

Clerk's Report 26/10/24

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. The Clerk is pressing for news before the September Budget Meeting.

(b) Footpaths. There are no further updates on the below Footpaths.

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.

- **Penygroes 51/34 and, 51/33;** the Clerk will investigate and update on these at the meeting. 51/33 is to get the landowner to cut the overhanging branches.
- **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. Clerk to update councillors at the meeting.
- **Bonllwyn 51/75;** Overgrown footpath shared with Ammanford area at Bonllwyn to Nantlais, the Clerk has walked the path and taken pictures, there does not seem to be a problem.

The final cut of paths has been undertaken by contractors within the budgeted amount set for 2024/25.

(c) Penygroes RFC and Gate locking at night.

The Clerk as per the agreement in the May meeting has written to Carmarthenshire County Council and asked them that offer responsibility if Community Council property is damaged overnight. He is still waiting for a reply.

Update; the Clerk as of writing this report has not received a reply.

(d) Banc Y Ddraenen Park Project;

An update:

- The Hedge line along the length of the park along with two planting benches had now been agreed to be installed by Carmarthenshire County Council at no cost to our budget.
- The Bird Box and Scholls project was in hand and would be carried out in the coming month.
- The two Apple Trees that failed to root are being replced at no cost.

- The Clerk has not yet looked the ‘Vision Sign’ for the park to inform residents, but was planning to tackle that in the coming months and was looking at the cost of planting tubs for veg and flowers on the hard surface area.
- He was also working with the council on managing the meadow and scrub areas with sympathetic cutting and planting schemes.

(e) Job Evaluation/’time and motion’;

Paul Egan of One Voice Wales has now completed the interviews and is submitting his report, the Clerk will update on this at the Ordinary Meeting. An Employment Meeting will be called for November to discuss the findings. The Clerk suggests it be arranged following the Finance Meeting on Thursday November the 14th.

(f) Community Grant Awards Evening.

48 community representatives attended the presentation evening with buffet at Llandybie RFC on Friday 18th of October. Pictures have been sent to the South Wales Guardian.

(g) Update on Budget;

The Clerk has submitted the Draft Budget and is updating the draft for presentation at the next Finance Committee in November, he is proposing to arrange it for Thursday November 14th. The minutes and decisions will then be presented to the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday November 27th.

(h) 5 Year Asset Plan;

The plan was presented to the Finance Committee and the Clerk is drawing attention to members that it is a ever evolving document and they can suggest ideas in community project for the years ahead, the Clerk is happy to meet councillors to discuss projects and opportunities in their wards and subsequently research grant opportunities that might be available and help increase or support the budget.

(i) Staff Pension;

The staff pension has now been set up with the NEST pension scheme as per the agreement of the Employment Committee and ratified by the September Ordinary Meeting.

(j) National Pay Award;

The Clerk has received the national pay award notice ; ‘The Local Government Association has informed us that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. We encourage employers to implement this pay award as soon as possible.’

The raise has been catered for within the draft budget presented to the Finance Committee and has an impact of around 2.5% on the pay of the Clerk and Administration Officer. This it has been advised is to be backdated to April 1st 2024. The backdated amount still means the staff budget falls well within the set budget for 2024/25.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

October 26th 2024