

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2008 02 February Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 13th February 2008 at 7.00 pm.

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting were taken by Councillor Anne Sizmur in the absence of the Clerk Mrs Catherine Brettle.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Richard Howell, Delyth Richards and Community Council Clerk Mrs Catherine Brettle.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
County Councillor John D Evans declared a non pecuniary interest in Page 1 of the Minutes - No's 2.2 and 3.3.

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9th JANUARY 2008.

Councillor Arnallt James proposed and Councillor June Gunter seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9th January 2008 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Chair informed the Councillors that Llys Cennen Solicitors have contacted Mr Jones, in order that he can sign the 'Statutory Declaration'.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk makes enquiries with Llys Cennen Solicitors, to see whether Mr Jones has signed the Declaration.

2.2 Phase 2 – Betws Park Project.

Councillor Annette Price reported that the Youth Officer has not received an invitation from Betws Community Council inviting him to the February Meeting.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk sends another invitation to the Youth Officer.

2.3 Clerks Additional Travelling Expenses in relating to the Betws Park Grant.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk submits a claim for additional travelling expenses incurred.

2.4 Betws School Notice Board.

The Chair informed the Councillors that the Clerk has made enquiries with a company from Llanelli who builds notice boards to the specification of the Customer.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Council repairs the Notice Board by using a local firm and possibly compare, with an estimate cost of a new "suitable for purpose" board.

2.5 Naming of new Residential Development for land adjacent to Maesquarre Road, Betws.

The Chair informed the Councillors that the Community Council have to choose a preferred road name for the above development. A vote was taken and the Councillors **RESOLVED** that 'Ffordd Y Glowr' was their preferred choice.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk submits the Councillors preferred choice to

Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.6 Footpath leading from Waungron Road to Argoed Road, Betws.

The Chair informed the Councillors that the Community Council have not yet received a reply from Gary Carlsen regarding a possible site meeting of the above footpath.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk follows up this matter.

2.7 Pentwyn Road, Betws.

Pentwyn Road now has a much smaller volume of traffic but speeding is as bad or even worse than ever. The Councillors asked whether a speed-monitoring unit could be set up again.

The Councillor RESOLVED to bring this to the attention of the Community Police Officer in next months meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Letter received from County Councillor John D Evans re: Planning Application E/15851 – Open Cast Site on Pontardawe side of Betws Mountain.

The Chair read the letter received from County Councillor John D Evans to the Councillors. The Councillors were not happy with the approval made by Carmarthenshire County Council. The Councillors consider the open cast site to be too close to the proposed Wind Turbine Site. The road and infrastructure is totally unsuitable for large heavy vehicles, as the road is narrow, winding and potentially dangerous. The bridges over Nant Y Ffin stream on Maesquarre Road and Colonel Road are totally unsuitable for large heavy lorries. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Planning Director of the Welsh Assembly Government.

3.2 Awards Ceremony – Betws Park Sensory & Memorial Garden.

The Chair informed the Councillors that two representatives from the Community Council has been invited to attend the Awards Ceremony being held on the 28th February 2008.

The Councillors RESOLVED that Councillors Annette Price and Menna Roberts will attend the Awards Ceremony.

3.3 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council – Children & Young People's Plan 2008.
2. Carmarthenshire County Council – Footway Lighting Charges for 2008/09 - £947.37.
3. Carmarthenshire County Council – Christmas Tree Lights and Decorations.
4. Welsh Assembly Government – Appropriate sum under section 137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.
5. Welsh Assembly Government – Borrowing by Community and Town Councils in 2008-2009.
6. Welsh Assembly Government – Stakeholder Survey 2008 – The Chair to participate in this.
7. Welsh Assembly Government – Local Government Member Code of Conduct.
8. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council – Unitary Development Plan.
9. One Voice Wales Publication – Handed to Councillor Menna Roberts.
10. Blue Damson – Hanging Baskets and Containers.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

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

E/18283 – Outline planning for residential development at land opposite Plough & Harrow, Betws Road, Betws.

4.2 Carmarthenshire County Council has granted planning permission to the following:-

E/18159 – Two storey extension to rear of property at 48 Colonel Road, Betws.

E/17619 – Residential Development (6 Dwellings) land at Colonel Road, Betws.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether a 106 Agreement has been arranged for this development.

4.3 E/17037 – Site Meeting of Glyngywarch Washery, Betws on Tuesday the 4th March 2008.

The Councillors RESOLVED that Councillors Anne Sizmur, Annette Price, Arnallt James, Loreen Lewis, Menna Roberts and Keith Rees attend the site meeting on Tuesday the 4th March 2008. The Clerk to inform Carmarthenshire County Council accordingly.

5. ACCOUNTS.

The Chair informed the Councillors that a request for donation has been received from Jenna Smith who has been selected by Girl Guiding Cymru to take part in an International Camping Jamboree in San Francisco.

The Councillors RESOLVED to provide a donation of £150 to Jenna Smith.

5.1 Payments.

1. Chair Allowance (Final Instalment) £100.00
 2. Eglwys Dewi Sant (Maintenance of Lights) £50.00
 3. Capel Newydd, Betws (Maintenance of Lights) £25.00
 4. Carmarthenshire County Council (Footway Lighting) £303.76
 5. Donation - Jenna Smith (Girl Guiding Cymru) £150.00
- TOTAL £628.76

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

5.2 Income Received.

1. VAT Refund (01/12/07 – 31/12/07) £2619.43
2. Carmarthenshire County Council (Betws Park Project) £4591.49
3. Carmarthenshire County Council (Betws Park Project) £9500.00

The Councillors NOTED the above.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the Monthly Meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there has been one crime committed in the Betws area during January, a mobile phoned has been taken from Ty Coch Night Club, and as yet this is unsolved.

The Councillors drew to PC Jones' attention that there had been an attempted break-in at Councillor Audrey Jones' shop and that a trailer/caravan had been stolen from outside a Maesquarre Road dwelling. PC Jones stated that he had no knowledge of either of these events but he would check and report back at next months meeting.

PC Jones reported that his colleagues had investigated damages in the Treforis Estate and a number of incidents had surfaced.

At a meeting in the Miners' Welfare Hall on February the 11th an agreement had been finalised between the Police and Licensees to pool information. This agreement (from the 1st of March) should ensure that troublemakers in any one premises would be barred from other licensed premises.

PC Jones confirmed that he will investigate the following problems:-

- a) A tent in Betws Park – who is using it and for what purpose?
- b) Waunddwn Road – top end beer cans empty in large numbers.
- c) Betws Square – Rugby Club Vicinity. Regular public disturbances, unacceptable behaviour most evenings – 9.30pm.

The meeting was advised that there is no byelaw relating to "drinking in the streets/public places". Such a byelaw would require primary legislation for which Carmarthenshire County Council has made many attempts over the past years. As a result Police Officers have no

legal force to arrest for the above reason, but the UK Government is investigating the current "problem" situation of wide spread alcoholism.

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 reported on the following issues:-

Together with every other County Councillor, he has £5000 to spend in his Community.

He has spend as follows:

£500 – for the provision of a Miners' Memorial on the former Betws Mine Site.

£3000 – to Betws Primary School for the provision of computers.

He is handing the remaining £1500 to Betws Community Council's use.

He would however, like some of it to be spent on benches in parts of the Community.

The Councillor RESOLVED that the use of the donation will be put on next months agenda.

The Councillors NOTED the above.

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

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Community Network Meeting.

Four Councillors attended the above Meeting in Garnant. There were between 40/50 people present. The majority of who were either County Councillors, Town/Community Councillors, Police Officers or County Council Officers/Representatives.

8.2 Footpaths.

Councillor Arnallt James reported that the footpath between Maesquarre Road and Colonel Road was still flooded after heavy rain. A resident had complained and Councillor Arnallt James himself had been unable to use the footpath. Two County Council Officers met with Councillor Arnallt James and agreed that remedial works is very necessary and they will pursue this matter. The Officers were also told that two footpaths on the former Betws Mine Site have been closed. The situation would be investigated.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1. Footpath Maintenance Vacancy.

Mr Roger Lewis has informed Councillor Arnallt James that he is resigning from his post as maintaining the footpaths within Betws. Mr Lewis has been requested to submit a letter of resignation to the Clerk.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Footpath Maintenance Vacancy be put on next months Agenda.

9.2 Nant Y Ffin Bridge.

Complaints have been received, regarding pieces of fencing on the banks of the stream at Nant Y Ffin Bridge. There is fear that if this debris is blown into the steam, a dam effect will be created and a 'flood situation' could ensue.

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

9.3 Pentwyn Road.

New pipe works are being laid along Pentwyn Road as part of a new system. Two Councillors have been told that as part of this system, black pipe are being laid at the river end, which will discharge water directly in the River Amman.

The Councillors RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the Environment Agency asking as a matter of urgency, that this information can be checked and any necessary action is taken.

9.4 Community Council Surgery.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that no members of the Public were present in the Community Council Surgery held prior to this months meeting.
The Councillors NOTED the above point.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm