

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2005 09 September Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 14th September 2005 at 7.00 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Delyth Richards and Keith Rees.

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

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 13th JULY 2005.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 13th July 2005 were confirmed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Betws Mine Site.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has requested a copy of the GR3 map of Betws; from Mr Craig Jones, Planning Officer of Carmarthenshire County Council, but to date she has not received a copy of the map.

The above point was NOTED.

The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she's written to the Environmental Health Department of Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to the noise and dust coming from the workmen working on the Betws Mine Site. The Environmental Health Officer has sent a noise and nuisance log, for completion. The Clerk contacted the Chair Councillor Loreen Lewis, who advised that the workmen had not been working over the summer therefore the log has not been completed.

The above point was NOTED.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that he would be requesting a Section 106 in the Planning Meeting on the 15th September. He expressed that he has a justifiable, as there will be a considerable increase in the traffic traversing along Maesquarre Road. He will be asking whether the Developers will do something about the pavements on Maesquarre Road and that this should be a condition of Planning. Councillor Peter Cowell said that this has been included on the Discussion Paper and also pavements along Pentwyn Road. Councillor Peter Cowell also informed the Councillors that the WDA have placed a disclaimer on the discussion paper. Councillor Peter Cowell explained that the paper details the views of the residents within Betws. County Councillor John D Evans was also concerned that the access road leading to the Betws New Drift Mine is completely inadequate for an increase in traffic flows. He has also questioned whether the infrastructure can bare any more developments?
The above point was NOTED.

2.2 Walkway to Betws CP School from Colonel Road, Betws - Schemes

The Clerk read the response she has received from Mr Trevor Sage, Head of Transport. Who said that the schemes are classed as footway improvement Schemes and certain criteria

must be met. He also said that Betws Community Council's request is already on the existing list, which is currently being ranked. Councillor June Gunter suggested that the Clerk writes to Mr Trevor Sage to ask where this request is currently on the list and if a greater priority arises does Betws Community Council's request move down the list. Councillor Carwyn James said that the issue in Parc Penrhiw is unacceptable as this matter has been ongoing for approximately 20 to 30 years and this needs to be done urgently.
RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Mr Trevor Sage.

2.3 Carmarthenshire County Council - re: Seasonal Decorations.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she did obtain a copy of the code of practice for the installation, operation and removal of seasonal decorations. The Clerk was disappointed to note that when the booklet arrived it was accompanied by a invoice for £45.00. The Clerk confirmed that she liased with Councillor Loreen Lewis, and they decided to return the booklet and the invoice.

The above point was NOTED.

2.4 Coalfield Communities.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Mr Elwyn Williams is the Coalfield Communities representative from Carmarthenshire.

The above point was NOTED.

2.5 Wind Turbine Planning Application.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Mr Chris Williams from ECO2 had contacted her, requesting a copy of the correspondence Betws Community Council had sent to Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to the Wind Turbine Planning Application. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she made enquires with Mr David Poulter the Planning Officer in charge of this application, who said that copies of correspondence in relation to this application would be forwarded onto ECO2 in due course. The Clerk wrote to Mr Chris Williams informing him that Carmarthenshire County Council will be forwarding copies of correspondence onto ECO2 in due course.

The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Garage Site to the Rear of Caemawr, Betws.

The Clerk read the letter she has received from Mr Jonathan Fearn, Head of Corporate Property, which stated that the Authority is currently in the process of reviewing the garage sites within their ownership, and they are not in a position to comment on the future use of the site until this review exercise is completed and finalised. They do however acknowledge Betws Community Council's interest.

The above point was NOTED.

2.7 Insuring Community Councillors.

The Clerk read the response she has received from Mr John Lumley, One Voice Wales, which said that before he takes up the issue with Carmarthenshire County Council, to firstly check whether Betws Community Council Public Liability Insurance is sufficient. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's phoned Zurich, who are Betws Community Council Public Liability insurers, who stated that Betws Community Councillors are covered for Public Liability and Personal Accident whilst undertaking site visits.

The above point was NOTED.

2.8 Footpath 3/12.

Councillor Peter Cowell updated the Councillors in relation to the letter received from Mr Gary Carlsen. Councillor Peter Cowell has concerns that the footpath shouldn't be moved. The Clerk read the response Councillor Peter Cowell has written to Mr Carlsen. Councillor Peter Cowell suggested that the Clerk asks Mr Carlsen if the footpath to the Bridge on 3/12 can be completed as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Mr Carlsen.

2.9 Welsh Water.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's phoned Welsh Water, who have confirmed the following:-

If the water is turned off for 24hrs or longer, Welsh Water will write to the residents concerned. If the water is turned off for 4hrs or less, it's their policy to only give 5 minutes warning to residents.

The above point was NOTED.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Carmarthenshire County Council - Footpath and Bridleway Maintenance 2004/2005.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's received a letter from the Rights of Way Officer, Mr Kevin Thomas, who has authorised reimbursement of £855 in relation to last financial year and £720 being this financial year's first half payment.

The above point was NOTED.

3.2 Carmarthenshire County Council - Footpath and Bridleway Maintenance 2005/2006.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's received the maintenance application for 2005/2006. Councillor Peter Cowell stated that he has completed the form and returned it the Rights of Way Officer.

The above point was NOTED.

3.3 Carmarthenshire County Council - Planning Department.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Planning Department have informed her that the new dwelling adjacent to Pencoed Villa, Maesquarre Road, Betws will be known as Ty Dalton, Maesquarre Road, Betws.

The above point was NOTED.

3.4 Carmarthenshire County Council - Carmarthenshire Sports Personality 2005.

The Clerk asked the Councillors whether they wanted to nominate a person or a team for the Sports Personality Awards 2005? The Councillors suggested that Betws Cricket Club be nominated in the category - Team of the Year.

RESOLVED: that the clerk completes the nomination form.

3.5 Local Works.

The Clerk read the correspondence she's received from Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill. The Councillors were in favour of supporting this.

RESOLVED: that the clerk writes to the Local Works supporting the Sustainable Communities Bill.

3.6 Following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council.

1.1 Correspondence in relation to the former Betws Colliery Site, Betws.

2. One Voice Wales.

2.1 Newsletter - copies given to Councillors Anne Sizmur and Menna Roberts.

2.2 Notice of Conference/Exhibition and Annual General Meeting 2005.

3. Welsh Assembly Government.

3.1 A Consultation on an Environment Strategy for Wales.

3.2 Proposed Amendments to the Standards Committees Regulation 2001.

3.3 Formal Consultation: for older people in Wales - copy given to Councillor June Gunter.

4. Society of Local Council Clerks.

4.1 Notice of Annual General Meeting.

4.2 Introducing the New Welsh Edition of Working with Your Council.

5. Amman Group of Local Council Agenda and Minutes - copies given to Councillors Loreen Lewis and Anne Sizmur.

6. Carmarthenshire Nightstop.

7. Environment Agency Wales.
8. Community and Volunteer News.
9. The Carmarthenshire Partnership - Locations for Community Network Meetings.
10. The Carmarthenshire Partnership - Contact Details for Community Councillors.
11. Adjudication Panel For Wales - Annual Report 2004/05.
12. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority - Integrated Risk Management Plan 2005/06.
13. Carmarthenshire Community Focus Newsletter - copy given to Councillor Menna Roberts.
14. Douglas-Jones Mercer Solicitors re: Betws Rugby Football Club Licence.
15. Invitation to the National Library of Wales Seminar in Carmarthen - handed to Councillor Loreen Lewis.
16. Community Bureau News - copy given to Councillor Annette Price.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 The following applications were approved by Betws Community Council:-
E/10763 - Phase 2, 8 Residential Development dwellings
Woodlands Park, Betws
Griffiths Brothers Builders (13)

E/10838 - Erection of dwelling house/conservatory and private garage
Land between 108 and 112 Maesquarre Road, Betws
Mr B Williams and Miss E Miles (14)

E/10928 - First Floor Bedroom extension
2B Heol Y Felin, Betws
Mr B Austin (15)

E/10994 - 2 Story rear extension
105 Colonel Road, Betws
Mr and Mrs Pitts (16)

E/11135 - Proposed extension to existing funeral parlour
39 Betws Road, Betws
Hywel Griffiths and Sons (17)

4.2 Full Planning Permission has been granted by the County Council to the following:-
E/10243 - Proposed Extension
Pant Y Banwen, Off Maesquarre Road, Betws
Mr R Lewis (10)

E/10195 - Extension to Public House
Mountain Road, Betws
The Scotch Pine (9)

4.3 Approval of Reserved Matters has been granted by the County Council to the following:-
E/10196 - One Residential Bungalow
69 Colonel Road, Betws
Amanda Morris Developments Ltd (8)

4.4 The County Council has refused planning permission to the following:-
E/09809 - One Dwelling
2 Waungron Road, Betws
Mr E A Schofield (3)

4.5 The following application has been withdrawn:-

E/09981 - Construction of Highway Cul De Sac
Parc Bwtrimawr, Betws
Griffiths Bros (5)

4.6 The following does not require planning permission:-
E/10453 - Hutchinson 3G Telecommunications Development
Bodist Uchaf, Hopkinstown, Pontamman
Hutchinson 3G Uk (11)

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. Zurich Insurance £347.62
 2. Betws in Bloom Mr P Danter £15.00
 3. Betws in Bloom Mr P Danter £10.00
 4. Betws in Bloom Mr A J Harpur £10.00
 5. Betws in Bloom Mr A Rees £10.00
 6. Betws in Bloom Mr A Rees £10.00
 7. Clerks Salary and Allowance £794.54
 8. Clerks Income Tax £168.68
 9. Capel Newydd Meetings (x6) £60.00
 10. Donations Capel Newydd Cemetery £150.00
 11. Donations Eglwys Dewi Sant Cemetery £150.00
 12. Carmarthenshire Tourist Association £66.12
 13. Mr R Lewis Footpath Maintenance £800.00
 14. Councillor Anne Sizmur £75.00
(£50 Betws CP School and £25 to the judge)
 15. Councillor Peter Cowell £165.03
(£104.94 Digital Camera, £7.99 CD's, £52.10 ink cartridges and paper)
- TOTAL £2831.99

RESOLVED: That the above be paid.

The Clerk explained to the Councillors that she received the renewal documentation for Betws Community Council's Insurance at the end of July, which was due for renewal by the end of August. She confirmed that she checked with Councillor Loreen Lewis, Councillor Anne Sizmur and Councillor Carwyn James, who all agreed to renew the insurance. The above point was NOTED.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported on the following:-

July

10 crimes were committed in the Betws area.

177 youngsters attended the Blue Light Disco.

August

7 crimes were committed in the Betws area.

90 youngsters attended the Blue Light Disco.

PC Jones informed the Councillors that the incident Councillor Arnallt James enquired about in Maesquarre Road was a possible vehicle theft and no proceedings have been taken.

Councillor June Gunter informed PC Jones that whilst she was waiting by the lights near Pentwyn Road at approximately 10.30 am today, a taxi overshot three cars and was travelling at speed. PC Jones said that he would go and speak to the taxi companies in Ammanford.

County Councillor John D Evans informed the Councillors that he's looking into the problem

of speeding traffic in general and he's trying to obtain the number of youngsters killed due to speeding. He would like to have the statistics to try and have a campaign to educate young people in relation to speeding. PC Jones said that he would speak to the Collision Department in Police HQ.

The above points were NOTED.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

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

1. Community Chest Funding - he has provided copies of the Community Chest Application Forms and Constitutions to Sports Clubs within Betws.
2. Land behind the Plough and Harrow - a site meeting has taken place and he's written letters to see whether the land can be used for Community use, he has been informed that it's currently under review, and a decision will be made at the end of the year.
3. Footpath leading from Colonel Road to Betws CP School - he informed the Councillors that this footpath is in an extremely poor state of repair. He's spoken to Mr Bruce Wallace, who said that the responsibility does not fall with Carmarthenshire County Council. The Education Department have confirmed that they will look into this matter. He explained that the way forward is to try and access funding either through Community Chest or Safe Routes to School. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Clerk writes to the Director of Technical Services and to the Director of Education, expressing the Councillors concerns in relation to the state of the footpath and also to see whether there is any funding available to improve the path.

RESOLVED: the Clerk writes to the Director of Technical Services and also to the Director of Education.

4. Betws Mountain - Horse-riding signs have been placed on Betws Mountain, and Mountain Road has been tarmac. The Slow signs have not been highlighted, he has informed the Highways Department of this.
 5. Betws School - he's written to the Highways Department, to ask for speed reductions signs to be placed on Betws Road near the School, they have confirmed that they are not prepared to do so. Other parts of the County have signs, he will be raising this matter again.
- The above points were NOTED.

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Betws Park.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors on the possibility of having funding for Betws Park and that she's meet with Officers from Carmarthenshire County Council. There could be funding available for the removal of the goldfish pond, pump house, commemorative garden in commemoration of the mining Community of Betws. She explained that if they receive the funding they will have to pay a peppercorn fee for the lease, and they Authority would still claim responsibility for the upkeep of the park. It was proposed that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas, in the Parks Department and asks him for written confirmation that the Authority would still claim responsibility for the upkeep of the park and also any liabilities that arise from the new garden.

RESOLVED: that that the Clerk writes to Mr Gerwyn Thomas, Parks Department.

8.2 Betws Mine Site.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that she has had a meeting with Mr Graham Noakes re:Section 106, Councillor Loreen Lewis was also present at the meeting. The Developers have already been delegated 200 extra houses on the Betws Mine Site. Councillor Annette Price stated that Mr Graham Noakes is available to come and talk to the Councillors if the need arises.

The above point was NOTED.

8.3 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that the Betws In Bloom Presentation

Evening was a success. Councillor Anne Sizmur thanked the Councillors for their support, and she also thanked the Clerk for designing the Certificates. Councillor Annette Price thanked Councillor Anne Sizmur for all the hard work that she put into organising the Betws In Bloom Competition.

The Winners are as follows:-

Best Garden in the Competition - Mr and Mrs P Danter

Large Garden - Mr and Mrs P Danter

Medium Garden - Mr A Harper

Small Garden - Mr Aeron Rees

Hanging Basket/Container Section - Mr Aeron Rees

School £50 special competition

Ms McLaren, Commended

Mr A Ferebee Commended

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether the Clerk could write to the Betws In Need Charity to thank them for providing the small shield and also for engraving the large shield.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes a thank you letter to the Betws In Need Charity.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 Benches.

Councillor June Gunter informed the Councillors that the Benches provided by Betws Community Council which have been placed in various locations within Betws are being used especially the bench near Annwyl Fan.

The above point was NOTED.

9.2 Crime Evening.

Councillor Anne Sizmur confirmed that she's been in contact with the lady from Carmarthenshire, who has given 3 possible dates for the Crime Evening. Councillor Anne Sizmur explained the process to the Councillors. The Councillors agreed to go ahead with this.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Anne Sizmur is to organise a Crime Evening.

9.3 Betws CP School.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that the Headteacher from Betws CP School, Mrs James is prepared to come along to the Council's monthly meetings and update the Councillors on what's happening in the School.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor June Gunter informed the Councillors that Betws CP School reached the stage in the recent Eisteddfod. Councillor June Gunter suggested that a letter is sent to the School congratulate them on this achievement.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to congratulate Betws CP School.

9.4 Brodawel, Colonel Road, Betws - Noise, Disruption and Dust.

Councillor Audrey Jones informed the Councillors that residents in Brodawel, Colonel Road, Betws are paying more Council Tax than those living on the main road. She also informed the Councillors that there are a number of lorries traversing the private lane behind the houses in Brodawel. This is causing residents concern, as there is a great deal of noise, disruption, and dust coming from the lane, this occurs during the week and also at weekends.

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