash physically paid into the bank. Agreed rates of staff remuneration must be minuted each year/change in member of staff.*

Villagers will be reassured to know that all the above recommendations have been implemented as part of our financial governance improvements.

External Audit

Due to delays with the submission of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023, the accounts at present are still with Audit Wales.

Every three years, Audit Wales will conduct a full (in-depth) Triennial Audit. Pendine Community Council anticipates a Triennial Audit in 2024.

Street Lighting

The council is responsible for several streetlights throughout the village. A number are under the responsibility of Carmarthenshire County Council. We kindly ask, any issues arising with the streetlights are reported to www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/report-a-problem-on-a-road/report-a-faulty-street-light/.

In the event of an emergency please call 01267 234567 during office hours or 0300 333 2222 outside normal office hours.

Police

Pendine Community Council maintained strong links with Dyfed Powis Police and our Community support officers. We try to obtain regular updates on crime statistics for our area which are relatively low.

The current PCSO's for our area are:

Hefyn Davies

Sarah Thomas

They are contactable by calling 101 and asking to be transferred to Whitland Police Station.

- The Coronation picnic was a huge success with a fantastic turnout within the community. Although we struggled with the Welsh weather, Morfa Bay kindly allowed the use of their hall to keep the community dry for the "picnic" aspect of the event. Malcolm Roberts kindly coordinated a new plaque to commemorate the coronation for the monument and Beryl Bowencal did a fantastic job restoring the existing text.

Key Council objectives and priorities for the year 24/25

- Putting the Community at the Heart of all we do with more community events.
- Making Pendine a village to be proud with the development of a 5 year plan based on the resident's feedback, to include:-

- Targeted enhancement projects with the support of our volunteer group
- Exploration of grant opportunities to improve facilities e.g. Village Hall.
- **Increasing community revenue to enable further investment in community facilities:-**
 - **Getting the MHP up and running and profitable**
 - **Increasing Beach and village income through more events (including Malcolm Campbell's centenary).**

Recognition and Thanks

Pendine Community Council would like to express their sincere thanks to:

- **To Mr Donald Holmes for providing the loan to purchase the Slipway, which will be a huge asset for the community.**
- **To Alison Moody the previous Clerk and Alex Holland our previous Beach Warden, Cllr Phil Williams, Cllr Charles Davies and Cllr Charlotte Isles for all their hard work and contributions to the community during their time with the council.**
- **The ladies of Pendine Craft group, who made the fabulous bunting which brightened up the village for the Hot Rod weekend and summer holidays.**
- **Shane Swale for all the work he put in to assist the council with the application to the Welsh Government for the loan application for the Slipway purchase. Also, our chief researcher on village history.**
- **Mr Malcolm Roberts and Beryl Bowencal for their work on the coronation monument and plaque.**
- **To all our beach collectors and Steve Rundle for acting as Beach Warden this season.**
- **Nicola Bellarby and Tony Pugh, for attending all meetings to provide the community with a meeting summary via the local newsletter.**
- **All involved with the production and distribution of the Local Newsletter.**
- **All the volunteers who have assisted in events throughout the year for their hard work. We look forward to your support in 2024 and beyond.**
- **The RNLI lifeguards, for doing a great job keeping the beach safe for swimmers this summer season.**
- **Llanmiloe Community and Jamie Rugg for allowing Pendine Community Council to use the resource Centre for meetings.**
- **Jenny Kelly of Morfa Bay for allowing the community to host their coronation picnic in the hall at Morfa Bay due to the unpredictable Welsh weather.**