Minutes from Parks and Festival subcommittee meeting Wednesday 12th August 2020

Present: Cllr J Pretsell, Cllr J Fortune, Cllr H Maurice-Jones, Cllr P Morris, Cllr M Gledhill, Clerk.

JP advised that an incident had been reported via Facebook at the Rossett play area. A 3-year-old boy had tripped and banged his head on the roundabout causing a nasty gash which required A & E treatment. The reportee referred to low level roundabouts which she felt RCC may wish to consider. A response had been sent advising that the annual risk assessment had recently been carried out and the equipment deemed low risk. The reportee was satisfied with the equipment but wanted to notify RCC of equipment she’d seen elsewhere. During the debate it was noted that the equipment had not ‘created’ the incident it was unfortunate that the child had tripped near to the equipment. It was agreed that no further action was required at the current time.

JP advised that a report had also been received from a Greenfields resident regarding cats littering in the bark at the play area. The Clerk had referred the matter to Carla Hughes at WCBC who had advised that they do have this issue at other play areas. The only other options for play surfaces are grass or wetpour both of which would be very costly. The Clerk will ask the Warden to pay more attention but it was noted that as cats tend to cover their faeces it’s not a straightforward request. The reportee was concerned that other items could be hidden within bark, ie needles. It was debated and concluded that play bark is a recommended play surface. Cllr Morris queried if there was a deterrent spray that could be used to try to get the animals to change their toilet habits. WP to see if any spray can be found that will be appropriate to use within the play area.

Whilst talking about the play areas a number of tasks for the warden were discussed and it was decided that a tick sheet should be produced to ensure the warden completes all required checks at each of the parks. MG offered to compile a checklist and requested that other members emailed him with any thoughts on items that require including.

HMJ noted that the hedge still requires some additional planting to fill in the gaps and this will be carried out in September/October. In the meantime the gaps require the overgrowth/weeds to be cleared and it was agreed that this should be added to the Park Wardens duties.

WP advised that she had asked for the hedge cutting to be completed at Rossett and this was scheduled for the next week.

WP confirmed that the Park Warden vacancy closes on 14th August. There had been some interest.

JP reported that the butterfly garden had been planted by Keep Wales Tidy but there was some concern about the location they had put it in as it would require the trellis being approximately a foot away from the wall which may attract children playing behind it. Ideally the raised bed should be against the toilet block wall which would then allow for the trellis to be attached to the wall. It was agreed that it would be relocated in September when there was less usage of the play area.

JP shared a sample of the thank you card produced for COVID volunteers. WP will use the volunteer list to complete a mail merge for the cards and also ask the Community Agent if there are others she would like sending out. It was agreed that a number of volunteers who had gone ‘above and beyond’ would also receive a bottle of wine. WP to organise a £20 Xbox voucher for Toby Garratt who had designed the card. JP will also ask if he will design a generic thank you card preferably with some reference to the water mill.

JP asked for people’s thoughts about the Christmas Tree Switch on event. The consensus was that such a gathering was not appropriate in the current circumstances. A tree will still be purchased and decorated. WP suggested that St Peters could be asked if they wanted to sing some songs under the tree and that could be videoed and put on Facebook. This would be left up to the school to decide as they may not have choir practice as this involves children from different years mixing. JP advised that the raffle could still go ahead. As this event was not running this then questioned the Community Awards. JP advised that she had received some nominations however, the restrictions throughout the year had meant that the original categories were not necessarily being fulfilled. It was agreed that the current nominees should receive a thanks you card otherwise the awards will be held over until next year.

WP queried the ‘Welcome to’ signs that had been requested at a previous meeting. She was concerned that ‘Welcome to Trevalyn’ had been mentioned but both the current signs say ‘Welcome to Rossett’ and wondered if that should be maintained rather than identifying the individual villages. One of the ‘Welcome to Rossett’ signs remained in store. A debate ensued regarding border lines and entry points and where signs could be installed. It was agreed that it was probably most appropriate to just retain the two current signs on the main entry points.