

# BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Title: 2006 01 January Minutes**

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 11th January 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Councillors Carwyn James, Anne Sizmur, Annette Price, Delyth Richards, June Gunter, Graham Vaughan, Menna Roberts, E Audrey Jones, Keith Rees and County Councillor John D Evans.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Alderman D Arnallt James and Peter Cowell.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.  
Councillor Delyth Richards declared an interest in the National Eisteddfod.

### 1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 14th DECEMBER 2005.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14th December 2005 were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING.

#### 2.1 Betws Park.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked whether the Clerk has received a response from either Mr Gerwyn Thomas or the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to the new garden? The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received any response to her letters. Councillor Annette Price asked the Clerk to pursue this matter. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk pursues the above matter.

#### 2.2 Crime Evening.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she has spoken to the organiser and the crime evening will hopefully take place in March.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 2.3 Overgrown Footpath.

Councillor June Gunter reported that there is an overgrown footpath leading from Pentwyn Road to Ty Coch. The Councillors resolved that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to ask whether the footpath can be cleared in order that it can be used by local residents.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

#### 2.4 Breach of Planning Control.

The Clerk read the response she has received from Carmarthenshire County Council.

Councillor Anne Sizmur stated that she has also received a similar response from Carmarthenshire County Council. The Councillors agreed that this should be pursued in a months time if no response is received.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Carwyn James recommended that if the Clerk does not receive responses to her letters then these should be pursued. All Councillors agreed.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Keith Rees reported that the bank on Nant Y Fin Brook is rapidly deteriorating. Councillors have received complaints from residents who are extremely anxious as their gardens are being washed away.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

#### 2.5 Community Website.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Betws Community has received a certificate in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments and contributions to achieve a community website.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 2.6 Footpaths 3/12, 3/13 and 3/16.

The Clerk read response received from Mr Gary Carlsen. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Clerk informs Mr Carlsen that Betws Community Council does not want to take any action relating to footpath 3/16 at this present time and they would wait until the outcome of the planning decision. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Mr Carlsen.

#### 2.7 Betws Park.

Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Clerk has received a response to her letter concerning the 'no dog fouling prohibited' notices. She confirmed that new signs have not yet been erected. The Clerk confirmed that she has not received a response to date.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk pursues the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

#### 2.8 Betws Community Council Meeting 14th December 2005.

Councillor Keith Rees apologised for not sending his apology as he was unable to attend the last Community Council Meeting.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Anne Sizmur noted that at the last Community Council Meeting held in December there were six Councillors who were not in attendance. She reminded the Councillors that if a quorum had not been reached then the Clerk would not have received her pay. Councillor Delyth Richard supported Councillor Anne Sizmur.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 2.9 Illuminating the Church and Chapel in Betws.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that the Church and Chapel do not require planning permission to illuminate the buildings but there is a Health and Safety issue. Insurance would also have to be investigated. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Audrey Jones seconded that the Clerk investigates the cost of illuminating the Church and Chapel in Betws, and also Councillor Audrey Jones and Councillor Keith Rees to make enquiries in relation to the old lights that Betws Community Council used previously. The Councillors agreed that further enquires should be made.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 2.10 Margaret Street Practice.

Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Clerk has received a response from the Practice Manager. To date the Clerk has not received a response. Councillor Annette Price asked the Clerk to chase this matter up if no response is received with two months.

The above point was NOTED.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. CCC - re: footway lighting charges for financial year 2006/2007.
2. Welsh Assembly Government - Risk Reduction Planning Guidance for the Fire and Rescue Authorities.
3. One Voice Wales Agenda and Minutes.
4. H.O.W.T.A. Newsletter - handed to Councillor Carwyn James.

#### 4. PLANNING MATTERS.

The following application was discussed by Betws Community Council.

E/11998 - Variation of Condition 4 re: Planting Timescales

Betws Colliery, Ammanford

T Richard Jones Betws Ltd (25)

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that the Clerk writes to Hugh Towns stating that Betws Community Council offered no objections to the amendment, providing that the original plans are not altered in any way, and that the only item that is slightly altered is the planting timescales. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Mr Hugh Towns.

#### 5. ACCOUNTS.

1. Donation - National Eisteddfod £100.00

RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

#### 6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

Community Inspector Tony Ward and PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. PC Kevin Jones reported that there were 7 crimes committed in the Betws area during December, made up of the following:-

3 cannabis possession, 1 burglary dwelling, 1 threat to kill, 1 criminal damage and 1 offensive weapon. To date 2 have been detected.

Community Inspector Tony Ward explained to the Councillors what his new role as Community Inspector entailed.

Councillor Menna Roberts asked whether the Blue Light Discos are continuing. PC Kevin Jones explained that there has been a problem with the new licensing law, but they will probably recommence in February.

The above points were NOTED.

#### 7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

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

1 Back in October/November last year during the heavy rainfall - he reported that there was excessive amount of water along Maesquarre Road and he reported this to Street Scene Section. He believes that the culvert near Maesquarre Hall is not adequate enough to take excessive rainfall. He reported that Street Scene has indicated that they will be improving drainage on Betws Road. Work needs to be carried out urgently near Maesquarre Hall

The above point was NOTED.

2 Site visit to Betws Mine back in October/November last year - he reported that the operator will be sealing the intake drift in time.

The above point was NOTED.

3 He informed the Council that he has written a letter to the Clerk, requesting copies of correspondence sent to and received from One Voice Wales concerning the Meeting on the 4th October 2005, and he reminded the Councillors of the Freedom of Information Act.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk forwards copies of correspondence sent to and received from One Voice Wales onto County Councillor John D Evans.

#### 8. BETWS OVER 50'S CLUB.

Councillor Graham Vaughan provided a report to the Councillors in the Extraordinary Meeting prior to the main Council Meeting.

The above point was NOTED.

#### 9. SETTING OF PRECEPT FOR 2006/2007.

Copies of the annual expenditure and the estimates for 2006/2007 have been sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. All the items listed were discussed in detail.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reminded the Councillors that in the last AGM it was agreed that the Chairpersons Allowance would be discussed in the next Precept Meeting. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and the Councillors agreed that the Chairpersons Allowance would remain at £300 and also a list of expenses is provided to the Clerk at the AGM.

Councillor Annette Price asked whether Betws CP School could have another frog dist bin. Councillor Carwyn James noted that this could be discussed by the Project Team.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Graham Vaughan seconded that an 8% increase from last years precept should be requested. Following a short discussion it was agreed to request a precept of £12,420 for 2006/2007.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk requests the above figure from Carmarthenshire County Council.

#### 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

##### 10.1 Heol Y Felin Children's Play Area.

Councillor Graham Vaughan raised concerns regarding the grassed area in Heol Y Felin Children's Play Area in Betws, which is being churned up by individuals who are bringing their motorbikes into the park via the unlocked double gates. He explained that there are two entrances into the park one, which is through double gates and is only used by the Grounds Maintenance Section of Carmarthenshire County Council to allow them to transport their grass cutting machinery and the other entrance is for pedestrians only. Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Clerk writes to the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire whether there are any legal implications involved if Betws Community Council purchase and place a pad lock and chain on the double gates of Heol Y Felin Children's Play Area?

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

##### 10.2 Dog Fouling.

Councillor Keith Rees reported that there is a large amount of dog fouling along Colonel Road, Betws Road and also on the Maes Y Betws footpath, which leads from Maesquarre Road to Colonel Road. There is also a lack of 'no dog fouling prohibited' notices and dog fouling bins. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to ask if they could look into the above matter and also erect 'no dog fouling prohibited' notices. She also asked the Clerk to enquire what dog-fouling bins are the County Council able to provide.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.