

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2006 11 November Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 8th November 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Menna Roberts (Chairperson), Councillors Anne Sizmur, Loreen Lewis, Annette Price, Peter Cowell, Keith Rees, Betsan Jones and County Councillor John D Evans.

APOLOGIES: Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors Carwyn James, Delyth Richards, E Audrey Jones and June Gunter.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
Councillor Anne Sizmur declared an interest in the Planning Application E/14471 - proposed development of 2 houses at land adjacent to 74 Maesquarre Road, Betws as this is opposite her property.

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11th OCTOBER 2006.

Councillor Annette Price proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th October 2006 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MRS JAMES HEADTEACHER OF BETWS CP SCHOOL.

Mrs James Headteacher of Betws CP School attended the Meeting to present a report regarding the School to the Councillors.
The Chairwoman thanked Mrs James for her report.

3. MATTERS ARISING.

3.1 Chair's Chain of Office.

Councillor Peter Cowell asked the Clerk for an update with regards to the Chair's Chain of Office. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she's received the order acknowledgement and she will make enquiries as to see how long this process will take.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.2 Footpath 68/11.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council which stated that "no dog fouling" signs will be erected along this route.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.3 Carmarthenshire County Council - Service Level Agreement.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council which stated, "that the County Council's overall impression is that Betws is a clean village with very few items of litter evident and this is attributable to the responsible nature of its residents who obviously take pride in the appearance of the village".
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that he is in the process of arranging a meeting with the Technical Services Department regarding the Street Scene in the Ammanford Area.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.4 Archiving Old Community Council Files.

Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Clerk has disposed of the old used cheque books and invoices. The Clerk informed the Councillors that this has been undertaken. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.5 Crosses for the Church and Chapel in Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked Councillor Keith Rees whether he has received a response regarding the crosses for the Church and Chapel in Betws. Councillor Keith Rees reported that he still has not been able to obtain a response. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Community Council gives him the go ahead. All Councillors agreed. Councillor Keith Rees confirmed that he will phone the Councillors with prices. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.6 Councillor Vacancy.

Councillors Annette Price asked the Clerk to clarify the process regarding filling a Councillor Vacancy. The Clerk explained the process to the Councillors. Carmarthenshire County Council produces notices to advertise the Councillor Vacancy; these are erected around the village. If more than 10 members of the Community reply to the notices then an election would take place. If the County Council do not receive any replies to the notices, then the Community Council must co-opt a Councillor. Co-option notices are placed within the Community and any replies are then discussed by the Community Councillors a vote is then taken and the member with the most votes is then co-opted as a Community Councillor. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.7 Disused Mines within Betws.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that he has written to the Planning Department asking them to write to the Coal Authority regarding the disused Mines within Betws. County Councillor John D Evans is also concerned with the shaft near Maesquarre Mansion. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

4. CORRESPONDENCE.

4.1 Carmarthenshire County Council - Planning Seminar.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Carmarthenshire County Council is holding a Planning Seminary on the 6th February 2007. Councillors Menna Roberts and Annette Price asked whether they could attend the Seminary on behalf of the Community Council. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk replies to the letter received from Carmarthenshire County Council.

4.2 Dyfed Powys Police Authority.

The Clerk read a letter received from Dyfed Powys Police Authority regarding the Annual Policing Plan 2007/2008. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Community Council replies with regards to the speed calming measures in rural areas. All Councillors agreed. RESOLVED: that the Clerk replies to this letter.

4.3 The following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

- Information regarding the 1 Fund - copies sent to Councillors Anne Sizmur, Arnallt James, Loreen Lewis, Menna Roberts and Annette Price.
- Forthcoming review of Communities - Carmarthenshire.
- Seasonal Decorations.

2. National Assembly for Wales - Meeting of National Assembly Mid and West Wales Region Committee.

3. Welsh Assembly Government - Consultation on draft guidance on the clean neighbourhoods and environment act 2005.

5. PLANNING MATTERS.

5.1 The following applications were approved by Betws Community Council:-

E/14679 - Dormer Type Two Storey Side Extension at Ty Canol, Heol Dwr, Hopkinstown (20).

E/14563 - Proposed Detached Garage at 31 Woodlands Park, Betws (17).

E/14622 - Extension comprising of a new bar area to the rear of the property at Ty Coch, Maesquarre Road, Betws (18).

5.2 The Councillors had the following observations to make with regards to the subsequent planning application:-

E/14471 - 2 Houses at land adjacent to 74 Maesquarre Road, Betws (16).

- It has been brought to the Councillors attention that neighbours in the vicinity have been experiencing surface drainage problems since recent developments have occurred along this stretch of road.

5.3 The following application has been refused planning permission by Carmarthenshire County Council:-

E/14134 - Proposed change of use of land to a Civil Engineering Contractors Yard at Aman Engineering Workshops, Pentwyn Road, Betws (14).

5.4 Full planning permission has been granted by Carmarthenshire County Council for the following:-

E/14133 - Demolish detached barn and replace with similar sized extension at Gilfach Gower Farm, Argoed Road, Betws (15).

E/14110 - Construct shared cycle/footway path from Pontamman to Glanamman (13).

E/13986 - Proposed dwelling and detached garage at plot adjacent to Maesifan, Waunddwfn Road, Betws (12).

E/13539 - Residential Development additional dwellings types 12 and 12a at Woodlands Park Phase 2, Betws (7).

E/13968 - New shower block and covered stand at Ammanford AFC, Rice Street, Betws (11).

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that all future planning applications are sent to the Planning Sub Committee prior to the monthly meetings. All Councillors agreed.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

5.5 Wind Turbine Planning Application.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that this planning application was supposed to be processed on the 9th November but this has not materialised. He also stated that Certain Members are in pursuant of this application and who are also intimidating people. County Councillor John D Evans has taken legal advice on this matter.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

The Councillors decided not to sign up to anything until the planning application has been agreed. Councillor Peter Cowell proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded and the Councillors agreed that the Clerk thanks ECO2 for their letter and also state that if this is forced upon the area then the offer of benefits to the Community would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to ECO2.

6. ACCOUNTS.

1. Poppy Appeal (wreath) £16.50

TOTAL £16.50

RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Betws Cricket Club have written a letter stating "that profits for show held on the 19th August 2006 was £260". Councillor Annette Price proposed

that before match funding can take place the Community Council requires proof of banking. RESOLVED: that all Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to Betws Cricket Club requesting proof of banking.

The Clerk also informed the Councillors that the Community Council has been reimbursed by £720 from Carmarthenshire County Council for the 2nd instalment of the footpath maintenance charges.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

7. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Shane Davies attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 7 crimes committed in the Betws area during October and to date 2 crimes have been detected.

PC Shane Davies informed the Councillors that that there were two Blue Light Discos held in October and between the two discos over 600 youngsters attended.

PC Davies updated the Councillors with regards to the priority from last months meeting - where youngsters are riding scrambler bikes along footpath 68/11 (Black Path). The Police have undertaken regular visits of the area but unfortunately there hasn't been any sight of them.

The following are possible priorities for this month:-

- Councillors Peter Cowell reported on the parking problems along Heol Y Felin, Betws.
- Councillor Annette Price reported that at Halloween could elderly residents have cards to place in their windows which states 'no trick or treats here'.
- Councillor Menna Roberts reported that a Post Office van is speeding along Maesquarre Road in the evenings.
- Councillors Betsan Jones also reported that a Post Office van is speeding along Pentwyn Road in the mornings.

County Councillor John D Evans raised the issue of speeding traffic outside Betws CP School. PC Davies stated that the County Councillor should speak to Mr McAvoy of Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the matrix sign which cost approximately £4000. County Councillor John D Evans also stated that a letter of support should be sent from Dyfed Powys Police. PC Davies stated that he would pass this onto Inspector Tony Ward.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

The Chairwoman thanked PC Shane Davies for the above report.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

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

1. River at the bottom of Colonel Road - He reported that Carmarthenshire County Council have cleared around the vicinity of the bridge on Maesquarre Road. He also stated that this problem possibly starts further up the road towards the Mountain Road.
2. Street Lighting on Colonel Road - He reported that no work has been carried out as yet.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

The Chairwoman thanked the County Councillor for the above report.

9. REPORTS.

9.1 Footpaths.

Councillor Peter Cowell gave a detailed report to the Councillors regarding the footpaths within Betws.

Councillor Peter Cowell informed the Councillors that Betws Mine Developers have offered to provide a bridle way around the Betws Mine Site. Councillor Peter Cowell proposed and Councillor Betsan Jones seconded that the Community Council accepts this offer from the Developers.

RESOLVED: that all Councillors were in favour of this.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported in the absence of Councillor Audrey Jones that Mr Jones from Glynradar wants to move the footpath towards the hedge, if this is accepted then he will fence the footpath.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

None.