

WENTLOOGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Serving the Communities of

St Brides and Peterstone

clerk@wentloogecommunitycouncil.co.uk

C/O Peterstone Village Hall

Peterstone, Wentlooge, CF3 2TR



Chairmans - Annual Report 2023/24

Wentlooge Community Council over that the last year has performed well under difficult circumstances. The resignation of the Chair and Clerk in quick succession and the recruitment of a new Clerk meant we had a gap in support. The Chair would like to offer thanks to all those who assisted during this time

The Council continue to play an active part in community issues raising stakeholder awareness on planning, anti-social behaviour and transport.

The council continues to work with multiple agencies to address the situation of fly-tipping and litter, by having an active role and a voice in all forums both locally and nationally. The Council leads the way in clearing up the area by reporting promptly any fly tipping and waste. I would like to offer my gratitude to Cllr Foster who continually litter picks for the community. The Council goal is to arrange more litter picking activities especially on the coastal path where littering is a risk to wildlife. The Council recently collaborated with Gwent Police Rural Crime Team to highlight these issues and will continue to support this important initiative.

We continue to contribute to all relevant consultations from Welsh Government, Local Authorities, and many other agencies in ensuring a rural voice is heard to ensure future policy is fit for purpose for the area given its protected characteristics.

The council has kept to its commitment of protecting the historical and natural makeup of the Wentlooge Levels and take this into account in any applications or proposed changes that come to us for comment.

There has been a great deal of work to support the Welsh Government vision of opening all the ancient walkways. Unfortunately, one of the most ancient – Stone House Wharf or Blue House Lane as more commonly known was refused on appeal with PEDW, blocking a critical route to the coastal path and impacting an entire community from viewing the flora and fauna on this route.

We have campaigned in earnest for traffic management and improved road conditions and have set up a Transport Strategy Group to address road condition and potholes; speeding traffic and additional safety signage etc and the findings have been positively received from stakeholders with some of the actions requested already completed.

The financial controls of the council and the work of the Clerk has passed internal audit with no recommendations and financially we are in a strong position. This meant we were able to hold the precept for the 3rd year running which is essential in the ongoing cost of living crisis. Due to strong financial controls the Council has still managed to build a small provision to cover planning appeals and mitigate flooding with contingency plans in place for potential repatriation.

During 2023/24 the Council has spent £13497 which is in line with previous years and now has a reserve of £12000. This allows the council to hold reserves for any emergencies; carry out work in the community and provide donations in the community.

A programme of upgrading the entrance to both St Brides and Peterstone will encourage visitors to treat the area with the respect it deserves. Celebration of the Gwent Levels is paramount and continued education through signage and information boards is critical.

The Council donated or made grants of the following sums during the year:

£1150 to fund defibrillators at both St Brides and Peterstone Village Hall which is a much-needed resource in a rural area. The defibrillator was used less than 2 weeks after being installed in Peterstone demonstrating how critical the kit is.

MacMillan Cancer £100

TyHafan £100

Peterstone Village Hall £1700

St Brides Village Hall £1700

Due to delays in Clerk recruitment the council has not received the Auditor General for Wales opinion on the 2023/24 external audit.

We are delighted to have welcomed 2 new Councillors Cllr Bidgood and Cllr Farrugia who have already made a great impact. This fresh view on how the Council operates together with the tacit knowledge of existing Councillors puts us in good stead to support the community in the coming year.

As always, we encourage residents to engage with us for help and support and we look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Judy Clatworthy

Chair

Wentlooge Community Council

May 2024