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

**At 6.30 p.m. on the 25th of January 2023.**

PRESENT: Councillors: J Slate Chair, G Bevan, P Totterdale, S Thomas, C Evans

One elector present in addition to Howard Davies Clerk.

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of interest – None

3. The minutes of the meeting held on the 29th of September 2022 were confirmed as a true record **(Minute 0123-P3)**

4.The Clerk update the Committee on the following matters:

I) The Clerk advised that he was experiencing some issues with Sunshine Playgrounds, in that they were not forwarding the monthly reports in a timely fashion, despite chasing, neither was the maintenance works progressing as originally scheduled, or contract details had been received confirming our original agreement.

Councillors were concerned to learn of the poor and indifferent level of service being received from this company and instructed the clerk to express our dissatisfaction in strong, terms and to look at alternative suppliers here.

**Action point: Clerk to speak to Neil Operations Director at Sunshine and to seek alternative quotes from similar operators. (Minute 0123 P4i)**

ii) Clerk advised that he was still looking at some sort of stickers/labels to record that item placed with the park and the community had been bought by Llangunnor Community Council for the benefit of the local community.

iii)Clerk advised that J R Fabrications had been extremely busy on the lead up to Christmas, and a meeting had now been provisionally booked in for Monday 30th January to discuss how best to alter the entrance gate to stop it dragging, and to advise on how best to secure the new toilet to the ground at the park entrance, in addition to securing the park furniture that had become loose from the tarmac, as identified in the recent park reports.

iv) On a very positive note, the Clerk advised that with the help of County Councillor Elwyn Williams, they had managed to get Carmarthen C C to waive the £350 fee that they were going to levy for allowing an easement for the electric cable to be laid for the relocated Glan Ffynnon Sub Station, which will now be placed at the bottom of the park which was proving to be a “deal blocker”. With this fee removed National Grid were happy to proceed as previously agreed, with both parties to instruct respective Solicitors this week. They envisaged that the works on the Park connection would commence hopefully by late March.

v) Regrettably no further progress had been made about meeting Mr Pillner, Head Of Transport & Engineering at Carms C C about the creation of an access off the roundabout near Babell flyover and into Charlie’s car park as Carms C C had not responded to our requests for a site meeting. This has now been escalated to Cllr Edward Thomas Cabinet Minister at Carms C C for Transport, Waste, and Infrastructure Services who is now endeavouring to see if he can expedite a site meeting here.

The Clerk has personally visited and written to twenty businesses on the Pensarn Retail Park, and currently has received eight letters of support for our lobbying for a new entrance at the top of “Charlie’s” car park. This is somewhat disappointing as every business had verbally advised him of their willingness to support this initiative.

Clerk and County Cllr Elwyn Williams continue to closely monitor the situation.

**vi)THE NEW EMERGENCY CONRACT NUMBER FOR THE COUNCIL IS O7904080614 AND IS ONLY TO BE USED WITH REGARD TO ANYTHING APPERTAINING TO THE PARK.**

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO USE THE EXISTING MOBILE NUMBER TO CONTACT THE CLERK FOR ANYTHING ELSE.**

vii) The Clerk apologised for not having progressed quotes and suggestions for some seating to be placed within the “children’s play area” as he had been unable to meet with Sunshine Playgrounds as envisaged. He looked to move this forward by our next meeting.

5. Regrettably the playground inspection for supports for October, November, and December had still not been received, and as such this item will have to deferred until our next meeting. Please see minute point 4 above.

**6.** The Clerk reported that the emergency phone number for the park signage was up and running, which would now allow revised park signage to be sourced. The Chair confirmed that this would be prioritised, and she would now source suitable signage, and ascertain costs which she would then circulate amongst Committee members.

7. The clerk advised that he had attended a recent site meeting with Cllr Graham Slate, and Emrys Williams our handyman to discuss a permanent site for the toilet to be situated on hardstanding at the entrance of the park.

After due consideration, it was felt that the best position for the toilet would be down at the bottom right-hand corner of the entrance to be placed on the green verge, with the front access of the toilet to remain off the tarmac area itself and being adjacent to the notice board.

The rationale here was that the toilet would be more visible as it would always remain within public eyesight, therefore hopefully addressing the recent spate of vandalism that has seen our toilet targeted.

Secondly it could be serviced by the service tanker from the road, thereby dispensing the need for the clerk to open the gates, which will reduce costs. A new combination padlock would be purchased, with the combination to be made available to the “toilet service contractor” which would allow the toilet to be serviced at any time.

Thirdly wheelchair access would be excellent as it could be accessed off the tarmac.

Fourthly is could be secured by ground pegs and be chained to the notice board.

However certain trees significantly overhang the pavement, and over the area where we are looking to site the toilet. The toilet could suffer damage from falling branches etc and would certainly suffer greening from the hedge itself if no corrective action was taken.

To progress matters, and to ensure ongoing public safety of the area at the entrance and the adjacent pavement it was proposed for the clerk to contact Dinefwr Tree Services, being a fully licenced arborist based in Llangunnor, and who works for our neighbouring Community Council, at LLanddarog, Llanarthney and Llandybie to inspect the hedge and to provide a quote for the required tree works. The hedge at that location is old, and gappy, that would certainly benefit from being laid subject to the agreement of the adjoining property owner who shares this hedge boundary, which in turn would improve the appearance and security of the park entrance.

As there could be health and safety issues here with these hanging branches it was unanimously agreed by the Committee for the clerk to proceed as outlined, and were happy with the suggested site for the toilet. **(Minute** **0123-P7)**

**Action point: Clerk to contact Dinefwr Tree Services for their advice, and quote for remedial tree works.**

8. Date of next meeting to be advised by the Clerk.

**As there was no other business meeting closed at 6.59 pm**

Signed as true record: Date: