

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2005 12 December Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 14th December 2005 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors Carwyn James, Anne Sizmur, Annette Price and Delyth Richards.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Peter Cowell, June Gunter, Graham Vaughan, Menna Roberts and County Councillor John D Evans.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
None.

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9th NOVEMBER 2005.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9th November 2005 were confirmed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Betws Park.

Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Clerk has received a response from Gerwyn Thomas in relation to her letter concerning written confirmation that the Authority would still claim responsibility for the upkeep of the park and also any liabilities that arise from the new garden. To date the Clerk confirmed that she has not received a response from Gerwyn Thomas.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas and also to the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council for a response.

2.2 Amman Group of Local Councils.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that the Amman Group of Local Councils fully support the National Eisteddfod to the Amman Valley in 2012, they have requested a formal meeting with Carmarthenshire County Council to see what support they can offer. The above point was NOTED.

2.3 Crime Evening.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she hasn't contacted the organiser as yet but confirmed that this will be done after Christmas. The above point was NOTED.

2.4 Meeting of the 4th October 2005.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a response from the Solicitors of One Voice Wales, who feel that no further legal action is necessary. The above point was NOTED.

2.5 Construction of a pavement on Pentwyn Road, Betws.

The Clerk read the reply Carmarthenshire County Council has sent to Mr Jones concerning the above matter. They confirmed that this site, along with many others within the County have now been assessed and at present they are awaiting further consideration.

The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Breach of Planning Control.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response concerning the above. Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she has received a letter from Carmarthenshire County Council who confirmed that they are looking into the above matter, but has not since received further information. The Councillors raised concern that they are not being informed of development, which could affect general drainage within Betws. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that the Clerk writes to Mr Noakes to ask for a response to her letter and also asks that the Councillors be informed of any future developments in this matter. The Councillors were in agreement.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Mr Graham Noakes, Planning Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council and also sends a copy to the Environment Agency.

2.7 Drains within Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a response from Carmarthenshire County Council who have stated that the gullies within the Betws area will now be added to the gully emptying programme.

The above point was NOTED.

2.8 Community Website.

Councillor Anne Sizmur commended Councillor Menna Roberts on the work that she has done on the Community Website especially the section regarding the Church.

The above point was NOTED.

2.9 Footpaths.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to date in relation to her letter concerning the above. Councillor Arnallt James reported that whilst he was cross over the bridge at Nantyfin last week he cut his hand on the barbwire. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Clerk writes to Gary Carlsen to ask for his comments in relation to the Clerks previous letter and also to inform him of the incident involving Councillor Arnallt James.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Gary Carlsen of Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.10 Betws Park.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Paul Murray of Carmarthenshire County Council who confirmed that all the footways and steps have been cleaned of leaves in Betws Park. Councillor Arnallt James reported that he visited the Park last week and the leaves were still there. Councillor Delyth Richards proposed that the Clerk writes to Paul Murray to ask whether Betws Park and the steps leading to Pentwyn Road can be cleared of leaves again and also asks whether the Park could be cleaned regularly. All Councillors were in favour of this.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Paul Murray of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Councillor Annette Price also noted that when the 'no prohibit' notices are either being vandalised or deteriorating they are not being replaced. All Councillors agreed that the Clerk should report this to the Parks Department.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Local Works.

The Clerk read correspondence received from the Local Works, who wanted to know what problems are facing the Community of Betws in terms of community decline. Councillor Annette Price suggested public transport.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk replies to the Local Works letter.

3.2 CCC - Footpath from Colonel Road to Betws CP School.

The Clerk read a letter received from Sue Miles of Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the above footpath. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that this should be referred to Mrs James the Headteacher of Betws CP School and also informs her that if she wishes to pursue this, the Councillors would fully support her. It was agreed by all the Councillors.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk forwards the letter onto the Headteacher of Betws CP School.

3.3 Carmarthenshire NHS Trust.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that she attended the above event. The following are scheduled for 2006:-

- Glangwili Hospital A & E will be open 24hrs
- Prince Philip Hospital A & E will be open from 9am - 5pm.

The above point was NOTED.

3.4 Following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Christmas Card received from Meryl Gravelle.
2. Karen Burch - Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum.
3. Welsh Assembly Government - Three-year revenue and capital settlement for local Authorities in Wales.
4. CCC - Proposal to divert registered public footpath 3/8.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 The following applications were approved by Betws Community Council:-

E/11806 - Change of use of barn

Gilfach Gower Farm, Argoed Road, Betws

Mr C Rowe and Mrs K Oliver (24)

E/11807 - Ground Floor rear extension

Haulfryn, 102 Betws Road, Betws

Mr and Mrs Howells (23)

4.2 Full Planning Permission has been granted by the County Council to the following:-

E/11173 - Bedroom Extension

48 Woodlands Park, Betws

Adele Sparks (18)

E/11253 - Single Story Extension

16 Treforis, Betws

Mrs Donna Dennings (19)

E/11348 - Change of use of existing storage unit

Profab 2000 Ltd, Betws Park Workshops

Profab 2000 Ltd (20)

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. Clerk Salary and Allowance £795.15
2. Clerk Income Tax £168.68
3. Capel Newydd Meetings (x5) £50.00
4. SLCC Membership £69.00
5. Roger Lewis (£9.60 x 2) £19.20
6. Donation - Christian Lewis Trust £50.00
7. Donation - Bobath £50.00
8. Donation - British Red Cross £100.00
9. Donation - Dyfed Victim Support £50.00

RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

Councillor Carwyn James suggested that the application for donation received from the National Eisteddfod in Wales should be considered in the next Community Council Meeting, as Councillor Delyth Richard has an interest in this Charity.

RESOLVED: the Councillors all agreed that this should be considered in the January 2006 Community Council Meeting.

Councillor Delyth Richards asked whether Betws Community Council could pay for a cross to be placed on the Church and Chapel in Betws, that lights up similar to the cross on the Church in Llandybie. Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether the Clerk could make enquiries with regards to the regulations in erecting crosses with lights on the Chapel and Church in Betws at Christmas time.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk to make enquires. The Councillors all agreed that this should be considered in the January 2006 Community Council Meeting.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a questionnaire from Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the Council Budget 2006/07. The questionnaire was looked at in detail by the Councillors but after a short discussion the Councillors found it extremely difficult to complete, as all the areas concerned are a priority. It was suggested that the Clerk requests copies of the questionnaires for each of the Councillors to complete. RESOLVED: that the Clerk requests copies for each of the Councillors.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 4 crimes committed in the Betws area during November:-
3 Drug related and 1 criminal damage to vehicle. To date 3 have been detected.

During 2005 there have been 115 crimes committed in the Betws Area and 75% of these have been detected.

The above points were NOTED.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received copies of two letters that County Councillor John D Evans has sent to Mr Eifion Bowen, Head of Planning and Mr Richard Workman, Director of Technical Services both from Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to the recent flooding in Betws. The Clerk also reported in the absence of County Councillor John D Evans, who has confirmed that Mr Richard Workman has stated that they do intend doing something about the accumulation of water in Betws.

The above point was NOTED.

8. BETWS OVER 50'S CLUB.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported in the absence of Councillor Graham Vaughan who apologised that he has not presented a report to the Meeting with regards to the above. He has confirmed that he will present his report in the Meeting scheduled for January, as he wanted to be present at the meeting whilst presenting his report.

The above point was NOTED.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 December 2005 Betws Community Council Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur was disappointed to note that five out of the twelve Councillors were absent from the December Community Council Meeting. She believed that they were attending the Betws Over 50's Christmas Dinner. Councillor Carwyn James proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded that the Chair Councillor Loreen Lewis is to raise this

matter in the next Community Council Meeting. Councillor Delyth Richard asked whether the Betws Over 50's Club is still working under the umbrella of the Community Council? Councillor Loreen Lewis also informed the Councillors that the Betws Over 50's Club has received money from the lottery.

RESOLVED: that the above will be discussed in the January 2006 Community Council Meeting.

9.2 Parking Charges.

Councillor Anne Sizmur stated that she strongly disagrees to the rise in parking charge that the County Council will be implementing shortly. Councillor Carwyn James suggested that there should be a cheaper parking rate for up to an hours stay. The Councillors suggested that if a parking ticket is obtained from the car park at the rear of the Co-op, Ammanford this should also be valid at the car park near Kwicksave, Ammanford. The Councillors feel that disabled members of the public and parents with children are being discriminated against. It was agreed that the Clerk writes to the Car Parks Manager of Carmarthenshire County Council.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Car Parks Manager of Carmarthenshire County Council.

9.3 Margaret Street Practice.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she has been receiving complaints from local residents concerning the Margaret Street Practice in Ammanford. When patients from the Margaret Street Practice are trying to make an appointment to see the Doctor they are being sent to the Tycroes Practice. The Councillors are concerned that this is extremely inconvenient for the patients especially the elderly residents and parents who do not have their own cars.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Practice Manager.