

Minutes of Park and Environment Committee held “remotely”

At 6.30 p.m. on the 3rd of May 2023.

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

One elector present in addition to Howard Davies Clerk.

1. Apologies: Cllr G Bevan

2. Declaration of interest – None

3. The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th of January 2023 were confirmed as a true record (**Minute 0523-P3**)

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

1) Dragon Play and Sports Ltd. The new Inspection and Maintenance contract at the park was working well, with monthly reports for February and March received. They are currently costing the replacement parts required, and labour to carry out the remedial works identified.

All agreed that the format of the report was much better, being easier to read, and a summary of their findings along with risk waiting on page 3 of the report was most useful.

Finding Summary

Llangunnor Community Park Findings

Asset	Finding Title	Creation Date	Risk
Fencing - Coloured Bowtop	Item - Cap(s) missing	22/02/2023 08:56:30	Low
Signage - No Dogs	Item - Hard or Sharp Projections	22/02/2023 09:02:47	Low
Play Car	Item - Bolt missing	22/02/2023 13:43:46	Low
Slide - Embankment with Crawl Tunnel	Item - Timber rotting	22/02/2023 15:07:58	Low
Entrance - Gate (Bottom Area)	Item - Not Working	22/02/2023 15:18:12	Low
Multiplay Unit	Item - Re-paint	22/02/2023 15:32:27	Low
Rocker - Spring Elephant	Item - Cap(s) missing	22/02/2023 15:39:13	Low
Rocker - Spring Elephant	Item - Corrosion	22/02/2023 15:40:04	Low

Agility - Balance Beam with Step Pod	Timber - Not in Good Condition	22/02/2023 15:45:40	Low
Swing - 1Bay Toddler Seat	Item - Re-paint	22/02/2023 15:52:48	Low
Fitness Area	Item - Cap(s) cover missing	22/02/2023 17:01:37	Low
Fitness Area	Item - Cap(s) cover missing	22/02/2023 17:03:12	Low
Fitness Area - Surface - Grass Mat	Surface - Wearing	22/02/2023 17:04:22	Low
BMX Track - Surface - Grass	Surface - Wearing	22/02/2023 17:11:43	Low
Swing - 1Bay Junior Seats	Item - Cap(s) missing	22/02/2023 17:15:08	Low
Swing - 1Bay Junior Seats	Chain - Links Worn	22/02/2023 17:15:47	Low
Swing - 1Bay Junior Seats - Surface - Grass Mat	Surface - Worn	22/02/2023 17:16:51	Low
Swing - 2Bay Basket/Jnr Seats - Surface - Grass Mat	Surface - Worn	22/02/2023 17:20:13	Low
Multiplay - Large	Item - Corrosion	22/02/2023 17:24:08	Low
Multiplay - Large	Item - Damaged	22/02/2023 17:25:40	Low
Multiplay - Large	Item - Corrosion	22/02/2023 17:27:51	Low
Seating - Bench/Picnic Table	Item - Cap missing	22/02/2023 17:31:39	Low
Seating - Bench/Picnic Table	Item - Not Secure	22/02/2023 17:32:57	Low
General Surface - Carpet	Surface - Trip points	22/02/2023 17:36:02	Low
A Site - Llangunnor Community Play Area	Item - Damaged	22/02/2023 17:41:05	Low
A Site - Llangunnor Community Play Area	Surface - Trip points	22/02/2023 17:43:18	Low

ii) Clerk has chased National Grid for an update on when the works to draw an electricity supply to the park would commence. He has asked for these works to be completed by the end of June, being mindful that our Community event will take place on the 16th of July.

iii) The clerk was in the process of obtaining quotes for benches to be placed, within the children's play area, which would provide seating for parents whilst watching their children play.

iv) The clerk talked through the recent grant application made to Carmarthen C C under their Sustainable Communities Fund and advised that the decision was awaited.

The Chair thanked the clerk for the work put into this application and for turning it around so quickly given the short window available for applications to be received. If successful it would cover 50% of the cost of installing CCTV, and £6500 toward the cost of installing an artificial playing surface in the upper play area and replacing the two safety gates.

v) The clerk reported that the dangerous trees had been removed at both entrances, and the overgrown area adjacent to the skateboard park had been cut back and cleared. Furthermore, he had received several compliments from park users on the quality of work delivered, the difference it has made to the park, and would be passing these onto the company. However, whilst undertaking the work an additional tree at the Maes Lewis Morris entrance was identified as being dangerous, and the clerk having visited the site agreed for this tree to be cut back, at an additional cost of £50, whilst the Contractors remained on site, and sought ratification from the Committee for his actions which was forthcoming. **(Minute 0503P-4v)**

5) The Llangunnor Playground Operational Inspection report for March 23 was discussed and it was pleasing that no item reported had been qualified as above “low risk”. Dragon is now in the process of costing the supply of replacement parts, and labour to fit them, and this will be provided shortly.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the report. **(Minute 0523-P5)**

6 Cllr Jenny Slate introduced her motion: – “To consider the provision of lighting in the park. The park is very dark in the winter months and people dog walking would benefit from some lighting. It may also alleviate anti-social behaviour and vandalism”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Graham Slate. (Minute 0523-P6)

A short discussion followed where all Councillors felt there was merit in the clerk investigating matters further to see what lights were available be it solar or electric, with a preference for movement lighting which would only come on after detecting movement.

It was felt that the main entrance would greatly benefit from the provision of light, however we must be mindful of our neighbouring residents nearby.

Cllr G Slate added that many dog walkers use the park either in early morning or of an evening, and during winters months the park was a very dark place to walk along, where they had to rely on head torches etc.

All Councillors voted unanimously for the clerk to carry out further research to see what was available and at what cost, and to report back to the Committee when the information was to hand to see if it was feasible to progress matters. **(Minute 0523P – 6)**

Cllr Charlie Evans joined the meeting at 7.00pm having been held up at work.

7. The provision of CCTV was again brought up by the clerk, given that our last discussion that took place in The Park And Environmental Committee meeting of 9th March 2022 when it was agreed to defer the decision until such time as we an electricity supply at the park. We are now waiting for a connection to be put in place hopefully in time for our Community event in July, which would then be available to power up a CCTV system. Additionally of late we have been subjected to several acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, where the toilet itself has been targeted on several occasions.

The provision of CCTV at the park was unanimously supported by all Councillors, where the clerk was asked to advise the Committee of the outcome of our recent grant application to Carms C C under their Sustainable Communities Grant Scheme for match funding here for this project. There is £3500 available from our 106 monies. **(Minute 0523-P7)**

8. The Chair advised that the had been delays in receiving suggestions from Dragon as to the signage required for the park. Contact has now been received, and dialogue continues as ideally, we are looking to have this pictorial signage in place ahead of Community event scheduled for the 16th of July.

Additionally, Wayne Hock who undertakes the park inspections for Dragon recommended Sign Express Of Swansea who produce park signage.

The Chair will research matters further and report back with her recommendations.

9. The clerk advised of the problems identified by the Park Inspector whilst carrying out his monthly inspections regarding overhanging branches of the three large Oak trees at the bottom of the park. It is evident that some of the branches overhang the skateboard and netball hoop area at low level, which could present a health and safety issue, if a user became in contact with the branches.

Clerk advised that he had discussed with Dynevor Tree Services who have suggested that they apply to Carms C C in the first instance to see if they will provide a licence for such work to be undertaken given that all three trees are subject to Tree Preservation Orders. If the licence is agreed, then the works can then be costed.

Given the H & S implications it was unanimously agreed that Dynevor be instructed to seek a licence, and if successful then a quote to be obtained for the necessary pruning works to these trees.

Additionally, the clerk's suggestion to get a machine in to level the ground recently recovered near the Lewis Morris entrance be adopted, and the clerk was instructed to obtain a quote. Dynevor had suggested this course of action, to aide the management of this area, which could be maintained via tractor and mower as part of the regular grass cut at the park, following reseeding with grass seed, therefore being cost effective in the medium term. Dynevor can undertake this work, and given the quality of works undertaken to date, and their reasonable costs it was decided to seek a quote from them. Additionally, the ditch running alongside the bottom of the park to be cleaned out at the same time, to ensure that surface water running off the park disperses quickly into existing drains. **(Minute 0523 – P9)**

10. All agreed that the repositioning of the toilet to the main entrance had proved to be a sensible decision, and the moving of the defibrillator to a more prominent position, on the inner entrance fence had been well received by the community. Hopefully given its prominent position, this would prevent further acts of vandalism being carried out at the park.

It was also agreed now that the toilet was being extensively used by park users, that we ask Diane Evans to undertake a thorough weekly clean of the toilet from now to the end of October, prior to closing it up for the winter. Clerk to speak with Mrs Evans and will report back.

Cllrs Charlie Evans also wished to express the Council's gratitude to Cllr Graham Slate for undertaking the opening and closing of the toilet on a voluntary basis throughout the year, and these sentiments were echoed by his fellow Councillors. (Minute 0523 -P10)

Date of next meeting to be advised by the Clerk.

As there was no other business meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Signed as true record:

Date: