

Clerk's Report 17th October 2023

During the month of September, the Town Hall Committee undertook a review of their draft budget for the fiscal year 2024/25.

This evaluation process will be repeated with the Leisure & Amenities Committee, the Finance & Governance Committee, and, ultimately, the Full Council. The finalised budget and the proposed Precept demand will be presented at the December Full Council meeting, with the intention of submitting to the Vale Council by the deadline of the 31st of January.

The annual tree survey was carried out by ESA Tree Surgeons, and the recommendations received approval from the Leisure & Amenities Committee. The scheduled works are set to commence at the beginning of November.

A safety assessment for the memorial site at the Holy Cross Churchyard was carried out by Memsafe Ltd, and the recommendations were approved by the Leisure & Amenities Committee. The planned maintenance will take place between mid and late October.

On the 27th of September, the Mayor and I met with VZTA Smart Town to explore opportunities for the council to improve its engagement with local businesses. We are in the process of organising a presentation for the Full Council.

On the 27th of September, I attended a branch meeting of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), in Llantwit Major Council Chamber. Salient points were training plans and hybrid meetings.

On the 2nd of October, a new boiler was installed to replace the condemned back boiler. The new domestic boiler was installed by C Boxall and will heat the office, photocopier room, upstairs kitchen, and the adjacent small room.

On the 12th of October, I hosted a meeting for Vale Clerks in the Council Chamber. These gatherings prove invaluable for maintaining connections with fellow clerks, exchanging insights, and offering mutual support.

Volunteers from Vinci Facilities undertook the clearing of an overgrown bank at the Limes Cemetery on the 13th of October. This area is earmarked for the planting of wildflowers.

I met with Lyndsay Christian, the new Conservation Officer at the Vale Council, on the 12th of October. During our meeting, various actions were agreed upon.

On the 16th of October, a new external door was installed at the Town Hall office due to security concerns stemming from wood rot and a warped lock on the old door.