

Clerk's Report

23 September 2026

To: Chair and Members of Council

(a) Parks

(i) Saron and Capel Hendre Section 106

Section 106 monies amounting to £19,018.32 have now been paid towards the cost of zipwires at Blaenau and Penygroes Parks. A claim has been submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council.

(b) Footpaths - outstanding items

51/23 Cwmfferws

Horse riding is not permitted on the route linking to the bridleway. The Clerk has asked the County Council's Rights of Way team to investigate installing signage to warn horse riders and motorists.

Update: The Clerk has met with the Rights of Way team. Highways have been confirming the route forms part of the bridleways being upgraded in the vicinity, but the legal process will take some time, it will be included in a local signage project.

51/96 and 51/97 Llangwyddfán, Llandybie

A walking group reported slurry obstructing the paths. The matter was added to the Rights of Way work schedule, and the landowner has been contacted.

Update: The Rights of Way legal team is working to reroute the path along a more accessible alignment that avoids the cesspit.

51/75 Aberlash Bridge

The bridge is now complete and in place, and the route has reopened.

51/102 Wern Ddu Road to Glynhir Falls

The Clerk walked the path with a Rights of Way officer and requested that tied gates, other obstacles and overgrown vegetation be cleared by the Rights of Way team and the Council's contractor.

Paths 51/94 and 51/92 Kings Road, Llandybie

The County Council is arranging the installation of a stile on path 51/94 and is seeking to resolve an issue involving a steel farm gate on path 51/92.

Update: The County Council legal team is meeting with landowners of both paths to resolve route issues before the new stiles can be installed.

51/032 Blaenau

Fallen trees that were blocking the path have been cleared.

51/80 and 51/78 Cilyrychen, Llandybie, and 51/29 Dyffryn Road

The paths are being reopened, with new stiles being installed during the week commencing 28th of September.

51/036 and 51/62 Blaenau and Llandybie

The Clerk has surveyed the paths in preparation for vegetation clearance and repairs to stiles.

(c) Heating system at the Bowls and Tennis Pavilion

The Clerk has submitted a full application to the National Lottery for 100% funding of the £29,000 plus VAT project. A decision is expected within the next two weeks.

In anticipation of a positive outcome, the Clerk is discussing the project lead-in time with the successful contractor. The Clerk has also asked the King George V Playing Fields Association to trim the tree overhanging the adjacent roof by 1.5 metres. This action was agreed to be acceptable by Carmarthenshire County Council's tree officers.

(d) Update on projects and funding applications

The Clerk is undertaking the following projects:

- The Rights of Way signage project linking the Council's 120 footpaths is now under way. Grant funding of £4,600 is ready to be claimed when the work is complete. Designers are drafting an information map and supporting information graphic.
- LED floodlighting at Llandybie: the Clerk is obtaining quotations from three suppliers for this grant-dependent project. A £20,000 pre-paid application for 100 per cent grant funding is being completed. A specialist adviser from the Welsh Government scheme gave the Clerk's report and project specification the green light. Fern Brodie, National Lottery grant adviser, subsequently confirmed that the project was eligible and welcomed an application.

(e) Upgrade works in parks

- Saron Park: weeding work and the installation of a picnic bench and seating bench have been completed. Further weeding has been requested from the Council's grounds-maintenance contractors at Carmarthenshire County Council.
- Derwydd Park: the items identified for repair during the annual inspection have now been repaired and the play equipment have been reopened.

(f) Update on the lease to Saron Juniors Football Club

The Clerk has received the second draft lease proposal and is following up with the club on further questions raised by CCW Law, the Council's solicitors.

(g) Report on the future staffing vision

As directed by the Policy and Employment Committee on 9 September, the Clerk is liaising with One Voice Wales to prepare recommendations for a job profile, job description and person specification for a part-time Deputy Clerk role, with an Assistant Clerk role as an alternative option this will include a recommended salary scale to be considered in line with next year's budget setting exercise.

(h) The new website

The Clerk has prepared a draft specification, held an initial consultation with the Chair and contacted three web developers. Two of the three responses have been received, and a meeting with the Council's current provider, Vision ICT, is due to take place during the next week.

(i) Budget setting exercise for 2026–27

The Clerk is drafting the budget proposal for consideration by the Finance Committee on 14 October. The following community asset and project expenditure is to be considered, and councilors are encouraged to make a case for identifying other projects in their areas:

- Decoration of the Pavilion, Llandybie, following installation of the heating system.
- CCTV at Llandybie Park and the Pavilion.
- Footpath lighting at Penygroes Park.
- Flooring repairs or replacement at Derwydd and Capel Hendre Parks and in a small area of Llandybie Park.
- A basket swing at Llandybie Park.
- Work on a parcel of land at Norton Road, subject to adoption, including benches and annual grass cutting and planting
- Community events at Penygroes, Saron and Capel Hendre.

(j) Update on the Grant Awards Evening

The Grant Awards Evening will be held at Penygroes Memorial Hall on Friday 16 October, beginning at 6.30 pm. The buffet has been arranged, and Dawnsyr Penrhyd have been approached to perform during the evening.

(k) County and Community Council elections in May 2027

Councillors who do not intend to stand for re-election are asked to advise the Clerk in confidence. The Clerk will also invite discussion about holding an open evening at the Pavilion, enabling potential candidates to meet staff, the Chair, Vice-Chair and councillors and gain an insight into the role of community councilor.

(l) Update on Tybie 10k

At the date of this report, more than 115 runners and walkers paid to enter. Publicity is being secured through the local press and an interview on S4C's Prynawn Da. Tinopolis is discussing the possibility of filming on the day of the event, Sunday 11 October.

Confirmed stallholders include Duff Nuts, Diod Coffee and Snacks, A Baked Potato vendor, Soul Fit Gym which will offer stretching classes and yoga and a women's health and wellbeing service. Further health and wellbeing services are considering attending, and Amman Valley Harriers will provide a stand for competitors.

Dai Nicholas - Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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