

Clerk's Report 24/05/24

To: Chair and Members of Council.

(a) Parks;

(i) Saron and Capel Hendre 106. Still on the list of follow up with Carmarthenshire County Council.

There is no further update on the two amounts of £22,320.00 for future education provision at Saron and £17,680.00 for Cwmgwili park.

(ii) Park Inspection Training. Update

The Clerk and Administrative Officer have now completed the Routine and Passed the Operational Park Inspection Training.

(iii) Swings at two parks in Penygroes.

The best of three quotes received was £9,298.88 no VAT (2nd Quote Wicksteed Leisure £15,084 plus VAT) and the local contractor M B Fencing has asked the Council to consider the option to purchase the swings direct from the manufacturer and the pay the contractor for install. The cost of the direct Purchase is £4076.64 Inc VAT and install the remainder of £5,222.24 no vat. We would reclaim the VAT on the purchase of the equipment.

(b) Footpaths. There are no further updates on the below Footpaths below except 51/56.

The Clerk and Administrative assistant continue to press the County Council team of the following footpaths and will keep these in the Clerk's Report until they are resolved.

- **Bonllwyn 61/106;** The Rights of Way Team at Carmarthenshire County are negotiating with the landowner to redirect the route and get the landowner to undertake the works this year to reinstate the route, this includes a small footbridge and styles and then putting a cutting machine in the re instate the footpath.
- **Caerbryn 51/56;** The Clerk has met Cllr D. Thomas on site and it seems the work needed is less than anticipated, the Clerk has asked the County Rights of Way team to look at removing some soils and from the top of the approach path.
- **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.

(c) Annual External Audit 2022/23;

The Clerk has now been informed that the Welsh Audit Office has passed the External Audit of 2022/23 and will display the notice in due course.

(d) Penygroes RFC and Gate locking at night.

After many meetings and correspondence Menter Cwm Gwendraeth have stated that they do not wish to offer keys to users of their facility who attend events after the hours of 4pm or need to attend events at 6.15am each morning.

(e) IT Tablets for council business.

The Clerk has now ordered ten tablets as agreed in the Ordinary Meeting in April and that includes the two new Councillors in the Saron Ward.

(f) The Parks Grass Cutting and Bowls Maintenance; Update, The County Council has once again offered the best price which was cheaper by £22,731.51 (2nd quote £26,000) from the nearest quotation. The amount was less than the £25k for the Groundworks/Parks Grass Cutting contract and as such would not be required to go to full tender however a full tender was sent out to 5 contractors. Two tenders were received for this contract and two for the Bowls Maintenance contract at £7,866.22 (2nd quote £15,000) again this was sent out as a full tender. The Clerk based on having sought best value that he has permission to award the two contracts to Carmarthenshire County Council who have undertaken a good level of service over many years.

(g) Banc Y Ddraenen Park Project;

The posters distribution is ongoing with over 700 delivered door to door by the Clerk, Administration Assistant and Cllr J. Tandy around Capel Hendre the completed door drop of 1,300 leaflets will be completed to the Penygroes and Saron area in the next two weeks. The Clerk had one telephone call with positive feedback and offer of support from a resident and one email supporting the project.

(h) The Asset Management Business Plan.

The Clerk has now drafted up the plan as a spreadsheet and will release this to Councillors after the Internal Audit for 2023/24 is concluded.

(i) Preparation of Internal Audit.

The preparation is now complete and the Clerk has arranged to meet Lyn Llewelyn in the coming week.

(j) Our archives.

The Clerk has arranged to meet the Archive Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to discuss the files that we have and assess the process.

(k) Saron Park CCTV.

The Clerk as per the agreement in the Ordinary Meeting of March 27th has now sought three quotes with two quotes received, he is currently chasing up contractors for a third quote.

(l) Election at Saron Ward.

The election has now taken place with Nicholas Craig Davies having 311 votes and Amy Louise Thomas having 224 Caryl Evelyn Tandy receiving 102 votes and Wayne Erasmus receiving 72 votes. Craig Davies and Amy Thomas were duly elected.

(m) Induction of new Councillors.

The induction of the above named two Councillors to the Saron Ward has taken place and the Clerk will be sharing training opportunities vis One Voice Wales with them.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

May 24th 2024