

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2005 07 July Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 13th July 2005 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors Menna Roberts, Carwyn James, Delyth Richards, Peter Cowell, Anne Sizmur, Annette Price, Keith Rees and County Councillor John D Evans.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Graham Vaughan, E Audrey Jones and June Gunter.

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

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 8th JUNE 2005.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 8th June 2005 were confirmed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Community Website.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that the computer from the Tourist Association will be delivered to his house on the 14th July, he has included this onto his content insurance, which will cost approximately £20 a year. There is also a web registration fee of £35.00. The Councillors agreed to the above costs, which will be paid in due course. The above point was NOTED.

2.2 Site Visit of Betws Mine.

Councillor Peter Cowell gave a detailed report to the Councillors on the site visit of Betws Mine. Councillor Loreen Lewis noted that the area had been tidied up prior to the site visit and also the machinery had quietened down.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that he's managed to obtain a copy of the GR3 map of Betws from the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council. Councillor Annette Price suggested that the Clerk obtains copies for all the Councillors. RESOLVED: the Clerk to obtain copies of the map for the Councillors.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that the workmen working on the Betws Mine Site are starting up the machinery before 7.30 am and they are working up until 7.30 pm, the residents have been complaining due to the noise and dust coming from the site. Councillor Annette Price suggested that the Clerk informs the Environmental Health Department.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Environmental Health Department.

2.3 The Coal Authority - Surface Hazard at Ammanford No. 1 Colliery.

Councillor Peter Cowell reported that he's spoken to the Coal Authority to find out what's happening in relation to securing the drift. The Coal Authority confirmed that they have written to TRJ asking for permission to go onto his land to seal up the drift. To date the Coal Authority has not received a response from TRJ. Councillor Peter Cowell suggested that a letter should be sent to TRJ asking him to give the Coal Authority access to his land.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to TRJ.

2.4 Donations.

The Clerk read response received from Reverend Delyth Bowen, who stated that the money received from Betws Community Council toward the Maintenance of St. David's burial ground is paid into the Church Yard Fund and not into the central account.

The above point was NOTED.

2.5 Discussion Paper.

The Clerk confirmed that she's received confirmation from Eifion Bowen that he's received a copy of the discussion paper.

The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Protection of Rural Wales.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that there was an incident back in May, where a developer unaware of the preservation order and cut down a tree. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Clerk writes to the tree preservation Officer, to suggest that all estate agents should have a copy of the tree preservation order, and also a copy should be sent to the Local Authority which could be given to developers, when they submit planning applications.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Tree Preservation Officer.

2.7 Walkway to Betws CP School from Colonel Road, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's received correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council, stating that this matter has been forwarded to the Director of Technical Services who is responsible for the matters outlined in her letter.

The above point was NOTED.

2.8 Betws Park Arch.

Councillor Peter Cowell said that he's spoken to Peter Locksmith who reported that the roof of the Arch in the Park is caving in. Councillor Peter Cowell suggested that the Clerk informs the Parks Department of this and also asks for an update in relation to the preservation order.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Parks Department.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Carmarthenshire County Council - re: Seasonal Decorations.

The Clerk read correspondence received from Carmarthenshire County Council. The County Surveyor's Society has recently updated the Code of Practice for the Installation, Operation and Removal of Seasonal Decoration. Councillor Annette Price suggested that the Clerk obtains a copy of the Code of Practice for information.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to obtain a copy of the Code of Practice.

3.2 Coalfield Communities Campaign Conference.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the National Conference of the Coalfield Communities would be held in Fife. Councillor Keith Rees asked whether the Clerk could find out the name of the representative from Carmarthenshire?

RESOLVED: the Clerk to make enquiries.

3.3 Following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council.

1.1 Training Needs of Town and Community Councils.

1.2 Amman Area Community Network Meeting June 2005.

1.3 Economic Development Strategy 2000-2010 Mid Term Review.

1.4 Improvement Plan 2005/2006.

1.5 Corporate Strategy Update 2005/10.

2. One Voice Wales.

- 2.1 Carmarthen Area Committee Agenda.
- 2.2 Carmarthen Area Committee Minutes.
3. Welsh Assembly Government.
 - 3.1 Fire and Rescue National Framework for Wales.
 - 3.2 Delivering our promises leaflets were handed to the Councillors.
4. Community Health Council.
5. Carmarthenshire Unitary Plan Public Enquiry.
6. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Newsletter.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

The following applications were objected by Betws Community Council:-
E/10453 - Proposed Hutchinsons 3 G Telecommunications Development
Land at Budist Uchaf, Hopkinstown, Pontaman
Hutchinson 3G UK

E/10446 - Erection of 16 Wind Turbine Generators
Mynydd Y Betws, Betws
Cambrian Renewable Energy Ltd

The following application has been refused planning by the County Council:-
E/08905 - Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission to allow processing of product at
coal washing plant
Glyncywarch Colliery, Betws
L R Phillips

The following applications were approved by the County Council:-
E/09880 - Proposed Bungalow
Land next to Pencoed Villa, Maesquarre Road
Mr Geraint Jones

E/09980 - Proposed conversion of the former haulage house/sub station building
Former Betws Colliery Site
T R Jones

E/10092 - Proposed Kitchen Extension
28 Pentwyn Road, Betws
Mrs Griffiths

E/09753 - Two Storey Extension
Llethrlan Fawr Farm, Betws
D R Griffiths

E/09647 - New Access Lane to plot adj
48 Colonel Road, Betws
D M Davies

E/09749 - Amendment to approved planning application E/07422 splitting of double garages
to plots 16 and 17 into 2 separate garages
55-59 Maesquarre Road, Betws
Woodstock Homes

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. Mr R Lewis - Footway Maintenance £800.00
2. CCC - Footway Lighting £274.54
3. Councillor Peter Cowell £16.48
4. Donation - ChildLine Cymru £100.00

5. Donation - Shelter Cymru £100.00
6. Donation - Urdd Gobaith Cymru £100.00
7. Donation - Ammanford Town Silver Band £100.00
TOTAL £1491.02
RESOLVED: That the above be paid.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that the digital camera has been ordered and will be delivered on the 24th July, and that the cost of the camera including delivery totals £105.
The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Peter Cowell also informed the Councillors that he's spend £16.48 on Internet charges in relation to the Community Website.
RESOLVED: it was agreed by the Councillors to pay Councillor Peter Cowell £16.48.

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 June, made up of the following:-
1 theft of solar light, 1 theft vehicle license, 1 criminal damage to vehicle and 1 burglary. To date the crimes have not been detected.

237 youngsters attended the Blue Light Disco that was held in June.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that he's written to Inspector Ward concerning the anti social behaviour in Betws Park. He reported that Carmarthenshire County Council could do more to Police the situation. There are two Community Wardens, in the Amman Valley Area but it's very difficult for them to Police a large geographical area. County Councillor John D Evans also reported that he's written to the Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council to see if there can be an increase in the number of Community Wardens and also to enhance their powers, he has not received a reply to date.

County Councillor John D Evans informed the Councillors that a County wide contingency plan has been drawn up concerning the rave on Betws Mountain and hopefully to avoid this occurring again. PC Jones reported that English Police Officers are working full time on this case and that they will inform Dyfed Powys Police of an developments they find on the internet.

Councillor Arnallt James asked PC Jones for a report on the incident in Maesquarre Road on the 9th July. PC Jones confirmed that he was not aware of any incident, but it would come under the July crimes and it will probably be reported in the next Community Council Meeting, he will also make enquiries.

The above points were NOTED.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor John D Evans reported on the following issues:-

1. Wind Turbines Application - he provided a map from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Clerk, showing the locations of the wind turbines. Councillor Peter Cowell said that no Ecological and Geological Studies of the mountain have been undertaken. Councillor Peter suggested that a separate meeting should take place before a letter is sent to Carmarthenshire County Council. County Councillor John D Evans suggested visiting the proposed site on Betws Mountain and possibly other Turbine Sites. He also stated that a public enquiry should take place, as there are serious concerns/issues in relation to the application. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Council tries to find out what objections Gilfach Goch in the Rhondda had. It was decided to have a Special meeting on Monday the 18th July at 7.00 pm.

2. Argoed Road - Completed culvert.
3. Land behind the Plough and Harrow - a meeting has been arranged with the Estates Department of Carmarthenshire County Council on the 26th July 2005. He informed the Councillors that when Community Councillors are undertaking site visits with Carmarthenshire County Council personnel they are not covered by the County's Insurance.

The above points were NOTED.

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Betws In Bloom

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that Woodstock homes have donated three trophy cups to the Betws in Bloom Competition. Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether a letter of thanks could be sent to Woodstock Homes.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to send a thank you letter to Woodstock Homes.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 Police Leaflets.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that the Police have been distributing leaflets which details the non urgent contact number for the Police - 0845 3302000.

The above point was NOTED.

9.2 One Voice Wales Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she's recently attended the One Voice Wales Meeting. She said that One Voice Wales are adding more and more Community Council's to their umbrella; the new Chief Executive is very supportive of any needs of the Community Councils. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Clerk writes to the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales to see whether he can approach Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire whether something can be done as Community Councillors are not insured when they carry out site visits with Carmarthenshire County Council personnel.

RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales.

9.3 Footpaths.

Councillor Arnallt James asked, when is Carmarthenshire County Council going to open the footpath leading to the new bridge near Pantybanwen? It was suggested that the Clerk writes to Gary Carlsen.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Gary Carlsen.

9.4 Welsh Water.

Councillor Annette Price reported that Welsh Water are currently working in Betws, and they are only giving residents a 5 minutes warning before they turn off the water supply. The Residents are complaining that this isn't enough time for people with young children and elderly people. Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Clerk could phone Welsh Water to complain.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to phone Welsh Water and find out whether this is standard practice.