

Minutes of Extra-ordinary meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held 'remotely' on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. G Bevan, J Slate, E Williams, G Slate, P Totterdale

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Cllr Bevan explained that as there had been some confusion as to who had called the last Extra Ordinary meeting which took place on Monday 13th February, and the nature of the meeting ie Park and Environment Committee or Full Council. Upon reflection it was decided to call a further Extra-ordinary meeting of Council to transact this agenda, with the appropriate notice having been issued, and communicated to all councillors, having given them the opportunity to attend a further meeting to ratify the earlier decisions taken.

One elector in addition to the clerk

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. L Whatley, J Evans, C Evans, M Williams, A Wadeward.

2. Declaration of Interest – Cllr E Williams declared an interest in point 4 on the agenda, given the handyman is his brother, and he uses services of Dynevor Tree Services.

Cllr P Totterdale also declared an interest as the proprietor of Dynevor Tree Services was related to him.

3. The Chair referred to the comprehensive set of notes prepared at the earlier EGM of the 13th of February a copy of which had been circulated to all Councillors electronically, with a further copy appended below, covering off the background to these agenda items. Following a brief discussion, it was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Dragon Play and Sports Ltd, with immediate effect to allow the monthly inspections to commence, and for a scheme of maintenance/repairs to be drawn up in risk priority order. (Minute 03/23 EGM3)

4. Point 4 was again dealt with in the same manner, with Cllrs E Williams and P Totterdale, declaring an interest and taking no further part in the discussions and required vote.

After a brief discussion three Councillors voted in favour of acceptance of the quotes from Dynevor Tree Services, with two Councillors not taking part in the

vote, both having previously declared an interest in this Agenda item. **(Minute 03/23 EGM4)**

5. Point 5 was again dealt with in a similar manner. After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from J R Fabrications for repairs to the main entrance gate. **(Minute 03/23 EGM 5)**

There was no further business.

Meeting closed at 6.55pm

Signed Chair of Council

Date.

Notes from our earlier Extra Ordinary meeting which took place remotely on Monday 13th February at 6.30p.m.

3. Cllr Slate outlined the present unsatisfactory position in respect of our Inspection and Maintenance Agreement with Sunshine Playgrounds where despite the best efforts of the clerk, monthly reports for October, November, December, and January 2023 have not been received.

Furthermore apart from repairs to the artificial playing surface, and stopping the yellow safety gate opening outwards at the toddlers playing area, no further repairs/maintenance had been undertaken despite many promises, which was extremely disappointing.

Due to their failure to meet the service standards expected, and the lack of contact/paperwork which could leave us exposed if an accident were to occur in the park immediate action was required hence the urgency of this meeting.

The clerk advised that he had been approached directly by a Cardiff based company- Dragon Play & Sports Ltd who undertake this type of work throughout Wales and over the bridge in England.

The clerk duly met, with Wayne Hock their Compliance & Quality Manager at the park on Monday 30th January to inspect the equipment. A further meeting was arranged for Saturday 4th February where he met with Cllr Slate Chair of The Park & Environment Committee, Cllrs M Williams, and P Totterdale with

the clerk also in attendance to discuss any issues. An open invite to all Councillors was issued to attend.

It was evident from our meeting that Mr Hock was very experienced and knowledgeable and had the necessary competence to undertake the type of work that we were looking to get done. After the meeting it was decided to call an extra ordinary meeting of the Parks & Environment Committee, soonest to recommend that we accept their verbal quote of £75 per inspection (written quote to follow)

The clerk subsequently spoke to Llanelli Rural Council as this company has managed 11 parks for them for many years, where they are highly thought of, and indeed have moved company three times as Mr Hock has moved within the industry.

He also spoke with Adrian Lloyd at Carmarthen Town Council, who has worked with Mr Hock in the past when he worked for ROSPA as an inspector, and again spoke very highly of him, having experienced no issues with his work whatsoever.

A quote for £75 plus Vat per inspection has now been received for a total of 11 inspections, as the annual inspection is undertaken by Carms C C currently fee free,

A short discussion took place where it was unanimously agreed that we accept their quote with immediate effect, so that an inspection can take place this month, which will then allow a scheme of maintenance works to be prepared, on a high to low risk priority basis. Additionally, clerk to write to Sunshine to say that their services are no longer required due to their poor service standards.

With the permission of the Chair item 5 on the agenda was dealt with next, as Cllr Elwyn Williams had declared an interest in item 4. The Agenda then to revert to point 4 to allow Cllr Williams to leave the meeting and to take no further part in the discussions.

5. A quote from J R Fabrications for £335 plus Vat for essential Health and Safety repair works to the main gate was considered, along quotes for the replacing a gate stopper for the small entrance safety gate with a stronger type

as the previous stopper had been vandalised, and to machine 4 new metal ground pins to secure the toilet.

The works comprise of:

- i) Take gate off, extend post if need to re concrete back in higher level, re hang gate with wheel attached to other side to prevent grounding.
- ii) Machine 4 no 16mm pins, @ 1 ft long to secure toilet.
- iii) 1 gate stop painted yellow for single entrance gate.

A short discussion took place regarding the essential works where clerk advised that the main gate had dropped and was dragging along and marking the tarmac, where the hanging post had become loose.

The gate stop would prevent the gate opening beyond 90 degrees, thereby avoiding damage to the closing mechanism, and the pins would help secure the new toilet at its new location.

Given the increased vehicular traffic now going through the gate, with the Council, National Grid, and Park Maintenance contractors now using this entrance the damage would only get progressively worse.

Again, a single quote had been provided by a contractor that had worked for us previously repairing the skateboard arena, as other contractors approached were too busy.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from J R Fabrications.

4. The clerk explained that whilst discussing the re siting of the toilet to the bottom of the park entrance, with Cllr Graham Slate and our handyman, it became apparent that there was a couple of dangerous trees, overhanging the road, and the entrance itself, that could pose a Health and Safety if they were to fall on the users of the outside pavement, the park entrance itself, and the toilet itself.

All felt that subject to the agreement of the Council, that the dangerous trees be removed and the hedge laid as removal of the trees would create holes in the boundary hedge.

The handyman advised this would have to be done as a matter of urgency, given the window to lay the hedge would close around mid-March, to allow time for the birds to nest etc.

Given the urgency of the situation the clerk approached Dinefwr Tree Services, a locally based arborist who lived in Pen Y Morfa, who carries out work for Llanddarog, and Llanarthney Community Council, along with other local Community Councils.

Cllr G Slate and the clerk had met with our next-door neighbours, Mr & Mrs Stewart Bowen, Lindisfarne, Heol Blaengwastod, Llangunnor, SA31 21E, who share the boundary hedge of the park, and they were happy for the works being undertaken at our cost.

They did express a wish to have CCTV cameras at the park, given the incidents of ASB, and vandalism seen of late, where we advised that we were currently looking into the feasibility of providing such.

The clerk duly met with Steve the owner of D T S, who advised that the trees were considered dangerous, and would need felling, and his advice would be to lay the hedge at the same time.

A quote of £660 has been provided for undertaking the felling and clearance work for this section. DTS were unable to provide a quote for laying the hedge as they did not undertake this type of work but were happy to work with the handyman.

A quote of £250 was provided by the handyman to lay this area of the hedge, where he was happy to work with DTS.

As he was there I asked him to view two fallen trees at the Lewis Morris entrance, where again his advice was to fell and remove. We also looked at the overgrown area beyond the skateboard park, where one of these trees had fallen into, and I asked him for a quote to clear and tidy up this area, as thereafter our handyman could keep tidy, as currently he thought the job was too big for him to undertake on his own.

A quote of £500 was provided to undertake this work.

The clerk advised that he had only obtained single quotes, as all contractors are busy, and Steve was prepared to fit this job in, to help the Community Council out.

The quotes were discussed and unanimously accepted, and the clerk was asked to expedite given the Health and Safety implications identified.

There was no other business.

Meeting closed 7.05 p.m.