

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2007 05 May Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 9th May 2007 at 7.00 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: None.

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

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11th APRIL 2007.

Councillor Annette Price proposed and Councillor Loreen Lewis seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th April 2007 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Picnic Area on Betws Mountain.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has spoken to an Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council who has confirmed that the fence surrounding the picnic area on Betws Mountain will be repaired using similar wood.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.2 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that a meeting has been arranged with the Solicitors on Wednesday the 16th May. The Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk and Mr Jones will be attending the meeting.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.3 Fence surrounding Heol Y Felin Playground.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has contacted the Officer from the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council but unfortunately he is off on sick at the moment.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.4 Betws Community Council - Newsletter.

The Chair thanked the Councillors for delivering the newsletters to the residents of Betws. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

2.5 Betws Mine Site.

Councillor Arnallt James was concerned with regards to footpaths 3/16 & 3/14. He proposed that the Councillors request another site meeting with the developer. The Councillors hope that the Developer can provide a proposed time scale for the completion of the restoration works. Councillor Anne Sizmur also proposed that the Councillors request progress of the regeneration work.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the developer of the Betws Mine Site to

arrange a site meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Correspondence received from P Garland concerning planning application No. E/13134. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from P Garland concerning planning application no. E/13134, which the Clerk read to the Councillors. The Clerk informed the Councillors that Carmarthenshire County Council have stated that planning permission was not required for this planning application. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk informs P Garland that she must refer her concerns direct to Carmarthenshire County Council.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Community Health Council - Health Panel Meeting - handed to Councillor June Gunter.
2. Shelter Cymru Newsletter.
3. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority - Draft Risk Reduction Action Plan 2008/09.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 The following application was approved by Betws Community Council:-
E/16027 - Extension for 6 letting bedrooms at the Scotch Pine, Betws (07/2007-08).

4.2 Carmarthenshire County Council have given planning permission to the following:-
E/14906 - Amend road width at plot opposite Maesifan, Waunddwfn Road, Betws (25/2006-07).
E/15371 - Single Storey Extension to the rear of 39 Betws Road, Betws (29/2006-07).

4.3 Carmarthenshire County Council have refused planning permission to the following:-
E/14858 - Tyre Recycling at Bryncelyn, Maesquarre Road, Betws (24/2006-07).

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

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that the Headteacher of Betws CP School was not aware of this planning application. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she has received a letter from the Headteacher, which was read to the Councillors.

4.5 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 (14/2006-07).
Councillor Menna Roberts informed the Councillors that Peter Cowell recently attended the Welsh Assembly Planning Hearing regarding the above, and a decision will be made shortly on this planning application.

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Payments

1. Chair Allowance (1st Instalment) £200.00
- TOTAL £200.00
RESOLVED: that the above be paid.

5.2 Income Received

1. Precept (1st Instalment) from Carmarthenshire County Council £4333.34
2. VAT Refund £377.42

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

Not in attendance.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor John D Evans apologised that he was not able to attend last months

meeting. He reported on the following issues:-

1. Foundry Road, Betws - He confirmed that he has requested traffic calming measures to be placed along this road, but to date he has not received a reply from the Highways Department.

2. Wilkinsons Store, Ammanford - He confirmed that he has submitted a request via email (copy handed to the Clerk) that a pelican crossing should be placed from the Car Park opposite to the Wilkinsons Store. His request will be investigated by John McAvoy in due course.

Councillor Betsan Jones proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded that the Community Council also writes to Carmarthenshire County Council requesting that a pelican crossing is placed on the road outside the new Wilkinsons Store in Ammanford as many of the residents living in Betws use this new store.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

3. Colonel Road - Speeding traffic along Colonel Road, meeting has been arranged to meet with the resident concerned.

4. Flooding along Maesquarre Road - He confirmed that he has received an email from the Highways Department who have confirmed that they intend to undertake minor remedial works by constructing new gullies (copy of email handed to the Clerk).

5. Mountain Road - He reported that there was a fatality on the Swansea side of the Mountain Road on Saturday. This stretch of road is extensively used by residents from the Amman Valley. He has written to the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council asking them to liaise with the Highways Department of Swansea City Council regarding placing traffic safety measures along this stretch of road.

The above points were NOTED by the Councillors.

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

8. CLEAN UP CARMARTHENSHIRE CAMPAIGN.

The clean up of the Picnic Area on Betws Mountain, will take place on Thursday the 24th May 2007, at 6.30pm.

The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

9. REPORTS.

9.1 Betws Park Project.

Councillor Annette Price updated the Councillors on the progress to date of the Betws Park Project. 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.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding this matter.

Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that a Special Meeting is held at the end of May to discuss the Betws Park Sensory Garden Open Day. All Councillors agreed.

The Councillors RESOLVED to call a Special Meeting on Monday the 21st May 2007.

Councillor Annette Price was extremely annoyed as the Heritage plaque has been erected in front of the Memorial Garden in Betws Park. The Community Council have previously agreed that this plaque would not be erected until the Park enhancement project has been completed. Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that a meeting has been arranged in Betws Park with an Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council to discuss moving the Heritage plaque.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the plaque should be moved closer to the bridge.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

10.1 Footpaths within Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that as Councillor Peter Cowell has retired the Councillors

need to nominate a Councillor to be responsible for the footpaths within Betws. Councillor Annette Price proposed Councillors Arnallt James and Betsan Jones. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Menna Roberts seconded Councillor Keith Rees. Councillor Delyth Richards also showed an interest. Councillor Betsan Jones proposed the Footpaths Sub Committee should consist of Councillors Keith Rees, Arnallt James, Delyth Richards and Mr Roger Lewis. All Councillors agreed. Councillor Carwyn James proposed walking the Maes Y Betws Footpath on Saturday the 2nd of June at 10am meeting outside the newsagents in Betws. All Councillors agreed.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Footpaths Sub Committee will consist of Councillors Keith Rees, Arnallt James, Delyth Richards and Mr Roger Lewis

10.2 Betws Mine Master Plan.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that as Councillor Peter Cowell has retired the Councillors need to nominate a Councillor to oversee the Betws Mine Master Plan. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed Councillor Keith Rees. Councillor Keith Rees stated that he was not always available during the day to attend meetings. Councillor Anne Sizmur amended her proposal in that all Councillors would be responsible to oversee the Betws Mine Master Plan.
The Councillors RESOLVED that all Councillors would be responsible for overseeing the Betws Mine Master Plan.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Community Council Surgery.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that the next Community Council Surgery will be held in June. The Chair and Arnallt James will be present at the Surgery.
The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

11.2 Refuse Collection.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that residents residing in the new houses along Maesquarre Road leading up to Betws Mountain are concerned as their rubbish is being scattered all over the place. The refuse is being collected before 7am therefore the residents have to place their rubbish out onto the pavement/road the night before. Residents are extremely annoyed as the birds are tearing open the bags and their rubbish is then being dispersed over the road and pavement.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Refuse Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

11.3 Coedcae Footpath.

Councillor Audrey Jones reported that residents walking their dogs along Coedcae Footpath are hanging bags on the posts and fences containing dog mess. Councillor Audrey Jones proposed that the Community Council request dog fouling bins to be placed along this footpath. Councillor Carwyn James also proposed that the Community Council would consider contributing to the cost of the bins.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

11.4 Racial Attack.

Councillor Annette Price was particularly disturbed to hear of the racial attack on a young resident of Betws. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that the Community Council writes a letter to the Guardian stating that the Community Council abhors any form of racism.
The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Guardian.

Meeting terminated at 8.30 pm