



Aberporth Community Council consists of 12 elected Members who represent the residents of Aberporth Community. The Community consists of the villages of Aberporth, Blaenporth, Blaenannerch and Parclyn. The Councillors all bring individual qualities and experience to the ward to help them carry out their duties. The Community Council holds 11 full council meetings and committee meetings as required; the annual meeting is held in May of each year.

The Council supports 1,563 homes; 2183 residents.

The precept for 2024-25 is £46298.66

### ***Aberporth Community Council Vision and Mission Statement***

*Working with the community for the community.*

*Aberporth Community Council will work with residents and stakeholders to help make the villages of Aberporth, Parclyn, Blaenporth and Blaenannerch and the surrounding area a safe, attractive and peaceful place in which to live and work.*

*It endeavours to act in ways that are transparent, sustainable, environmentally friendly and cost-effective.*

*Our mission is to achieve this by:*

*Understanding and representing local interests.*

*Acting as first point of contact for residents' concerns (for matters of council responsibility).*

*Submitting views on planning applications and help improve the local environment.*

*Supporting voluntary and community groups for the benefit of the wider community.*

*Providing leadership and encourage residents to participate in community life and activities.*

*Attract government and county council help, as well as lottery and funding grants for the area.*

The Council has a number of committees: Finance & Governance/Procedure Review; Community Enhancement & Social Wellbeing; Footpaths & Maintenance; and representatives on outside organisations such as Cynnal y Cardi; school governors; One Voice Wales.

Aberporth Community Council has responsibility for 3 play areas; a multiuse games area; sports field (in the process of purchasing from the MOD who are currently selling their assets in Parclyn); all public gardens, grass and seating areas (taken over responsibility of local authority grass areas in this financial year); public footpath maintenance including poetry trail; bus shelters (taken over in this financial year from local authority); cenotaph; maintenance of sculptures and history panels; provision of bins; community bus service. Council organise a monthly advice drop in; regular events which include Big Lunch, Christmas lunch, party and trip; remembrance and other civic events; grants to local groups.

- The role and value of community and town councils in Wales;

As a community council we provide opportunities for residents to voice their concerns and needs, ensuring that local issues are addressed. We engage with residents and are in the right place to tailor solutions to specific community needs. We work to provide community projects and to improve facilities and services in our area. Organising local events and initiatives helps to build community cohesion and foster a sense of community and belonging among residents. Aberporth Community Council has a good working relationship with the local authority and able to collaborate on community development (is currently in discussions for joint project working and asset transfers regarding retention of public toilet facilities) and Aberporth is set to be one of the first to receive Age Friendly Community recognition in

Ceredigion. The community council partners closely with other 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations in the area such as Aberporth Village Hall (who have recently completed a £1.2million project 'Heart of the Community').

Aberporth Community Council is the grass roots of local government and contributes to the overall well-being of its residents.

With Ceredigion County Council reporting ever decreasing funding and difficulties in meeting their statutory budgets there is an expectation that non statutory services will be reduced or cut; some of these are vital to our community and there is an expectation for the Community Council to adopt and manage these moving forward; with the boundary commission proposals to increase our boundary area to take in more residents and reduce the number of councillors the valuable work of Aberporth Community Council will increase with less resource.

- Whether the sector is fit for purpose in an evolving local government landscape;

The effectiveness of town and community councils in Wales can vary widely depending on several factors, including size, resources, and community engagement. Many councils are well-attuned to the specific needs and priorities of their communities, allowing for tailored solutions and initiatives. Aberporth Community Council has the capacity, resources and ability to effectively deliver services and engage with residents and is well placed; subject to funding; to better support the local authority and deliver services specific to our community needs. The local government landscape is changing and community and town councils are at the front line providing individual community requirements; working to improve the lives of their residents. By implementing strategies, town and community councils can enhance the resilience of their communities, making them better equipped to face challenges and adapt to changing circumstances and this was effectively demonstrated during Covid-19.

- Governance and scrutiny arrangements and its impact on accountability and transparency;

Aberporth Community Council is a member of One Voice Wales and has access to support and training for Councillors to understand their role and the role of the community council. Whilst there is a legal requirement for councils to have a training plan there is scope for some training to become mandatory in order to improve compliance with their legal responsibilities as a Councillor.

The Clerk is currently completing CiLCA.

The Governance Toolkit provided by One Voice Wales has been an effective tool for the community council to better understand and meet its legal obligations and requirements. The community council has experienced issues around audit but through training and introducing new systems is now better placed to ensure that it is compliant with the new regime. The council does feel that better communication channels with the Audit office would be welcomed.

- Scope of digital and new technology to improve decision-making, service provision and participation in local democratic processes;

Aberporth Community Council holds hybrid meetings each month and has purchased equipment to ensure that this is an effective method for residents and other parties to be able to engage with the council.

Aberporth Community Council has a website and all councillors have .gov email.

- How new powers and responsibilities for this tier of government are utilised to support communities.

The introduction of General Powers of Competence encourages councils to become more effective to qualify but unfortunately the power is difficult to achieve and retain, and as such



hinders smaller councils to deliver services having to become reliant on s137 which is a limited resource. Aberporth Community Council does not have GPoC. Community and Town Councils primarily rely on legislation from 1972 to be able to undertake its work; elements of this legislation are out of date and potentially restrictive to community and town council operations in this changing climate.