

Clerk's Report 17/04/24

To: Chair and Members of Council.

(a) Parks;

(i) Saron and Capel Hendre 106.

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.

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

(iii) Swings at two parks in Penygroes.

These have now been ordered and the Clerk has asked for completion by the end of May 2024.

(b) Footpaths. There are no further updates on the below Footpaths below except 61/106.

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 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 is currently waiting for final confirmation from the Wales Audit Office having answered all queries to date.

(d) Penygroes RFC and Gate locking at night.

A meeting of three Community Councillors has taken place at the Park and it was agreed to get costings for the current contractor who open and closes the Penygroes toilets to offer a price if they wished to undertake the task.

The Clerk has now had confirmation from Carmarthenshire County Council who are the landowners that they are happy for us to lock the gate in agreement with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth.

Menter Cwm Gwendraeth have agreed provided the gate is open by 6.15am each of four mornings a week. The Clerk is now waiting for a formal price from K. D. Landscaping for the extra cost of opening and locking the gate. The Clerk will provide the final price and the response at the April Ordinary meeting.

(e) IT Tablets for council business.

The Clerk has received seven requests and would urge any further requests to be forthcoming and will order the tablets in May 2024.

(f) The Rights of Way Maintenance.

This has now been awarded once gain to Dynevor Tree Services who were £2,000 cheaper than the second of three quotes received.

(g) The Parks Grass Cutting and Bowls Maintenance; Update, The contract has been prepare by the Clerk and the Administration Officer and been sent out to 5 contractors with submissions expected week ending 26th of April.

(h) Banc Y Ddraenen;

The posters are now being distributed for feedback in a public consultation exercise. The Clerk will then look at the funding for the project moving forward with One Voice Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council.

(i) The Asset Management Business Plan.

The Clerk is still working on this and will conclude the work after he has completed the Internal Audit for 2023/24.

(j) Preparation of Internal Audit.

The preparation is now at the final stages with the Clerk looking to meet with the Internal Auditor in early May 2024.

(k) Our archives.

As per the agreement of the council in its Ordinary Meeting of the 27th of March the Clerk has now engaged with the officers and will be meeting them in early May.

(l) Meter readings and electricity costs at the Bowling and Tennis Pavilion.

The Clerk will present a spreadsheet on the increased energy costs incurred due to the cost of the Floodlights in the winter months.

(m) Saron Park CCTV.

The Clerk as per the agreement in the Ordinary Meeting of March 27th has now sought three quotes with one already received and two more pending.

(n) Election at Saron Ward.

The election has now been arranged for Wednesday 15th of May 2024, four candidates are standing and are described as follows; two from Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales, one Independent who is presently a member of Gwlad Party and one from the Welsh Liberal Democrats / Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

April 24th 2024