BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2007 02 February Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 14th February 2007 at 7.00 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Delyth Richards, Peter Cowell and June Gunter.

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

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 10th JANUARY 2007.
Councillor Carwyn James proposed and Councillor Loreen Lewis seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 10th January 2007 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.
2.1 Betws Community Computer.
Councillor Menna Roberts informed the Councillors that she has received the Community Computer from Councillors Peter Cowell as he is resigning from the Community Council on the 30th April 2007. Councillor Anne Sizmur thanked Councillor Menna Roberts for the work she has done on the Betws Community Website.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.2 Review of Recreational Facilities.
Councillor Keith Rees wanted to note that he does not recall receiving anything from Peter Cowell regarding the review of Recreation Facilities within Betws.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.3 Dyfed Powys Police Authority - Public Meeting.
Councillor Anne Sizmur updated the Councillors on the Dyfed Powys Police Authority Public Meeting she recently attended.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.4 Flooding Along Maesquarre Road, Betws - Environment Agency Wales.
The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a reply from the Environment Agency Wales who have stated that the road drainage problem is the responsibility of Carmarthenshire County Council.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.5 Flooding Along Maesquarre Road, Betws - Carmarthenshire County Council.
The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a reply from Carmarthenshire County Council who have stated that “the surface water drainage from Golwg y Mynydd is not connected into the Maesquarre Road Highway System.”

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that two officers from Carmarthenshire

County Council recently visited her property, and they confirmed that she had full justification of her complaints regarding the flooding. Councillor Keith Rees proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded that a copy of the letter received from Carmarthenshire County Council is sent to the two officers who recently visited Councillor Anne Sizmur property, asking for clarification as to why there are two conflicting comments regarding the flooding along Maesquarre Road. Councillor Anne Sizmur will provide details of the two officers to the Clerk.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the two officers from Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.6 Heritage Walks Programme.
The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Countryside Recreation Officer for Carmarthenshire County Council who confirmed that "the Welsh translation of the artwork for the Heritage Panels will be checked by a qualified person prior to the completion of the panels."
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

Councillor Annette Price asked the Councillors how would they like the boards to be erected e.g. side by side, 'v' shape, back to back. All Councillors agreed that they want the boards to be erected in a 'v' shape.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.7 Picnic Area on Betws Mountain.
The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Assistant Countryside Recreation Officer for Carmarthenshire County Council. Which stated that "they are aware that sections of the fence need to be replaced? They are considering replacing the entire fence but this is not likely to happen until next financial year." Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk replies to this letter stating that the Councillors are concerned as the fence surrounding the picnic area does need to be replaced as a matter of urgency. The Tourist Season is fast approaching and as there is a severe drop where the section of fence is missing the Councillors feel that this is Health and Safety risk. All Councillors agreed. Councillor Betsan Jones also proposed that the Clerk writes to request that signs are placed around the picnic site stating 'please take your rubbish home when you leave'. All Councillors agreed.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk replies to the letter received from the Assistant Countryside Recreation Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.8 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.
Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Clerk has received any correspondence from Mr Jones regarding appointing new Trustees. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received any correspondence from Mr Jones. Councillor Carwyn James proposed that the Community Council seeks legal advice regarding this matter. All Councillors agreed. Councillor Anne Sizmur also proposed that the Clerk writes to Mr Jones to inform him that the Community Council are taking legal advice regarding registering the land in the name of the Community Council. They would also hope to call a public meeting in the spring where by new Trustees could be appointed. They would hope to have Mr Jones is cooperation on this matter and hope that he could put his views forward to the residents of Betws in the Public Meeting.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk and Councillor Menna Roberts looks into this matter.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.
3.1 Carmarthenshire County Council – Clean Up Carmarthenshire Campaign.
The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received an entry form for the Clean up Carmarthenshire Campaign for this year. Councillor Carwyn James proposed that the Community Council will be undertaking the clean up for this year, details will be finalised in the April Community Council Meeting. All Councillors agreed.

The Councillors RESOLVED that details will be finalised in the April Community Council Meeting.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.
1. Welsh Assembly Government
•Borrowing by Community & Town Councils in 2007/2008.
•Fire and Rescue National Framework 2005.
•Local Services Boards/Local Service Agreements - Consultation Paper.
2. Carmarthenshire County Council
•Rights of Way Improvement Plan Assessment Report - extension to consultation period.
•Footway Lighting Charges - Financial Year 2007/2008.
3. Home Start Dinefwr invitation to attend a Networking/Promotion Day.
4. G Butler Consultancy.
5. Kidney Wales Foundation.
6. Aman Group of Local Councils agenda and minutes.
7. One Voice Wales - The Voice - handed to Councillors Menna Roberts and Anne Sizmur.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.
4.1 The following application were approved by Betws Community Council:-
E/15371 - Single Storey Extension at 39 Betws Road, Betws (29)
E/15219 - Single Storey Extension at 59 Colonel Road, Betws (28)

4.2 Carmarthenshire County Council has given planning permission to the following:-
E/15022 - Single Storey Extension at 14 Rice Street, Betws (26)
E/14471 - 2 Houses at Land Adjacent to 74 Maesquarre Road, Betws (16)
E/14773 - Two Storey Extension at 2 Waungron Road, Betws (22)
E/14774 - Extension to Existing Factory at Prostone Limited, Betws Park Workshops, Park Street, Betws (21)
E/14622 - Extension comprising of new bar area to the rear of Ty Coch, Maesquarre Road, Betws (18)

4.3 The following application has been withdrawn in accordance with instructions, received by Carmarthenshire County Council on the 8th February 2007:-
E/14770 - Erection of a speculative employment building at Betws Colliery, Ammanford (23)

4.4 An appeal 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.Carmarthenshire Tourist Association £40.00
2.Betws Cricket Club (Match Funding) £260.00
TOTAL £300.00
RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.
Police Kevin Jones and Community Inspector Tony Ward attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. PC Kevin Jones reported that there were 2 assault crimes committed in the Betws area during January and both persons involved have been charged.

PC Kevin Jones also reported that he has arranged a site meeting for the 27th March with Mr McAvoy of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the roundabout/crossing on Foundry Road, Ammanford. PC Jones is also going to ask the officer from Carmarthenshire County Council whether the 30 mph signs can be moved up and around the corner from Maesquarre Road which would then also make Argoed Road a 30 mph speed limit.

PC Jones reported that with regards to lorry drivers using mobiles phones whilst driving this is a problem with all motor vehicle users. At the end of this month it will be an endorsable offence to use a mobile phone whilst driving. Motorists will be fined £60 and also have 3 penalty points on their license.

Councillor Annette Price reported that there are children between the ages of 10 and 13 riding their bikes at night without any lights on, near Foundry Road. PC Kevin Jones reported that he will look into this matter.

Councillor Arnallt James was also concerned with speeding traffic along Maesquarre Road. PC Jones replied that the speed camera van has been situated along Maesquarre Road and unfortunately they were unable to catch anyone speeding. PC Jones stated that if the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council could reduce the speed on Mountain Road then this could assist with reducing speeding along Maesquarre Road.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

The Chairwoman thanked PC Kevin Jones and Community Inspector Tony Ward for the above report.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.
County Councillor John D Evans reported on the following issues:-
1. Flooding in Betws - He stated that officers from Carmarthenshire County Council have been out and agreed to undertake work in 4 out of the 5 locations.
2. Wind Turbine Planning Application - He reported that there is a possibility that the planning application for the Wind Turbines will be considered by the Planning Committee on the 22nd of February. He stated that should the Planning Committee approve the application then the Community Council should consider requesting a Section 106 Agreement.
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The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

The Chairwoman thanked County Councillor John D Evans for the above report.

8. LEAFLET DROP/NEWSLETTER.
Councillor Menna Roberts informed the Councillors that the Community Council could possibly obtain funding up to £5000 for a newsletter; this process would take approximately 3 months. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that as the Community Council wants to produce a newsletter to be distributed to residents next month, then the Community Council should pay for the printing costs. The Community Council could apply for the grant when the Park Project has been completed. All Councillors agreed. Councillor Carwyn James proposed obtaining quotes from Printers regarding producing approx 1200 sheets. The Councillors also agreed to hold a Special Meeting to discuss the information which will be placed onto the leaflets.
The Councillors RESOLVED that they produce a newsletter for the coming month.

9. REPORTS.
9.1 Community Council Surgery.
Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that Councillor Carwyn James, Councillor Arnallt James and herself were present at the Community Council Surgery which was held prior to the February Community Council Meeting and no members of the Public attended the Surgery.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

Councillor Betsan Jones proposed and Councillor Annette Price seconded that the Community Council Surgeries are held on a bimonthly basis. Councillor Anne Sizmur also

proposed that this should be monitored closely. All Councillors agreed.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the that the Community Council Surgeries are held on a bimonthly basis

9.2 Aman Group of Local Councils.
Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she has recently attend the meeting of the Aman Group of Local Councils. Carmarthenshire County Council have confirmed that they will be backing the Amman Valley Eisteddfod in 2012. The Welsh Assembly Government and the Eisteddfod Committee need to acknowledge this properly.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

9.3 Betws Park Project.
Councillor Annette Price updated the Councillors on the progress to date regarding the Betws Park Project. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Community Council holds an open day of the Park in June where by the following could be invited:-
Ammanford Silver Band
Climbing wall
Bouncy Castle
Fire Brigade
All Councillors were in favour of this. The Councillors provided the following as possible available dates:- 16th, 23rd and the 30th of June.
The Councillors RESOLVED that Councillor Annette Price makes enquires with the above to see which date is suitable.

10.ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Councillor Keith Rees informed the Councillors that the fence surrounding Heol Y Felin Playground (opposite to number 30 Colonel Road, Betws) has been damaged. He proposed that the Clerk writes to the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire whether additional trees surrounding the fence can be cut back and also enquire whether the fence can be repaired.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Meeting terminated at 9:20 pm