

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2006 04 April Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 12th April 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Alderman D Arnallt James Councillors Anne Sizmur, Delyth Richards, Menna Roberts, E Audrey Jones, Peter Cowell and June Gunter

APOLOGIES: Councillors Keith Rees, Carwyn James, Graham Vaughan, Annette Price 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 8th MARCH 2006.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Arnallt James seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 8th March 2006 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Blue Box Recycling Scheme.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the recycling of plastics. The above point was NOTED.

2.2 Ammanford No. 1 Colliery.

The Clerk read response received from the Coal Authority concerning the Audit of shaft entrances on Setws Mountain.

The above point was NOTED.

2.3 Betws Mine Site.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the safety hazard on the above site. Unfortunately as the land is not owned by Carmarthenshire County Council they are unable to take any action, they do however suggest that Betws Community Council contacts the Operator direct.

The above point was NOTED.

2.4 Footpath 3/14 and 3/16.

Councillor Peter Cowell updated the Councillors with regards to the temporary closure order of the above footpaths. Councillor Anne Sizmur stated that she was concerned with regards to the safety for members of the public and asked how long is a temporary closure? The Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire how long a temporary closure is for. RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.5 Parking Charges Ammanford.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the parking charges in Ammanford. The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Church Illumination.

The Clerk read response received from L1andybie Parish Church. The Councillors decided that the Clerk writes to W Kingsbury to enquire into the cost of purchasing suitable equipment.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to W Kingsbury.

2.7 Discussion Paper.

Councillor Peter Cowell updated the Councillors with regards to an email received from Carmarthenshire County Council. Councillor Peter Cowell explained that Bridleways were going to be improved from the Section 106 money, but this will not take place now as the money has been budgeted for another project by Carmarthenshire County Council. The money has been allocated to causes that Carmarthenshire County Council considers a priority. The Councillors agreed that a copy of the discussion paper should be sent to Mr Carlsen of Carmarthenshire County Council.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk sends a copy of the discussion paper to Carmarthenshire County Council.

Councillor Peter Cowell also suggested that the Community Council asks Carmarthenshire County Council if the footpath leading from Colonel Road to Betws CP School can be upgraded to a hard surface footpath via the Safe Route to Schools Scheme. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to ask for an application form for the Safe Route to Schools Scheme.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The Clerk read correspondence received from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. They are requesting financial assistance with regards to the Young Fire Fighters Scheme. The Councillors agreed that this should be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration. The next Finance Meeting is schedule for July 2006.

RESOLVED: that this will be considered in the next Finance Meeting.

3.2 Carmarthenshire County Council - Clean up Carmarthenshire Campaign.

The Clerk asked the Councillors whether they intend taking part in this years 'Clean Up Carmarthenshire Campaign'. Many of the Councillors showed an interest and it was decided that they would clean up the footpath leading from Colonel Road to Betws CP School on the 25th May 2006 at 6.00 pm.

RESOLVED: the Clerk informs Carmarthenshire County Council of the above.

3.3 The following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

Carmarthenshire County Council.

Enforcement Notice, Aman Engineering Workshops, Pentwyn Road, Betws.

Notification of a new address.

Community and Town Councillor's Handbook - handed to Councillor Loreen Lewis.

Public Footpath 3/8 Public Path Diversion Order 2006.

Project Newidydd - 2 x Posters.

Welsh Assembly Government - Risk Reduction Planning Guidance for the Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Local Government Ombudsman.

Aman Valley Enterprise - Free Training Courses.

Llanedi Community Council - Change of official address.

Aman Group of Local Councils - Agenda and Minutes.

North Wales Tourism.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 The following applications Council:-

E/12765 – Extension, Nythfa, Coopers Well, Garnswllt, Ammanford (1).
E/12777 - Conservatory Showroom Display Area, Profab 2000 Ltd, Betws (2).

4.2 Full Planning Permission has been granted by Carmarthenshire County Council to the following:-

E/11248 - Two, three bedroom semi detached dwellings, land at Waungron Road, Betws (22/2006).

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. One Voice Wales Membership £161.00

2. HOWL TA Membership £8.00

3. One Voice Wales (model copy of Standing Orders) £14.99

TOTAL £183.99

Councillor Peter Cowell provided a copy of the current balance sheet for Betws Cricket Club. Councillor Peter Cowell proposed that Betws Community Council sets Betws Cricket Club a challenge. In that Betws Community Council would match fund money that the Cricket Club could raise with a limit of £300. This was discussed by the Councillors and they all decided that this should be considered by the Finance Committee in their next Meeting which is scheduled for July 2006. The above point was NOTED.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 6 crimes committed in the Betws area during March, made up of the following:- fraud, theft of vehicle, theft of ladders, possession of cannabis, criminal damage to vehicle and theft other. To date they have not been detected.

PC Kevin Jones reported on the crime year from 31/03/05 to 31/03/06. There has been 125 crimes committed in the Betws Area, 83 of these crimes have been detected.

336 Youngsters attended the Blue Light Disco that was held in March. The next disco is planned for the 20th April.

PC Jones reported on the issues that were raised in last months meeting:-

- The accidents on Betws Mountain - comes under South Wales Police jurisdiction and unfortunately there is not a lot Dyfed Powys Police can do.
 - There are contingency plans in place should another Rave take place on Betws Mountain.
- Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that children are driving mini motors through Woodlands Park. PC Jones stated that is a problem within the Ammanford Area, and the Police have set up an Operation to look into this issue.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor John D Evans was unable to attend the meeting, but the Clerk reported on the following issues on his behalf:-

1. Ammanford No. 1 Colliery - The Coal Authority will be carrying our remedial works shortly. The above point was NOTED.

2. Betws Colliery - As indicated in the last meeting children are playing on the site, as this is private land the County Council can not take any action. County Councillor John D Evans has reported the issue to the Operator this morning. The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that the Guardian had misprinted an article which stated that the County Councillor was not present at the recent Crime Evening, when actually he did attend. Councillor Loreen Lewis has spoken to the Guardian who has apologised for the typing error and the Guardian has confirmed that an apology will be printed in the paper. The Councillors discussed this matter and agreed that they did not think it was necessary to send an apology on behalf of Betws Community Council to the County

Councillor.

The above point was NOTED.

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Amman Group of Local Councils.

Councillor Anne Sizmur notified the Councillors that she attended the meeting of the Amman Group of Local Councils on the 30th March 2006. Plans are progressing on the Amman Valley Railway and the next meeting is scheduled for May.

The above point was NOTED.

8.2 One Voice Wales Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she recently attended a One Voice Wales Meeting, where it was reported that One Voice Wales has lost some of its members due to poor performance and duties by NALC. The above point was NOTED.

8.3 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Anne Sizmur updated the Councillors with regards to the Betws In Bloom Competition. She has appointed a judge and judging will take place at the end of June. The Headteacher of Betws CP School has stated that the School is interested in taking part in the Competition.

The above point was NOTED.

8.4 Local Health Board Meeting.

Councillor Loreen Lewis updated the Councillors with regards to the Local Health Board Meeting which she recently attended.

The above point was NOTED.

9. STANDING ORDERS.

The Standing Order were discussed and the Councillors agreed that they did not have any amendments to make. The Councillors also agreed that the Clerk to delete the sections that are only relevant to English Community Councils and also to input Betws Community Council's name into the designated areas. After this has been completed the Clerk will then issue copies to the Councillors in the AGM which is scheduled for the 10th May 2006. Councillor Delyth Richards asked whether the Standing Order are available in Welsh. The Clerk to make enquiries with One Voice Wales.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk makes enquires to see whether the model copy of the Standing Orders are available in Welsh.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

10.1 Spring Walks.

Councillor Delyth Richards asked when the Spring Walks would be commencing for this year. The Councillors decided that the first walk would be on the 4th May meeting by Cwmfelin Square, Betws at 6pm. The above point was NOTED.

10.2 Footpath 68/11.

Councillor Arnallt James was concerned with the footpath 68/11 (the 2nd gate from Maesquarre Road), he reported that there is a dip at the end of the footpath near the part which has been covered with small stones. The Councillors resolved that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire whether additional chippings could be placed on the footpath to make the path even. RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.