

Minutes of Park and Environment Committee held “remotely”.

At 6.30p.m on the 10th of June 2021.

PRESENT: Councillors: J Slate, P Totterdale, G Bevan, Elwyn Williams, P Price.

1. Apologies: none

Five electors present in addition to two Councillors and Howard Davies Clerk.

2. Declaration of interest - none.

3. Appointment of new Chair.

It was unanimously agreed (Minute 0621-P3) that Cllr J Slate be elected chair for the coming year.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th of March 2021 were confirmed as a true record (Minute 0621 – P4)

5. Update on improvements to Park entrance.

Clerk was pleased to advise that works in respect of the new fence was to commence on the 21st of June.

Wicksted have advised that wish to undertake a site visit with their contractor to discuss the additional works to be undertaken at the park that they have been asked to quote for. The costs of these works will fall into the 2021-2022 financial budget. Wicksted will contact the clerk to arrange a further meeting.

6. Sticle path update

The clerk advised that whilst he had received one estimate for the cost of installing the handrail, and had sought a further estimate from Star Forge, Llandyfaelog, as he had received no further response from Tumble Forge to his emails.

Action point

Clerk to chase up Star Forge to undertake site visit and to provide an estimate.

Wider issues.

Councillors had been circulated with proposals to be placed on this month’s Council Agenda received from Cllr Richards in respect of potential problems that he had identified with Sticle path and its surrounding area.

Clerk had walked the path lately with Cllrs Lewis and Bevan, who both live nearby and have a wealth of knowledge of the area, and where it is readily apparent that remedial works need to be undertaken to hedges and fences, in addition to litter picks, and

removal of items that have been fly tipped, along with a general tidy up, and addressing knot weed infestations etc. The Clerk with the permission of the Chair had asked Cllr Lewis to attend this meeting to receive her input.

Due to the scope of the project, the clerk suggested that a discussion group consisting of Cllrs, Bevan, Lewis, and Richards be formed to oversee this project and to drive it forward., which was unanimously agreed, subject to Cllrs Richards agreement (Minute 0621 P6.)

Matters for immediate action.

It was decided for the Clerk to write to Welsh Water who had recently completed sewer repairs works adjacent to Sticle Bach, to firstly congratulate them on the standards of work, whilst expressing our concern that a hedge bank and associated fencing had seemingly been removed by the contractors and was now becoming a health and safety issue for young children walking the path.

7. Cllrs Slate motion regarding the provision of temporary toilets was discussed at great length. Concerns were raised on how we could facilitate a cleaning and sanitising programme as required by present Covid requirements.

Action point

Clerk to ascertain cost of hiring a toilet, and obtaining further guidance from CCC re cleaning requirements, with the findings to be reported back to the next meeting, where matters can be further discussed.

Looking to the future

Councillors felt that the addition of a permanent toilet at the park, would be sensible given that the growing popularity of this facility especially amongst young families, where it has been said that families are now frequenting Llangunnor Park as opposed to Carmarthen Park. This consideration to be factored into our future planning for the park.

8. Much discussion took place around the proposal by BT to remove the phone box situated across the road from the park, and near to the shop at Brynmeurig, where the Committee felt that we should oppose this decision based upon.

1. Phone Box is in close proximity to the park and defibrillator and could be called upon at any time to make a call to the emergency services should someone become unwell whilst attending the park and requiring hospital treatment/admission. Its removal would remove this vital service.

2. The Box is located in an area of low-cost housing where not everyone has access to a mobile phone.

3. Llangunnor has an aged population, an indeed an Old Age complex situated at the Aelwyd who make use of the phone box facility.

Action Point

Clerk to write to Carmarthen CC who are undertaking the survey on behalf of BT, outlining our objection to its removal based on the above observations.

9. Proposal from Cllr Dafydd Williams re provision of flower tub beneath sign on Login Road.

It was decided that Cllr Bevan visit the site, to see if the provision of a flower tub, would cause any issues to the traffic using the road, and he would report back to the next meeting.

10. A discussion took place around a complaint received from Carmarthen Trees a local resident, (which had been previously circulated) about our policy on planting trees and reducing Carbon emissions.

The Clerk had previously acknowledged receipt of his complaint and had outlined the Council's strong commitment to tree planting highlighting that some 2000 trees had already been planted in the community which equates to roughly one tree per resident.

No further communication had been received following the clerk's email and it was agreed that the clerk again write, asking him for his correspondence address, so that our booklet "Carbon Zero Llangunor" could be sent to him.

11. Matters appertaining to Park Usage.

i) Park signage

Following Cllr Dafydd Williams suggestion, Councillors felt that the general signage within the park needed to be reviewed and to incorporate ii) bellow. Chair and Clerk to visit, appraise and report back by next meeting.

ii) Signage to prohited the riding of e scooters (Excluding Mobility Scooters)

It was unanously agreed that following recommendations by our local PCSO Nicola Walters that the Council purchase and erect appropriate signage at both entrances to the park prohiting the riding of e scooters as without signage in place the Police could not legally deal with offenders. **(Minute 0621 P 11(ii))**

Action point

Clerk to liase with Nicola re appropriate wording for signage and to purchase.

iii) Consider performance of sanitizer units.

It was felt that the performance of the unit at main entrance could be improved by providing a cover to protect the unit from excessive heat generated by the sun which caused the contents to become liquid, thereby dripping onto the ground underneath the unit.

Action point

Clerk to ask handyman to construct a cover to protect unit from sun light.

iv) Dog Gloves

Excessive non explained usage of the dog gloves at the park was being seen. Some 200 dog gloves per week were being dispensed with many of these being strewn around the park.

It was decided that for a trial period the dispenser would be refilled with 100 gloves a week, which was more in line with previous usage, with take up to be monitored thereafter.

Clerk was also asked to ascertain if a more controlling dispenser could be sourced, and at what cost, thereby giving better control over the bags being dispensed, as opposed to the current situation where individuals can “help themselves” to several gloves at a time.

Action point

Clerk to report back to next meeting with his findings.

Review usage of “the mother and toddler area.

Generally, it was felt by all that the facility was appealing, safe and being well used. However, concerns were expressed as to some small damage to the artificial play service itself had become apparent, and the area around it becoming muddy on occasions during periods of wet weather.

Action point

Clerk to contact original contractor who laid the artificial service to see if cost effective repairs can be undertaken. With regard to improving the surrounding muddy area, clerk to visit plan of works for the park to see if item has been listed/prioritised.

v) Parking issues being currently experienced outside park.

A long discussion took place on these issues.

This issue was developing hand in hand with the increased usage of the park, resulting in increased traffic volumes being, and the requirement to find more suitable parking arrangements whilst visiting the park, which was acknowledged by all.

Suggestions made included:

Placing of bollards in front of the entrance, to prevent cars parking at the entrance itself.

Placing of steel railings (like those seen outside schools) to safeguard children from entering the roadway upon leaving the park.

Request an increased visible policing presence from the local PCSO and her colleagues.

Legal enforcement to be considered through asking the Council's enforcement van to patrol, on a regular basis.

Action point

Clerk to have initial discussions with Mike Jacob at CCC, and Nicolo Walters PCSO and to report back with recommendations.

Open day at Park

It was unanimously proposed to have an open day at the Park over the summer facilitated by the Councillors to engage with park users, to ask them what kind of experience they wanted from visiting the park, and what could we do to better to cater for the needs of school children, youth and adults. Any suggestions would be most welcome, to help us understand their requirements, which would in turn enable us to build this into our future planning for the ongoing development and improvement of the park. **(Minute 0621 P 11vi)**

12. Update on Covid Memorial Stone, Llangunnor Road,

Clerk advised that he and Cllr Sandra Thomas, had recently met with a representative of the contractor G Williams St Clears on site to discuss the provision of a further memorial stone at the Llangunnor Road site., the location of which had been previously agreed at the Councils March meeting **(Minute 0321 - 8) and that the clerk and Cllr Thomas would approach the contractor for suggestions as to the type of stone most appropriate for this Covid Memorial (Minute 0221-8)**

If a further stone was to be placed alongside the existing stone, then a wider concrete plinth, and path would be required which would involve further costs on top of the sum already quoted and agreed by us.

Suggestions were received as to what type of stone would be appropriate, in terms of size and finish, so that it would blend in with the existing memorial, and a further brochure has been left which has been circulated to all Councillors for their information.

As the placing of such a stone is a sensitive issue, Councillors after much debate decided to firstly canvass the nearby householders to see if they would be happy for a further commemorative stone to be placed on the verge in the front of their properties. Cllrs Bevan and Slate were happy to undertake this work and to report back to the next meeting so that matters could be further discussed and progressed as to the type of memorial stone etc, thereby enabling us to obtain a definitive cost.

13. Arrange meeting CCC (Biodiversity Officer – Carmarthenshire County Council.)

Action point

Clerk to contact to see if a face-to-face meeting was now possible, and should this be the case, to arrange.

14. Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

As there was no other business meeting closed at 8,20pm

Signed as true record:

Date:

DRAFT