

Cyngor Tref Caereinion Llanfair Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES APRIL 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 March 2024 have been prepared. The bank balances are being reported to council at each meeting. Paperwork for the internal auditor will be ready by 10th April.

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.

David Hawe Chartered Accountant) has been appointed as internal auditor.

The report for the year to 31st March 2024 will include the annual return and a written report to go with it.

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).
- iii) £4,500 remaining in the Youth Club grant (£9,980 originally)
- iv) £17,000 grant from PCC to complete the Place Making Plan.

Further grant aid opportunities are reviewed regularly to see if there were anything that would fund projects in the list from the Annual Meeting. A grant application for an external adult gym will be prepared when full information is available.

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2.5 End of year accounts

The draft end of year accounts show the following balances at the beginning of the next financial year as follows:

BANK BALANCES	87121
DEBTORS	5782
TOTAL	92903
CREDITORS	567
TOTAL	92336

The draft annual return is set out below:

	2024	2023
START BALANCE	100645	104423
PRECEPT	46500	44000
INCOME	29316	33144
INCOME TOTAL	75816	77144
TOTAL	176461	181567
SALARIES	10139	6883
EXPENDITURE	73986	74039
TOTAL	84125	80922
NET BALANCE	92336	100645
BANK BALANCE	87121	
DEBTORS	5782	
TOTAL	92903	
CREDITORS	567	
TOTAL	92336	

Funds end of year allocated are as follows:

Total funds		£92,336
General reserves	£45,000	
Youth Club grant	£4,000	
Defibrillator	£1,000	
Tourism signs	£600	
Fitness trail	£1,500	
Total allocated		£52,100
Remaining for projects		£40,236

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End of year balances

End of year balances are £8,309 less than at the start. The reason for this is:

- i) The budget did allow for £16,000 to be taken from reserves this year.
- ii) The grant aid for the youth club (£4,000 for the year) was included in the last years balance.
- iii) The extra projects which were:
 - i. The church wall and lychgate £1,700
 - ii. The youth club cost (grant in last years accounts) £3,739
 - iii. Toilets extra cost (no grant) £2,200
 - iv. Toilets extra cost of cleaners cupboards £225
 - v. Reduction in burial services fees £1,104Total extra costs: £8,968

The amount of expenditure over income for the year was £8,308

Taking these factors into account the council covered its running costs during the year with a little spare.

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.

3.3 Administration

All records and filing are 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.

3.4 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.

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4.2 New rules

The new rules do not require any changes to the litter bins at Mount Field.

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. More volunteers needed and work on this is taking place. Annual review to be presented at the May Annual Meeting.

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. The Town Clerk is attending a workshop where we can seek 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 club risk assessment

The youth club risk assessment is posted on the council website.

5.7 Youth Council

The Youth Council (following a recent council decision) is now operating within the youth club.

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6. Mount Field (Trust)

6.1 Agreements

The agreements with the football club have been drafted and are currently with the football club before bringing them to the Trust for final approval.

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.

4.4 Grass cutting

The grass is growing quickly due to the amount of rain. However, cutting it at this time would only damage the surface and we must await a dryer period. The football pitch area is being cut and is fine. The outlying areas around the car parking are getting a little longer than normal. Advice on the correct actions is being sought from the grass cutting contractor.

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 with any works planned for September/October 2024.

7.2 Burial records

The new area of the graveyard has 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' signs have been installed.

Repairs will be needed to the rubbish compound and more information will be available on this over the coming weeks. A price for a new compound is being sought.

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7.4 Grass cutting

The grass is growing quickly due to the amount of rain. However, cutting it at this time would only damage the surface and we must await a dryer period. Advice on the correct actions is being sought from the grass cutting contractor.

8. Chapel of Rest

8.1 Double doors to the side

The double doors to the side of the chapel of rest are now showing signs of 'falling apart'. The doors are being repaired with a new letter box and redecorated. Contractor instructed under general maintenance.

9. St Mary's Churchyard

9.1 Path

Quotes have been sought for resurfacing the path from the telephone box to the toilets. Two quotes been gained, awaiting one more. It is hoped a final report to council can be made by the May meeting.

This work has been identified in the 2024/2025 budget.

9.2 Lychgate

The cross for the top of the Lychgate is with the Town Clerk. This is ready to be re-fixed on the top of the roof.

9.3 Church Clock

The Friends of Llanfair Clock have completed raising funds to restore the clock. The order to commence works has been issued. The current start date is 15th April.

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 – work planned for September 2024.

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10.2 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.

10.3 Pied Flycatcher bird box scheme

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

10.4 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.

10.5 Plaque (Astley)

The design for the plaque is with the Town Clerk who has ordered a new unit for the stand in Deri Woods to replace the damaged one that is there.

11. Public Toilets

11.1 Refurbishment and repair

The refurbishment works to the toilets are complete.

11.2 Water and electric supplies

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

Consideration is being 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 received from PCC. A new timber floor to the top of the slide is being arranged.

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. Details are awaited.

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

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13. Tennis Courts

13.1 Works planned

The white lining and weeding to the tennis courts is complete ready for the season. There is still some minor bush work to be completed outside the fencing.

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

Automatic movement batter lights have been in the telephone boxes at Watergate Street and in the High Street.

14.3 Street cleaning

The council has allowed for some street cleaning starting in the current financial year. Powys County Council is interested in helping us get up and running. To this end a meeting with PCC is being sought and a report for council will be prepared asap.

15. Projects

15.1 Tourism display boards

The final designs have been approved and the first board erected by the railway station. The remaining boards are in production following council approval. Following the installation of the boards consideration to a booklet to go with them is to be considered. There is a Town Guide still available at the station.

15.2 Trim trail (grant funded)

The grant for a trim trail funded by Awards for All Wales in the sum of £7,000 has been received and the council has approved the remaining funding required. The scheme has been approved and is to be in the playground, instructions to the contractor have been issued.

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.

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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 alongside the Town Plan. This is funded by Powys County Council. A further 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) Town Plan
- ii) Projects
- iii) Annual Report

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 April and has been issued.

Advert places are now just about full.

Invoices for the next year have gone out and most paid.

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.

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20.2 School consultation

The consultation period for the future of the school has been completed. The cabinet has approved the proposals for a Welsh medium school.

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 is meeting with the Town Clerk to arrange installation of a unit which has been approved by the council.

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 May.

24. Events

24.1 Christmas Lights

A small group has been set up and will meet in due course to agree the plans for 2024.

There is a substantial sum in the 2024/2025 budget for new lights and the evenings event.

25. Projects update from Annual Meeting May 2023

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

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APPENDIX A

2023-2024 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 rotten top rail on Mount Field side of Mount Field and repair netting	Completed
Complete town street furniture painting project	Due to completed April 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
Put up Bird Box Scheme for Pied Fly Catcher	Completed
New signage at Mount Field	To be reviewed May 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. Works for the year completed.
Completion of rear retaining wall to Institute	Completed
Start Youth Club	Completed
Install Bus stops around town	Completed
Feasibility studies (subject to funding) For regeneration, leisure centre, tourism and a healthy Llanfair	Grant aid gained so that a Place plan to be prepared 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 installation June 2024.
Installation of Tourism Maps around the town	First board in place by station. Other 5 ordered.
Progress proposals to take lorries out of the town.	Ongoing

R A Robinson
Town Clerk