

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2006 10 October Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

APOLOGIES: Delyth Richards

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

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 13th SEPTEMBER 2006.

County Councillor John D Evans had an amendment to make to the minutes with regards to page 4, 7.2 should read 'the tree branches are obstructing the lights on the entrance to Colonel Road, 20 yards higher up than the last house on Colonel Road'. All Councillors agreed to the amendment.

Councillor Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 13th September 2006 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Planning Application - Residential Development at Woodlands Park, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response from Carmarthenshire County Council to date.

The above point was NOTED.

2.2 Road Markings on Iscenne Road, Ammanford.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council who has confirmed that in the interest of addressing this matter a copy of the Clerks letter has been forwarded onto the Ammanford Town Council Clerk, for their consideration.

The above point was NOTED.

2.3 Chair's Chain of Office.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has made enquiries with other Community Council Clerks who have informed her that they all use Fattorini (Gold & Silversmiths) in relation to the Chair's Chain of Office. Councillor Peter Cowell proposed and Councillor Arnallt James seconded that the Clerk makes the relevant arrangements to have the damaged enamel repaired on the Chair's Chain of Office and to attach eight new links to complete the chain.

RESOLVED: following a vote a unanimous decision was made by the Councillors, that the Clerk makes arrangements to have the damaged enamel repaired on the Chair's Chain of Office and also to attach eight new links to complete the chain.

2.4 Footpath 68/11.

Councillor Arnallt James reported that there are 'no dog fouling' signs on footpath 68/11 at

the entrance to Colonel Road.

RESOLVED: that all Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council asking if 'no dog fouling' signs can be placed on footpath 68/11.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that he has requested dog fouling bins to be placed on Maesquarre Road and also on Colonel Road.

The above point was NOTED.

2.5 Betws In Bloom.

Councillors Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that the Betws In Bloom presentation evening was a success. Everyone who was in attendance welcomed the competition for next year. Councillor Annette Price thanked Councillor Anne Sizmur for all the work she contributed to this event.

The above point was NOTED.

2.6 Carmarthenshire County Council - Service Level Agreement.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council which stated, that the County Council do not have a SLA as such they clean when and where they are needed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the County Council could sweep the following areas within Betws and also clear any rubbish along these routes:-

Heol Y Felin Play Park, Betws Road, Mountain Road, Argoed Road and Colonel Road.

2.7 Archiving Old Community Council Files.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has archived the following files with Carmarthenshire County Council's Archiving Section:-

6 x Minute Books and 1 x Receipts and Payments Book.

The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she has in her possession old used cheque books and invoices, unfortunately these can not be achieved by Carmarthenshire County Council. The Clerk has spoken to One Voice Wales who have advised that she can dispose of the used cheque books and invoices provided that this is done properly and that they are over 8 years old.

RESOLVED: that all Councillors agreed that the Clerk can dispose of the used cheque books and invoices provided that they are over eight years old.

2.8 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Solicitors from One Voice Wales are unable to assist the Community Council with this matter. The Clerk has managed to find copies of the Deeds which are in colour. She has spoken to the Solicitors from Carmarthenshire County Council who confirmed that they might be able to assist the Community Council with the 'gift of land' and also registering the land.

RESOLVED: All Councillors agreed that the Clerk sends copies of the documentation to the Solicitors of Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.9 Headteacher of Betws CP School.

Councillor June Gunter informed the Councillors that Mrs James has apologised that she is unable to attend this month Community Council Meeting. The Councillors agreed to invite Mrs James to next months Community Council Meeting which is scheduled for the 8th of November 2006.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk invites Mrs James to the next Community Council Meeting.

2.10 Betws Community Council Logo.

The Clerk handed a copy of Betws Community Council coloured logo to Councillor Arnallt James in order that it can be placed in the centre of the wreath.

The above point was NOTED.

2.11 Cross for the Church.

Councillor Keith Rees reported that once again he still hasn't received a response regarding the cross for the Church.
The above point was NOTED.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Carmarthenshire County Council - Sports Personality Awards.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council concerning the Sports Personality Awards. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that the Community Council advertises this in the Guardian and also Councillor Menna Roberts proposed that this is also put onto the Betws Community Website. All Councillors agreed.
The above point was NOTED.

3.2 Correspondence received from the Labour Party - Ammanford Branch.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from the Labour Party concerning the effectiveness of the County Council's Street Scene Department. The Councillors RESOLVED that they supported the comments in the letter received from the Labour Party and that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council in support of this matter.

3.3 The following Correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

- Gambling Act 2005.
- Objective One Funding - handed to Councillor Annette Price.

2. One Voice Wales

- Newsletter - handed to Councillor Keith Rees.
- One Voice Wales Partnership information - handed to Councillor Keith Rees.
- Carmarthen Area Committee Bulletin.

3. Home Start Dinefwr - Invitation to their AGM on the 17th October 2006.

4. Aman Group of Local Councils - Agenda and Minutes.

5. Welsh Assembly Government - The Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report 2005-2006.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 The following application has been withdrawn in accordance with instructions received by Carmarthenshire County Council on the 21st September 2006.
E/13889 - Two Storey Extension at 2 Waungron Road, Betws (10)

4.2 Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Department have confirmed that the following planning application site is within the Development Limits as defined in the recently adopted Carmarthenshire Unitary Development Plan.

E/13986 - Proposed Dwelling and detached garage, Maesifan, Waunddwfn Road, Betws

4.3 The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received two letters from ECO2 Regarding the Wind Turbine Planning Application.

With regards to the first letter received on the 14th September 2006, the Clerk asked whether the Community Council would like to nominate a member to sit on the Trust Fund Committee of ECO2. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that unless the planning application has been agreed there isn't any point in nominating a Councillor to sit on the Trust Fund Committee. RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to ECO2.

It was RESOLVED that the second correspondence dated 30th September 2006 is discussed in the next meeting of Betws Community Council scheduled for the 8th November 2006 and that the Clerk provides copies of the correspondence to the Councillors, prior to next months meeting. All Councillors agreed.

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. Footpath Maintenance £800.00
 2. Betws CP School (Picnic Bench) £317.50
- TOTAL £1117.50
RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the cheque paid to the Society of Local Council Clerks in last months meeting for £84.00 for subscription has been returned to the Community Council as the subscription is not due until the end of the year

The Clerk also informed the Councillors that the Community Council has been reimbursed by Carmarthenshire County Council for the 1st instalment of the footpath maintenance charges by the sum of £720.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 15 crimes committed in the Betws area during September.

PC Kevin Jones informed the Councillors that that there were two Blue Light Discos held in September and between the two discos over 600 youngsters attended.

PC Kevin Jones reported that the speed camera van has been situated along Maesquarre Road, and no speeding tickets have been issued.

Councillor Keith Rees reported that youngsters are riding scrambler bikes along the footpath 68/11 (Black Path). PC Kevin Jones confirmed that he would look into this matter.

PC Kevin Jones gave a detailed report to Councillors regarding the new messaging service provided by Dyfed Powys Police which is being piloted at this present time, he also provided information sheets to the Councillors.

The above points were NOTED.

The Chairwoman thanked PC Kevin Jones for the above report.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

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

1. Betws In Bloom - He apologised that he was unable to attend the presentation evening.
2. Bus Shelter on Treforis Estate - He confirmed that this has been erected.
3. Speeding Traffic - Along Pentwyn Road - has submitted a letter to the Head of Transport. Betws Road - he has asked for 20 mph signs to be erected along this road in the vicinity of the school, the Highways Department have said no. He has written to the Director of Education as this is not acceptable.
4. Disused Mines within Betws - He is completely unsatisfied with the Coal Authority. He has emailed the Planning Department to ask that an audit of disused mines within Betws is undertaken.
5. Cleanliness of Colonel Road - He has received a reply from Street Scene Department who are monitoring the situation and they clean the pavement if and when required.
6. River at the bottom of Colonel Road - He reported that Carmarthenshire County Council has stated in an email that the dredging of the river at Colonel Road should be completed by the middle of October at the latest. Councillor Keith Rees reported that the work has not yet started.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr William of Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire why the work has not yet started.

The above points were NOTED.

The Chairwoman thanked the County Councillor for the above report.

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Betws Park Project.

Councillor Annette Price updated the Councillors on the Betws Park Project. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received any quotations to date regarding the stone for the Park.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk sends reminder letter to the three local stone masons concerned.

Councillor Annette Price asked the Clerk to provide the following documentations:-

? Audited Accounts for the past year

? Constitution

? Equal Opportunity Policy

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk provides copies of the above.

Councillor Annette Price also reported that hopefully the gates for the Park will be replaced by new gates. The Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council have reassured the Parks Sub Committee that the County Council will be responsible for the maintenance of the Park.

As previous agreed Councillor Annette Price asked if the Clerk could write a letter stating that the Community Council will cover the cost of the bedding plants; at the most this will cost £2000. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed authority for the letter and Councillor Annette Price seconded. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes a letter stating that Betws Community Council have agreed to cover the cost of the bedding plants

9. COUNCILLOR VACANCY.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that five nominations have been received for the Councillor Vacancy filled by co-option. Mr Howell, Mr Tout, Mrs Smith, Mrs Walker and Mrs B Jones.

A secret ballot was undertaken and it was RESOLVED that Mrs B Jones be invited to serve as a Co-opted Community Councillor.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Councillor June Gunter reported that the trees outside Bryn Fin on Colonel Road are causing concern to local residents as the leaves are falling off the trees which are making the pavement slippery.

RESOLVED: that all Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to the occupier.

Councillor Menna Roberts asked whether the Community Council will be having a Christmas Dinner this year. Councillors Anne Sizmur proposed a New Years Dinner in early January instead. All Councillors agreed to have their Dinner in January.

The above point was NOTED.

Councillor Audrey Jones left the Meeting before the Exempt Reports were discussed.