

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2007 07 July Minutes

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

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

APOLOGIES: Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors Keith Rees 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 JUNE 2007.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Loreen Lewis seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 13th June 2007 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from the Solicitor regarding the Probate Registry of Mr Bevan. He had three Trustees, one of whom is still alive. The Solicitor confirmed that he is now going to write to the living Trustee of Mr Bevan. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.2 Fence surrounding Heol Y Felin Playground.

The Clerk reported that she has not received a response to her letter; she will chase up this matter.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.3 Treforis Park.

The Clerk reported that she has not received a response to her letter; she will chase up this matter.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Annual Tidy Wales Awards.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence regarding the Annual Tidy Wales Awards. She asked whether the Community Council wanted to forward a nomination onto them. The Councillors discussed this matter in detail.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards details of the Betws Park Project onto the Annual Tidy Wales Awards.

3.2 One Voice Wales – Policy on Unacceptable Actions by Individuals.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a model policy relating to the above.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards copies onto the Councillors and this is then discussed in the September Monthly Meeting.

3.3 Update request from Peter Cowell.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received an email from Peter Cowell who is requesting an update on the preservation order on the summer house in Betws Park and also the possible sighting of a village hall on the land behind the Plough & Harrow. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk updates Peter Cowell accordingly.

3.4 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Annual Policing Report – handed to Councillor Anne Sizmur.
2. Prime Cymru – handed to Councillor Annette Price.
3. HOWLTA Newsletter – handed to Councillor Carwyn James.
4. The Voice.
5. Ombudsman Annual Report 2006/07.
6. Society of Local Council Clerks – Welsh conference.
7. One Voice Wales – Notice of 2007 Conference and Annual General Meeting.
8. Carmarthenshire County Council – Complaints regarding unanswered correspondence.
9. Aman Group of Local Councils – correspondence regarding the 2014 Eisteddfod.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

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

E/16668 – Double Storey Extension at 4 Heol Y Felin, Betws (18/2007-08).

E/16669 – Proposed Turning Area at end of existing cul de sac at Parc, Bwtrimawr, Betws (17/2007-08).

E/16569 – Revised application to previously approved plot at plot 10 Woodlands Park, Betws (15/2007-08).

E/16567 – To retain development commenced in non-compliance with planning permission E/02862 at Banc Y Wern Farm, Betws (13/2007-08).

E/16594 – Two storey extension to the rear of property with sun terrace above, at 48 Colonel Road, Betws (16/2007-08).

E/16568 – Proposed extension to existing funeral parlour at 39 Betws Road, Betws (14/2007-08).

E/16566 – Revised application of previously approved plot at plot 11 Woodlands Park, Betws (12/2007-08).

RE: E/16734 – Change of use of land from agricultural and private horse training to the commercial training of harness horses at Land at Bryneithin Farm, Argoed Road, Betws (19/2007-08) - The Councillors had reservations to make regarding the access road into the property.

4.2 Carmarthenshire County Council have given full planning permission to the following:-

E/16168 - Conservatory to the rear of 5 Parc Nant Y Felin, Betws (09/2007-08).

4.3 Carmarthenshire County Council have refused planning permission to the following:-

E/16147 – Proposed variation of condition 7 imposed on planning permission for the conversion of the existing garage into a study area at 16 Golwg y Mynydd, Betws (08/2007-08).

4.4 The Clerk informed the Councillors that the appeal has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate for the following:-

E/14134 – Proposed change of use of land at Aman Engineering Workshops, Pentwyn Road, Betws (14/2006-07).

4.5 E/10446 - Erection of 16 Wind Turbine Generators on Mynydd y Betws (12/2005-06).

Councillor Anne Sizmur updated the Councillors on the site meeting, which was held on the 19th June 2007 on Betws Mountain. The Councillors were not at all pleased with the approval of Carmarthenshire County Council's Planning Committee to erect 16 Wind Turbine Generators on Betws Mountain.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Rhodri Glyn Thomas to ask that a full

public enquiry is undertaken regarding this matter.

4.6 Section 106.

Councillor Annette Price was concerned with the Section 106 Ruling. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and all the Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to ask for an update of the current Section 106 Ruling. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

5. ACCOUNTS.

Councillor Carwyn James explained to the Councillors that four requests for donations have been received since the last Finance Sub Committee Meeting which was held in March 2007. These requests were discussed by the Councillors and resolved as below.

5.1 Payments.

1. Monthly Meetings held at Capel Newydd, Betws £50.00
 2. Donation – Amman Valley Dementia Carers Support Group £100.00
 3. Donation - Wales Air Ambulance £100.00
 4. Donation – Shelter Cymru £100.00
 5. Donation – Clwb Hwyl a Sbri Betws (in order that they £177.78 can purchase two wall games)
 6. Ammanford Silver Band (for playing at the Betws Park Open Day) £100.00
 7. St John's Ambulance (for providing a First Aid Facility at the Betws £50.00 Park Open Day)
 8. Ieuan Rees (Betws Park Memorial/Sensory Garden) £10,575.00
 9. Roger Lewis (Footpath Maintenance) £920.00
 10. Roger Lewis (Additional work undertaken on the Footpaths) £65.00
 11. Betws In Bloom – Betws CP School £100.00
 12. Betws In Bloom – Ysgol Meithrin y Betws £25.00
 13. Betws In Bloom – Winner £15.00
 14. Betws In Bloom – Runner Up £10.00
 15. Betws In Bloom – Runner Up £10.00
 16. Betws In Bloom – Runner Up £10.00
 17. Betws In Bloom – Runner Up £10.00
- TOTAL £12,557.26

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

5.2 Income Received.

1. Contribution towards the Betws Park Project from Carmarthenshire County Council £1626.67.

5.3 Other.

Councillor Menna Roberts stated that she has received an email from Carmarthenshire Tourist Association, which stated that the annual subscription for the Betws Community Website is £35 plus VAT.

The Councillors RESOLVED to pay the subscription fee of £35 plus VAT on receipt of an invoice.

The Clerk stated that she currently receives a telephone allowance but this does not include Internet charges. The Clerk explained to the Councillors that she uses the Internet for Community Council Business e.g. sending emails, updating the Community Website on a regular basis.

The Councillors RESOLVED to pay one third of the Clerk Internet costs starting from July 2007.

The Clerk asked the Councillors if a resolution could be passed in order that she can make

payments on behalf of the Community Council in August e.g. Community Council Insurance/Betws Park Project etc.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk can process payments on behalf of the Community Council in August.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there was one crime committed in the Betws area during June – Criminal damage to a window.

PC Kevin Jones reported that he has spoken to the individuals along with their parents who are involved in riding quad bikes through the village and hopefully this will be the end of this matter.

Councillor Loreen Lewis stated that there have been a few near misses on Wern Terrace and asked whether the 30mph speed limit sign could be moved further along towards Betws Mountain. PC Jones stated that Carmarthenshire County Council Highways Department are not willing to amend the speed limit along this stretch of road, but they are however prepared to place more lines to reduce speed on this road.

Councillor Betsan Jones asked PC Jones what the law is regarding leaving dogs run loose in the park. PC Jones stated that he would look into this matter. He informed the Councillors that if they had any concerns regarding dog fouling to let him know.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

The Chairperson thanked PC Kevin Jones for the above report.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor John D Evans attended the monthly meeting and reported on the following issues:-

- 1.Fire Services in the Amman Valley – He reported that there will be a serious reduction in the Fire Service in the Amman Valley. He is extremely opposed to this reduction, as the number of houses is due to increase within the area and also the house insurance premium of residents within the Amman Valley could increase as a result of this proposed change.
- 2.Betws Colliery Site – He reported that work is in progress on the access road into the Betws Colliery Site.
- 3.Wind Turbine Planning Application – This application has been approved by Carmarthenshire County Council. He has asked the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to undertake a structural survey of all properties within the vicinity of the Turbines as subsidence is a huge factor.
- 4.Betws Park Open Day – He provided photographs of the Open Day at Betws Park to the Councillors.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

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

8. COUNCILLOR VACANCY.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that three nominations have been received for the Councillor Vacancy which is to be filled by co-option. Mr Richards, Mr Tout and Mr Howell. A secret ballot was undertaken and the Councillors RESOLVED that Mr R Howell be invited to serve as a co-opted Community Councillor.

9. FOOTPATHS.

Councillor Loreen Lewis provided an invoice for the first half of Roger Lewis' salary for

maintaining the footpaths within Betws for 2007/08.

The Councillors RESOLVED that they would pay Roger Lewis an increase of 3% which is to be backdated for the last two years.

Councillor Loreen Lewis also provided a second invoice for £65 for additional works carried out on footpaths 68/11 and 3/20, being the removal of four trees. This can be reclaimed from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Councillor RESOLVED to pay Roger Lewis an amount of £65.

10. COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Community Council Insurance is due for renewal in August 2007. Currently stating on the Policy of 'All Risks' is a photocopier, font writer, 12 draw cabinet, 4 four draw cabinet and the Chairman's Chain of Office. The Clerk stated that the photocopier and the font writer do not work and asked for permission to dispose of these items.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk can dispose of the photocopier and the font writer.

The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk can delete from the 'All Risks' list the 12 draw cabinet and the 4 draw cabinet and increase the value of the Chairman's Chain of Office to £3,000.

11. REPORTS.

11.1 Betws Park Open Day.

The Chair thanked everyone who assisted with the opening of the Sensory Garden in Betws Park; it was an extremely pleasant afternoon. He also individually thanked the Projects Sub Committee: Councillors Anne Sizmur, Annette Price, Menna Roberts and Loreen Lewis. He concluded by thanking the Clerk for the clerical work relating to the project.

Councillor Betsan Jones officially thanked Mrs Price (Councillor Annette Price's Mother) for her lovely cakes. Councillor Anne Sizmur also thanked the Councillors for giving the Projects Sub Committee leeway to make decisions on behalf of the Community Council.

Councillor Annette Price thanked the Councillors and all who assisted with the Open Day of Betws Park. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Community Council ask the Guardian to write an article on the open day in Betws Park. All Councillors agreed.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Guardian.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Annette Price seconded that the Community Council gives a donation towards the Ammanford Silver Band and St John's Ambulance for the service they provided at the Open Day in Betws Park. All Councillors agreed.

Ammanford Town Silver Band - £100

St John's Ambulance - £50

The Chair also thanked Councillor Menna Roberts for putting together a portfolio of photographs relating to the Betws Park Project.

11.2 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Anne Sizmur updated the Councillors on the Betws In Bloom Competition for 2007. There were 20 entries, which included Betws CP School. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed to hold the Presentation Evening in August for the Betws in Bloom Competition. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Betws in Bloom Presentation Evening will be held on Wednesday the 15th August at 7pm in the Vestry in Capel Newydd.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed the following prize amounts for the 2007 Betws in Bloom

Winners:-

Betws CP School - £100

Winner - £15

Runner Up - £10

Runner Up - £10

Runner Up - £10

Runner Up - £10

Ysgol Feithrin y Betws - £15

Councillor Annette Price proposed an amendment and Councillor Betsan Jones seconded this motion in that £25 is given to Ysgol Feithrin y Betws.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above amounts be paid, but to amend the payment for Ysgol Feithrin y Betws to £25.

The Chair thanked Councillor Anne Sizmur for organising the Betws in Bloom Competition 2007.

11.3 One Voice Wales Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur updated the Councillors on the matters arising from the One Voice Wales Meeting, which she recently attended. The One Voice Wales Offices could be moving shortly to College Street in Ammanford.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

11.4 Networks Meeting.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that she recently attended the Network Meeting. She reported that the fire tender will be removed from Ammanford Fire Station.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she recently visited the Fire Station in Ammanford where she was handed documents, which were read to the Councillors.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Fire Authority stating that they are extremely disappointed to hear of the proposed changes to the Fire Authority in the Ammanford Area.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Ammanford Town.

Councillor Annette Price was concerned with the number of School Children in Ammanford Town Centre during the School Day. Councillor Annette Price proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded that the Clerk writes to the Head Teacher of Amman Valley Comprehensive School.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Head Teacher of Amman Valley Comprehensive School.

12.2 Betws Family Centre.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that Diane Davies has finished in the Family Centre located within Betws. Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed that a letter to show their appreciation is sent to Diane Davies for all the work she has carried out to make the Family Centre in Betws a huge success. All Councillors agreed.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk send a letter to Diane Davies.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Community Council now has an email address:-
Betwscommunitycouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Meeting terminated at 9.20 pm