

# BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Title: 2005 01 January Minutes**

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 12th January 2005 at 7.00 pm.

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

County Councillor John D Evans.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Menna Roberts and June Gunter.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.  
NOTED that County Councillor John D Evans declared a Non Pecuniary interest on the subject of Betws Mine. He also declared that he might have an interest in certain planning applications due to being a member of the West Wales Valuation Tribunal. County Councillor John D Evans also confirmed that he was a member of the Court of Governors of Swansea University.

Councillor Anne Sizmur declared an interest in the planning dispute in relation to Glyncywarch Colliery, as she is a resident living opposite Waunddwfn Lane.

### 1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 8th OF DECEMBER 2004.

The Clerk apologised that there were two spelling mistakes, one on Page 5 - Item 7 - the minutes should have read Cwmwern Ddu, and the other on Page 7 - Item 11.4 - The correct address is Caemawr.

Councillor Arnallt James noted that on Page 5 - Item 7 - after Cwmwern Ddu, Waunddwfn Road should also be included.

Councillor Keith Rees also noted that on Page 4 last paragraph should read Councillor Keith Rees.

Councillor Keith Rees also noted that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 10th November 2004, Item No. 2.2 Betws Mine - Commemorative Plaque, the minutes should read as follows:- "the plaque is for Betws new mine, and he also pointed out that the minutes should say "Betws Mine".

The Council agreed that the minutes should be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: Clerk to amend the minutes.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING.

#### 2.1 Treforis Estate, Betws.

Clerk read reply received from Carmarthenshire County Council. The County Council confirmed that the owners of the two properties have purchased the land at the front of their properties and as long as the work meets building and planning regulations they were perfectly entitled to carry out the work and that they were contacted for permission. The above point was NOTED.

#### 2.2 Betws Park/School - Benches and Bin.

Clerk read reply received from Carmarthenshire County Council. The County Council

confirmed that the backless benches have been installed at the park instead of the School. This is now being rectified.  
The above point was NOTED.

#### 2.3 One Voice Wales - Constitution and Standing Orders.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether anybody had any comments to make with regards to the One Voice Wales Constitution and Standing Orders? Councillor Graham Vaughan said that he had a few comments to make. Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she would forward any comments onto One Voice Wales.  
The above point was NOTED.

#### 2.4 Donations.

Christian Lewis Trust - Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that she has made some enquiries with this Trust; she informed the Council that there had been a problem some time ago, but this has been resolved.

The Disabled Drivers Association - Councillor Anne Sizmur also confirmed that she has made enquires with this association, she confirmed that they are an organisation that provides drivers for disabled people.

The above points were NOTED.

#### 2.5 December Minutes page 5, No. 7, Report County Councillor.

Councillor Arnallt James said that in relation to Cwmwern Ddu the County Councillor John D Evans has report to him on this issue.  
The above point was NOTED.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

#### 3.1 Carmarthenshire County Council - Planning Seminar.

This was discussed by the Councillor and they showed concern that there was a £20.00 fee for attending this course. The Councillors asked if the Clerk could write to Carmarthenshire County Council expressing their disappointment. The Councillors confirmed that they would be considering the matter.

RESOLVED: The Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

#### 3.2 One Voice Wales - Employment Update and the Freedom of Information Act.

It was agreed that the Clerk distributes copies of these documents to the Councillors.  
The above point was NOTED.

#### 3.3 Carmarthenshire County Council - Meeting to discuss training issues with Town and Community Councils.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Council that she had attended the meeting on the 11th January 2005.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 3.4 Correspondence from County Councillor John D Evans - re: Betws Community Council Meeting on the 8th December 2004.

The letter was read out to the Councillors. Councillor Delyth Richard expressed her vote of confidence in the Chair and the other Councillors supported Councillor Anne Sizmur, in that the County Councillor was not asked to leave the meeting. Councillor Anne Sizmur stated that she didn't want to take the matter further. It was agreed by all Councillors that no further action should be taken on this matter.

The above point was NOTED.

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

The letter was read out to the Councillors. The Clerk read out some points/notes that she'd

made in relation to this. It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk writes to Dr John D Evans listing the points.

RESOLVED: The Clerk writes a suitable response.

3.6 Correspondence from County Councillor John D Evans - re: Betws Community Council Standing Order No. 27.2.

The letter was read out to the Councillors. The Clerk noted that copies of all future correspondence to Carmarthenshire County Council would be sent to the County Councillor.

RESOLVED: The Clerk writes to County Councillor John D Evans.

3.7 Welsh Assembly - Providing Indemnities to Members and Officers of relevant Authorities.

One copy was handed to Councillor Anne Sizmur who will circulate it around the female Councillors and the other copy was handed to Councillor Peter Cowell who will circulate it around the male Councillors.

The above point was NOTED.

3.8 Welsh Assembly - Betws Mine Site

Letter from Welsh Assembly Government - Andrew Davies - in relation to the Clerks letter dated 17th November 2004. Councillor Peter Cowell confirmed that he's written another letter to Andrew Davies and he's waiting for a response.

The above point was NOTED.

3.9 Following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council - Building for a bright future leaflet - handed to Councillor Annette Price who is going to forward this onto Councillor Menna Roberts.

2. KRUF (Kidney Research Unit for Wales) Walk for Life - handed to Councillor Keith Rees.

3. Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services - handed to Councillor Delyth Richards.

4. Play for Wales Booklet – handed to Councillor Peter Cowell.

5. News Shoots - National Botanic Gardens of Wales - handed to Councillor Loreen Lewis.

6. National Assembly for Wales - Meeting of the South West Wales Regional Committee.

7. Carmarthenshire Voluntary Sector Forum - Information Mailing - Dec 2004.

8. Carmarthenshire County Council - Community Networks Timetable for 2005.

9. 4 x Christmas Cards.

#### 4. PLANNING MATTERS.

The following applications were approved by Betws Community Council:-

E/08869 - 2 Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses

Land at Waungron Road, Betws

Mr J Woodall

E/08784 - Reposition of Plot 17 from approved position

Plot 17, Parc Nant Y Felin, Ammanford

Ballantyne Homes Ltd

The following application was objected by Betws Community Council:-

E/08905 – Variation of Condition 1 of Planning permission E/01863 to allow processing of product at Coal Washing Point

Glyncywarch Colliery

L R Phillips

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Council, that Councillor Peter Cowell and herself had been to the Planning Office in Llandeilo in relation to the above application. Councillor Peter Cowell gave a detailed report to the Councillors. Councillors expressed their concerns with regards to this and it was agreed that a letter of objection is sent to Carmarthenshire County Council. It was agreed that Councillor Peter Cowell would email the Clerk detailing various

points in objection to the above.  
RESOLVED: The Clerk writes to the Planning Authority.

The following application has been granted by the County:-  
E/08586 - Bathroom/Utility to ground floor and bedroom to first floor  
34 Colonel Road, Betws  
Mr & Mrs M James

The following application has been refused by the County:-  
E/08384 - Proposed Barn Conversion to Dwelling  
Barn at Cwmfelin Farm, Betws  
Mr D Ede

#### 5. ACCOUNTS.

1. Chairperson Allowance 2nd Instalment £100.00
2. SLCC - Annual Subscription 2005 £79.00
3. CCC (Footpath & Bridleway Maintenance) £160.00

RESOLVED: That the above be paid.

#### 5.1 Setting of Precept for 2005/2006.

A copy of the annual expenditure, and the estimates for 2005/2006 had been sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. All the items listed were discussed in details, and with the exception of two points all figures were agreed. The two points that were altered were:-

1. It was agreed that the amount allowed for paying for meeting should be increased from £120 to £150 per annum.
2. It was agreed also that the Footpath Maintenance/Flowers should be amended to £2000 in accordance with July 2004 Minutes.

Following a short discussion it was agreed to request a precept of £11,500 for 2005/2006.  
RESOLVED: The Clerk requests the above figure from Carmarthenshire County Council.

Councillor Peter Cowell asked what percentage of the precept can the Council give as donations?

RESOLVED: The Clerk to make enquiries.

#### 6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

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

He reported on the following:-

Ø There had been 72 crimes in Betws from January 2004 – December 2004 and 35 of those had been detected.

Ø Crimes were up by 9.

Ø There were major problems in criminal damage to vehicles, 13 last year and 6 the previous year.

PC K Jones reported that there had been 4 crimes committed in the Betws area during December, made up of the following:-

- 1 Assault
- 1 Public Order
- 1 Possession of Cannabis
- 1 Theft Other

#### 20 mph Speed Reduction

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 Counters and it depends on the results of that.

#### Traffic Lights

PC K Jones has spoken to Mike James re: Programmed extending double yellow lines outside Motor World he's waiting for a phone call back from him.

Councillor Loreen Lewis asked if there could only be parking up one side of Colonel Road, PC K Jones confirmed that he would mention it to the Highways Department.

Councillor Peter Cowell said that there's on going renovation works at Brooklands and they are parking on the corner, PC K Jones confirmed that he would go and speak to them.

#### Camera for Bracket

PC K Jones confirmed that Steve Clark has stated that there are no cameras available as yet; Councillor Peter Cowell asked whether we could get one when we get problems? PC K Jones said that he would speak to Steve Clark.

All the above points were NOTED.

#### 7. REPORT: COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

County Councillor John D Evans stated that he had no reports to report on in this meeting. The above point was NOTED.

#### 8. REPORTS.

##### 8.1 Footpaths.

Councillor Peter Cowell reported on the following:-

Ø 3.1 new fencing, the metal posts are to be secured into concrete,

Ø Maes Y Betws Culvert - contractors are due there next week.

Ø Bridge 3.12 is going to be finished; the footpath is going to be opened by the Parks department early spring this year.

Ø 3.4 Diversion Maesllech, completed path reopened.

Councillor Arnallt James stated that the footpath from Maesquarre to Colonel Road is in poor condition. Councillor Peter Cowell confirmed that maintenance has been carried out on this path previously, and he would raise the issued with Gary Carson - Right of Way Officer.

Councillor Arnallt James also stated that there's a lot of dog fouling on footpath 68/11. It was agreed that the Clerk speaks to the Dog Warden.

RESOLVED: The Clerks to speak to the Dog Warden.

##### 8.2 Drop In Centre – Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur said that she'd recently visited the Drop In Centre. She thanked Mrs Norma Vaughan for her support, and asked whether a letter of appreciation could be sent to the Chairman of Betws RFC. It was agreed that Councillor Anne Sizmur would write thank you letters to Rhys Thomas the Organist and to Anne for supplying mince pies.

RESOLVED: The Clerk writes to the Chairman of Betws RFC.

##### 8.3 Community Website.

Councillor Anne Sizmur explained to the Council that the Clerk had written to Emma Jewell asking for her availability. Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that Councillor Peter Cowell and herself had attended the Meeting on Thursday 6th of January 2005. Councillor Anne Sizmur reported on the following:-

Ø There's no official cost to Betws Community Council for the first 3 years, after that there could be a possible cost of £60pa.

Ø Schools/social groups/sports clubs could advertise on the website.

Ø Businesses would have to pay to advertise on the website according to the size of their

advert.

Ø Emma Jewell's Team would assist with the setting up process.

Ø If the Community Council wants to go ahead with this a set up venue is essential two to three meeting of 6-10 hrs and initial research needs to be undertaken e.g. what do the Council wish to put onto the site.

Ø The Homepage would include photographs/pictures.

Ø The information would need to be put onto disk.

Ø The website would have to be bilingual.

Ø Safety - only an authorised person could input information onto the website.

It was proposed and seconded that the Councillors wanted to go ahead and set up a Community Website.

#### 8.4 Amman Valley Railway Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Council that a vast amount of money has been raised in relation to the Amman Valley Railway. Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that at the meeting they indicated that they would be asking Local Communities for help in a variety of ways.

Councillor Delyth Richards asked what is the global plan? Councillor Anne Sizmur replied, to reopen the Amman Valley line.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 9. TSUNAMI DISASTER.

The Council held a 2 minutes silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the Tsunami Disaster. It was proposed and seconded that Betws Community Council gives a donation of £100 to this appeal.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write a cheque for £100 donation.

#### 10. BETWS IN BLOOM.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she'd passed the shield onto Mr Jones. Councillor Anne Sizmur also confirmed that she'd arranged a meeting for Wednesday the 26th January in the vestry; and that she was going to telephone everyone who was involved last year.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

##### 11.1 Betws New Mine

Councillor Arnallt James informed the Council that the Betws New Mine Site is in a chronic condition. Councillor Keith Rees asked, who is responsible for the site and the tips? It was agreed to find out what the time schedule is for clearing this site? It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the Chief Executive.

##### 11.2 Unauthorised Entrance

Councillor Keith Rees stated that Mr Ian Jones of Glynnyradar Farm has approached him. Mr Jones was extremely unhappy, as his wall had been knocked down to create an unauthorised entrance, whilst he was away on holidays. Councillor Keith Rees confirmed that the wall has been temporarily closed up but it's extremely untidy.

RESOLVED: Councillors Keith Rees and Anne Sizmur were delegated by Betws Community Council to write in reference to this matter.

##### 11.3 Police Blue Light Discos.

Councillor Delyth Richards thanked the Police for organising the Blue Light Discos, and suggested that a letter of thanks is sent to the Police.

RESOLVED: The Clerk writes to the Police.

##### 11.4 Photos – Memorial Plaque

Councillor Annette Price circulated photos to the Councillors in relation to two possible sites

to place the Memorial Plaque (Play Area and the green area by the entrance to the Mine).  
The above point was NOTED.