

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2008 05 May Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 14th May 2008 at 7.00 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Maldwyn John.

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 9th APRIL 2008.

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

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Llys Cennen Solicitors in approximately 3 months to see whether they have registered the land in the name of Betws Community Council.

2.2 Community Council Notice Board.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she is still waiting for information regarding notice boards. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.3 Missing Road Sign (Maesquarre Road, Betws)

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a telephone call from the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council who have confirmed that there are a few road signs missing within the vicinity of Betws. These signs will be replaced in approximately 6-8 weeks. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.4 Maesquarre Road Playground.

The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Planning Enforcement Manager to the Councillors, which stated "that no breach of planning control has occurred at this instance". Councillor Richard Howell stated that he would obtain copies of the Betws Mine Site Plans from Mr Keith Rees. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

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

The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Planning Department to the Councillors, which stated "that the planning application has already been approved at the Planning Committee on the 31st January 2008, and there is now no scope to enter into a Section 106 Agreement". Councillor Carwyn James proposed that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department to ask for clarification as to why Carmarthenshire County Council did not apply for a Section 106 Agreement on behalf of the Community of Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.6 Dog Fouling.

The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Planning Department to the Councillors, which stated that the Community Warden has forwarded the Community Council's letter onto the Environmental Enforcement Officer. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

Councillor Betsan Jones informed the Councillors that she has received a number of complaints from local residents concerning the number of dogs, which are left off their leads to run free within Betws Park. The Councillors were extremely concerned with this and RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Dog Warden for advice.

2.7 Flooding on the Footpath leading from Maesquarre Road to Colonel Road, Betws.
The Clerk read an email received from the Public Rights of Way Officer to the Councillors concerning the above footpath. Councillor Arnallt James was still concerned with the flooding of this footpath as the bank on the bridge is encroaching into the stream. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk asks the Public Rights of Way Officer to contact Councillor Arnallt James direct in order to resolve this matter.

2.8 Project Ideas.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received prices from Gerwyn Thomas for the following items:-

Bin £170 each

Benches £387 each

Animal Hippo Bin £300 each

The Clerk is waiting to receive the cost of installing the above from Carmarthenshire County Council.

Councillor Carwyn James proposed and all the Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to the Headteacher of Betws CP School to see whether she requires a bin for the schoolyard. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mrs James, Headteacher of Betws CP School.

2.9 Footpath Maintenance Vacancy.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received written confirmation from Mr Burrige that he has accepted the post of the officer responsible to maintain the footpaths within the vicinity of Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr Burrige.

2.10 Footpaths within Betws.

The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Countryside and Recreation Unit to the Councillors. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards a copy of the letter received onto Mr Peter Cowell.

2.11 Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Public Lighting Department would like to meet with the Councillors regarding lamp no. 803-13, which is situated along Y Felin, Betws. Councillor June Gunter proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded that the Community Council asks Carmarthenshire County Council to take down the deteriorating lamp post as it is a health and safety issue. All Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk informs the Public Lighting Department accordingly.

2.12 Donation.

The Councillors RESOLVED that a donation of £200 is provided to 'Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund'.

2.13 Waungron Road, Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council, which stated, that the "hedge cuttings had been cleared away when the Highway Superintendent inspected the area on the 25th April 2008". The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.14 Nant Y Ffin Bridge and Colonel Road Bridge, Betws.

The Clerk read correspondence received from the Technical Services Department of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the above. Which stated, "that a structural assessment would be completed in due course". The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk chases up this matter in 2 months time.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Resignation Letter received from Mr J D Evans.

The Clerk read correspondence received from Mr J D Evans regarding the Betws Family Centre, to the Councillors. Councillor Loreen Lewis stated that there is no one running the Centre at the moments apart from Councillor Annette Price. Councillor Betsan Jones officially thanked Councillor Annette Price for volunteering to run the Centre. Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed and Councillor June Gunter seconded that the Community Council writes to the Head of Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council to ask when will the Coordinator starts in Betws Family Centre. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Head of Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Letter received from Mrs Anne Sizmur.

2. One Voice Wales – Conference and AGM 2008.

3. One Voice Wales – Area Committee Representatives – Representatives are Councillors Annette Price and Carwyn James.

4. Community Network Meetings 2008 – Councillors Menna Roberts and Anthony Richards to attend on behalf of Betws Community Council.

5. Carmarthenshire County Council – Part Night Lighting.

6. Carmarthenshire County Council – Public Footpath 3/12 Pant Y Banwen, Betws - Map Modification Order 2008.

7. Local Health Board (Carmarthenshire) – Health Panel Meeting – Councillor June Gunter to attend the meeting.

8. Calor Village of the Year.

9. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority – Draft Risk Reduction Action Plan 2009/10 Consultation.

10. WREN Funding – passed onto the Projects Sub Committee.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 The following planning application was approved by Betws Community Council:-

E/18954 - Extension to dwelling to provide bathroom, utility and granny annex at Tyn y Cwm, Garnswllt, Ammanford (03-2008/09).

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

E/07424 – To retain part of a building under construction for agricultural use including storage of implements at 2 Coopers Well, Garnswllt, Ammanford (09-2004/05).

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Payments.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Seminar) £30.01

2. Chair Allowance (1st Instalment) £200.00

3. Donation (Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund) £200.00

Total £430.01

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

5.2 Income.

1.VAT Refund (01/01/08 – 31/03/08) £106.79

2.Carmarthenshire County Council (1st Precept Instalment) £4666.66

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

Dyfed Powys Police were not present at the Community Council Meeting.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor Audrey Jones has no issues to rise at the Meeting.

Councillor Carwyn James proposed that a letter of thanks is sent to the preceding County Councillor John D Evans for his service over the past 12 years. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk send a letter of thanks to the preceding County Councillor John D Evans.

Councillor Annette Price informed County Councillor Audrey Jones that local residents are complaining about the surfaces in Treforis Parc and Heol y Felin Playground. In Heol y Felin Playground the gate has fallen from its hinges and there is also glass on the floor. In Treforis Playground there is a swing missing from the play area and there is also a fencing panels missing. County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

Councillor Betsan Jones informed County Councillor Audrey Jones that she is concerned as the road is sinking and the pavement is very rough along Pentwyn Road where works have recently been carried out to the water pipes. County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that she is concerned as animals are drinking polluted water from the stream near Pantybetws Farm and Llwyn Du Farm as there is rust seeping into the water. County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that residents from Woodlands Park are complaining as there is no post box near by. Councillor Annette Price asked County Councillor Audrey Jones whether she could make enquiries to see whether the post box could be moved down from Colonel Road to Woodlands Park. County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

The Councillors NOTED the above points.

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Footpaths.

Councillor Audrey Jones informed the Councillors that the footpath is closed on Betws Colliery. Councillor Arnallt James also informed the Councillors that the following footpaths are closed:-

Waunddwfn to Scibor Wen

Glyncywarch to Cwm Rhyd Yr Eryn

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr Carlsen of Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire why these footpaths are closed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 Betws Soccer Club.

Councillor June Gunter informed the Councillors that she is concerned as Betws Soccer Club has closed down and she is anxious to know what is now going to happen to the land. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire what is now going to happen to the land.

9.2 Heol y Felin Playground, Betws.

Councillor Richard Howell reported that two trees have decayed in Heol y Felin Playground; he asked whether these could be removed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk asks Mr Burrridge to have look into this matter.

9.3 Betws Park.

Councillor Loreen Lewis stated that unauthorised vehicles are entering Betws Park. The Parks Department of Carmarthenshire County Council promised some time ago to place a pole in the middle of the gate to stop vehicles from entering the park. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas of Carmarthenshire County Council.

9.4 Betws Colliery Site.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that local residents are concerned regarding Glyncywarch Colliery as materials are being dumped on top of the tip. Local residents were under the impression that trees were going to be planted on top of the Colliery. The Councillors referred this matter onto County Councillor Audrey Jones. The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Hugh Towns.

9.5 Picnic in Betws Park.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that the possible date for the Picnic in Betws Park is Saturday the 21st June. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

9.6 Fatality within the Community of Betws.

Councillor Annette Price was extremely annoyed with the Ambulance Service, as there was a tragic fatality in the village on Saturday the 26th April, where a young mother of four children, died as a result of the ambulance service taking up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour to respond to a 999 call. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Ambulance Service to enquire why it took $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour for the ambulance service to respond to a 999 call.

9.7 Parc Penrhiw.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that the Journal and the Guardian Newspapers have reported that there has been a recent drugs raid in Parc Penrhiw. Councillor Annette Price was very anxious to hear of this and was concerned over the residents of Parc Penrhiw. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Gwalia Housing Association to enquire what are they now going to do about this matter.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm