

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held at Cowbridge Town Hall Council Chamber and by Video conference on Monday 1st November 2021 at 7.00pm, in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

PRESENT: Cllr Alec Trousdell (Deputy Chair of the Committee)
Cllr John Andrew (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Andrew Pritchard
Cllr Marian Arnold
Cllr Beverly Tonkin

Town Clerk Cathy Kennedy
Assistant Town Clerk Adam Davies

APOLOGIES: Cllr Sian Vaughan (Mayor)
Cllr Nicola Thomas
Cllr Russell Spencer-Downe.

THE MEETING WAS RECORDED

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| 1 | <u>ELECT A DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE</u> Cllr Trousdell was elected as Deputy Chair of the L&A Committee by a majority vote. |
| 2 | <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Councillor Vaughan (Mayor), Councillor Thomas and Councillor Spencer-Downe. |
| 3 | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> There were no declarations of Interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct. |
| 4 | <u>MATTERS ARISING</u> The following matter from the minutes of the L& A Committee Meeting held on Monday the 4 th of October 2021 was raised. <i>Item 7 a</i> – Cllr Arnold requested it be noted that she disagreed with the committee’s decision to remove only the rotten part of the fence at Limes Cemetery. |
| 5 | <u>MINUTES</u> To approve the minutes of the L&A Committee Meeting held on the 4th October 2021; Cllr Andrew raised a point of order stating that the committee minutes were approved at the full council meeting and are not normally approved at committee meetings. |
| 6 | <u>PLAYGROUND INSEPCION</u> a. Cllr Andrew requested clarification on whether the corroding to the small multi play unit in Twt Park had been dealt with. The Assistant Clerk responded that he was waiting for a contractor to quote for the work. |

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| | <p>The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the same contractor is carrying out a reinstallation of sensory play unit (Turtle) next week at Llanblethian Playing Fields and she would take this opportunity to discuss further repairs identified in the most recent playground report received today from the Vale of Glamorgan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Cllr Andrew asked if the broken swing had been repaired and when it would be re-installed. The Assistant Town Clerk said that the bracket had been repaired and the swing was due to be re-installed. The Town Clerk confirmed that due to lockdown and the backlog of work experienced by contractors this was still on hold, but she would again discuss with the contractor at next week's site meeting. c. Cllr Trousdell pointed out several minor issues which will be dealt with. The Town Clerk stated that she had received a new playground report today with several minor issues, she went on to say that there had been a spate of vandalism and with wear and tear plus severe weather, there are a lot of issues/repairs to deal with. d. Cllr Trousdell asked for it to be noted that the committee expresses its thanks to Cllr Sian Vaughan (Mayor) for arranging the official opening of Llanblethian Playing Fields and he was disappointed that few councillors attended. e. Cllr Pritchard asked for the broken step at the slide in Llanblethian Playing Fields to be repaired as a matter of urgency. The discussion continued at item 10. |
| 7 | <p><u>THE FINANCIAL REPORT</u></p> <p>Cllr Andrew asked for clarification on whether the Llanblethian Playing Fields Project had been removed from the L&A budget. The Town Clerk confirmed this was correct.</p> <p>Cllr Andrew asked for clarification regarding the details of the budget for maintenance tender project and maintenance budget. The Town Clerk confirmed maintenance tender project was for the grass cutting project currently contracted out and the maintenance budget included all other sundries for the caretaker/grounds-staff to carry out their tasks.</p> <p>Cllr Arnold stated she read in an article that the council is thinking of going out to grass cutting tender for 3 years. The Town Clerk asked for clarification on the article Cllr Arnold referred to and confirmed there had been no council discussion regarding this matter.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED</u></p> <p>The financial report was approved.</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>THE LIMES CEMETERY</u></p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk stated that the caretaker/grounds-person is content to remove the fence himself, but council will need to arrange removal of the debris.</p> <p>Cllr Arnold stated her concern that if the fence was not replaced, the cemetery would be left vulnerable. Cllr Pritchard suggested the hire of a skip for the disposal of the debris.</p> |
| 9 | <p><u>TWT PARK</u></p> <p>Cllr Trousdell reported that litter is a significant issue as people are overfilling the bins.</p> |

Cllr Arnold responded that people are utilising the bins on weekends when they are shopping at Waitrose and their children are playing in the park.

She went on to say that the council previously paid someone to empty the bins on Sundays and bank holidays and this no longer happens. Cllr Pritchard volunteered to empty the bins on Sundays.

Cllr Andrew reported that he has never seen the bin next to Poplars full and he felt that however many bins were put in place, there were people who would still overfill them. He suggested signage be located on and near the bins asking people to take their recycling home. Cllr Arnold responded that signage does not work. She went on to say that more people are coming into Cowbridge on the weekends and as the Waitrose in Barry has now closed, people come from Barry to shop in Waitrose and bring their children to play in the park. She then said that the more people who visit Cowbridge, the more litter will appear in the park. Cllr Arnold went on to say that more facilities put in place by the Town Council will encourage more people to use them. Cllr Arnold said the park is used as a 'free for all' and she was concerned for residents adjacent to the park.

Cllr Pritchard proposed that the Town Council order signage requesting the public take their recycling home.

Cllr Andrew asked for it to be noted that Twt Park being so well used by children is a positive development and that he did not wish for anyone to take away from the meeting that the council do not encourage use of the play park.

RECOMMENDED

To order and place professional signage to discourage litter in the play parks.

10 **LLANBLETHIAN PLAYING FIELDS**

- a. Goal posts – The Assistant Town Clerk stated that he is waiting for quotes from a contractor.
- b. Picnic Table – The Town Clerk informed the committee that she had sourced 2 quotes for a recycled plastic and wooden picnic table, however, following discussions with the grounds-person, they have since been identified as too big for the current concrete base. She then presented to the meeting a wooden bench specification which would fit the base. A discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of recycled plastic v wooden benches. Cllr Arnold reminded the committee that Llanblethian playing Fields is in the middle of a conservation area.
- c. Slide/steps bank – Cllr Pritchard proposed the step is repaired as a matter of urgency.

RECOMMENDED

- a. The Town Clerk source further quotes for recycled plastic benches.
- b. The Town Clerk arrange repair of the broken step leading to the slide at Llanblethian Playing Fields.

11 **SOUTHGATE PARK**

The Assistant Clerk informed that committee that due to other commitments he had been unable to arrange this meeting.

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| | <p>Cllr Andrew reported that he had added a photo to the papers showing the boundary and how it had changed since the owners had built a new garage.</p> |
| 12 | <p><u>MEMORIAL BENCH</u> The Assistant Clerk informed the committee that an application had been received to place a memorial bench in Southgate Park. A discussion followed regarding the benefits of leaving the space free for wheelchair users.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED</u> The Town Clerk contact the applicants regarding the possible purchase of a wheelchair friendly bench.</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>TREE SURVEY</u> The Assistant Town Clerk informed the committee that Cllr Arnold had sent an email which formed part of the papers stating she was unwilling to attend a site meeting. Cllr Arnold responded that she felt it would be unproductive as many of the trees had already been removed.</p> <p>Cllr Pritchard asked how many trees the Town Council are responsible for and could a new tree survey be carried out.</p> <p>There were no actions or recommendations agreed following the above discussion.</p> |
| 14 | <p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the L&A Committee meeting will be held on Monday 6th December 2021.</p> |

Cllr Alec Trousdell
Deputy Chair of the Committee