

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2005 03 March Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor Anne Sizmur (Chairperson), Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors Loreen Lewis, Peter Cowell, Graham Vaughan, Keith Rees, Menna Roberts, Annette Price, Carwyn James, June Gunter.

APOLOGIES: Councillors E Audrey Jones, Delyth Richards, 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 FEBRUARY 2005.

Councillor Peter Cowell stated that in relation to 8.4 - the expenses incurred were in relation to footpaths and other projects.

RESOLVED: Clerk to amend the minutes.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Betws Community Council Precept.

Councillor Graham Vaughan stated that according to his calculations Betws Community Council had only spent £1.58 per head of their precept in relation to donations. Councillor Carwyn James agreed.

Councillor Graham Vaughan wanted clarification in relation to what the election cost of £877.64 on the precept was in relation too? Councillor Peter Cowell explained that in the past there have been other elections as well, but this is the first time that there has been a stand alone election, therefore the Community Council has to pay £877.64 to Carmarthenshire County Council.

The above point was NOTED.

2.2 Dyfed Powys Police - Ammanford Policy Station.

Clerk read reply received from Dyfed-Powys Police re: custody facilities in Ammanford Police Station. It was proposed and seconded that a letter is written to the Police Authority.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to liaise with Councillor Graham Vaughan in order to draft a letter to the Police Authority.

2.3 Dog Warden.

The Clerk read the email she's received from the Dog Warden and also informed the Council that County Councillor John D Evans, has requested special dog fouling bins to be placed on Betws Road and Colonel Road.

The above point was NOTED.

2.4 Betws Park.

Councillor Annette Price reported that the offences sign that was placed by the entrance to the Park has blown into the river and also the speeding sign by Touts Garage is also in the river.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to write to Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.5 Community Website.

Councillor Menna Roberts confirmed that a meeting had been scheduled with Emma Jewell, Councillor Peter Cowell and herself but more information was needed first. Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Council that Jenny Hall and Paul are going to re-write the history of Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Council that there is a strong possibility that Betws Community Council could have an up to date computer with broadband. The computer was offered to the Clerk and Councillor Menna Roberts, both replied that they have their own computers. Councillor Peter Cowell said that he didn't mind having it in his house. All Councillors agreed to this.

The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Betws Cricket Club.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she's spoken to Rhidian Murray and he's written a letter to Betws Community Council asking for financial assistance, this has been passed to the Finance Committee for consideration. He also informed Councillor Anne Sizmur that the Cricket Club holds two functions a year to raise money for equipment.

RESOLVED: letter to be discussed by the Finance Committee.

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

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she attended the above meeting in the absence of Councillor Arnallt James.

The above point was NOTED.

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

Councillors Anne Sizmur confirmed that Councillor Loreen Lewis and herself had attended the above event, and that it was an excellent event. Councillor Annette Price had also attended.

The above point was NOTED.

2.9 Mr Ian Jones, Glynnyradar Farm.

The Clerk read reply received from Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to the above. The above point was NOTED.

2.10 Amman Group of Local Councils.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Council that the Management of the National Eisteddfod has visited the site in Tycroes and they are very interested, they have approached Carmarthenshire County Council who is favourably disposed.

The above point was NOTED.

2.11 ECO2 Letter.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she's taken the letter from ECO2 into the office of One Voice Wales, and by law the Community of Betws will receive what is rightfully due to them by ECO2.

The above point was NOTED.

2.12 Planning Matters.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council. It was agreed that the Clerk writes to see whether the Welsh Translation for Woodlands Lane could be called "Lon Tir Y Coed"?

RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.13 Park Project.

Councillor Annette Price presented a report with regards to the Park Project. She explained

that the Council might be eligible for a grant as the project relates to health, disabled people, children, and education. This would be a tactile garden and it would have a commemorative area. Councillor Menna Roberts stated that the Village of Caerbryn have got a nice commemorative area.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether the Council wants to go ahead and find out about the possibility of having funding for the park. It was agreed by all Councillors to carry on.

Councillor Peter Cowell asked whether a preservation order should be placed on the Arch in the Park, as this was purpose built from Dyffryn House. It was agreed by all the Councillors.
RESOLVED: the Clerk to write to the Parks Department.

Councillor Keith Rees informed the Council that he's received reports from residents of Pentwyn Road, stating that the hedge cutters of Carmarthenshire County Council are placing the hedge cuttings onto the river bank.
RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.14 Pentwyn Road.

Councillor June Gunter reported that the speed cameras haven't made a difference; as the traffic is still speeding along Pentwyn Road.
RESOLVED: to raise the issue with the Police in the next meeting.

2.15 Betws Over 50's Club.

Councillor Graham Vaughan stated that he is mindful that he stated in the previous meeting that he would be giving a written report to the Councillors prior to this meeting. He stated that as he wouldn't be able to translate the report he would give an oral report in English; no objections were made by the Councillors.

Ø The Club is now officially called Betws Over 50's Club.

Ø The Club was set up on the 9th December 2004.

Ø He stated that a lot of hard work has been put into this project, by Councillors Keith Rees, Audrey Jones, and by himself.

Ø They have agreed Rules, Constitution and the Club has a bank account.

Ø Their headquarters is Betws Rugby Club.

Ø The aim of the project is to get people together.

Ø They have guest speakers.

Ø The Club has been up and running for 13 weeks and there have been on average 27 members attending each week.

Ø Their AGM was held on the 3rd March 2005.

Ø The annual membership fee is a £1.

It was proposed and seconded that Betws Over 50's Club receives an annual donation of £300 from Betws Community Council. Councillor Graham Vaughan thanked the Council on behalf of the Club. Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that this project is run under the umbrella of Betws Community Council.

RESOLVED: that Betws Over 50's Club receives an annual donation of £300.

2.16 Footpaths.

Councillor Peter Cowell reported that footpath 68/11 hasn't been concreted as yet; it will be done as soon as possible. Councillor Peter Cowell reported that he's spoken to Gary Carson in relation to Mine Restoration of the footpaths and also with Hugh Towns, and when reinstated these could easily be made into Bridal Paths as footpaths.
The above point was NOTED.

2.17 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she's placed an advert in next weeks Guardian, but she hasn't got any judges. Councillor Graham Vaughan stated that he would let Councillor

Anne Sizmur know about judges. Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she's spoken to the Head Teacher of Betws CP School who said that the children could take part in the container/hanging baskets category.

The above point was NOTED.

2.18 Breach of Planning Regulations - Unauthorised Tipping.

Councillor Arnallt James informed the Council that he's received correspondence from Brian Canning of Carmarthenshire County Council and that there is no breach of planning control on this instance. The planning application was issued in July, but there was no meeting with Betws Community Council in August. The application form was not received.

It states on the application form that this doesn't affect water, plants, and animals. It was agreed by the Councillors that it does affect water, plants, and animals. Councillor Peter Cowell proposed that a letter is written to the planning Department, as this is in breach of the planning regulations. Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Environmental Health Officer has been to visit the site? Councillor Peter Cowell explained that the Environmental Health Officer hasn't been to visit the site; only the Enforcement Officer has been to visit the site.

RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to the Planning Department - Breach of planning regulations and also asks why the Environmental Health Officer hasn't been to visit the site.

2.19 Meals on Wheels.

Councillor Arnallt James stated that the two volunteers have finished. He explained that they are short on Wednesdays and Thursdays. He asked the Councillors whether they knew of anyone who would be interested? Councillor June Gunter asked what's the time slot?

Councillor Arnallt James replied 11.15 to 12.15, and the volunteers have to have a car.

The above point was NOTED.

2.20 Nation Assembly for Wales.

The Clerk read reply received from Rhodri Glyn Thomas, in relation to One Voice Wales Funding. He stated that he's already written to the Welsh Assembly Government and he has tabled in a question for the First Minister and the Finance Minister.

The above point was NOTED.

2.21 One Voice Wales.

The Clerk read reply received from One Voice Wales in relation to Standing Orders. It stated that the comments will be referred to the Carmarthen Area Committee for consideration.

The above point was NOTED.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

1.1 Planning Service handbook was handed to Councillor Keith Rees.

1.2 Consultation Old Aged, Councillor Anne Sizmur explained the circumstances to the Councillors.

1.3 Correspondence in relation to Betws Mine Site - dated 09/02/05.

1.4 Correspondence in relation to Betws Mine Site - dated 18/02/05.

2. One Voice Wales

2.1 One Voice Wales Minutes of Meeting held on the 7th February 2005.

3. Ordinance Survey Maps of Carmarthenshire were handed to Councillor Peter Cowell.

4. The National Trust Wales correspondence was handed to Councillor Graham Vaughan, as it might be useful for the Over 50's Club.

5. Burial Ground Survey was handed to Councillor Arnallt James.

6. Minutes of the Amman Valley Steering Group Meeting, was handed to Councillor Anne Sizmur.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

The following applications were approved by Betws Community Council:-

E/09395 - Proposed alterations and rear/side extension

10 Pentwyn Road, Betws

Mr H Jones

E/09281 - Extension to existing factory to provide additional storage space

Profab 2000 Ltd, Betws Park Workshops

Profab 2000 Ltd

The following application is in discussion with Betws Community Council:-

Councillor Peter Cowell gave a report to the Councillors in relation to planning application no.

E/09324 - Discharge restoration conditions no's 2 and 3 attached to planning application

E/06373 approved 13.05.04 - Location: Betws Colliery - Applicant: Betws Anthracite Ltd.

Councillor Peter Cowell explained that Councillor Anne Sizmur and himself attended a

meeting last week. At the meeting it was suggested that they speak to County Councillor

John D Evans, as they want a breakdown of what is happening from Mr Cook. Councillor

Peter Cowell wrote to County Councillor John D Evans and he responded, stating that a

meeting should take place between W.D.A., Economic Regeneration, Highways, Betws

Anthracite Ltd, T.R.J Ltd, members from Betws Community Council and himself. Councillor

Peter Cowell confirmed that the Clerk has written to Mark James, the Chief Executive of

Carmarthenshire County Council to arranged a meeting between the above. The Clerk

informed the Councillors that she's received a phone call today from the Secretary of the

Director of Regeneration, Dave Gilbert proposing that a meeting takes place between Dave

Gilbert, Eifion Bowen, County Councillor John D Evans and members of Betws Community

Council. The other meeting between W.D.A., Economic Regeneration, Highways, Betws

Anthracite Ltd, T.R.J Ltd, County Councillor John D Evans and members from Betws

Community Council should be arranged simultaneously.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to arrange a meeting ASAP.

Councillor Peter Cowell also confirmed that he's written to the Coal Authority, to obtain

confirmation that the work has been carried out satisfactory. He's received a letter of

satisfaction from them.

Councillor June Gunter officially thanked Councillor Anne Sizmur and Councillor Peter Cowell for all the work that they done on this.

Councillor Peter Cowell suggested that he keeps all the documentation on this planning

application for the time being. It was agreed by all Councillors.

The above point was NOTED.

5. ACCOUNTS.

Councillor Carwyn James read the list of organisations/people requesting financial

assistance. Councillor Graham Vaughan asked what is the Bobby Van Scheme? Councillor

Loreen Lewis explained that it's a scheme, which visits elderly people, disabled people,

women living on their own etc.

Councillor Peter Cowell stated that other Councils list the donations that they have provide to

organisations in the local paper; Councillor Anne Sizmur explained that a list from Betws

Community Council was placed in the local paper for last year.

Councillor Peter Cowell explained to the Council that in the past Betws Community Council

has bought bats for the Cricked Club, which was presented to them at their Presentation

Evening. It was agreed to present a £200 donation to Betws Cricket Club.

1. Councillor Anne Sizmur (reimbursement of cheque in relation to Betws over 50's Club)

£100.00

2. Clerk Salary £644.32
3. Clerk Income Tax (Jan, Feb and Mar) £160.01
4. Clerk Income Tax (Nov and Dec) £106.67
1. Donation - Cruse Carmarthenshire £50.00
2. Donation - Wales Air Ambulance £100.00
3. Donation - Llangollen International Eisteddfod £100.00
4. Donation - Bobby Van Scheme £50.00
7. Donation - Betws Cricket Club £200.00
8. Betws Over 50's Club £300.00

RESOLVED: That the above be paid.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Clive Morgan 1035 attended the meeting from Dyfed Powys Police in the absence of PC K Jones. He reported that he's spoken to Rob Chapman and there were nil crimes in the Betws area during February.

He reported that 154 people attended the Blue Light Disco that was held in February, and the next disco has been arranged for the 24th March. Councillor Annette Price thanked the Police for all their effort and the hard work that's gone into organising the Blue Light Discos.

Councillor Keith Rees questioned whether the two crimes that were not mentioned in the reported submitted by PC K Jones in February had been resolved. PC C Morgan confirmed that he didn't know.

Councillor Graham Vaughan asked whether PC K Jones had visited the area behind the Rugby Club in relation to vandalism. PC C Morgan confirmed that he didn't know.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that she's received complaints with regards to double parking in the evenings on Coronation Terrace. Councillor Arnallt James agreed and stated that there is no other place to park. Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether this could be monitored. PC C Morgan agreed that the Police would monitor this.

Councillor Arnallt James also reported that traffic is still speeding along Maesquarre Road.

All the above points were NOTED.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Councillor Peter Cowell explained that he's made some enquiries with the Asset Management Section of Carmarthenshire County Council with regards to the village possibly having a hall. He's waiting for Rhys Davies to write back to him on the availability of the land for Betws use.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Loreen Lewis asked whether Betws Community Council could have a discussion on how the funds from Westbury homes could be put back into the village.

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

Councillor Keith Rees asked whether we had a forwarding address for Betws Anthracite.

Councillor Peter Cowell said that the only address we have was T.R.J.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked the Clerk whether a response has been received from Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to a contact list? To date the Clerk hasn't received a response.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to following this up.