

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2005 02 February Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 9th February 2005 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Anne Sizmur (Chairperson), Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors E Audrey Jones, Loreen Lewis, Peter Cowell, Graham Vaughan, Keith Rees, Delyth Richards.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Menna Roberts, June Gunter, Annette Price, Carwyn James 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 12th JANUARY 2005.

The Clerk apologised that there were a few errors in the minutes:-

P6, Item No.6, 20 mph Speed Reduction - the minutes should have read – PC K Jones has spoken to Jim Williams and unfortunately in Carmarthenshire the speed limit outside the School can't be reduced to 20 mph at the moment, as there is a back log of GK counter and it depends on the results of that.

P6, item No.8.1, Reports - Footpaths - the minutes should have read Maesquarre to Colonel Road.

P8, item No.11.2, Unauthorised Entrance - the minutes should have read temporarily closed up instead of re:built.

RESOLVED: Clerk to amend the minutes.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 What percentage of Betws Community Council's Precept can be given as Donations?

The amount of donations that the Council can provide is worked out as follows; it's £5.00 per elector on the electoral register for 2004.

The above point was NOTED.

2.2 Dyfed Powys Police Letter.

Clerk read reply received from Dyfed-Powys Police re: custody facilities in Ammanford Police Station. It was proposed and seconded that the Clerk writes asking for a breakdown in the number of prisoners on the premises from 6.00 pm to 6.00 am.

RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to Dyfed-Powys Police.

2.3 One Voice Wales - Constitution and Standing Orders.

Councillor Graham Vaughan commented that the last sentence in the Standing Orders No. 12 "A person to whom the question is put may decline to answer" should be deleted. It was proposed and seconded that the Clerk writes to the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales requesting that the last sentence is deleted.

RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to One Voice Wales.

Councillor Anne Sizmur clarified that with regards to confidentiality in One Voice Wales Meetings; all matter can be referred back to the Community Council in their Meetings but Betws Community Council confidentiality policy would apply.

The above point was NOTED.

2.4 Carmarthenshire County Council - Planning Seminar.

Clerk informed the Council that no reply had been received to date from Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to the Clerks letter. All Councillors agreed that no one would attend the Planning Seminar. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that if no response is received by the next meeting, the Clerk writes enquiring why a reply has not been received? The above point was NOTED.

2.5 Planning – Waungron Road, Betws.

Councillor Keith Rees has given Councillor Anne Sizmur a letter from neighbours objecting to Planning Permission on the above. The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Dog Warden.

Councillor Arnallt James reported that there is a lot of dog fouling incidents occurring on Maes Y Betws footpath. Councillor Keith Rees suggested that more signs should be put up. It was agreed that the Clerk writes to the Dog Warden with a list of the affected areas and also writes asking whether the County Council could employ extra Dog Wardens. RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to the Dog Warden.

2.7 Community Website.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she's spoken to Councillor Menna Roberts who is very interested in starting the Community Website for Betws. There is a meeting next Monday in Councillor Menna Roberts is home. Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether any Councillors would like to attend? Councillor Loreen Lewis confirmed that she would ask Councillor Annette Price. The above point was NOTED.

2.8 Tsunami Disaster.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that the Community Council can't give a donation to this disaster, and that she'd notified the Councillors after the last meeting. The above point was NOTED.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Letter re:Betws Cricket Club.

Clerk read letter received from Betws Cricket Club. The Club is asking for financial assistance. Councillor Peter Cowell confirmed that the Council has given to this Club in the past. It was proposed and seconded that Anne Sizmur should speak to the organiser of the Cricket Club Rhidian Murray.

RESOLVED: Councillor Anne Sizmur to speak to Rhidian Murray.

3.2 Welsh Water Alliance - Ammanford Town Water Mains Refurbishment Scheme.

Councillor Arnallt James confirmed that he would try and attend the above meeting on Tuesday the 15th February 2005. The above point was NOTED.

3.3 Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales – Awareness Raising Event.

Councillors Anne Sizmur and Loreen Lewis confirmed that they would attend the above event on the 2nd March 2005.

The above point was NOTED.

3.4 Letter received from Mr Ian Jones, Glynyradar Farm.

Councillor Anne Sizmur read the letter received from Mr Jones to the Councillors. Councillor Anne Sizmur also read the letter that the Clerk had sent to the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council. Councillor Anne Sizmur explained the circumstances

surrounding this matter to the Councillors. To date no reply has been received from the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.
The above point was NOTED.

3.5 One Voice Wales.

The letter was read out to the Councillors. It was proposed and seconded that Betws Community Council writes a letter to the Local Assembly Member in support, to try and secure funding for One Voice Wales.

RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to the Local Assembly Member.

3.6 Amman Group of Local Councils.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Council that she had attended this meeting. The National Eisteddfod could possibly come to Tycroes in 2010/2012. The organisers are going to visit the site next week.

The above point was NOTED.

3.7 Carmarthenshire County Council - Notification of meeting with Martin Cook re: Betws Colliery.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that Councillor Peter Cowell and herself have arranged a meeting with Hugh Towns, to seek advice, prior to the meeting with Martin Cook on the 15th February.

The above point was NOTED.

3.8 Amman Area Community Network Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that Councillor Loreen Lewis and herself had attended this meeting. The next meeting is in June, and if any Councillors wish to go onto the mailing list, they need to supply their names to Councillor Anne Sizmur.

The above point was NOTED.

3.9 Betws Primary School Governing Body Letter.

The letter was read out to the Councillors. It was noted that Betws Community Council doesn't own the land in question. It is in private ownership.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to advise the Governors of the Primary School that they need to contact the land owner:- Mr Keith Griffiths of 24 Rice Street, Betws.

3.10 Correspondence from Dr John D Evans - re: Betws Community Council Accounts.

The letter was read out to the Councillors, and the Financial Accounts Summary Sheet was also handed out. Councillor Graham Vaughan proposed that the Clerk thanks Dr John D Evans for the information supplied, and that all comments are noted. It was agreed by all Councillors.

RESOLVED: The Clerk writes to Dr John D Evans.

3.11 ECO2 Letter.

Councillor Anne Sizmur read the letter received from ECO2. Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Council that the representative from ECO2 wanted a meeting on this and that ECO2 wanted the Community Council to support this letter. Councillor Peter Cowell told ECO2 to put a letter in writing and to address it to Betws Community Council. Councillor Peter Cowell confirmed that he would circulate the Booklet provided by ECO2.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that she's been into the office of One Voice Wales; they informed her not to agree to anything, verbally or in writing.

RESOLVED: to be put onto next month's agenda.

3.12 Following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Welsh Assembly Government

1.1 Appropriate sum under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

1.2 Account and Audit Regulations.

1.3 Borrowing by Community and Town Councils - Loan Sanction for 2005/06.

2. Carmarthenshire County Council

2.1 Footway Lighting Charges for 2005/06.

2.2 Fund Booklet – copy given to Councillor Loreen Lewis.

3. One Voice Wales

3.1 Agenda for meeting on 07/02/05.

3.2 Tsunami Disaster.

3.3 Constitution and Standing Orders.

4. National Assembly for Wales – invitation to visit the National Assembly for Wales.

5. The Local Channel – Community Website.

6. Llangollen International Eisteddfod - Clerk to order two complimentary tickets.

7. Forestry Commission in Wales letter – given to Councillor Peter Cowell.

8. Copy of letter from Mrs Susan Richards, original sent to the County Councillor - for information only.

9. Copy of letter from Mrs H Corbett, original sent to the County Councillor - for information only

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

The following correspondence were received from Carmarthenshire County Council:-

1. Naming of New Residential Development at Maesquarre Road, Betws, as “Golwg Y Mynydd” there were no objections by Betws Community Council.

2. “Swyn Yr Awel” has been accepted and registered by the Royal Mail Address Management. “Woodlands Lane” for the roadway to this property and “Plas Y Coed” has also been accepted and registered by Royal Mail Address Management.

Councillor Delyth Richards asked the Clerk to enquire with Carmarthenshire County Council, what the Welsh translation is for “Woodlands Lane”?

RESOLVED: the Clerk to make enquiries with the Planning Department.

The following application was approved by Betws Community Council:-

E/09155 - Proposed conversion of outbuilding - removal of condition no.'s 3 and 4
Maesquarre Hall, Ammanford
Jess Bower

The following applications have been granted by the County:-

E/08724 - Double Storey Extension and improvement works to existing dwelling
Llwynnwn Cottage, Betws
Mr and Mrs A D Thomas

E/07422 - 20 New Houses

Land to rear of 55 - 67 Maesquarre Road, Betws
Andrew Wotton Associates

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. CCC - Footway Lighting £231.75

2. Councillor Peter Cowell £78.47

RESOLVED: That the above be paid.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC K Jones 88 attended on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police.

He reported that there had been 5 crimes committed in the Betws area during January, made up of the following:- 4 Assaults and 1 Possession of Cannabis, all will be detected.

Councillor Arnallt James informed the Council that there had also been two burglaries/break-ins in January. PC K Jones agreed and for some reasons these hadn't been printed on his sheet. He informed the Council that the burglar in Pentwyn Road has been caught.

Councillor Arnallt James noted that there is a lot of traffic speeding on Maesquarre Road. The County Council have done what they can; they've put road marking, road signs, camera signs etc. PC K Jones noted that he will speak to the speed camera partnership to see whether the speed camera van can be placed there. Councillor Keith Rees also noted that it might be worth putting a speed camera van on Colonel Road as well.

Councillor Graham Vaughan informed the Council that there is a vandalism problem behind the Rugby Club, after school hours. Councillor Vaughan stated that they've vandalised the down pipe off the wall and the window in the tractor has been smashed. PC K Jones reported that he would look into this matter; he is also going to speak to Steve Clark with regards to the swift camera.

All the above points were NOTED.

7. REPORT: COUNTY COUNCILLOR.
N/A.

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Betws Park.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported in the absence of Councillor Annette Price that there is a possibility that Carmarthenshire County Council and Betws Community Council could join together and have a tactile garden in Betws Park. It would be the first one in Carmarthenshire.

The above point was NOTED.

8.2 Drop In Centre - Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked Councillor Graham Vaughan to present a report on this. Councillor Graham Vaughan reported that he will be give his quarterly report in the next meeting, he will give each Councillor a written report prior to the next meeting. He confirmed that the Drop in Centre has been a success. Since the 9th December on average 27 people have attended.

The above point was NOTED.

8.3 Pentwyn Road.

Councillor Keith Rees reported that residents have approached him, with regards traffic speeding on this road.

RESOLVED: to discuss with the Police in the next meeting.

8.4 Footpaths.

Councillor Peter Cowell reported on the following:-

Ø 68/11 footpath to be concreted, providing permission is approved by Mr Jones.

Ø 3/12 new bridge completed.

Ø 3/20 new bridge and style.

Ø Tree fallen on 3/5.

Councillor Anne Sizmur officially thank Councillor Peter Cowell for all his hard work and effort that he's put into the various footpath projects within Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that she's received a letter from Councillor Peter Cowell; he has put in a request to re:claim expenses incurred in relation to footpaths and other projects. It was agreed by all Councillors to pay Councillor Peter Cowell £78.47

RESOLVED: That Councillor Peter Cowell is paid £78.47.

8.5 Betws Mine Site.

Councillor Keith Rees gave a detailed report to Councillor with regards to the Betws Mine Site. Councillor Anne Sizmur read out the letter that was sent to Martin Cook. Councillor Arnallt James suggested whether the return drift could be buried?
The above point was NOTED.

9. WELSH ASSEMBLY - PROVIDING INDEMNITIES TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked the Councillors for their comments in relation to the above document. Councillor Delyth Richard said that they are "passing the buck" and it's the responsibilities of the County Council. The Councillors were in agreement that the Welsh Assembly and the County Council should have an umbrella cover.
The above point was NOTED.

10. BETWS IN BLOOM.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she has placed a prior notice in the Guardian for the Betws In Bloom Competition 2005. There are 4 categories, Small, Medium, Large Gardens, and Container/Hanging basket displays. Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether the Councillors knew anyone interested in judging the competitions? The competitions are to be held in the first fortnight in July (more information will be available in early March).
The above point was NOTED.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

11.1 Cwmwern Ddu Tipping.

Councillor Arnallt James informed the Council that there tipping in Cwmwern Ddu; he has reported the matter to County Councillor John D Evans. County Councillor John D Evans hasn't had a response to date.
Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether Councillor Arnallt James could make some notes on the matter.
The above point was NOTED.

11.2 Spring Walks.

Councillor Delyth Richards asked when the Spring Walks were recommencing? It was agreed that they would recommence on the 14th of April.
The above point was NOTED.

11.3 Meals on Wheels.

Councillor Arnallt James notified the Council that there are 5 volunteers in the Village, 2 are finishing at the end of the month. He asked whether any Councillors would be interested or if they knew someone who would be interested? The vacant days are Wednesdays and Thursdays.
The above point was NOTED.