

## **Minutes of Park and Environment Committee held “remotely”.**

**At 6.30 p.m. on the 9th of March 2022.**

PRESENT: Councillors: J Slate Chair, P Totterdale, Elwyn Williams, C Evans.

1. Apologies: Cllrs G Bevan

One elector present in addition to Howard Davies Clerk.

2. Declaration of interest - none.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>TH</sup> of January 2022 were confirmed as a true record (**Minute 0322 – P3**)

4. Councillor Slate introduced her proposal to again provide toilet facilities at the park over the busy summer months, highlighting the previous success and positive feedback received from providing similar facilities initially in 2019, and again last year. Following discussion, it was agreed toilet facilities comprising of a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities, if possible, again this year from the middle of May to the middle of September, with an additional two single toilets/or one uni sex toilet to be provided for the Platinum Jubilee weekend in June. The clerk was asked to obtain quotes to ascertain prices, and report back to the next meeting. (**Minute 0322 -P4**)

**Action point: Clerk to obtain suitable quotes.**

5. Cllrs Slate and Evans provided a quick update on the proposed Jubilee event at the park.

The working party comprising of Cllrs Slate, Evans & Thomas had met and had progressed matters as follows:

The face book page was up and running and had advertised the event where 82 people to date had registered their interest in attending an event at the park, with a flyer being developed which could be handed out to residents, to further promote the event. Aled Davies Headteacher, of Llangunnor School had agreed to help promote the event and would be prepared to distribute the flyer to parents.

They had held initial discussions with local groups comprising of Llangunnor, School, Llangynnwr WI, Sugar Craft group, and a cross section of residents, where support was growing momentum.

In terms of the days format, they felt that the event should run from mid-day to say 5pm, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, allowing the morning to set things up.

They felt that the days activities should consist of arts and craft displays, children’s activities, and races etc, to appeal to a large cross section of the community as possible, supported by entertainment from the Twirlers, Symphonic Wind Band, Serena Douch and Llangunnor School.

It was also felt that it be useful to have a “Councillors Table” for residents to engage with Councillors on local issues, and to gather their suggestions on how to further improve the park, and what would enhance their experience when visiting the park.

They were still finalising their costing but felt that the initial budget of £1000 might need slight adjustment and would report back fully by the next full Council next week.

6. Cllr Slate apologised that due to work pressures, and having contacted Covid along with her family, she had not had the opportunity to progress with the provision of new park signage, but would now be prioritising it as a matter of urgency as she was back in work, and feeling much better.

7. Cllr Evans provided a brief presentation on the funding available from The National Lottery and Sports Wales for community projects. All present felt that there was merit in exploring further to see if funding could be applied for, to further improve the football pitch at the park, and help provide CCTV at the park, being two projects that have been recently suggested. As austerity continues, and rising costs of delivering key services within our community was putting pressure on our income streams, and depleting reserves, it was felt that seeking outside funding from these organisations had traction and should be considered once a suitable review had been agreed identifying key projects in order of priority for funding.

Equally it was felt that we as a Council need to engage with park users and local residents to learn what further facilities that they would like to see within the park, and then to start putting together a business plan to seek funding support.

This engagement could be discussed at the “Councillors Table” proposed as part of the Jubilee event.

It was agreed to place back on the agenda for further discussion at our June meeting of full Council.

8. The Clerk advised that a further quote had been received from Dyfed Alarms, in the sum of £5193 plus VAT, for the installation of a CCTV system at the park.

Regretably The Police Commissioners Office at Dyfed Powys Ploice had now advised that there was no funding available from them towards the cost of this project. Furthermore an application for a Tesco Community Grant had also been unsuccessful, as we had previously received £2000 from them towards the purchase cost of two Defibrillators placed at Yr Aelwyd and Llangunnor school.

Given that matters cannot proceed until an electricity pillar has been installed at the park, where dialogue with Western Power continues, it was agreed to defer these discussions until such time as an electricity supply was in place.

9. Clerk advised that he had at last received a quote from Carmarthen County Council for the provision of an Inspection and Maintenance package to the park, in addition to a quote from Sunshine Playgrounds being the contractors that installed the equipment and carried out improvements works to the toddlers play area.

Clerk wished to place on record the poor levels of customer service that he had received from Carms C C in respect of obtaining these quotes, where the initial visit took place last November, and he has to continually had to chase up these quotes with numerous e-mails going unanswered, leaving him with little confidence in dealing with this department, where he had already shared the e-mail trail with Councillors.

Turning to the quote from Sunshine Playgrounds this was slightly more expensive at £38 per monthly visit, as opposed to £36 per visit from the Council, but included the inspection of the Rugby and football posts, that the Council were not prepared to include as part of their inspection. Sunshine were also prepared to carry out any essential works that could be accommodated at the time of the visit up to an preagreed budget of £50 where works costed over this amount would have to be referred back to the Clerk for authorisation.

Additionally the Council wanted to charge £45 per quarter to oil and grease the equipment, which Sunshine would do as part of their inspection schedule, and wanted to pass on the cost of the Annual Independent Inspection amounting to £80 to us, where no charge is currently levied.

The Clerk was able to advise that Sunshine already carry out this Inspection package for Llandybie C C which covers 11 parks, where Stuart Griffith Clerk confirmed that the arrangement was working well, with the parks placed in the “low risk band” by the Independent Inspector, and the sharing of their monthly inspection findings seen as an excellent way of “nipping any problems in the bud” before it hits the Independent Inspectors Report.

As part of the quote Sunshine have also agreed to repair the tears to the artificial grass surface within the toddlers area, at a cost of £175.00 and to replace the faulty safety gate mechanism at a cost of £75 both being long outstanding issues.

After a lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed to award Sunshine a 12 month contract on a trial basis, and then to be reviewed. The award of the work to encompass sorting out the minor issues within the play area, where small items such as caps, washers, and certain fittings require replacement following theft and damage. This will remove many items which currently appearing on the Inspectors report in the “low risk category”, and the provision of a monthly defect report will greatly assist the Clerk in devising a planned maintenance programme.

It was agreed that the Inspection and Maintenance agreement would commence in April and would run for a 12 month trial period, and that the quote essential repairs to the artificial surface and safety gate be accepted. **(Minute 0322 – P9)**

10. Clerk advised that whilst a quote had been received from Jason Rice of J R Fabrications quoting for the repairs to be carried out in stainless steel, he had again approached Alan Jones, for a revised quote in stainless steel, as his original quote was for repairs to be carried out in galvanised steel. **Given that the repairs had to be undertaken urgently for Health and Safety compliance it was agreed that if a revised quote had not been received by 16<sup>th</sup> March the quote from Jason Rice was**

**to be accepted in the sum of £1600 plus VAT.** Cllrs felt that whilst completing the repairs in stainless steel would be more expensive (£1600 as opposed to £1150) the repair would last longer, and would not be prone to corrosion as would be the case as the galvanised surface would wear with time through usage thereby exposing the metal which is the problem that we have now, allied to the fact that the remaining metal structures are in good condition. **(Minute 0322-P10)**

11. Clerk advised that he had received a quote for painting the entrance gates and woodwork at both entrances to the park, from Eifion Williams a local Builder recommended by Llew Thomas Clerk of Gorslas C C which came in at £1200 plus Vat, in addition to a quote from the handyman which came in at £472 with no VAT. **Cllr Elwyn Williams declared an interest (handyman being his brother) and left the meeting whilst this was being discussed.** Both quotes were discussed and given the difference in cost, it was decided for the Clerk to endeavour to get another quote from a local painter for comparison purposes.

**Action point: Clerk asked Councillors to advise him of any professional painters living locally, so that he could approach them to provide a quote.**

12. For information purposes the Clerk advised that he had received two e-mails from residents expressing their concerns over the safety of certain trees on the park boundary adjacent to their properties which had been passed on to Paul Cleaver, Tree Works West Wales for his professional response as advisor to the Council.

13. Date of next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**As there was no other business meeting closed at 7.45 pm**

Signed as true record:

Date: