

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2007 01 January Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 10th January 2007 at 7.00 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Keith Rees, E Audrey Jones and 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 DECEMBER 2006.

Councillor Annette Price had an amendment to make:-

2.2 in that the minutes should read 'that Councillor Annette Price had health and safety concerns with regards to the old wiring'. All Councillors agreed to this amendment.

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

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Resignation Letter from Councillor Peter Cowell.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has spoken to the Electoral Services of Carmarthenshire County Council who have informed her that the Community Council can not advertise the Councillor vacancy until Councillor Peter Cowell has left the Community Council.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

County Councillor John D Evans commended Councillor Peter Cowell on the work that he has carried out over the years on the footpaths within Betws. The Community Councillors also thanked Councillor Peter Cowell.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.2 Eglwys Dewi Sant, Betws.

Councillor Menna Roberts stated that the lights are still up on the tree outside the Church.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded that the lights are left up over the winter period provided that the Church gives consent.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the Church to see whether the lights can be left up over the winter period.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Letter received regarding the Betws Park Project.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has today received a letter from the Grants Officer at Parc Amanwy stating that the Community Council "has returned Stage 2 Project Progress forms, and having checked the quotes, they hereby confirm that they are in order and that they are sufficient to satisfy the procurement guidelines and that the Community Council may now proceed with the project and let the contract". Councillor Annette Price

reported that the project will hopefully start in January weather permitting.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3.2 Review of Recreational Facilities

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received another letter from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the privately maintained/managed Leisure Facilities in the Betws area. Councillor Peter Cowell confirmed that he has forwarded the previous letter received in December onto Councillor Keith Rees in order that he can complete and return the form.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk speaks to Councillor Keith Rees to see whether he has returned the form to Carmarthenshire County Council.

3.3 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Dyfed Powys Police Authority Notice of Public Meeting - handed to Councillor Menna Roberts.

2. One Voice Wales - Carmarthenshire Area Committee.

3. Carmarthenshire County Council

- There will be no Census test in Betws during this year.
- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan - handed to Councillors Peter Cowell, Annette Price and Loreen Lewis.
- Planning - Change of Address of Property on Waungron Road, Betws.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 The following application were approved by Betws Community Council:-
E/15022 - Proposed single storey extension at 14 Rice Street, Betws (26).

4.2 Carmarthenshire County Council has given planning permission to the following:-
E/14623 - Conservatory to rear of property at 24 Parc Nant Y Felin, Ammanford (19).
E/14563 - Proposed detached garage at 31 Woodlands Park, Betws (17).

4.3 E/471 - Residential Development, Betws Colliery, Ammanford.

The Councillors discussed the above planning application in detail. Councillor June Gunter asked what percentages of houses are going to be put aside for 'first time buyers'? Councillor Annette Price asked what are the selling prices of these houses and also are these houses affordable to 'first time buyers'? Councillor Peter Cowell stated that there is no provision to have a shopping area/convenience area with this Residential Area. Councillor Anne Sizmur stated that she recently attending a meeting regarding planning obligations, and was informed that the Developers must prove to the Planning Authority the following:- Education Facilities, Health Facilities, Infrastructure Facilities and Drainage Facilities/Surface Water Facilities.

Councillor Peter Cowell proposed that the Community Council meets with the Planning Officer of Carmarthenshire County Council. Councillor Anne Sizmur also proposed that the Clerk writes to the Planning Officer asking if a decision on this planning application can be postponed until Betws Community Council has received answers to their comments above. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk forwards the Councillors comments onto the Planning Officer and also asks if the Planning Officer can meet with the Community Council to discuss this planning application.

5. ACCOUNTS.

1. Capel Newydd Meetings (x7) £70.00

2. Chair Allowance (2nd Instalment) £100.00

3. Carmarthenshire County Council (Footway lighting charges) £285.30

4. Morgan and Morgan (Stationery) £133.13

5. Eglwys Dewi Sant (Annual donation towards the maintenance and electric costs of the Floodlights & the seasonal lights) £50.00

6. Capel Newydd Betws (Annual donation towards the maintenance and electric costs of the seasonal lights) £25.00

TOTAL £663.43

RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Dan Garnell attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 5 arrests made in relation to 3 crimes committed in the Betws area during December.

County Councillor John D Evans stated that he has written to Trevor Sage from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the roundabout/crossing on Foundry Road, Ammanford. He has a number of concerns regarding improvements to pedestrian safety as speeding traffic are exiting from Foundry Road. To date he has not received a response from Trevor Sage.

County Councillor John D Evans asked whether there was any progress on having the traffic monitoring equipment placed along Pentwyn Road, Betws. PCSO Garnell confirmed that he will speak to Inspector Tony Ward on this matter.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that recently there have been a number of accidents near the Scotch Pine on Mountain Road. Motorists are able to negotiate the cattle grid but are unable to turn the bend. He has recently had a site meeting with the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council who confirmed that they will try and resolve this problem next financial year. PCSO Garnell confirmed that he will speak to the Traffic Officers concerning this matter.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she is extremely concerned with regards to lorry drivers using their mobile phones whilst driving along Betws Road. PCSO Garnell stated that this is a County wide problem regarding all motorists and that he will speak to the Traffic Division and also to Inspector Tony Ward.

Councillor June Gunter expressed her concerns as pedestrians are unable to walk along the pavement near the entrance into Rice Street. There is a vehicle parked on the pavement and pedestrians have to walk on the road to get around this vehicle. PCSO Garnell confirmed that he will look into this matter.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

The Chairwoman thanked PCSO Garnell 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 something substantial needs to be done regarding the water coming from Betws Mountain. He has indicated the two pin point areas to an officer from Carmarthenshire County Council.
2. Bus Shelter - He stated that the base for the bus shelter opposite the Plough and Harrow Pub has been laid. He will chase up the erection of the bus shelter this week.
3. Entrance to Betws Mine - He is concerned that improvements need to be made to the access road into the Colliery Site.
4. Flooding along Maesquarre Road - He reported that he has received a letter from the Enforcement Officer which states that the flooding along Maesquarre Road is not attributed to the new development site which is situated along this road. The Technical Services Department will monitor this situation.

The Councillors discussed the flooding along Maesquarre Road, Betws in detail and had the

following concerns:-

- An urgently inspection needs to be undertaken of the drainage system along Maesquarre Road.
- The water running down Maesquarre Road is on the opposite side to where the drains are situated.
- This problem of flooding along Maesquarre Road has only arisen since the new Residential Development Golwg Y Mynydd has been built.

Councillor Carwyn James proposed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council listing the Councillors concerns above. Councillor Anne Sizmur also proposed that a copy of the letter sent to Carmarthenshire County Council is forwarded onto the Environmental Agency. All Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council and forwards a copy of her letter onto the Environment Agency.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

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

8. SETTING OF PRECEPT FOR 2007/2008.

Copies of the annual expenditure and the estimates for 2007/2008 have been sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. All the items listed were discussed in detail.

Councillor Carwyn James proposed and Councillor Arnallt James seconded that the Community Council requests a precept of £13,000 for 2007/2008. All Councillors agreed.

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

9. POLICE LASER SPEED DETECTION DEVICE.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Dyfed Powys Police who are requesting funding for the purchase of a laser speed detection device. This was discussed in detail by the Councillors. Councillor Peter Cowell proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded and all Councillors agreed that the Community Council is prepared to contribute towards the cost of the laser speed detection device.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Dyfed Powys Police to inform them of the Councillors decision above.

10. COST OF LIGHTING.

Councillor Peter Cowell explained to the Councillors that in the past the Community Council has provided an annual payment to the Church towards the maintenance cost and electric cost of the flood lights, unfortunately this has lapsed. Councillor Peter Cowell proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded that an annual payment of £50 is provided to the Church for the flood lights and also for the seasonal lights.

RESOLVED: that an annual payment of £50 is given to Eglwys Dewi Sant Betws.

Councillor Betsan Jones stated that this should also be provided to Capel Newydd Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur Proposed and Councillor Annette Price seconded that a payment of £25 is provided to Capel Newydd Betws for the maintenance cost of the seasonal lights.

RESOLVED: that an annual payment of £25 is given to Capel Newydd Betws.

11. LEAFLET DROP/NEWSLETTER.

This was discussed in detail by the Councillors. Councillor Betsan Jones proposed and Councillor June Gunter seconded that a newsletter is distributed to the residents of Betws during March. A vote was taken and a unanimous decision was made that this motion was passed.

RESOLVED: that the Community Council distributes a newsletter to the residents of Betws during March.

12. LAND AT HEOL Y FELIN, BETWS.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received advice from the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council which was read out to the Councillors. Unfortunately the Community Council can not proceed with this matter until new Trustees have been appointed by the Betws Community Centre.

RESOLVED: that all Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to Mr Jones to inform him of the legal advice received from Carmarthenshire County Council.

13. REPORTS.

13.1 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 January Community Council Meeting. No members of the Public attended the Surgery.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.