**Cyngor Cymuned Spittal / Spittal Community Council**

**Report to Annual Public Meeting May 2025**

At the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom in May 2024, Rev D Rees was elected as Chair and R Elston elected as Vice Chair.

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

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

* **Highway matters**:
* Potholes are an ongoing problem and are reported to PCC.
* Faulty streetlights, drainage problems, blocked footpaths and other general issues are reported as they arise.
* Sink hole by Swallow Barn & Barn Court – the matter is yet to be resolved. Awaiting a response from Pembrokeshire County Council.
* **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 objected to the proposal of the voluntary merger with Rudbaxton Community Council. In the Boundary Commission final report, their recommendation has changed, to keep Spittal and Rudbaxton as two separate Community Councils, with one amendment to the boundary, The Kells will no longer be within Spittal Community Council, it will move into Rudbaxton Community Council boundary. The final decision will be made by Welsh Government.
* **Casual Vacancy:** There is currently a vacancy on the Community Council.
* **Withyhedge Landfill –** A long campaign led by ‘Stop the Stink’ to stop the smell coming from Withyhedge Landfill which was an ongoing issue for residents of Spittal and other communities. The company had a permit to accept 150,000 tonnes of waste however this was exceeded by 44.085 tonnes. A large volume of complaints had been submitted to NRW. Complainants were experiencing headaches, sore eyes, smell inside their houses and were concerned about potential health issues. NRW issued an enforcement notice, which required the tipping of waste to cease until water lagoons and new cells were created. Deliveries of material recommenced 09.12.24. On occasions, the smell still exists but complaints are far fewer than previously.
* **Adverse Possession Claim – Land at Meadow View –** Due to the cost of legal advice and representation at a tribunal it was decided to withdraw the objection. The case has been closed.

**Spittal Community Council website –** The old Community Council website was hosted by Pembrokeshire County Council. Due to changes in legislation the platform was no longer compliant, and PCC withdrew it on 31st March 2025. Town and Community Councils had a duty to meet these Regulations; therefore, the Community Council now run and fund our own website: <https://www.spittal-cc.gov.uk/> and a new email address: clerk@spittal-cc.gov.uk

* **Antisocial behaviour**
* **Play area boundary wall –** quotes are being sought to repairs to the wall
* **Bus shelter –** repairs to the roof will be carried after nesting season. The shelter will then be repainted.

**Finance:**

* Council Tax Precept the precept for financial year 2025/2026 remains unchanged at £3618.00.
* Lloyds TSB account balance on 17.03.25 – £7846.36
* NS&I account balance on 31.12.24 - £2637.99 + interest £26.45 = £2664.44
* End of year financial accounts up to 31.03.25 are attached.
* 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 choose to opt-out of receiving this payment.
* Insurance is in place and complies with regulations.
* Service Level Agreement for the playground is in place.
* Annual Audit 2023/2024 - Audit opinion was Unqualified, Except for the matters reported, there was a minor rounding error in the Accounting Statement. It was recommended that the Council checks the arithmetic and consistency of the Accounting Statement prior to approval.
* Financial Standing Orders were adopted.

**Planning:**

* The Local Development Plan review (LDP2) is ongoing and has been delayed due to new guidance from National Resources Wales on Phosphates. The LDP Team are in the process of preparing the Deposit Plan.
* Planning applications considered have mostly been development to private dwellings.

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

**Appeals:**

Donations given this year total:

* Paul Sartori - £100.00
* Wales Air Ambulance - £50.00
* Citizens Advice Bureau - £50.00
* Spittal Playgroup - £100.00

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