

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2008 06 June Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 11th June 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Annette Price (Chairperson), Alderman D Arnallt James, Councillors Carwyn James, Anthony Richards, Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, Betsan Jones, Richard Howell and Maldwyn John.
Community and County Councillor Audrey Jones.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Menna Roberts and Catherine Smith.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

NOTED that Councillor Maldwyn John signed and dated the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'.

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 14th MAY 2008.

Councillor Annette Price had an amendment to make to minute ref no. 9.4 – in that last year there was only 9 meter left until the tip reached the required height. Since last year the height of the tip has vastly increased. All Councillors agreed to the amendment. Councillor Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Betsan Jones seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14th May 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 that she and the Chair recently visited the Solicitor regarding the above. The Solicitor required further information in relation to the location of the land. The Councillors RESOLVED to hold a Special Meeting to further discuss this matter. A Special Meeting arranged for Tuesday the 17th June at 7.30pm.

The Chair reminded the Councillors that any information discussed by the Councillors at the Community Council Meeting must not be discussed or disclosed outside of the Meetings. All the Councillors unanimously agreed.

2.2 Purchase a Community Council Notice Board.

The Clerk handed various notice board designs to the Councillors. The Councillors unanimously agreed to purchase a 'notice board with a green arch'. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk purchases the notice board accordingly. The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Betws School and Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire whether the notice board can be placed on the pavement outside Betws CP School.

2.3 Maesquarre Road Playground.

Councillor Richard Howell informed the Councillors that he has received the plans of Betws Colliery Site from Mr Keith Rees. He has also spoken to the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council, who have confirmed that the "equipment should be installed as soon as is practical". The Councillors NOTED the above point.

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

The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to the Councillors, which stated, "that a section 106 agreement applies to developments of more than 10 dwellings". The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.5 Dog Fouling within Betws Park.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not been able to get in touch with the Dog Warden. Councillor Betsan Jones was still concerned with dogs running free within Betws Park. The Councillors were extremely concerned with this and RESOLVED that the Clerk follows up this matter.

2.6 Flooding on the Footpath leading from Maesquarre Road to Colonel Road, Betws. Councillor Arnallt James confirmed that this matter has been rectified for the time being. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.7 Project Ideas.

The Clerk informed the Councillors of the prices to purchase and install benches and bins within the Community. The Councillors unanimously RESOLVED that the Clerk purchases the following items:-

- 2 x Benches for Treforis – Cllr. Annette Price to advise of precise location.
- 1 x Bench Pentwyn Road – Cllr. Betsan Jones to advise of precise location.
- 1 x Bench Betws Park
- 1 x Bin Betws Park

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Headteacher of Betws CP School is extremely grateful to the Community Council for recommending purchasing a bin for the school yard, but at present this is not needed. The Headteacher has suggested that if the Community Council would like to purchase an item for the school, would they consider purchasing a picnic table for the school yard. The councillors discussed this matter and unanimously RESOLVED that the Clerk enquires into the cost of purchasing a picnic table for the schoolyard.

2.8 Footpath Maintenance Vacancy.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has still not received written confirmation that Mr Burrige has accepted the post of the officer responsible to maintain the footpaths within the vicinity of Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that unfortunately until the Clerk receives written confirmation from Mr Burrige, he will not be paid by the Community Council. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes again to Mr Burrige.

2.9 Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Public Lighting Department have confirmed that lamppost no.803-13 will be removed within the next few weeks. Councillor June Gunter stated that this post is still in place. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk chases up this matter with the Public Lighting Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.10 Donation.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that she has not presented the donation from the Community Council to 'Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund' as she did not have the address. The Councillors RESOLVED that the donation will be presented in the Betws in Bloom Presentation Evening and that the Chair hands the cheque back to the Clerk.

2.11 Betws Family Centre.

The Clerk read correspondence received from the Head of Children's Services, from Carmarthenshire County Council. The Councillors wanted to know when the coordinator would commence duties in the Family Centre. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk follows up this matter, Councillor Annette Price to provide a contact name and address to the

Clerk.

2.12 Health Pael Meeting

Councillor June Gunter updated the Councillors on the recent meeting she had attended and was disappointed to note that these meeting are just a 'taking shop'. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Health Panel to enquire what are their objectives for holding these meeting?

2.13 Footpaths within Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a response from Gary Carlsen of Carmarthenshire County Council, which stated that the footpaths would be transformed into bridleways. The Councillors required further information as to why these footpaths are being changed into bridleways. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk asks Gary Carlsen for a site meeting.

2.14 Betws Soccer Club.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the former land of Betws Soccer Club. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk follows up this matter with Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.15 Fatality within the Community of Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to her letter regarding the tragic fatality with the Community of Betws on Saturday the 26th April. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes again to the Ambulance Service to enquire why it took ¾ of an hour for the ambulance service to respond to a 999 call.

2.16 Gwalia Housing - Parc Penrhiw.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to her letter regarding the recent drugs raid in Parc Penrhiw. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes again to Gwalia Housing.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Letter received from Dr J D Evans – Wind Turbines Inquiry.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has recently received correspondence from Dr J D Evans concerning the Wind Turbines inquiry, which was read to the Councillors. The Councillors RESOLVED to hold a special meeting on Monday the 23rd of June at 6.30pm in order to discuss this matter and also to invite Dr J D Evans to attend the meeting.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

Carmarthenshire County Council

?Community Network Surgery Sessions.

?Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan, Discussion Paper – Passed around the Councillors (place on next months agenda).

One Voice Wales

?Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales – forwarded onto Councillor Menna Roberts.

Others

?Ombudsman - Annual Report 2007/08.

?Countryside Council for Wales Booklet – handed to Councillor Richard Howell.

?HOWLTA Newsletter – handed to Councillor Carwyn James.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

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

Planning

Ref. No. Description B.C.C.

Ref. No.

E/19261 Residential development of 8 Bungalows land at the rear of 16-20 and 24-30 Betws Road, Betws (05-2008/09)

E/19048 Residential dwelling land part of Llys Havard, Woodlands Park, Betws (04-2008/09)

4.2 Carmarthenshire County Council has responded to the Councillors comments regarding E/18772 – Replacement Class A1 Foodstore, Car Parking, Cycle Path and Ancillary Works at Tesco Store, Park Street, Ammanford:-

a)The new relief road shall extend along the river side of the application site in a similar manner to that part of the road which presently exists.

b)The opening hours of the proposed store are not known.

c)The concern with regard to the unloading of vehicles is noted.

d)Again, the concern with regard to the traffic implications is noted.

The Councillors NOTED the above points.

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Internal Audit.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Mr Llyn Llewellyn has completed the Internal Audit on the Community Council's Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008 and there were no points to address. The Chairperson signed and dated the working ledger. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

5.2 External Audit.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the External Audit was set for the 8th August 2008. The Chairperson signed and dated the Annual Return. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

5.3 Payment of Invoices.

1.Carmarthenshire Tourist Association (Community Celebration Evening)£10.00

2.Clerk Salary & Allowance £908.04

3. Clerk Income Tax £175.20

4. Mr Lyn Llewellyn (Internal Audit) £60.00

Total £1153.24

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police and reported that there were 10 crimes committed in the Betws area during the month of May.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed PC Jones that there are youngsters causing trouble in the lane opposite the cemetery near Woodlands late at night. PC Kevin Jones confirmed that he would look into this matter.

Councillor Betsan Jones informed PC Jones that there are youngsters pitching tents on the soccer field in Betws. PC Kevin Jones confirmed that he will continually visit the soccer field.

Councillor Audrey Jones informed PC Jones that furniture have been dumped into the river near Betws Park. PC Jones stated that he would contact Carmarthenshire County Council to remove these items.

Councillor Richard Howell informed PC Jones that the young man is still driving around the village with 'L' plates on his tractor. Councillor June Gunter stated that the young man is also driving the tractor with passenger on the soccer field. PC Kevin Jones stated that he would look into the law of driving a tractor on the road and also driving with passengers.

Councillor Arnallt James stated that he was concerned as vehicles are speeding along Maesquarre Road. PC Jones stated that he will try and arrange to have the speed camera positioned on Maesquarre Road, Betws.

The Councillors NOTED the above points. The Chairperson thanked PC Kevin Jones for the above report.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor Audrey Jones reported on the following issues:-

Tip – She has received a letter from Hugh Towns who is currently investigating whether a breach of planning has occurred.

Footpaths 3/14 & 3/16 – She reported that Gary Carlsen will contact the landowners regarding improvements of these footpaths.

Pentwyn Road (sinking road and pavement) – She is still waiting for a response regarding this matter.

Arch in Betws Park – She confirmed that she will look into this matter.

Llwyn Ddu Farm – She is waiting for a response regarding the animals drinking polluted water from the stream near Pantybetws Farm and Llwyn Du Farm as there is rust seeping into the water.

Heol Y Felin Playground – She has received a letter from the Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council, which stated ‘that this is in the capital work programme and they will investigate to see whether the work is urgent’.

Treforis Playground – She reported that the play equipment needs to be replaced; she will contact Gerwyn Thomas. She also reported that temporary fencing has been replaced around the playground.

Change location of the Post Box from Colonel Road to Woodlands Park – She is currently waiting for someone to come to see her.

Maesquarre Road Playground – She reported that new trees would be planted on the bank behind the playground.

The Councillors NOTED the above points. The Chairperson thanked County Councillor Audrey Jones for the above report.

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Betws Park.

Councillor Annette Price asked the Clerk to enquire regarding having a spotlight on the memorial garden and also Christmas lights in Betws Park. All Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk makes enquiries with Carmarthenshire County Council.

Councillor Annette Price was disappointed to note that the plants in the memorial garden in Betws Park have wilted and died, these plants were only planted last year.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Gerwyn Thomas of Carmarthenshire County Council to try to rectify this matter.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has spoken to Gareth Howells from Carmarthenshire County Council who has confirmed that he will place a pole in the middle of the gates into Betws Park to stop unauthorised vehicles from entering the Park. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that the picnic in the park would have to be deferred to September as the rules and regulations have changed since last year. The Projects Sub Committee now intend on having a ‘teddy bears picnic’ in Betws Park in September where they would invite pupils from Betws CP School and Betws Family Centre. They would also have a bouncy castle, fact painting and a climbing wall. The Councillors unanimously agreed and NOTED the above point.

8.2 Llwyn Ddu Farm and Pantybetws Farm.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she has referred this matter onto the Local MP, who will look into this matter. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 20mph Speed Limit outside Betws CP School.

Councillor Richard Howell asked why a 20mph speed limit could not be put into place outside Betws CP School. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

9.2 Community Council Surgery.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the next Community Council Surgery is to be held on the 9th July 2008 between 6.30 and 7.00pm. Councillor Anthony Richards to place this information in the Guardian newspaper.

9.3 Resolved Issues – Guardian Newspaper.

Councillor Annette Price proposed - all issues that have been resolved by the Community Council should be published under 'community news' in the Guardian newspaper, all the Councillors unanimously agreed. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm