



CLERK'S REPORT – APRIL 2023

1. UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Sustainable Communities Fund

I developed the Council's "Revive The Graig" project and submitted an application in the sum of £207,344.60. If awarded the funding will cover:

- Installation of a new playground.
- Upgrades to footpaths adhering to Welsh Government's Active Travel preferences.
- Installation of an outdoor children's gym.
- Installation of a teaching circle.
- Improved access to viewing point at the top.
- Installation of benches, picnic benches, bins.
- Planting new trees and pollinating wildflowers.
- Installation of a living willow tunnel
- Installation of bird boxes and a bug hotel.
- Installation of CCTV
- Installation of a water re-fill station
- Installation of an interactive digital board

We received an incredible response from the community with 179 completed consultations, 177 of the responses fully supported the project. We also received many letters of support including one from Gareth Wardell, County Councillor Llinos Davies.

Rural Innovation Fund

I am currently working on this application, the closing date for this round is 26th April 2023.

2. Cross Hands Growth Plan Team Update

The next meeting is scheduled for 26th April 2023.

3. Cross Hands Playground Update

As previously reported, I have recently found out that the £45k Section 106 money we thought was ringfenced for this project had not actually been applied for. The application has since been submitted and confirmation of support has been provided from both County Councillors.

4. Carmarthenshire County Council's Public Services Board Annual Review

The Public Services Board of Carmarthenshire County Council annual review has been moved to 16th May 2023. I will be presenting on the day, explaining how the Council has met Carmarthenshire County Council's wellbeing objectives during 2022-23. The Deputy-Clerk will also be attending this event.

5. Section 6 Biodiversity Duty

The Environment Committee is currently working on this report and Cllr Ruth Davies will provide more information during April's meeting.

6. Cross Hands Growth Plan Team Update

The next meeting is scheduled for 26th April 2023.



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7. Household Food Poverty Fund April 2023 – June 2023

I submitted an application from this fund to assist with food costs until the end of June 2023. I'm delighted to report that the Council has been awarded a further £6000. All food is to be ordered from Castell Howell.

8. Internal Auditor

The Deputy Clerk and I have met with Mr Lewis and discussed the way he would like information to be presented to him. Mr Lewis has software that can pull the information he requires from the cashbooks already prepared by the Deputy-Clerk. He advised there was no requirement to continue to use RBS Rialtas software and therefore no need to back date the data entry for 2021-2022 or 2022-2023. The Wales Audit Office also require cashbooks to be presented via excel spreadsheets. This will present a significant cost saving to the Council going forward.

9. Asset Register

The Council's assets have been valued by a Chartered Surveyor and we are currently updating the asset register. We will also be reviewing the Council's insurance requirements. Both will be presented to the Council with the annual return.

10. Financial Regulations & Risk Register

Will need to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and brought to the Annual Meeting in May.

11. Insurance Renewal

The Council's insurance has renewed at a cost of £4568.75.

12. Councillors Allowances & Expenses 2022-2023

The following Councillors completed an Opt Out Form and did not wish to claim any allowance or expenses:

Cllr Chris Bowkett

Cllr Rhys Jones

The following Councillors claimed their allowance for 2022-2023:

Cllr Julie Owen – Will be donating her allowance to the new playground at Cross Hands Park.

Cllr Phil Owen – Will be donating his allowance to Cylch Meithrin Llechyfedach.

Cllr Nigel Thomas – Will be donating his allowance to Cylch Meithrin Llechyfedach.

Cllr Ruth Lloyd-Davies – will be donating her allowance to support a flower planting project involving the children of Llannon School.

Cllr Llinos Davies – Will be donating her allowance to Cylch Meithrin Llechyfedach.

Cllr Christopher Davies – Will be donating his allowance to Cylch Meithrin Llechyfedach.

Cllr Emyr Gwyn Evans – Will be donating his allowance to Y Cwtsh.

Cllr Joanne Anderson (£25 pro-rata'd) – Will be donating her allowance to the new playground at Cross Hands Park.

Cllr Steve Eldridge (£25 pro-rata'd) - Will be donating his allowance to support a flower planting project involving the children of Llannon School.

Cllr Sarah Stewart - Will be donating her allowance to the new playground at Cross Hands Park.

Cllr Michael Jones



CLERK'S REPORT – APRIL 2023

The following Councillors failed to provide an Opt Out Form or a Payroll Form:

Cllr Dot Jones
Cllr Gary Jones

Councillor's Allowances must be paid if an Opt Out Form is not completed. Without completed Payroll Forms, I am unable to pay their expenses and therefore unable to fulfil this statutory requirement.

13. Council Van Repairs

The Transit van has required further repairs to the power steering and is going back into the garage tomorrow.

14. Tumble Hall

CCTV investigation – Electoral Services have contacted the Council to request information regarding the CCTV cameras situated in the library. The Chief Executive Officer, Wendy Walters has received a complaint following the Polling Station held at the hall on 2nd March 2023.

We have confirmed there was only one camera in the library at the time of the election which was situated on the office side of the room and on request of the Presiding Officer, I turned the camera off. Since the election, a further camera has been installed in the meeting room side of the room.

Electoral Services are reviewing the way they manage elections going forward as they accept buildings are likely to have CCTV installed and this is not something they have considered previously. We will work with them to manage this during future elections.

- **New Fire Escape Stairs** - have been installed.
- **Salsa Class** – has not received enough interest to go ahead.
- **Comedy Night** – has been arranged for 16th June.
- **New carpet in passage, hall, stairs either side of the stage** - has been fitted.
- **Robat Arwyn Concert** – was very successful.
- **Gentleman's Evening** – was also a success.
- **Anyway Up Bingo booked for 22nd April 2023** - has been cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.
- **Welsh Wrestling** – to be held on 29th April 2023
- **Old chairs** – 50 to be given to Dewi Sant
- **Canopy in kitchen** – has been inspected.

15. Freedom of Information Request from Member of the Public

E-mail trail has been circulated to councillors.

16. The Great Mountain Portrait Fun Day

Tumble Carnival organisers in conjunction with Huw Alden Davies are arranging "The Great Mountain Portrait Funday" on Saturday 10th June 2023. I have spoken with Sian James a few times regarding this and a meeting is arranged for tomorrow. I have agreed to the use of Parc Y Mynydd Mawr subject to the relevant paperwork being submitted and insurance arranged by the committee.



CLERK'S REPORT – APRIL 2023

17. Bowls Pavilion Cross Hands Park

Cross Hands Bowls Club have requested a meeting to discuss the future of the pavilion and the bowling green. This has been arranged for next week. Mr Thomas has written to the County Council to request the cess pit is emptied.

18. Tumble Park – Balls in playground complaint

The Council has received a complaint from a member of the public to state children are playing ball games in the playground. There are signs stating no ball games so I have replied, requesting they report this to 101 if witnessed again.

Mrs Clare Hope (Clerk to the Council)

19th April 2023