

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2005 06 June Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 8th June 2005 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors Graham Vaughan, Menna Roberts, Carwyn James, E Audrey Jones, Delyth Richards, Peter Cowell, June Gunter and County Councillor John D Evans.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Anne Sizmur, Annette Price, and Keith Rees.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
County Councillor John D Evans declared that he is a member of the Court of Governors for Swansea University.

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11th MAY 2005.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th May 2005 were confirmed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Community Website.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that the membership fee of £25 must be paid before the Tourist Association provides Betws Community Council with a computer. It was agreed by all Councillors to pay the membership fee. Councillor Peter Cowell also explained to the Councillors that the Computer must be insured, otherwise it will not be delivered and installed. Councillor Peter Cowell confirmed that has spoken to his home insurers who cannot insure the computer, he's informed the Tourist Association and they are looking into the matter.

RESOLVED: to pay the £25 membership fee to the Tourist Association.

Councillor Menna Roberts asked the Councillors what do they want to call the website?

'Betws' was suggested and agreed by the Councillors.

The above point was NOTED.

The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she's placed copies of the agendas and minutes from January to April 2005 onto the Website.

The above point was NOTED.

2.2 Betws Cricket Club.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that the cricket bats bought by Betws Community Council will be presented to Betws Cricket Club at their presentation evening next Wednesday.

County Councillor John D Evans informed the Councillors that there is money available for clubs/organisation etc from Carmarthenshire County Council in the form of a Community Chest. County Councillor John D Evans has drawn this to the attention of Betws Cricket Club, but in order to make an application they must have a constitution. Unfortunately Betws Cricket Club doesn't have a constitution.

County Councillor John D Evans stated that he has written to Betws Cricket Club and

informed them that Dyfed Volunteers based in King Street, Carmarthen will write a constitution free of charge for them. Councillor June Gunter suggested that the Community Council writes to the Cricket Club reiterating that there is funding available from Carmarthenshire County Council.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Betws Cricket Club.

2.3 Community Warden.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's arranged for the Community Warden to come and speak to the Councillors on Wednesday the 14th of September at 6.30 pm (prior to the monthly Meeting of Betws Community Council).

The above point was NOTED.

2.4 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported in the absence of Councillor Anne Sizmur that Woodstock Homes have donated 3 cups for the Betws in Bloom Competition.

The above point was NOTED.

2.5 Breach of Planning Regulations, Unauthorised Tipping - Land at Llys Havard, off Woodlands Park, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that to date she hasn't received any correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the outcome of their investigations.

The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Site Visit of Betws Mine.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that he's been speaking to Mr Hugh Towns from Carmarthenshire County Council. Mr Towns is prepared to show the Councillors around the Betws Mine Site and indicate the areas of concern, providing that they use the service road leading up to LBS. Councillor Loreen Lewis asked whether the Councillors were interested in having a site visit? The Councillors agreed to the site visit. Councillor Delyth Richards suggested that the Clerk writes to Hugh Towns and asks for his availability.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Hugh Towns.

2.7 Grass Collection At Heol Y Felin Park.

The Clerk read response received from Anna Owens the Health and Safety Advisor of Carmarthenshire County Council; it stated that she has been to visit Heol Y Felin Park and that there was no significant Health and Safety Risk, and that she will also be inspecting the area regularly.

The above point was NOTED.

2.8 Planning Application E09981 - Construction of Highway Cul De Sac.

Councillor Graham Vaughan asked whether the Clerk could explain and provide the exact location in relation to the above planning application.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk sends a copy of the planning application to Councillor Graham Vaughan.

2.9 CADW.

The Clerk read response received from CADW, and according to them the Community of Betws was last surveyed in 1996/97. They enclosed details of the listing buildings within Betws - St David's Parish Church on Betws Road and Pontamman Bridge.

The above point was NOTED.

2.10 Election.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council, which stated that the statutory procedure was for postal votes to be handed into polling station staff that in turn would place them in an official receipt envelope for delivery to the Returning Officer at the close of poll. The suggestion of using the Rugby Club as an alternative site for Polling Station

will be considered in June and they will inform Betws Community Council accordingly. Councillor Graham Vaughan asked whether the Community Council should have asked the Rugby Club for their permission first? Councillor June Gunter said that it was only a suggestion and that the County Council will take it on board when they make a decision. The above point was NOTED.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Letter from T.Richard Jones (Betws)

The Clerk read the letter received from T. Richard Jones. Councillor Peter Cowell stated that he wrote to Martin Cook, and asked what land is available for Betws use? The information was never forthcoming. All Councillors agreed to send a copy of the discussion paper to T.Richard Jones and also a copy to Mr R Williams, Boyer Planning Cardiff.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk sends a copy of the discussion paper to T.Richard Jones and Mr R Williams, Boyer Planning.

It was also agreed by the Councillors to send a copy of the discussion paper to Martin Cook. RESOLVED: the Clerk sends a copy of the discussion paper to Martin Cook.

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

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's received copies of letters sent to Carmarthenshire County Council and T.Richard Jones from the Coal Authority. Councillor Peter Cowell explained to the Councillors that he is concerned as the shafts haven't been secured properly.

The above point was NOTED.

3.3 Following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

1.1 Minutes of the Amman Valley Railway Steering Group Meeting held in May.

1.2 Developing an integrated parking strategy for Carmarthenshire - Consultation Process.

1.3 Culvert replacement works at Tycoch, Argoed Road, Betws.

1.4 Newsheet for Care Homes for older people - handed to Councillor June Gunter.

1.5 Carmarthenshire Welsh Education Scheme - Consultation Draft 205 - handed to Councillor Delyth Richards.

2. Nation Assembly For Wales

2.1 Notice of Public Meeting of the National Assembly Mid and West Wales Regional Committee.

3. Newsletter - Heart of Wales Line Travellers Association.

4. Aman Group of Local Councils - Agenda and Minutes.

5. Copy of letter sent to Carmarthenshire County Council from Mrs H Corbett.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

The following applications were approved by Betws Community Council:-

E/10243 - Proposed Extension

Pant Y Banwen, Off Maesquarre Road

Mr Roger Lewis

E/10092 - Proposed Kitchen Extension

28 Pentwyn Road, Betws

Mrs Griffiths

E/10196 - One Residential Bungalow

69 Colonel Road, Betws

Amanda Morris Developments Ltd.

E/10195 - Extension to Public House

Scotch Pine, Mountain Road, Betws

The Scotch Pine

The Clerk informed the Councillors of the objections submitted by County Councillor John D Evans to Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to variation of condition no. 3 of planning permission C6/120 to allow processing of product at coal washing plant. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she's received correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council informing the Council that there is a site visit of Glyncywarch Colliery on the 14th June at 10.45am and then an address in the Chamber in County Hall, Carmarthen at 2.00pm. Councillor Peter Cowell said that he would like to attend the site visit. Councillors Arnallt James and Menna Roberts also stated that they wanted to attend the site visit. Councillor Peter Cowell also suggested that Councillor Anne Sizmur would possibly be interested as well.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk submits a written request to the Head of Planning urgently as the Planning Department must receive a written request 2 days prior to the site visit.

5. ACCOUNTS.

The Clerk presented the meeting with the audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2005. She informed the Councillors that the internal audit was complete and that the external audit was set for 29th July 2005. The Chairperson signed the Annual Return and the Working Ledger.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Peter Cowell stated that he's recently refurbished his basement, as the computer provided by the Tourist Association will be situated in his house. He asked whether he could claim back the money he has spent on materials?

RESOLVED: it was agreed by the Councillors to pay Councillor Peter Cowell a sum of £20.00.

1. Clerk Salary and Allowance £783.51
2. Clerk Income Tax £165.79
3. Tourist Association Membership fee £25.00
4. Councillor Peter Cowell £20.00
5. 6 x Trays of Flowers £20.00

RESOLVED: That the above be paid.

Councillor Loreen Lewis asked the Councillors whether Betws Community Council could purchase a digital camera, as this would be useful for the Community Website etc. All Councillors agreed to purchase a digital camera to the value of approx. £140.00.

RESOLVED: that Councillors Loreen Lewis and Peter Cowell look into purchasing a digital camera.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

Sergeant Malcolm Heath and PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. PC Kevin Jones reported that there were 43 crimes committed in the Betws area during May, made up of the following:-

2 assaults, 1 criminal damage to vehicle, 1 offensive weapon, 30 possession of cannabis, 1 theft, 1 possession of heroine and 7 other possessions - out of the 43 crimes committed 39 have been detected.

Sergeant Malcolm Heath gave a detailed report in relation to the rave on Betws Common. He informed the Councillors that the way forward, is to compile a contingency plan, in case this is to happen again.

County Councillor John D Evans commended the Police for the way they handled and retained the rave. County Councillor John D Evans was very concerned for the people living by themselves and for the elderly people. He confirmed that he has written to the Chief

Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council and to Dyfed Powys Police asking for a joint meeting to establish a way forward.

Councillor Menna Roberts asked how many prisoners were retained at Ammanford Police Station? PC K Jones informed the Councillors that there were 24 Prisoners processed in Ammanford and the remainder were taken to Llanelli and Carmarthen.

County Councillor John D Evans informed PC Jones that vehicles are speeding along Maesquarre Road between 7-9 am and 5-7 pm, he confirmed that he has written a letter to the Police.

PC Jones reported that he has emailed traffic to have a look at Heol Y Felin and Cae Mawr in relation to vehicles speeding along these roads, and he will also speak to them individually.

The above points were NOTED.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

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

1. Betws Mine Site.

2. Parc Penrhiw - he reported that he has written to the Director of Technical Services concerning the road widening of Parc Penrhiw. County Councillor John D Evans stressed that proper footway should be constructed, as high percentage of school children use this road. Councillor Peter Cowell suggested that Betws Community Council supports the County Councillor.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes a letter to the Director of Technical Services supporting the County Councillors letter.

8. REPORTS.

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

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that the Headteacher of Betws Primary School has approached him, she has written to the Education Authority with concerns in relation to the above walkway. Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that the walkway from Colonel Road to Betws School is poorly maintained, the river fence needs repairing, the walkway needs to be cleaned of dog fouling and he would also like a 'No Dog Fouling' sign to be placed at the entrance.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Education Authority in support of the Headteachers request.

9. DISCUSSION PAPER.

Councillor Peter Cowell explained that the discussion paper has been prepared by the Welsh Development Agency from the information provided by Betws Community Council, and that this should be sent to the relevant planning personnel involved in considering village planning approvals. It was agreed by the Councillors to send a copy of the discussion paper to:-

1. Mr Dave Gilbert, Director of Regeneration, Carmarthenshire County Council.
2. Mr Eifion Bowen, Head of Planning, Carmarthenshire County Council.
3. Mr Hugh Towns, Minerals and Waste Planning Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk sends copies of the discussion paper to the above.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

10.1 Careers Week.

Councillor June Gunter informed the Councillors that it's Careers Week from the 13th to the 19th June, and that a notice has been placed in Councillor Audrey Jones's shop window.

The above point was NOTED.

10.2 Land at the rear of Caemawr, Betws.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that he's received a letter from Jonathan Fearn of Carmarthenshire County Council; who explained that the land at the rear of Caemawr, Betws could be available to Betws Community. Councillor Peter Cowell suggested that Betws Community Council asks County Councillor John D Evans to carry out further investigation with Jonathan Fearn.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to County Councillor John D Evans.

10.3 Donations.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that the donations provided for the upkeep of the Cemeteries are put into a central fund and are not spent on the cemeteries in Betws. All Councillors agreed that in future a condition should be placed on providing the donation, in that they will only be given as long as the Reverend can assure the Council that they will only be spent on the Cemeteries in Betws.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Reverend Delyth Bowen.

10.4 Wind Farms on Betws Mountain.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported in the absence of Councillor Anne Sizmur that Betws Mountain Preservation Group have asked the Community Council for their decision into wind farms on Betws Mountain. It was agreed in a previous meeting that Betws Community Council are opposed to any wind generation on Betws Mountain.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Betws Mountain Preservation Group.

10.5 Protection of Rural Wales

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that a representative from the Protection of Rural Wales has been in contact with Councillor Anne Sizmur, and they are prepared to come and a look around Betws. It was suggested that Councillor Loreen Lewis and Councillor Arnallt James accompanies the officer around the village.

The above point was NOTED.

10.6 Council Surgeries

The above was discussed and resolved that Councillors Audrey Jones and Delyth Richards would attend next month surgery starting at 6.30pm on Wednesday the 13th July.

The above point was NOTED.