

Clerk's Report 23/02/24

To: Chair and Members of Council.

(a) Parks;

(i) Llandybie Park Projects Update;

- **MUGA** was completed just before Christmas the contractor Wicksteed Leisure just needs to complete making the playing surface this due to adverse weather condition will be completed in March 2024.
- **106 grants for park area**, installation of a Trampoline Area with 3 pieces of apparatus is currently underway only having been hampered by the recent bad weather, it has now been completed at an agreed cost of £24,475.36 plus vat. This will be reclaimed against 206 grant monies.

(ii) Saron and Capel Hendre 106.

The Clerk has had a reply from Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to starting planning the spend the two amounts of £22,320.00 for future education provision at Saron and £17,680.00 for Cwmgwili park. They have informed him that the contractor has not deposited funds yet. A further reply was received in January confirming this is still the position.

Update; This is still the latest news.

(b) Footpaths.

The following footpaths are under review by the County Council;

- **Bonllwyn 61/106;** This is a rights of way which has been neglected for some years, and the Clerk has once again asked for an update on the RoW team to do a survey as previously offered on the route and look at the possibility of opening it up once gain.
- **Caerbryn 51/56;** The Clerk is still pressing the Rights of Way Team who have committed to repairing the foot bridge. The damage to the route has, they say, been caused by a water run-off from the highway. The Clerk has now written again to Carmarthenshire Highways team to begin dialogue and The Administration Officer has followed up with a request for an update.
- **Penygroes 51/34 and 51/35, 51/33;** Whilst 51/34 is now being looked at by our contractor, the legal team at Carmarthenshire County Council are looking at 51/13 to get the landowner to cut the overhanging branches, the Clerk has written to the Legal Dept at Carmarthenshire Country Council for an update. 51/35 is being looked at as part of the Gilfach Iago development. The Administration Officer has followed up to ask for an update.
- **51/51;** This is still being dealt with by Carmarthenshire County Council's legal team as a resident has built a garage base over the right of way and another resident has put play equipment across it.
- **51/24;** The Chair Carey Thomas has highlighted this footpath and County Council has paid a visit and discovered the land has done some work on land next to it and the County Council legal team will investigate.

(c) Annual External Audit 2022/23;

The Clerk has chased up in an email of week commencing February 12th and at the time writing this report three further questions have been received and will be answered in the next two working days.

(d) Penygroes RFC and Gate locking at night.

A meeting has now taken place with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth and they have refused to lock the gate at night, at the time of the writing of this report the Clerk is checking the conditions of the lease agreement.

(e) Incident with Car Driving through a fence at Penygroes Park.

The Clerk has put in a claim £647.00 for repair costs plus £291.15 for his time. The Clerk is currently chasing Admiral Insurance for settlement.

(f) Paperless Meetings IT Update and policy adoption consideration .

The Clerk has received a formal quote at £1,743.30 for 10 Mobile Devices (Tablets) and this includes protective carrying cases. The Clerk has two comparative quotes one at £1,821.95 and a third at over £3,000.00 all three are plus Vat.

(g) The Rights of Way Maintenance Tender has now been sent out and we are awaiting replies for the end of February deadline.

(h) The Parks Grass Cutting and Maintenance contract due to end at the end of March is currently being prepared by the Clerk and the Administration Officer and are in the process of compiling the list and getting the documents ready for emailing for return by the end of March 2024.

(i) Park Inspections;

The Clerk has sourced the services of a qualified Health and Safety Inspector who does training for park inspection services, then cost is £1,000.00 plus Vat and there are currently 6 people booked on which include The Clerk and the Administrative Officer, 3 from Betws Community Council and 1 from Llanarthne Community Council.

(h) Banc Y Ddraenen;

The initial tree planting on the estate and the Orchard in the park is being planted at a cost to the County Council on Thursday 29th of February 2024.

The Clerk has now compiled a poster to be designed and it was agreed to produce 2,000 to be distributed throughout the estate and wider area and to put the posters in shops and other public buildings. The Administration Officer has liaised with Primary Schools at Blaenau, Saron and Penygroes and received positive responses along with three local Ysgol Meithryn.

(i) Defibrillator Training and Pads;

The Clerk has spoken with Mark Gower at Save a Life to organise Defibrillator Training through St. Johns Ambulance, the Clerk is currently talking with him on how this would be structured and what the cost and available dates would be.

(j) The Asset Management Business Plan.

The Clerk is working on this and aims to have a draft for discussion at the end of March 2024.

(k) To agree the Budget from the Finance Meeting.

The Clerk will be happy to take questions unless earlier answered in matters arising from the minutes of the Finance Committee on the 15th of February 2024.

(l) Preparation of Internal Audit.

The Clerk has now started to collate the information required for the internal audit.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

February 23th 2024