

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2008 07 July Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 9th July 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Annette Price (Chairperson), Councillors Carwyn James, Anthony Richards, Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, Betsan Jones, Richard Howell, Maldwyn John, Menna Roberts and Catherine Smith.

APOLOGIES: Councillors D Arnallt James and Community and County Councillor Audrey Jones.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
NOTED that no member declared a Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest.

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11th JUNE 2008.

Councillor Annette Price stated that it was Councillor Loreen Lewis that had raised the amendment to minute ref no. 9.4 in the previous meeting. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the minutes be amended accordingly.

Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed and the Councillors agreed that the Councillors names be omitted from any issues they raise with the Police. Councillor Carwyn James proposed and Councillor Richard Howell seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th June 2008 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors of the current situation regarding the land at Heol Y Felin, Betws. The Clerk to arrange a further meeting with the Solicitor. The Councillors **NOTED** the above point.

2.2 Purchase of a Community Council Notice Board.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has placed an order for a Community Council notice board; she is currently waiting for confirmation from Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether the notice board can be placed on the railings outside the school. The Councillors **NOTED** the above point.

2.3 Dog Fouling within Betws Park.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has spoken to the dog warden section, which has confirmed that they will monitor Betws Park. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas to enquire whether 'no dog fouling' signs and 'dogs must be kept on their leads at all times' signs can be erected along the entrances into Betws Park.

2.4 Project Ideas.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has placed an order for the benches and the bin with Carmarthenshire County Council. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she has not yet received a price for a picnic bench for Betws CP School from Gerwyn Thomas. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.5 Footpath Maintenance Vacancy.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has now received written confirmation from Mr Burrigge that he has accepted the post of the officer responsible for maintaining the footpaths

within Betws. The Chair, Councillor Annette Price reported that she has received a number of complaints regarding the overgrown brambles on various footpaths within Betws. She has spoken to Mr Burrige but he has refused to cut the brambles, as there is dog mess in the brambles, which is being thrown up when he is cutting the brambles. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Rights of Way Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to obtain a Job description for the officer responsible for maintaining the footpaths within Betws.

2.6 Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received confirmation from the Public Lighting Department that lamp post no.803-13 has now been removed from Y Felin, Betws. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.7 Donation – Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that she will hold onto the cheque for 'Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund' until the Betws in Bloom Presentation Evening. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.8 Footpaths within Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to date from Gary Carlsen regarding the possibility of having a site meeting. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.9 Betws Football Club.

The Clerk read response received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the above. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Ammanford AFC, to enquire what are their proposals for the land. Councillor Catherine Smith also confirmed that she will make enquiries with the Land Registry regarding ownership of the land.

2.10 Fatality within the Community of Betws.

The Clerk read letter received from the Ambulance Service to the Councillors who confirmed that the "incident is currently subject to a serious adverse incident investigation and when this is complete they will provide a fuller response". The Councillors RESOLVED to pursue this matter in December if further information is not forthcoming.

2.11 Gwalia Housing - Parc Penrhiw.

The Clerk read response received from Gwalia Housing. The Councillors were not happy with the response received and RESOLVED that the Clerk submits a further response to Gwalia Housing to enquiring whether Gwalia Housing Association are going to honour their contract with their Tenant?

2.12 Betws Park – Spot Light.

The Clerk has not received a response from Gerwyn Thomas regarding the possibility of having a spotlight on the Betws Park Sensory and Memorial Garden. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk follows up this matter.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

Carmarthenshire County Council

?Carmarthenshire Road Safety Plan 2010 – passed to Councillor Richard Howell.

?Betws Park Sensory and Memorial Garden – DVD and Photos were handed to the Councillors.

Welsh Assembly Government

?Review of Electoral Arrangements.

Others

?Ombudsman – How to complain that a local authority member has broken the code of

conduct - handed to each Councillor.

?One Voice Wales – Training Programme – Councillors Catherine Smith, Anthony Richards and the Clerk's name to be forwarded onto One Voice Wales.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 Betws Community Council offered no objections to the following planning applications:-

Planning

Ref. No. Description B.C.C.

Ref. No.

E/19407 Conversion of existing garage into study area, at 13

Golwg Y Mynydd, Betws. (07-2008/09)

E/19326 Change of use of an existing garage into a dwelling room,

at 20 Golwyg Y Mynydd, Betws. (06-2008/09)

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Donations.

Councillor Carwyn James reported that 6 requests for donations had been received since the last Finance Sub Committee Meeting held in March. The Councillors discussed the requests in detail. The Councillors RESOLVED to write to Betws Cricket Club to enquire what equipment they need for the club.

5.2 Payment of Invoices.

1. Capel Newydd Vestry (6 x Community Council Meetings - 001042) £60.00

2. Photocopying Charges (Betws In Bloom Entry Forms - 001043) £17.50

3. Donation – Marie Curie Cancer Care (001044) £50.00

4. Donation – Urdd Gobaith Cymru (001045) £100.00

5. Donation – Ammanford Town Silver Band (001046) £150.00

6. Donation – Shelter Cymru (001047) £100.00

7. Donation – Age Concern (001048) £100.00

Total £577.50

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

5.3 Footpath Maintenance 2007/08.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has only received reimbursement from Carmarthenshire County Council for half of the footpath maintenance programme for 2007/08. The Clerk confirmed that she has attempted on several occasions to obtain the outstanding money for the footpath maintenance programme for 2007/08 but has been unsuccessful. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Head of Leisure and Sport.

5.4 Authorised Signatories.

Councillor Betsan Jones and Councillor Richard Howell confirmed that they have completed and returned the Authorised Signatories list to Lloyds TSB. The Councillors NOTED the above.

5.5 Community Council Payments during August.

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. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk can process payments on behalf of the Community Council in August.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PCSO Dan Garnell and PC Mathew Harrison attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. PCSO Garnell reported that there were five crimes committed in the Betws area during the month of June.

PCSO Garnell reported that he has received a number of complaints regarding boy racers using the field at Betws Football Club. The Councillors also expressed their concerns regarding youngsters causing trouble on the football field. PCSO Garnell confirmed that he will patrol Betws Football Club in the evenings.

A Councillor also informed PCSO Garnell of a situation regarding a youngster overloading his vehicle with passengers. PCSO Garnell confirmed that he will speak to the driver concerned.

The Councillors NOTED the above points. The Chairperson thanked the officers from Dyfed Powys Police for attending the meeting.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that County Councillor Audrey Jones was unwell and not able to attend the meeting. Councillor Annette Price reported on the following issues on behalf of the County Councillor:-

Tip – She has requested a site meeting of the tip, but to date has not received a response.

Arch in Betws Park – She confirmed that she will not be receiving a response until the 13th of July.

Relocation of Post Box from Colonel Road to Woodlands – She has not received a response to date. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Post Office direct.

8. WIND TURBINE PLANNING INQUIRY.

The Clerk forwarded copies of the amended planning inquiry letter onto the Councillors prior to the Community Council Meeting. The Councillors discussed the letter in detail and RESOLVED that this would be submitted to the Planning Inspector.

9. COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she recently attended a Seminar on 'Councillors Code of Conduct'. The Councillors RESOLVED to place this on the September Meeting Agenda.

10. REPORTS.

10.1 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that the Betws in Bloom competition had to be judged immediately due to the poor weather conditions. Councillor Loreen Lewis also informed the Councillors that when she contacted one of the applicants to inform them of the date the judging would take place, the applicant confirmed that they did not enter the Betws in Bloom competition and they have asked to view the entry slip. The Councillors discussed this matter and RESOLVED that Councillor Lewis forwards a copy of the entry slip onto the applicant concerned.

Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed that the Betws in Bloom Presentation Evening is to be held in August. The Councillors agreed. The Clerk handed £20 Tesco vouchers to Councillor Loreen Lewis and informed the Councillors that these vouchers were received last year after the opening of Betws Park Sensory and Memorial Garden.

Councillor Loreen Lewis also reported that Mrs Anne Sizmur has judged the painting competition in Betws CP School and that she requires some certificates and prize money to present to the pupils of the school. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Mrs Sizmur regarding the prize money. The Councillors also RESOLVED that the children who took part in the painting competition from Betws CP School are invited to the Betws in Bloom Presentation Evening.

10.2 One Voice Wales Meeting.

Councillor Carwyn James updated the Councillors on the meeting he recently attended with

Councillor Menna Roberts. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

10.3 Closure of Local Post Offices.

Councillor June Gunter reported that she was concerned regarding the closure of local Post Offices within the County. The rest of the Councillors also expressed their concerns. The Councillors RESOLVED that they forward their concerns direct.

10.4 One Voice Wales – Funding.

Councillor Menna Roberts informed the Councillors on the possibility of receiving funding from The Ramblers for Community Councils. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to One Voices Wales to obtain further information regarding this matter.

11. FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Footpath Maintenance Programme for 2008/09 needs to be returned to Carmarthenshire County Council as soon as possible. The Councillors RESOLVED to place this on the agenda for the September Community Council Meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

12.1 Weigh Restriction on the Bridges in Betws.

Councillor Menna Roberts enquired whether a weight restriction exercise has been carried out on the bridges within Betws. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she will pursue this matter with Carmarthenshire County Council as they are due to undertake a review of the bridges within Betws within the next few months. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

12.2 Old Betws Colliery Site.

Councillor Menna Roberts reported that the lagoons near the tip on the old Betws Colliery Site are full of water. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

12.3 Footpath leading from Waunddwfn to Bryncelyn House.

Councillor Catherine Smith reported that there are dogs loose on the footpath leading from Waunddwfn to Bryncelyn House. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the landowner.

12.4 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

Councillor Annette Price reported that Mr Keith Rees has asked for permission to use the land at Heol y Felin, Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr Rees to obtain further information regarding the use of the area.

12.5 June 2008 Community Council Meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that the Clerk has written a letter to Mr and Mrs Jones to apologise that they were unable to present their report at the June 2008 Community Council Meeting. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

12.6 Community Council Surgeries.

The Councillors RESOLVED as follows:-

September Meeting – Councillors June Gunter and Betsan Jones

November Meeting – Councillors Catherine Smith and Menna Roberts

January Meeting – Councillors Maldwyn John and Richard Howell

March Meeting – Councillors Loreen Lewis and Anthony Richards

May Meeting – Councillors Carwyn James and Annette Price

12.7 Betws Park.

Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas to see whether the Children from Betws CP School can plant daffodil bulbs in Betws Park. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas.

12.8 Maesybetws Footpath.

Councillor Catherine Smith informed the Councillors that there is a large quantity of dog fouling along Maesybetws footpath; residents are placing bags of dog fouling on the fence along the footpath. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk enquires to see whether 'no dog fouling' signs can be place on the entrance to the footpath