

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2007 04 April Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 11th April 2007 at 7.00 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Carwyn James, Keith Rees, June Gunter, Betsan Jones 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 14th MARCH 2007.

Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14th March 2007 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Picnic Area on Betws Mountain.

Councillor Annette Price was very concerned as the fence surrounding the picnic area on Betws Mountain has still not been repaired or replaced. She asked the Clerk to chase up the progress of this matter.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Countryside and Recreation Unit of Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.2 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has contacted One Voice Wales who have advised that they only use their own internal Solicitors to deal with all their legal issues. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Community Council needs to registers this land as a matter of urgency and Councillor Loreen Lewis seconded this motion. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she has made enquiries with various Solicitors located within Ammanford who could assist the Community Council in registering the land in the name of Betws Community Council. The Clerk gave details to the Councillors of the various Solicitors and their fees. The Councillors resolved that they would use Llys Cennen Solicitors. Councillor Anne Sizmur also proposed that the Chair Councillor Menna Roberts and the Clerk makes an appointment to meet with the Solicitor, and also invites Mr Jones to attend the meeting. All Councillors agreed that this needs to be undertaken as a matter of urgency. That the Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk, the Chair and Mr Jones meet with the Solicitor regarding registering the land in the name of Community Council.

2.3 Fence surrounding Heol Y Felin Playground.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a reply from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the fence surrounding Heol Y Felin Playground. Councillors Peter Cowell stated that an agreement was put into place many years ago by the previous County Council whereby the fence surrounding the Playground, would be maintained for life. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.4 Clwb Hwyl a Sbri Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a copy of Clwb Hwyl a Sbri Betws latest balance sheet.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.5 Betws Community Council - Newsletter.

Councillor Menna Roberts handed copies of the newsletters to the Councillors, in order that they can be distributed to residents within Betws.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.6 St David's Church, Betws.

The Clerk read letter received from Reverend Bowen of St David's Church Betws. Reverend Bowen thanked the Community Council for their contribution toward the maintenance costs of the floodlighting and also towards the maintenance costs of the seasonal lights on the tree outside the Church. Unfortunately the lights can not be left on the tree after the New Year due to insurance purposes.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Clean Up Carmarthenshire Campaign

The Councillors discussed the above and Councillor Annette Price proposed cleaning the Picnic Area on Betws Mountain, which was agreed by all the Councillors. The Councillors decided to undertake the clean up of the Picnic Area during the middle to the end of May. The actual date to be confirmed in next month's meeting.

The Councillors RESOLVED that this should be placed on next months Agenda.

3.2 Carmarthenshire Tourist Association - Website Team Awards.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received an email inviting the Councillors to the Website Awards evening which is being held on the 27th of April. Councillor Menna Roberts requested whether she could attend the above on behalf of the Community Council. All Councillors agreed.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.3 Carmarthenshire County Council - Footpath & Bridleway Maintenance Programme 2007/2008.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the above has been forwarded onto Councillor Peter Cowell for him to complete. Councillor Peter Cowell updated the Councillors on the conditions of the footpaths; he stated that there are 30 footpaths in total within Betws. He has also put forward that an increase of 3% is provided for the trashing and minor works on registered paths and bridleways within Betws, which should be back dated for the last two years. He also confirmed that he will forward the completed programme onto Carmarthenshire County Council.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.4 Welsh Language Board.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a self assessment form from the Welsh Language Board regarding the Welsh Language Scheme.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk completes and returns the self assessment form.

3.5 One Voice Wales - Carmarthenshire Area Committee.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from One Voice Wales, relating to the Carmarthenshire Area Committee, who are enquiring whether the Community Council have any topics of concerns to raise? Councillor Annette Price proposed - 'why Councillors representing the Community Council on outside bodies can not contact One Voice Wales direct', all Councillors agreed.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards the Councillors comments onto One Voice Wales.

3.6 Carmarthenshire County Council - Ammanford Distributor Road, Park Street to Pontamman Link.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received various Traffic Regulation Orders relating to the above Distributor Road, from Carmarthenshire County Council. The Councillors were extremely anxious with this new Distributor Road. Councillor Peter Cowell stated that he appreciated all the efforts made by the Community Police Officer regarding the above, but the Councillors are still not happy with the planner's views and that something needs to be done as a matter of urgency. The Councillors suggested that a pelican crossing needs to be placed along Foundry Road.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards the Councillors concerns onto Carmarthenshire County Council.

3.7 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. HOWLTA Newsletter – forwarded onto Councillor Carwyn James.
2. Bilingual Ombudsman Posters – handed to Councillor Audrey Jones.
3. One Voice Wales – Guidance on establishing a complaint procedure – Clerk to distribute copies to the Councillors in next months Meeting.
4. One Voice Wales – Brief Summary of the 'Shared Responsibility'.
5. One Voice Wales – Carmarthenshire Area Committee Bulletin.
6. Community Networks – Mission Statement.
7. Carmarthenshire County Council – Revised Footway Lighting Charges for Financial Year 2007/2008.
8. Health Challenge Wales – handed to Councillors Annette Price and Delyth Richards.
9. Local Health Board – Health Panels.
10. Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services – Invitation to the Volunteers Day on the 4th of June.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

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

E/15725 - House at Tan Y Berllan, Maes Y Berllan Road, Betws (30/2006-07).

E/15854 - Two Storey Extension to the side and Single Storey Entrance Porch to the front of Llwh Is Awel, Betws (2/2007-08).

4.2 Betws Community Council objected to the following applications:-

E/15891 - The erection of two dwellings to provide accommodation for trainer and stable hands in connection with a harness horse training establishment at Bryneithin, Argoed Road, Betws(4/2007-08).

E/15892 - The erection of a stable block in connection with a harness horse training establishment at Bryneithin, Argoed Road, Betws (5/2007-08).

E/15851 - An extension to the current Cwm Yr Onen Colliery, Henrhyd Farm, Rhydyfro, Swansea (1/2007-08).

4.3 Betws Community Council were unable to provide their observations on the following planning application until their comments have been answered by Carmarthenshire County Council:-

E/15850 - Erection of 3 no speculative industrial buildings at Betws Colliery, Ammanford (3/2007-08).

4.4 The following application was discussed in detail by the Councillors. The Councillors RESOLVED that they were extremely concerned with this planning application and require further information from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding this application as a matter of urgency:-

E/15910 - Proposed temporary building at Betws School to house 'flying start' nursery (6/2007-08).

4.5 Carmarthenshire County Council has given planning permission to the following:-
E/15219 - Single Storey Extension at 59 Colonel Road, Betws (28/2006-07).

4.6 The Welsh Assembly Planning Hearing will take place on the 1st of May in Parc Amanwy, Ammanford regarding an appeal that has been lodged with the National Assembly for Wales against the decision of Carmarthenshire County Council to refuse planning permission for the following:-

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

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. HOWLTA Membership £10.00
 2. One Voice Wales Membership £177.00
 3. Chair Allowance (3rd and Final Instalment) £100.00
 4. Dinefwr Press (Newsletter) £97.00
 5. Cllr. Menna Roberts (Printer Cartridges for Community Computer) £37.95
 6. Morgan & Morgan (Clerk Stationery) £72.51
 7. Morgan & Morgan (Clerk Stationery) £38.49
 8. Cllr. Peter Cowell (Printer Cartridges) £42.86
- TOTAL £575.81

RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she will make arrangements will Mr Lyn Llewellyn, to carry out the Internal Audit of the Community Council's Accounts, which will hopefully be undertaken this month.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 5 crimes committed in the Betws area during March, made up of the following:-
3 possession of cannabis on Betws Mountain, 1 criminal damage to a vehicle and 1 criminal damage.

PC Kevin Jones reported that he has meet with Mr McAvoy from the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council on the 17th of March 2007. The outcome of the meeting is as follows:-

- The County Council are not prepared to extend the 30mph speed restriction further along than Cae Mawr Junction.
- The County Council are having on going meetings regarding the lack of pedestrian crossings along Foundry Road.
- The County Council will be placing speed monitoring equipment along Argoed Road, Betws.

Councillor Annette Price raised concerns regarding youngsters damaging the work that has been undertaken by contractors relating to the project to enhance Betws Park. PC Jones confirmed that he will look into this matter.

PC Jones assured the Councillors that the speed gun mentioned in the news paper article handed to him in last months meeting, by Councillor Anne Sizmur is not the same one as Dyfed Powys Police intend to purchase. The Clerk informed PC Jones that the Community Councillors have agreed to contribute £200 towards the purchase of a speed gun, but to date the Clerk has not received from Dyfed Powys Police an invoice/letter requesting the Community Council's contribution. PC Jones informed the Councillors that he will speak to Tony Ward on this matter.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

The Chairwoman thanked PC Kevin Jones for the above report.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor John D Evans sent his apologise as he could not be present at this months Community Council Meeting.

8. PROJECTS.

8.1 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she has spoken to the Headteacher of Betws CP School and also to Ty Tyfi who have suggested not having a competition for the under 7 year olds but instead, why not create a large collage picture of 'My Garden or Betws Park'. This could then be displayed in the park open day. All Councillors agreed to the above. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

8.2 Betws Park Project.

Councillor Annette Price updated the Councillors on the progress to date of the Betws Park Project. Councillor Annette Price reported that unfortunately the stone has had to be changed. Also pennant slabs will now be placed around the stone. All Councillors agreed to the above change. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has still not received any invoices relating to the work carried out on the project to enhance Betws Park. Councillor Annette Price confirmed that she would speak to Amman Valley Enterprise regarding this matter.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Community Council Surgery.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that Councillor Loreen Lewis and herself were present at the Community Council Surgery which was held prior to the April Community Council Meeting and no members of the Public attended the Surgery.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

9.2 Retirement of Councillor Peter Cowell.

The Clerk asked the Councillors for authorization so that she can make the relevant arrangements with Carmarthenshire County Council regarding advertising the position of a Community Councillor, since Councillor Peter Cowell is retiring from the Community Council as at the 30th April 2007.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk can make the relevant arrangements with Carmarthenshire County Council regarding advertising the Councillor vacancy.

All Councillors sincerely thanked Councillor Peter Cowell for his hard work and support during his term in office. Councillor Peter Cowell thanked the Councillors for their comments. He stated that he has forwarded all the documentations etc relating to planning and footpaths onto Councillor Betsan Jones. This will need to be placed on next months agenda, in order that it can be resolved which Councillor will take over the footpath maintenance programme and also the Betws Mine Master Plan.

The Councillors RESOLVED that this should be placed on next months agenda.

9.3 Footpath 68/11, 3/16 & 3/14.

Councillor Arnallt James was still extremely concerned with footpath 68/11, 3/16 & 3/14. He asked the Clerk to chase up progress of this matter with Mr Carlsen from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Mr Carlsen regarding the above footpaths.

Meeting terminated at 9:55 pm