

The Clerk and Chair stated that there have been no adverse comments throughout this trial period.

The trial period has now finished and there is a need to arrange an update meeting with the owners of the Bridge Inn.

Councillor I M Williams stated that it was important to arrange this meeting as soon as possible.

Councillor M I Slader referred to the parking by Bridge Inn staff in the disabled bays at the front of the Centre.

Councillor L D J Armishaw proposed that the trial period be extended by one month.

Councillor L M Morgan expressed that she has concerns regarding the arrangement.

The Clerk reported on his discussion with H Thomas, Centre Committee, who again reiterated that there are serious issues to resolve with regard to supervising and enforcing any agreement. He referred to a notice that had been installed at the entrance roadway which pointed to Bridge Inn overspill Car Park.

After due discussion it was agreed to extend the trial period until a meeting has taken place with the Bridge Inn owners and thereafter to act on the agreed outcome following the meeting.

The meeting needs to be arranged as soon as possible and that H Thomas of the Centre Committee be invited to attend this meeting.

iii) **Footpath 35/31 - Community Centre to Mwrwg Road**

An update is awaited from the County Council.

iv) **Replacement of the Emergency Doors in the Hall of the Community Centre**

Councillor M I Slader reported that repairs will be carried out this week.

v) **Year 3 – Ysgol Gymraeg Llangennech**

The Coffee Morning was a success and children asked questions and made comments to Councillors that attended the event.

It is hoped to have regular contact with the school and children in the future.

vi) **Youth Club**

Councillor M I Slader reported that she has no further information on the start up date.

vii) **Storage Units at the Rear of the Community Centre**

Repair work is still outstanding.

4. Surveyor's Report

The Clerk read out an "E" Mail received from the Surveyor in which he indicated that he is awaiting a surgical procedure which is likely to take place shortly.

Members extended their best wishes for a successful outcome to the procedure and a speedy recovery and looked forward to seeing him soon.

The Surveyor also stated that tenders for the playground development have gone out and are to be returned by the 9th February 2024.

5. County Councillor Report

The Chair reported as follows:-

- i) Budget meetings are to take place over the next two weeks.
- ii) He met residents of Mwrwg Road regarding the proposed change of use of the Willows, Mwrwg Road.

The Planning Application for extension to the dwelling house from Oakmont Services Group Ltd., has been passed by the County Council.

Residents have expressed concerns with likely increased traffic along the road and other matters include ages of children to be housed in the building.

A further meeting will take place and it is unclear who will run the home.

- iii) A tree fell on the footpath adjacent to Brynhyfryd and the County Council came out to deal with it on Christmas Day. There are a few more trees along this path that are suspect. There is the issue of who is responsible for maintenance along this footpath.

Councillor G Thomas asked as to the latest position regarding County Councillor J Seward and to the need for reports to the Community Council.

6. Local Government Services Pay Agreement

Members had previously been provided with a copy of the latest pay agreement.

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from the 1st April 2023 to the 31st March 2024.

For all spinal points to 43 the agreed award was a flat rate payment of £1925. For scale points above that the award was 3.88%.

For Community Council staff other than the Clerk and Surveyor is an increase of 10.4% which will result in an overspend of some £5000 on the budget. The increase for the Clerk and Surveyor is 4.5% which will result in an overspend on the budget of some £750.

After due discussion it was agreed to accept the new pay award and that it be implemented from the 1st April 2023.

7. Entrance Gates – Recreation Ground

The matter of opening/closing the main gate on a daily basis was considered in the November meeting of the Council following a request by E Williams, LBSA and his concerns regarding security at the Recreation Ground. The security service provided by G J Bowen ended in April 2022 and a replacement could not be found.

It was agreed at the November meeting of the Council to maintain the status quo and to continue to monitor the park.

The Clerk has now received an “E” Mail from a Mr Martin Williams who has shown an interest in providing this service for the Council.

The previous service provided closure of the gate at dusk during Monday to Fridays and opening and closing the gate on Saturday and Sunday. This would be opening the gate at 9.00am and closure at dusk.

The payment for this service was £187 per month and the rate had not changed for some 6 years.

Councillor I M Williams referred to the Car Park now being used by staff from the nearby industrial units.

Councillor G Thomas asked as to what would be the benefit of recommencing this service.

Councillor L M Morgan was of the view that it would be beneficial to restart the service.

After due discussion it was agreed, in principle, to restart the service and for the Clerk to enter into negotiations with Mr Williams as to the terms and conditions including payment required bearing in mind that inflation has increased significantly since the original fee for the service was agreed.

The restarting of the service was proposed by Councillor I M Williams and Seconded by Councillor A J Parry and it was so RESOLVED.

8. Budgetary Control

- i) The Clerk reported as follows on the latest estimated position on Council finances and comparison with the budget for 2023/24.

	£.000
Wages Award	5 Adverse
Wages Claim	1.8 Adverse
Salaries Award	<u>0.7</u> Adverse
	<u>7.5</u> Adverse
Contingency	2 Favourable
Legal Fees	0.5 Favourable
Rates for Community Centre	4 Favourable
Day Club	<u>1</u> Favourable
	<u>7.5</u> Favourable

Therefore it is likely that the year will show a break even position.

ii) Centre Door Repairs

If these doors have to be replaced then there will be an overspend of £4000 on budget.

iii) Centre Gas Payment

The Clerk reported that the smart meter is still not functioning and consequently no invoices provided.

9. Planning Applications

It was agreed not to oppose the following application.

PL/06814 - Demolish existing detached garage and construct single storey rear extension at 3 Penllwyngwyn Road

10. Day Club

Councillor G Thomas reported that a meeting is to take place this week to discuss the possible re-introduction of the Day Club Service probably on a Wednesday as was the case up until closure at the onset of Covid.

The Welsh Government will fund one person but there will be a need for volunteers as well to run the service. The Community Council will fund the cost of the taxi service.