

Clerk's Report – 21st of November 2023

During the course of November, both the Leisure & Amenities Committee and the Finance & Governance Committee reviewed draft budgets for the 2024/25 financial year.

The finalised budget, along with the proposed Precept demand, is planned for presentation at the January Full Council meeting, in order to submit the approved Precept demand to the Vale Council by the deadline of the 31st January 2024.

The annual tree survey, conducted by ESA Tree Surgeons in July, was approved by the Leisure & Amenities Committee, and all recommended works have been successfully completed.

Memsafe Ltd conducted a safety assessment of the memorial stones at the Holy Cross Churchyard, and the resulting recommendations were approved by the Leisure & Amenities Committee. Unfortunately, planned maintenance has been postponed until December due to the contractor facing staffing shortages and adverse weather conditions.

Remembrance Sunday was an outstanding success, marked by an impressive turnout on the High Street. On behalf of the Mayor and the Town Council I have conveyed appreciation to Dave Palmer, the Parade Marshall, the Piper, the Bugler, the Police Band, and Community Representatives for their invaluable contributions in making it a truly special day for all.

Preparations for Christmas are well underway. The installation of new High Street lights by the new contractor, WGS Power, is scheduled for the 22nd of November, along with the Town Hall and Aberthin Tree lights. Local contractor Hitchings is handling the installation of the Llanblethian Tree Lights.

The old High Street lights were offered to the Vale Council for the Old Town Hall, and while they expressed interest, no arrangements for installation have been made thus far. I clarified that the Town Council has already arranged for the installation of lights on the High Street and the Town Hall and given that these plans have been agreed and approved, it is not feasible for the Town Council to additionally install the old Hall lights.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a fantastic turnout at the Cowbridge Light Parade and the Town Hall Christmas Santa Grotto.