

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2007 09 September Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 12th September 2007 at 7.00 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Annette Price and Betsan Jones.

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

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

Councillor Menna Roberts proposed and Councillor Audrey Jones seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th July 2007 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

The Chair welcomed the newly Co-opted Councillor Richard Howell to Betws Community Council.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk read recent correspondence received from Llys Cennen Solicitors, who are requesting names of the trustees that will be signing on behalf of the Community Council. Councillor Carwyn James informed the Councillors that when he met with the Solicitor; the Solicitor reassured Councillor Carwyn James that there would be no Trustees. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk makes further enquiries with Llys Cennen Solicitors regarding the Trustees.

2.2 Heol Y Felin Playground.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council stating that they are in the process of costing upgrades and resurfacing work required at Heol Y Felin, however at present there is insufficient funding for this work and once the costings are finalised the required work will be discussed with Paul Murray. Councillor Keith Rees was not happy with this as there are a number of children still climbing the fence surrounding Heol Y Felin Playground. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.3 Treforis Park.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council stating that following an annual inspection of Treforis Park the play area has been identified as a high risk. The County Council is currently reviewing its play facilities and the decision on the future of this playground will be made once this review is finalised.

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.4 Erection of 16 Wind Turbine Generators on Betws Mountain.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a reply from Rhodri Glyn Thomas, which stated that he has written to the Minister for Environment and Sustainability at the Assembly regarding this matter and have requested her advice on how an inquiry can be undertaken. This will be forwarded onto the Community Council in due course.

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.5 Section 106 Agreement.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a reply from Graham Noakes, which was read to the Councillors. Councillor Carwyn James proposed that the Clerk sends a reply to remind Carmarthenshire County Council of the Section 106 Agreement on the new development on the Betws Colliery Site. All Councillors agreed.

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

2.6 Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority - Fire Services in the Amman Valley.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority stating that Betws Community Council's comments are noted and will be incorporated into the results of the consultation.

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.7 Community Council Insurance.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the 'All Risks' list has been amended accordingly and the Insurance Premium was paid in August 2007.

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.8 Amman Valley Comprehensive.

The Clerk read correspondence received from the Headteacher of Amman Valley Comprehensive School to the Councillors.

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Minor Authority Representative on School Governing Bodies.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council which stated that Councillor June Gunter is currently the Minor Authority Representative on the Governing Body for Betws Primary School, her term of office is to cease on the 31st December 2007, and the Community Council have to select a new representative (the Councillors can however nominate Councillor June Gunter again). Councillor Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Audrey Jones seconded that Councillor June Gunter is again nominated as the Minor Authority Representative on Betws CP School Governing Body. All Councillors agreed.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk informs Carmarthenshire County Council accordingly.

3.2 Betws Park Sensory & Memorial Garden.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received information from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding possible funding to publicise the Betws Park Sensory & Memorial Garden. As the Community Council has already held an 'open day' of the Park, Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed that the Clerk writes to see whether there would be funding available for a 'picnic in Betws Park'. All Councillors agreed.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to enquire whether funding would be available for a picnic in Betws Park?

Councillor June Gunter commended all the Councillors who worked on the Betws Park Project.

3.3 Carmarthen Journal.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from the Reporter of the Carmarthen Journal asking for copies of the Community Council's agendas and minutes.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Carmarthen Journal to inform them that copies of the Community Council's agenda and minutes can be accessed on Betws Community Website.

The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Guardian to inform them that copies of the Community Council's agenda and minutes can be accessed on the Betws Community Website and that these will no longer be submitted via hard copies.

3.4 Inspector Tony Ward.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Inspector Tony Ward has taken up a new role and is being replaced by Inspector Frank Phillips. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that the Community Council writes to Inspector Frank Phillips to see whether he would like to come and meet the Councillors.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Inspector Frank Phillips.

Councillors Arnallt James proposed and all Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to thank Inspector Tony Ward for the assistance he has provided to the Community Council during his term in office.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Inspector Tony Ward.

3.5 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

Carmarthenshire County Council

1.Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations – Consultation.

2.Community Review.

3.Carmarthenshire Partnership Annual Report 2006/07.

4.Carmarthenshire Unitary Development Plan – to be circulated amongst the Councillors.

5.Certificate for the Clean Up Carmarthenshire Campaign – handed to Councillor Menna Roberts in order that it can be placed onto the Community Website.

6.ROWIP Action Plan – Handed to Councillors Keith Rees/Arnallt James.

One Voice Wales

7.AGM 13th October 2007.

8.Carmarthen Area Meeting Thursday the 13th September 2007.

Welsh Assembly Government

9.Consultation – Local Vision, preparing Community Strategies – revise community strategy guidance – handed to Councillor June Gunter.

10.A Shared Community.

Other

11.Amman Valley Enterprise – Community Development Conference.

12.Amman Community Network Meeting – Thursday the 7th February 2008.

13.National Botanic Garden of Wales – The Big Village Show.

14.Tesco - £20 Community Vouchers.

15.HOWLTA Newsletter – handed to Councillor Carwyn James.

16.Local Health Board.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

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

E/16847 – Front Conservatory at 8 Treforis, Betws (20/2007-08).

E/16846 – Taking down existing kitchen/utility room and rebuilding kitchen/bedroom extension at 94 Colonel Road, Betws (21/2007-08).

E/17016 – Resubmission of planning application to convert existing garage into study room at 16 Golwg y Mynydd, Betws (23/2007-08).

E/16909 – footway to be deleted along side on land adjacent to 74 Maesquarre Road, Betws

(22/2007-08) – The Councillors are concerned as to why the owners have concreted over the manhole which is located near the field.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Local Planning Authority.

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

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

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

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

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

E/15850 – Erection of Speculative Industrial Buildings at Betws Colliery (03/2007-08).

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

E/15910 – Proposed Temporary Building at Betws School (06/2007-08).

4.4 Betws Community Council objected to the following planning application:-

E17037 - Change of use of existing washery site to a recycling facility at Glyncywarch Washery, Betws (24/2007-08).

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Payments

August

1. Carmarthenshire County Council (Footway Lighting Charges) £303.76

2. Carmarthenshire Tourist Association (Community Website) £41.13

3. Valley Engraving Ltd (Betws Park Project) £340.46

4. Zurich Insurance (Community Council Insurance) £339.68

September

5. Donation – Capel Newydd Cemetery £150.00

6. Donation – Eglwys Dewi Sant Cemetery £150.00

7. Cllr. Anne Sizmur (Betws in Bloom Competition) £30.00

8. Morgan & Morgan (Stationary) £68.18

9. Clerks Salary & Allowance £854.81

10. Clerks Income Tax £184.78

TOTAL £1437.77

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

5.2 Income Received.

1. Betws Park Project £1900.00

2. Betws Park Project £8550.00

3. Precept from Carmarthenshire County Council (2nd Instalment)£4333.33

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

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 July and seven crimes committed in the Betws area during August.

Councillor Audrey Jones reported that some Police vehicles are travelling along Pentwyn Road at approximately 45mph (without their sirens on). PC Jones stated that he will raise this issue with his Inspector.

County Councillor John D Evans reported that children are causing problems in Heol Y Felin Playground, he asked whether the Police could monitor this situation. PC Jones will look into this matter.

County Councillor John D Evans also reported that a lady was killed last year near the 'Filltir Fain'. Swansea Police have been monitoring the speed of traffic along this road and a vehicle has been recorded travelling at 91mph. County Councillor John D Evans read letter received from Swansea City Council to the Councillors regarding the 'road from Betws to Betws Mountain'. County Councillor John D Evans asked the Clerk to make copies of the letter.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported in the absence of Councillor Annette Price that there has been two incidents reported involving dogs in Treforis. PC Kevin Jones stated that he was not aware of this and reported that he would look into this matter.

Councillor Arnallt James reported that vehicles are still speeding along Maesquarre Road. Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that motorbikes are the main offenders. PC Kevin Jones stated that he will pass this onto the Speed van.

The Councillors NOTED the above points.
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 issue:-

There has been a great deal of public opposition regarding the Planning application on Betws Colliery Site. He confirmed that he has written to the Head of Planning to see if a site visit could be undertaken. The Planning application will go before the Planning Committee of Carmarthenshire County Council at the end of October 2007.

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

8. POLICY ON UNACCEPTABLE ACTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS.

The Clerk had distributed copies of the 'Policy on Unacceptable Actions by Individuals' to the Councillors prior to the Meeting.

The Councillors RESOLVED that Betws Community Council adopts the 'Policy on Unacceptable Actions by Individuals'.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT.

The Clerk informed the Councillors, that a Risk Assessment of the financial controls of the Community Council needs to be undertaken as part of the Internal Audit Review. The Clerk handed copies of the Risk Assessment Schedule to the Councillors. Councillor Delyth Richards had an amendment to make regarding the Welsh Language Policy.

The Councillors RESOLVED that they all agreed to the amendment and also accepted the Risk Assessment.

10. BETWS PARK SUMMER HOUSE/ARCH.

The Clerk asked the Councillors whether they wanted her to continue to investigate placing a preservation order on the Summer House/Arch in Betws Park.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk continues to make enquires regarding placing a preservation order on the Summer House/Arch in Betws Park.

11. DISPOSAL OF BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL DOCUMENTS.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has in her possession the following documents relating to Betws Community Council:-

Bank Statements 1970 – 2000

Invoices 1997 – 2001

Copy of Planning Decision Notices 1987 – 2001

Audit of Accounts 1997 – 2001

The Clerk stated that in accordance with One Voice Wales 'retention of documents' the above documents can be disposed.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk can dispose of the above documents appropriately.

12. REPORTS.

12.1 Betws Park Sensory & Memorial Garden.

The Clerk handed copies of the spreadsheet detailing the payment made and received to the Projects Sub Committee. The Councillors authorised the Clerk to make payment on behalf of the Community Council that relate to the Betws Park Project, as the grant has to be claimed before the end of December.

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

13.1 Community Website.

The Clerk asked the Councillors for authorisation to place the Finance Sub Committee Agendas and Minutes onto the Community Website and also the Agendas and Minutes of the Annual General Meetings.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk can place agendas and minutes of all the Community Council's meeting onto the Community Website.

13.2 Maesquarre Road, Betws.

Councillor Carwyn James reported that there is a hedge overhanging onto the road along Maesquarre Road. The property is called Is-Awl. Councillor Carwyn James proposed and all the Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to the Highways Department.

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

13.3 Footpath 68/11.

Councillor Carwyn James reported that on footpath 68/11 leading from Colonel Road to Maesquarre Road there is a manhole that is above the level of the footpath. Councillor Carwyn James proposed and all the Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to Welsh Water. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Welsh Water to ask them to lower the manhole to be the same level as the footpath.

13.4 Common Land.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that it is the opinion of the residents that they wish to keep the common land. Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed and all the Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to the local Welsh Assembly Member.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Welsh Assembly Member.

13.5 Waungron, Betws.

Councillor Delyth Richards reported that there is a great deal of rubbish on top of the hill near Waungron Road. Councillor Delyth Richards proposed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council, to ask if the rubbish can be cleared. All Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

13.6 Community Council Surgery.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that no members of the public were present at the

Community Council surgery prior to the monthly meeting held in September.
The Councillors NOTED the above point.

Meeting terminated at 8.45 pm