

# Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

## COUNCIL UPDATES – JANUARY 2023

### 1. Financial

#### i) **Budget 2023-2024**

The budget for 2023-2024 has been approved and the budget report posted on the web site within the timescales set by Powys County Council and as prescribed by the guidance.

#### ii) **Current bank balances**

The bank balances as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were:

Current account	£43,034.59	
Deposit account	£60,242.87	
VAT refund	£3,828.01	
Total money available		£107,105.47

Ringfenced money is as follows:

General reserves	£40,000.00
Youth Club Grant	£9,950.00
Total	£49,950.00

#### iii) **Welsh Government Audit**

All papers and the annual returns have been passed to the Welsh Government with the final audit notices awaited.

### 2. Governance

#### i) **Documents**

The various documents are being reviewed. The Standing Orders are being finalised before coming back to Council for approval.

#### ii) **Independent Review Panel for Wales**

The amount included in the budget (as required by law) totals £ for Councillor allowances. To date over half the Councillors have written/emailed the Town Clerk stating they do not wish to take allowances. The allocated sum for this was to be taken from reserves and therefore would not affect the precept.

#### iii) **Trusts**

The annual report and accounts are ready for Council approval and submission to the Charity Commission by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

### 3. Grass cutting

The grass cutting contract is due for renewal on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Expressions of interest are being sought before seeking tenders during February 2023.

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## 4. Goat Field and Deri Woods

### i) Grant aid

The grant aid of £4,000 towards paths and works in Deri Woods and Goat Field is being used with approx. £2,000 remaining.

### ii) Paths

Works to replace steps in various parts of Deri Woods and Goat Field are required. There is timber on site which can be used for these repairs by the FODW – some of the Grant Aid for paths maybe needed to supplement the timber on site.

### iii) Goat Field – Ash Die Back disease

Notice has been served on Powys County Council informing them of the tree felling in Goat Field which is due to take place in March 2023. The trees being removed are those with Ash Die Back Disease. A quote for the works has been asked for and is awaited.

### iv) Deri Woods and Goat Field Bi-diversity Plan

A meeting on site is being arranged for councillors to meet the FODW to agree the first stage of tree thinning.

### v) Drainage

The drainage works to the lower path in Goat Field was completed in the latter part of 2022 and is working well.

### vi) Paths and leaf clearance

The leaf blowing required to clear paths (as usual) has been completed.

## 5. Burial Services

### i) Erw Ddwr trees

A report on the trees has been gained. Minor works are required and will be completed over the next three years within the council repairs budget for this service.

### ii) Sculptures in St Mary's churchyard

The sculptures located in the churchyard on a temporary basis were removed during the second week of January 2023.

### iii) Works to rear of Institute

Quote accepted and works due to start when weather is less inclement.

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- iv) **Lychgate**  
There are some carpentry works needed to stabilise the Lychgate.  
A local contractor was asked to quote but this has still not been received.
- v) **Path through St Mary's churchyard**  
It is understood that Powys County Council have the path registered as a public right of way and therefore could be responsible for its maintenance.  
Contact is being made to ascertain the situation.
- vi) **Chapel of Rest gate**  
The bottom of the gate to the Chapel of Rest needs refixing and this work is planned when the weather is less wet.
- vii) **Chapel of Rest electrics**  
The contractor has been instructed to replace the fuse board, completion of the works is awaited.

## 6. Street Scene

- i) **Toilets (leaks)**  
During the cold weather spell earlier in the month a pipe burst in the gents' toilets, this was quickly identified and the leak isolated. The repair has been completed at a cost of £40 including parts.
- ii) **Toilets refurbishment programme**  
A specification has been prepared for refurbishment of the toilets including provision of dementia friendly disabled provision, a water point and two baby changing facilities. A grant aid application has been prepared and submitted to cover the extra items.
- iii) **Benches and bin A483/Bridge Street**  
A local contractor is being asked to complete the street scene painting with the benches and the bin as above being the last part of the project.
- iv) **Drainage issues in Broad Street**  
There have been some drainage issues outside Ashton's Stores and down past Manchester House. Severn Trent have attended site as has Powys County Council. All appears to be in hand to resolve the issue.
- v) **Drainage issues in High Street**  
There has been a fairly long-standing issue with the drainage in the High Street opposite the old Courthouse. Severn Trent has attended site and are investigating the issues.

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**vi) Telephone box Watergate Street**

This telephone box needs repainting. However, there is no contractor locally interested. To be re-considered when an 'odd job man' has been employed.

### **7. Mount Field**

**i) Posts to fencing at eastern end of site**

Works to replace the two rotten and leaning posts at Mount Field are awaited.

**ii) Netting to Mount Road**

There have been some repairs to the netting in the past and there will soon be a need for further repairs.

**iii) Storage containers**

An application to site another storage container next to the existing ones. A report on the planning situation is being presented to the Council at their January 2023 meeting.

**iv) Pile of rubbish**

This has been cleared from the car park area.

### **8. Recreation**

**i) Playground**

The timber posts at the top and bottom of the site will need replacing over the next few years.

**ii) Tennis Courts**

No issues at this time.

### **9. Publicity**

**i) Chronicle**

The January Chronicle has been issued and is posted on the website. Printing of the Chronicle has been investigated and it is more efficient to continue to have them printed as at present. The January 2023 is produced in English only, a translator at a reasonable cost is being sought.

**ii) Facebook**

The Town Council Facebook page is kept up to date with official news.

**iii) Website**

The website is kept up to date with official news.

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## Caereinion Town Council

### 10. Events

**i) Kings Coronation**

A small working group has been appointed and will meet soon to take forward plans for this event.

### 11. Youth

**i) Youth plan**

Cllr Sarah Astley has met with the High School and a youth plan has been confirmed and is ready for presentation and approval to Council in February 2023.

**ii) Youth Club**

A meeting between the High School and Cllr Sarah Astley has taken place and following that a meeting with the Town Clerk has taken place. A full report on the way forward is to be presented to the February 2023 Council meeting.

### 12. Administration

**i) Notice Board**

The work to the notice board required has been completed.

**ii) Wi-Fi for the office and council meetings**

Council is to be asked to consider an internet connection or dongle with sim card so that all Council meetings can be held in person with a video link.

**iii) Council recordings**

A recording device has been purchased for Council Meetings and has been tested. This will allow recording of all future meetings to aid the minutes. After the minutes have been approved the tape is overwritten.

### 13. Planning

**i) Wind Farm and access road**

A meeting with the Wind Farm operator and PCC over the access road is awaited.

**ii) Regeneration plan**

A meeting is still awaited with PCC and others to start the process with the regeneration plan.

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## **14. Other**

### **i) Town Wi-Fi**

Powys County Council are not responding to requests for an update. It is understood that grant aid has been gained and that quotes for the works are being sought.

### **ii) Weekly inspections**

The weekly inspections of all council property are posted on the web site under documents.

### **iii) Defibrillators**

The defibrillators at Mount Field, Watergate Street, High Street and the Institute are all working.

### **iv) Path from bridge over the River Banwy to Glanyrafon**

The Town Clerk received a report of the fencing along the path (between the footbridge by the station to Glanyrafon) falling into the path. The fence has been tied back and is stable. Powys County Council has been informed but they say it is not a public right of way and not their responsibility. The Town Clerk is following this up as it is a Powys responsibility. The wooden fence has 5 consecutive posts rotten at the base.

### **v) Market**

Initial investigations into a possible street market have just started.

### **vi) Leisure Centre**

Powys County Council will be considering the future of Leisure Centres in Powys including that in Llanfair Caereinion. The Council has this item on its agenda on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

**Robert A Robinson  
Town Clerk  
January 2023**