

Cyngor Tref Caereinion Llanfair

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

TOWN CLERK REPORT NO 11
1st February 2022

1. Tourism and sustainability project

The project is progressing with each element at the following stage:

- i) Town Guide (Tourism) at proof stage. To be printed for February half term.
- ii) Electronic Town Guide (extended) is ready for the website.
- iii) Town Maps – design work progressing.
- iv) Flag Poles – a suitable 4m high flag pole set has been sourced.
- v) Website quotes being sought..

The time spent on this project by the Town Clerk is as a volunteer. In this way the Council is not bearing the cost and it helps the volunteering aspect of the grant requirements.

2. Budget for 2022-2023

The budget has been completed and approved.

The precept request has been submitted to PCC and acknowledged..

3. Accounts

We are still awaiting the Audit for the last two years. The delay is due to Covid restrictions. It is hoped they will be with us before May.

The Town Clerk is arranging a meeting with the Auditors for a pre-audit review.

4. School Crossing by Junior School

The Council is to review this service at their meeting on 14th February.

5. Trust s Annual Reports

The accounts and annual returns have been published on the Town Council website and have been recorded within the time period set down with the Charities Commission.

A letter seeking approval of the various agreements at Mount Field has been submitted to the Charity Commission as per the Trust Meeting held in the last month.

6. Meeting of One Voice Wales

The local branch meeting was attended by the Town Clerk (on a voluntary basis). The meeting was very shambolic with poor chairing. The subjects covered included the new Town and Community Council rules (which we know about and are complying with). There was sharing of good practice with Llanfair picked out for a good Website and documentation online.

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7. Meeting of the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils

The meeting was attended by the Town Clerk (on a voluntary basis). The topics covered included the Council Tax Review (each Council asked to consider this and report back).

8. Mount Field

The fence posts at the opposite end to Mount Road are being replaced, Cllr Rob Astley is arranging for this.

The new grass compound is to be constructed on the top access road as agreed, awaiting construction, Cllr Rob Astley is arranging for this.

A meeting with the Club to agree responsibilities was held and Council has approved the chart.

The Football Club have been asked to provide better public access by creating gaps in the railings. The new posts are in place and the works to achieve this completed in the next day or so.

The agreement for the grazing license is still not signed. The rent has been offered but not banked so as not to create a tenancy. The Town Clerk will continue to pursue this.

9. Deri Woods & Goat Field

The drainage pipes have been re-jointed with little effect.

The recent wet weather has highlighted the route of water so that required work can be identified.

Arrangements to put a new pipe in on the lower path and a small land drain on the top path should solve the issues of the water logged lower path. A grant aid application has been submitted for this work.

The new interpretation boards have arrived and can now be put in place.

The Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and Volunteers have completed the agreements as per the Council's wishes.

The Wildlife Trust has a grant to carry out survey work on bats and other wildlife.

The artist for the mural appears to have lost interest and has not progressed. The internal walls of the pumping station have been cleaned with graffiti still in place. Redecoration of the walls can now progress.

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The works store is well laid out with tools on a board (all marked).

The dumper truck has gone back to Charlie's for repair under guarantee.

10. Chapel of Rest

The Chapel of Rest external painting should be starting soon as the contractor has space in his programme. (Rob Isaac) If it is not completed soon another contractor may need to be approached.

The rating appeal has been submitted and the result still awaited (delay due to Covid).

An electrical certificate is being completed by Aled Jones very soon.

Minor works to the latch and gardens has been completed.

11. Erw Ddwr

A 'bee hive' box has arrived for installation along with a bird feeder (which will go to Deri Woods).

Entrance sign frame needs to re-set. (Rob Isaac has been asked to action).

12. Public Toilets

No issues to report.

Toilet roll holders need replacing, disused soap dispenser in disabled toilets has been removed.

An electrical certificate is to be issued by Aled Jones very soon now.

A counter has been sourced to count how many people use this facility. To date less than 20 persons a day use each of the main toilets.

A review of this service is due to take place at the Council meeting due to be held on 14th February. The grant aid position will hopefully be clarified by then.

13. Defibrillators

The Watergate Street defibrillator has been installed and the new larger scale signs put on the external shell of the telephone box. (both sides facing road)

The Black Lion has installed a new Defibrillator on an outside wall from donations.

The two other new defibrillators for Mount Field and High Street have arrived and are to be fitted as soon as the new boxes have arrived (due any day now).

There is a legal requirement to register inspections both internally (published weekly in the inspection reports posted on the website) and also on the main national database. This is being done.

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14. St Marys Church Clock

This is very complicated matter and was the subject of a separate report to the Council. The Town Clerk is now to meet with the authors of the letter received with a view to setting up a community committee to take any actions forward.

15. St Mary's Churchyard

The new lights have settled in well and are operating.

There are some issues still to resolve in the Churchyard as follows:

- i) The lamp is still not replaced, due to delivery issues. Due to be completed any day now.
- ii) The churchyard wall along Broad Street and High Street has some pointing which has failed and need to be repointed. A quote under general maintenance is being gained carrying out the work over the next two years in parts. This will keep the wall up to scratch on an on-going basis.
- iii) Quotes are being gained for the works to the retaining wall behind the institute. A separate report will be issued.

16. Playground

The schemes have been received and considered by the youngsters at the Junior School. The Council has decided to progress with the new playground at Glanyafron as follows:

Contractor Wicksteed
Cost £34,998.33p
Funding - £35,000 (£25k from grant aid).

The order has been placed so that the equipment can be manufactured by 31st March 2022.

A meeting with the County Council regarding the Trem Banwy playground is yet to be held to take forward improvements.

17. Planning and Development

A letter seeking listing of the Mizzen Hut at Heniarth has been sent and Cllr Gareth Jones has also spoken to Deborah Lewis the Heritage Officer who has referred the matter to CADW.

CADW has been in contact and the appropriate form completed. CADW is now assessing the building and will confirm their decision in the month to six weeks. (delayed due to Covid)

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18. Community Awards

The Council is to review the process for Community Awards after the elections.

19. Events – 70 years of the Queen’s reign

An event programme is to be confirmed at the Council meeting due to be held on 14th February.

20. Newsletter

The newsletter (Chronicle) issue 3 has gone to print.

21. Youth Council

The Youth Council is in place. We are still awaiting the results of their survey which will lead to a youth plan.

22. The Office (Institute)

The office still has a very damp atmosphere but should improve over the coming months.

The Institute still has quite a lot of their ‘stuff’ in the office. It was understood that this would be removed over the last year. No action to date. The Town Clerk will gently ask for this to progress as there is more space needed in the office for storage of other things the Council now owns.

23. Street Scene

No issues to report. There is two benches needing repainting the main road side of the bridge. This can be done under the general maintenance budget in the spring.

The finger posts need some realignment, this will be done in the next few weeks.

24. Christmas Lights

A plan to re-arrange the organisation of the Christmas Lights is to be considered at the 14th February meeting of the Council.

This will pass over the Christmas Lights to the Council leaving the Christmas Lights Committee to run the evening event as volunteers of the Council.

25. Tennis Courts

The posts for the tennis nets are beginning to rust, instructions to clean them down and repaint have been given to Rob Isaac.

26. Allotments

Following the Council Meeting the survey to seek out how much interest in allotments there is being arranged..

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27. Training

The new regulations for Town and Community Councils require a training plan from 2022. To this end the Town Clerk has prepared a way forward. The Town Clerk will arrange training as per an agreed schedule. It is up to Councillors if they wish to take up the training. The requirement is for the Town Clerk to arrange for such training.

28. Climate Change

The Council considered a Climate Change Policy at the Council meeting held on 21st January. A draft plan will now be prepared for approval at the 14th February meeting.

29. Youth Club for Llanfair

There is grant aid available for starting a youth club in Llanfair. The Town Clerk has communicated with Sam Webster who was rumoured to be looking at starting one up.

February 2022
Town Clerk