

Cyngor Tref Caereinion Llanfair Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES FEBRUARY 2024

1.Introduction

This is a general update on the Council's activities and a report from the Town Clerk on activities and progress on projects. Weekly inspections of all the council's sites are completed and logged on the website under documents and inspections.

2.Financial

2.1 Management accounts

The management accounts up to 31st December 2023 have been prepared. The bank balances are being reported to council at each meeting.

Any councillor wishes to see the accounts and paperwork should contact the Town Clerk who will make them available.

2.2.Audit

Awaiting external audit report from Welsh Government for year to 31st March 2023. All other returns are up to date.

Appointment of an internal auditor will be required by 31st March 2024. (currently David Hawe Chartered Accountant).

2.4 Grants

The current grant aid is as follows:

- i) £250 for a bird box scheme to support the Pied Flycatcher.
- ii) £7,000 for a trim trail (trust).

Further grant aid opportunities are reviewed regularly to see if there is anything that would fund projects in the list from the Annual Meeting.

3. Governance

3.1 Training

The training plan (as required by law) has been completed. Councillors are informed of training courses from time to time as offered by One Voice Wales.

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3.3 Vacant council seat

The vacant council seat has been filled by co-option due to their being no interest in an election. Cllr Stephen Purser has been appointed and Powys County Council has been informed.

3.4 Administration

All records and filing is pretty much up to date and in files clearly marked. Private and confidential files are kept in the top drawer of one of the filing cabinets which is locked.

3.5 GDPR

All records on computer are password protected.
The council has a GDPR policy which is published on the website.

3.6 Inspections

All property of the council is inspected every week and recorded on the website.

4. Recycling and litter collection

4.1 Current waste

The town council has a waste transfer license for our litter bins in Mount Field. All out waste goes into a wheelie bin which Powys empties by weekly. We pay for this service.

4.2 New rules

The new rules cover town and community councils (Powys is exempt). Details of what is required under the new rules is still not clear. It is understood that general waste bins will remain the same, however Powys County Council has not confirmed this. The Town Clerk will know more in April following a visit by Welsh Government to the North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils when all will be explained.

5.Youth

5.1 General

The youth club is going well with a good regular attendance in the younger group and a growing group in the older section.

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5.2 Staffing

At present we employ a youth worker (part time) and he is supported by three volunteers (two of which are relatives). Contact is being made to PAVO to seek more volunteers.

All volunteers and staff have been DBS checked where required.

5.3 Financial

The current arrangement is covered by grant aid for another 18 months. All has been allowed for in the budget set by Council in November 2023.

A statement of account for the first period will be presented before the end of the financial year.

5.4 Tuck shop

The youth club has a self-funding tuck shop selling canned or bottled drinks, pre-packed sweets etc. All dates are checked regularly.

5.5 Accommodation

The Youth Room is becoming too small for the numbers attending youth club.

Alternatives are being sought including the Cadet HQ. Communication with them is very difficult but is still being pursued.

5.6 Youth Council

The Youth Council still meets 3 times a year. Some more new members are due to join soon.

6. Mount Field (Trust)

6.1 Agreements

A Trust meeting to agree the final heads of terms for the agreements between Llanfair United Football Club and the Trust has been held. Solicitors have been instructed to prepare the lease and licenses. This has been chased up and the document will be ready for the February meeting of Council.

6.2 Posts to high fence at the far end of the site

The works to replace two posts at this end of the site are yet to be arranged.

4.3 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are increasing. Consideration to some remedial works being given within the 2024/2025 financial year.

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7. Erw Ddwr

7.1 Tree works at Erw Ddwr

A tree report has been received and various minor works to trees will need to take place around a tree to the left towards the top as you look from the road.

A recommendation and quote for this work is being sought from the contractor.



7.2 Burial records

The new areas of the grave yard have plans which relate the records which are indexed.

All other burial records are up to date.

7.3 Tidying the site

A new 'rubbish this way' sign has been ordered.

Repairs will be needed to the rubbish compound and more information will be available on this over the coming weeks.

8. Chapel of Rest

8.1 Redecoration

The internal redecoration has been completed.

8.2 Double doors to the side

The double doors to the side of the chapel of rest are now showing signs of 'falling apart'. A quote to renew the doors has been asked for.

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9. St Mary's Churchyard

9.1 Path

Quotes have been sought for resurfacing the path from the telephone box to the toilets. One quote has been gained, awaiting two more. This work has been identified in the 2024/2025 budget.

9.2 Boundary wall along High Street/Broad Street

The works to repoint the wall have been completed.

9.3 Lychgate

The brick/stonework either side of the lychgate needed repair and new foundations installed on the church side. This work has been completed.

9.4 Lighting by toilets

The lights installed by the toilets have been adjusted to reduce glare.

9.5 Church Clock

The Friends of Llanfair Clock have completed raising funds to restore the clock. The order to commence works has been issued. It is hoped that by the end of the summer the clock and chimes will return.

10. Deri Woods/Goat Field

10.1 General maintenance

The Town Clerk does visit site every two months to meet the FODW volunteers to offer support for the work that they do.

The general maintenance is progressing with the Friends of Deri Woods. They are working to an agreed plan which Council. The meadow is progressing and some tree thinning has been completed.

There is an area of trees to be felled over the winter agreed on site.

8.2 Friends of Deri Woods

Works to the paths continue along with tidying after tree felling and other small projects agreed from time to time.

The FODW meet on the third Monday each month at 10am by the pumping station.

8.3 Ash Die Back disease

The works to remove the diseased trees has been completed.

The FODW have made a good start of clearing the area and creating bug hotels from the logs and branches left on site.

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8.4 Pied Flycatcher bird box scheme

This project is funded by grant aid. The bird boxes have arrived and suitable locations found for them. Records will be kept as to their use by the FODW volunteers.

8.5 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are increasing. Consideration to some remedial works being given. There is money in the budget for 2024/2025, however this might not be enough.

11. Public Toilets

11.1 Refurbishment and repair

The refurbishment works to the toilets are complete.

The toilets now have:

- i) Disabled facilities which are dementia friendly.
- ii) Baby changing facilities in all toilets.
- iii) Cleaners cupboard which is locked.
- iv) Water bottle point on the outside of the building.

11.2 Water and electric supplies

The electricity supply contract has been renewed for a further 3 years at a competitive rate.

Consideration should be given to adding the water supply to the same company to make a saving on this service.

12. Playgrounds

12.1 Glenafton Playground

No issues with the playground at present. Annual inspection report still awaited from PCC. Several visits have required the removal of excessive litter and glass.

12.2 Trem Banwy playground (Powys County Council)

The Town Clerk has spoken to Steve Gealey of Powys County Council has been informed that there is a new piece of equipment being added to the playground. No mention of any work to the surfaces.

The County Council is not interested in an asset transfer to the town council.

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13. Tennis Courts

11.1 Works planned

The white lining will need to be completed just before the start of the tennis season along with some works to the smaller trees around the Hafed Deg end and the Bowling Club boundaries.

14. Street scene

14.1 Seating and bin (A483 & Bridge Street)

Instructions to the contractor to complete works have been issued. Work will be completed when the weather allows.

14.2 Phone box Watergate Street

Works to the telephone box have been completed.

12.3 Phone box in High Street

The books inside the phone box are often damp. People are using it for dumping books and not as a book exchange. It is proposed to remove the books completely. There is a library which takes second hand books.

15. Projects

15.1 Bus stops

The bus stop scheme has been completed. From using the buses it appears that more people are now using the Welshpool service in particular.

13.2 Tourism display boards

The final designs are now ready. They can go to print (one start with so we can make sure they are good). There will be six in all.

Following the installation of the boards consideration to a booklet to go with them is to be considered. There was a Town Guide with a train following the boards in it but this will be three years old this year.

13.3 Trim trail (grant funded)

The grant for a trim trail funded by Awards for All Wales in the sum of £7,000 and has been received in the Trust accounts.

Quotes have been obtained and a location needs to be finalised. A report will be coming to Council shortly for approval.

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16. Planning and development

16.1 Lorry traffic through town

Discussions continue with Powys County Council and the wind farm development companies regarding a possible solution are continuing.

16.2 Transmission line Cefn Coch to Frankton (Shrewsbury)

The Bute Energy wind farm site has indicated that the transmission line would be on wooden poles.

However a pre-application for a 132kva transmission line have been submitted for power lines supported by metal pylons.

This project is considered by Welsh Government Strategic Planning section.

16.3 Planning applications

All planning applications which are within or affect the town council area are reported to Council. When planning decisions are published these are also reported to Council.

17. Plans and monitoring

17.1 Regeneration & Places Plan

The town plan is in place and the Council has approved progressing with a Places Plan. This would be funded by Powys County Council and would be a strategic plan for the town. A meeting with Powys County Council to take this forward is due soon.

17.2 The annual Town Plan and other plans reporting

A review of the council plans is to take place at each annual meeting of the Council.

This will include:

- i) Documents
- ii) Town Plan
- iii) Projects

18. Publicity

18.1 Website

The website is updated every few days and meets government guidelines.

18.2 Chronicle

The next issue of the Chronicle issue is due now for February.

The copy is almost ready for printing. Advert places are now just about full.

Invoices for the next year are going out by the end of January.

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19. Powys County Council

20.1 Leisure Centre

The Powys County Council consultation has been completed.
We are still waiting for the next stage of discussions.

20.2 School consultation

The consultation period for the future of the school has been completed.
We now await the result of this.

20.3 Yellow Line Review

Powys County Council has confirmed that there is no planned action on the yellow line scheme in the short term.

21. Town defibrillators

The town defibrillators are checked every week and recorded on the national database.

Rhiwhiriaeth village hall have requested help with a defibrillator for this location.

22. Air Ambulance

The recent consultation regarding the local of the air ambulance has been completed. The latest news is that basing the centre in North Wales is the preferred option.

23. Llanfair Partnership

The next meeting of the Llanfair Partnership is planned for February.

24. Projects update from Annual Meeting May 2023

The current status of each project approved at the Annual Meeting in May 2023 is set out overleaf.

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PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Maintenance works 2023-2024	Status
Felling of diseased ash trees in Goat Field	Completed
Internal decoration of the Chapel of Rest	Completed
Replacement of top rail on Mount Field side of Mount Field and repair netting	Completed Awaiting repair
Complete town street furniture painting project	Due to completed Feb 2024
Complete repairs to the Lychgate including brick/stonework under	Completed
Restart Llanfair Partnership meetings	Completed
Pointing of part of wall along Broad Street supporting St Mary's.	Completed
Replace posts at far end Mount Field	Still to be completed
Complete Bird Box Scheme for Pied Fly Catcher	Well under way
New signage at Mount Field	To be reviewed Feb 2024
Repair to car park surface at Deri Woods	An allowance has been made in the 2024/2025 budget for this.
Minor tree works to Erw Dewar	Report received, quote due soon.
Works of repair at Deri Woods and Goat Field to paths, steps and railings	Main works completed, ongoing work.
Feasibility studies as grant funded.	Still awaiting funding, working with Powys County Council.
Completion of rear retaining wall to Institute	Completed
Start Youth Club	Youth Club started
Install Bus stops around town	Completed
Feasibility studies (subject to funding) For regeneration, leisure centre, tourism and a healthy Llanfair	Grant aid not gained. Place plan to be put in place with Powys County Council
Refurbishment of public toilets and installation of water point, new disabled facilities and baby changing units	Completed
Fitness Trail installation	Ready for approval Feb 2024
Installation of Tourism Maps around the town	Ready for installation by Easter 2024
Progress proposals to take lorries out of the town.	Ongoing

R A Robinson
Town Clerk