Annual Report for Ponthir Community Council for 2023/24.

It has been a pleasure to hold the position of Chair for the last three years with lots being achieved during this period. Council is pleased to be associated with Ponthir Sports and Community Club and Ponthir Village Hall during exciting times. We also value our association with All Saints Church Llanfrechfa, Ponthir Baptist Church, Ponthir School and many groups and businesses in Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa.

Council was pleased sign up to the Civility & Respect Pledge in collaboration with SLCC, NALC, and OVW County Associations.

The planters in Ponthir were supported and planted by Ponthir Brownies and Llanfrechfa Walled Garden.

July saw the election of Cllr Paul Buttery, after Cllr Morgan Barrell resigned due to increased work commitments. We would like to put on record our thanks to Morgan for all his help and commitment over several years.

Last summer saw the publication of our second eight-page Newsletter. The Chair and Clerk helped at PSCC Summer Music Festival in August and the annual Firework Display. Poppies again appeared on lamp posts in Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa, with the help of Caerleon Royal British Legion. Council was pleased to make a large donation to the Poppy Appeal. We plan the same for 2024. Remembrance Day services at both Ponthir Baptist Church and All Saints Llanfrechfa were supported with the purchase of wreaths.

The Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall was supported by Council with the appearance of the "real" Father Christmas. We also supported the Village Carol Service in December.

Trees in both Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa were again part of Christmas, with new lights installed in Lower Llanfrechfa for the first time. Watch out for more lights on lamp posts this year.

Sadly, in January we lost long standing Cllr Stuart Bailey who passed away days after his sixty-first birthday. Cllr Lorraine Morgan resigned in February; we all thank her for her service to the community. Cllrs Adrian Lang and Roger Morgan were elected in March, and we welcome them.

With increased collaboration in Torfaen between all Community and Town Councils, our Chair and Clerk attended the annual grant presentation evening at Croesyceiliog and Llanfrechfa Community Council, along with the Cwmbran Council Dinner. Cllr Louise Ryan-Scales now represents Ponthir as a trustee on the Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust.

Finally in March 2024, we saw a new War Memorial stone, commissioned by the Council, dedicated at the Baptist Church. The well attended service saw contributions from both our churches, serving and retired military personnel, Ponthir Guides, and many residents. This service greatly increased the profile of the Council and the village, with extensive media coverage in both the South Wales Argus and on ITV regional news.

Cllr Ian Danaher Chair Ponthir CC