

Minutes of Park and Environment Committee held “remotely”.

At 6.30p.m on the 12th of July 2021.

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

1. Apologies: none

Three electors present in addition to one Councillor and Howard Davies Clerk.

2. Declaration of interest - none.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th of June 2021 were confirmed as a true record (**Minute 0721 – P3**)

4. Update on improvements to Park entrance.

Clerk was pleased to advise at long last that works in respect of the new fence was to commence on the 13th of July.

It has also been agreed that Cllr Jenny Slate Chair, and the clerk would meet with a representative from Wicksteed’s sub-contractors next Friday morning to provide details to enable a quote to be provided for the next phase of improvements to the park which are currently being considered.

5. Sticle path update

Cllr Bevan advised that he was currently formulating a plan to move these proposals forward and would be in a position to report back to the full Council shortly.

The clerk advised that he had received a verbal estimate from Star Forge which has come in slightly cheaper, than the other, for the cost of installing the handrail, where the confirmation email in respect of the quote was still awaited.

Wider issues.

Cllr Bevan also advised that the householder at Sticle Bach, had advised him that all the utilities run underground on the far side side of the path opposite their house, and therefore it would be unlikely that we would be allowed to erect a handrail given the close proximity of these

6. Following Cllrs Slate’s (Chair) motion regarding the provision of temporary toilets it was unanimously agreed in principle to provide a temporary toilet facility at the park again this summer, so long as this was deemed cost effective, and a thorough “Risk Assessment” being undertaken to ensure full compliance with current “Covid Cleaning” requirements. (**Minute 0721 P7**)

Action point

Clerk to speak with our colleagues at Carmarthen Town Council to see if they can assist with the cleaning requirement as we have no employees to call upon. Additionally, Councillors asked to advise clerk if they knew of anyone willing to undertake paid toilet cleaning duties on a temporary casual basis.

The Committee were mindful that with school holidays now to commence, there would be a significant increase seen in parents with young children attending the park, and the provision of toilet facilities would be very much appreciated by them in particular, and would no doubt add to their enjoyment of the park and its facilities.

7 All agreed that the lack of available signage needs' addressing. Chair proposed that the Council purchase three pictorial type signs incorporating up to date signage covering no smoking near play area, littering/taking care of your rubbish, dog fouling, the riding of e scooters etc. which was unanimously agreed. **(Minute 0721 P7)**

Action point.

Chair to source appropriate signage ASAP.

8. Following a satisfactory site visit by Cllr Bevan, it was agreed to provide a flower display beneath the Llangunnor sign on Login Road.

Additionally, Cllr Bevan proposed that a flower display also be placed under the Llangunnor sign on the main road along Pibwr Flats as you approach from the Cwmffwd direction. This was again unanimously agreed, and both to be added to our flower order for next year to be placed with Carmarthen Town Council. Councillors were also keen to have a location map for all sites where the floral displays were placed to ensure that they were all in a prominent position to maximise appeal. **(Minute 0721 P8)**

Action point.

Clerk to add two tubs to our order with Carmarthen Town Council and to see if a location map is available.

9. The proposal from Cllr Jenny Slate (Chair) to assess the possibility of placing a Christmas tree at the entrance to the park was discussed, where it was agreed to principle subject to a feasibility study to see if it was possible to secure an electric connection, and a full costing.

Action point

Chair and clerk to liaise with Arwel Price CCC Public Lighting to explore possibility of proving an electric supply to the park entrance, and any associated costs, then to report back with their findings, for further consideration and if acceptable then pass over to the Christmas Committee to see if they wish to support before any commitment is given.

10. Proposal received from Cllr Jenny Slate (Chair) to consider the provision of CCTV Security cameras in the park, which was again discussed at length. Everyone was in support of exploring the matter further, with Cllr Slate and clerk now to undertake a feasibility study, incorporating a full costing, to seek out any grant opportunities that may be available to support this project, and to report back thereafter with their findings.

Action point.

Chair and clerk to undertake feasibility study, and to report back with their findings.

11. How best to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was again discussed and various suggestions made. As this is meant to be a community event, it was thought best for the Council to engage with local residents and to ask them how they wanted to mark/celebrate this auspicious occasion. It was felt that this could be best undertaken via the use of our, new Facebook page which hopefully will be up and running by early Autumn.

With the benefit of this additional information, Councillors felt that a more informed discussion could take place, with a view to finding a practical way of supporting the recognition of this significant milestone in her reign, to everyone's satisfaction.

Action point

To get the Council's Facebook Page up and running soonest, and this item to be placed on the agenda for the next Web Committee meeting.

12. The creation of a maintenance log for park equipment, incorporating regular visual inspections, details of defects/repairs required /servicing carried out etc was discussed at length.

Cllr Slate explained that if the Council was subjected to an insurance claim in respect of someone sustaining injuries whilst using park equipment, it was essential that a log be set up soonest, to be maintained by our handyman encompassing the above key areas of risk as a minimum. This was unanimously agreed. **(Minute 0721 P12)**

Action point.

Chair agreed that she would work with the clerk to create a suitable Log, and to draw up a practical and workable record sheet, to be implemented as soon as possible following discussions with the handyman. Clerk will also speak with Carmarthen Town Council to see who services their equipment, and how they record their inspections/remedial works.

Cllr Elwyn Williams noted his interest in this discussion and took no part in the discussions appertaining to this point

13. Update on matters appertaining to Park Usage.

i) Improved/better signage at park-please see point 7 above.

ii) Consider performance of sanitizer units.

Clerk advised that he had spoken with the supplier about the dispensing problems being experienced, and he kindly has agreed to call over the next week or two, to check the operating efficiency of the sanitiser at the main park entrance, and to report back to the clerk with his findings.

With regards to housing the unit in a cabinet of sorts, having spoken with the handyman he felt that this required a specialist to construct a suitable cover/housing and as such was not within ability. He suggested that we should seek out an appropriate individual/company. to carry out the required work here.

Action point

Clerk will investigate further options and will report back to the Committee.

iii) Dog Glove Dispenser

Clerk advised that he had spoken with the original supplier, who incidentally supplies us with Dog Gloves, to be told that they only sell our type of dispenser, and do not do a single use/roll type of dispenser.

He did suggest placing a “conscious sign” next to the dispenser and providing suitable wording used successfully by other Council’s. The clerk has adopted this suggestion and has attached a laminated bilingual sign displaying the following wording:

“Allan o’r consyrn I erail cymerwch un bag ar y tro yn unig os soes angen”

“Out of consideration for others please only take one bag at a time, if needed”.

In fairness usage has returned to more acceptable levels, with the handyman reporting that gloves being strewn over the park no longer being a problem. We propose to evaluate going forward, in the hope that the signage will focus minds, as to only take one as opposed to a handful if needed.

1v) Review of the current usage of the “mother and toddler area” and receive suggestions on how it could be improved.

All agreed that this fantastic facility is being well used and supported drawing on families from both the Llangunnor area, and outside.

It was also noted that further investment was being considered to improve the artificial service on the upper part of the play area, where further quotes have been requested,

and upon receipt will be discussed/appraised further for recommendation back to Council

It was noted that the following items required attention:

1. The Yellow entry gate into the “toddlers’ area” was not closing properly.
2. Two small tears had been identified in the artificial surface possibly caused by a bike tyre or having been burned/scorched which is indeed disappointing given the cost of this equipment, and the significant amount of investment made into this area of the park.

Action point

Clerk to speak with original supplier of the equipment to see what can be done here.

v) Parking issues being currently experienced outside park.

Action point

Clerk has emailed Mike Jacob at Carms CC but has not received a response as yet. Clerk has asked Cllr Elwyn Williams to have a word with him. He had also discussed the parking issues at the park with Nicola Waters PCSO which has been covered off in the next point see below:

vi) Output from clerk’s meeting with Nicola Walters PCSO.

Clerk advised that he had recently met up with Nicola in the park, and a productive discussion had taken place covering the following points:

Anti social behaviour/reports of vandalism to a small number of trees in the park.

PCSO had received reports of a number of youths congregating at the recreational area near to the Dog Glove Dispenser, and purportedly using drugs in the early evenings. She has also received information that the same youths had been vandalising certain trees.

She confirmed that patrols would now target this area on evenings, in an attempt to speak to the youths concerned, which hopefully would sort the problem out.

E Scooters

PCSO thanked the Council for agreeing to display appropriate signage, as without it the Police could not prosecute any offenders. She further explained that this was a national problem, and not just a local one here in Llangunnor.

Policing

PCSO explained that due to the demands of Covid , and the pressures of Austerity on policing budgets , she no longer regularly patrolled the whole area of Llangunnor on foot, but wrather was governed by a “targeted approach”, where she and her colleagues now responded to specific complaints/reports.

Parking problems being seen outside thae park during periods of heavy usuage.

We discussed at length, and she suggested that the Council take matters up with Carmarthen C.C, who could consider the use of the mobile parking enforcement van, traffic wardens, and the adoption of traffic calming measures. Clerk was able to respond positively to her suggestions by advising that the Council had already taken up matters with Mike Jacob at the Council.

14. Update on Covid Memorial Stone, Llangunnor Road.

Cllr Bevan reported back advising he had visited 16 properties which overlooked the site On Llangunnor Road, where he had met with nine of the owners, and had received the following comments/observations:

Generally, all were in favour of some sort of recognition for those who had lost their lives to “Covid” in Llangunnor.

The majority were in favour of a plaque as opposed to a memorial stone, seeing a stone as being more “macabre”, and a plaque being more appropriate.

There were also suggestions that consideration be given to establishing a “wildflower meadow” on the large nearby grass verge that surrounds the existing stone.

That we as a Council needed to be more respectful of the area, by ensuring that the immediate area surrounding the stone was kept in a tidy condition throughout the year, especially now as Carmarthen C C were now only cutting grass verges once throughout the summer.

The above feedback was discussed at length and given that the nearby houseowners were more in favour of a plaque, as opposed to a memorial stone, and as the Council had previously agreed to put a stone there, it was decided that the matter be referred back to the full Council given these findings, for further discussions.

15. Update on proposed open day at Park.

Councillors were keen to support this, and various weekend dates were considered.

Chair suggested that she liaise with her fellow Councillors to see what weekend date was most suitable for the majority so that preparations could be made.

Action point.

Chair to come up with a suitable date, and to advise the clerk.

16. Arrange meeting CCC (Biodiversity Officer – Carmarthenshire County Council.

Clerk advised that as it was proposed that Councillors would meet with Rachael Carter, One Voice Wales's newly appointed "Local Places for Nature Officer" to discuss options for Sticle path and the park woodland projects, and as she was keen to work with the Biodiversity Officer that both meetings would be combined given overlap, which was agreed.

17. Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

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

Signed as true record:

Date: