

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2008 11 November Minutes

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

PRESENT:

Councillor Annette Price (Chairperson), Councillors Carwyn James, Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, Maldwyn John, Menna Roberts, Catherine Smith, O Arnallt James, Richard Howell, Anthony Richards and County Councillor Audrey Jones.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Betsan 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 8th OCTOBER 2008.

Councillor Catherine Smith proposed and Councillor June Gunter seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 8th October 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 has not received an estimate of the Community Council's costs to date from the Solicitor. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter and also asks for an update regarding this issue.

2.2 Community Council Notice Board.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she is currently waiting for confirmation from Mr Francis regarding a site meeting. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.3 Dog Fouling Signs at Betws Park.

The Clerk confirmed that she has not received a response to date from Gerwyn Thomas regarding the dog fouling signs at Betws Park. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.4 Picnic Bench - Betws CP School.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not yet received confirmation for the Headteacher of Betws CP School regarding her preferred choice of a picnic bench. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.5 Community Council Benches and Bin.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response from Mr Gerwyn Thomas regarding the recent order placed with Carmarthenshire County Council for benches and a bin. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.6 Betws Park - Sensory & Memorial Garden.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to date from Mr Gerwyn Thomas with regards to placing a solar light on the Sensory & Memorial Garden in Betws Park. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.7 Footpaths within Betws.

Councillor Arnallt James was concerned with regards to the footpaths within Betws. Councillor Arnallt James proposed that the Clerk asks to have a site meeting with Gary Carlsen. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Gary Carlsen to see whether he is prepared to have a site meeting with the Councillors.

2.8 Community Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has contacted Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the Community Councillor vacancy. The County Council have provided notices to be erected within Betws. The closing date Community Councillor vacancy is the 21st of November. The Councillors NOTED the above point

2.9 Lagoons. Old Betws Colliery Site, Betws.

The Clerk read letter received from Carmarthenshire County Council to the Councillors concerning the lagoons on the Old Betws Colliery Site. The Councillors were extremely concerned for the safety of the public. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to proprietor to express the Councillors concerns.

2.10 Drainage / Surface Water - Maesquarre Road, Betws.

The Clerk read response to the Councillors received from Mr Trevor Sage of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the surface water drainage along Maesquarre Road. He stated 'that a possible solution would be to provide kerbing which could be used to guide the water into the gullies. Maesquarre Road will be added onto the capital investment list for future consideration'. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Carmarthenshire Riders Group.

The Clerk read correspondence recently received from the Carmarthenshire Riders Group to the Councillors. Councillor Loreen Lewis was concerned as to how the riders are going to reach the bridleways. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk replies to the letter stating that the Community Council are not opposed to any bridleways and they are hoping to have 2 new bridleways as part of the 106 Scheme.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted. Dyfed Powys Police Authority - Policing Plan 2009/12.
Carmarthenshire County Council - New kerbside recycling scheme. ~ Carmarthenshire County Council - Seasonal Decorations.
Carmarthenshire Tourist Association - Carmarthenshire Tourist Industry Dinner.
Welsh Assembly Government - Fire & Rescue National Framework for Wales 2008/11. ~ Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Improvement Plan 2008/09.
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority - Risk Reduction Action Plan 2009/10.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

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

E/20108 - Detached double garage, agricultural storage area, replacement of existing structure at Banc y Wern Farm, Betws 10-2008/09
E/20161 - Single storey extension to rear of dwelling at 34 Pentwyn Road, Betws 12-2008/09
E/20162 - Formation of surface water attenuation pond at the land of The former Betws Colliery, Pentwyn Road, Betws 13-2008/09

4.2 Betws Community Council had comments to make with regards to the following planning application:-

E/20206 - Change of use from stables into granny annex at Brynffin, Colonel Road, Betws 14-2008/09

4.3 Betws Community Council required further clarification from Carmarthenshire County

Council regarding the following planning application:-

E/20160 - To install approx 30 meters of 132kv overhead line from Existing tower C87 to new substation at Betws Mountain Substation, Betws 11-2008/09

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

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

E/20017 - Extension to domestic garage at 43 Maesquarre Road, Betws 09/2008/09

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 External Audit

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the external audit has been completed for 2007/08 and there were no points to raise. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

5.2 Payment of Invoices.

1. Poppy Appeal (2 x Remembrance Wreaths) (001065) £40.00

2. BOO Stoy Hayward (External Audit) (001066) £470.00

Total £510.00

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 4 crimes committed within the Betws area during the month of October, which consisted of a theft from a vehicle, criminal damage other, drugs possession and other offence. To date 2 crimes have been detected.

PC Kevin Jones reported that the Blue Light Disco is being held on the 13th of November at the Aman Centre for 11-14 year olds. PC Kevin Jones also reported that the Police are looking into the possibility of holding a disco for the 15-17 year olds.

The Councillors reported the following issues to PC Kevin Jones:-

1. The Councillors expressed their concerns regarding the recent fatality within the village -

PC Kevin Jones could not comment on this incident at present.

2. Colonel Road, Heol Y Felin and the Square - the Councillors reported that there are always a number of vehicles parked on the pavement and also on the road - PC Kevin Jones confirmed that he would undertake a letter drop.

3. The Councillors have received a number of complaints concerning the tractor driver who is now driving around towing a tree trunk - PC Kevin Jones stated that in order for the Police to prosecute the driver the Police need to catch the driver driving the vehicle.

4. Last week a lorry delivering to the open cast site on Betws Mountain was stuck on the cattle grid on the Mountain and the road was closed for two hours - PC Kevin Jones stated that he will look into this matter.

5. Youngsters are speeding from Colonel Road, Betws Road and also passed the Park, could speed ramps be placed there - PC Kevin Jones informed the Councillors that this issue needs to be raised with the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council.

6. Could traffic-calming measure be placed outside Betws CP School - PC Kevin Jones confirmed that he will speak to Mr John McEvoy of Carmarthenshire County Council.

7. There is a hedge overhanging onto the pavement near Foundry Road, which is making it extremely difficult to see if the road is clear before crossing - PC Kevin Jones will look into this matter.

8. The Councillors were concerned generally regarding the roads within Betws - PC Kevin Jones confirmed that he is going to speak to John McEvoy regarding the possibility of a site meeting. The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr John McEvoy regarding a site meeting.

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

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor Audrey Jones reported on the following issues:-

Maesquarre Road - County Councillor Audrey Jones read a letter to the Councillors received from Mr Trevor Sage of Carmarthenshire County Council who stated that very little could be done regarding an improvement scheme for Maesquarre Road.

10a Heol Y Felin, Betws - The Planning Inspector has been to visit this property regarding the erection of a garden shed, which has been built without planning permission.

Carmarthenshire County Council has confirmed that no planning permission was required. 13

Colonel Road, Betws - An extension has been erected without planning permission again

Carmarthenshire County Council has confirmed that planning permission is not required.

Councillor Annette Price asked County Councillor Audrey Jones to chase up a response from the Ambulance Service regarding the fatality within the village back in April 2008. The

Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

Councillor Annette Price reported that the road approximately 50 yards into Woodlands Park on the right hand side has been washed away due to heavy rain. County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she had had a site meeting with Mr Murray from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the Playgrounds at Treforis and Heol y Felin.

Councillor Annette Price confirmed that the climbing frame has been removed from the playground in Treforis and the surface of the playground is in a poor condition.

Carmarthenshire County Council has confirmed that there is no money available to improve the playgrounds. Councillor Richard Howell informed the Councillors that the fence has been repaired in Heol Y Felin Playground. County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

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

8. REPORTS.

8.1 The Playgrounds at Heol Y Felin and Treforis.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she has had a site meeting with Mr Murray of Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether the Playgrounds at Heol Y Felin and Treforis can be improved as they are in a bad state of repair. There is a scheme available through the Housing Department 'enhancing the environment' for Council estates.

Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Community Council looks into the possibility of obtaining a grant to enhance the Playgrounds. All the Councillors agreed. Councillor Annette Price confirmed that she would contact the Housing Department of Carmarthenshire County Council for further information. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

8.2 Betws Park Project - Phase 2.

Councillor Annette Price reported that they cannot commence phase 2 of the Betws Park Project until Carmarthenshire County Council have resolved the issue of the new park equipment with T.Richard Jones. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 Welcome Lights.

Councillor Annette Price asked the Clerk to make enquiries into the cost of purchasing 'Welcome Lights' for Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk makes enquiries regarding the cost of purchasing 'Welcome Lights'.

9.2 Capel Newydd Lights.

The Councillors noted that some of the bulbs are not working on the lights on Capel Newydd, which have been provided by T.Richard Jones. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to T.Richard Jones to enquiries where the Community Council can purchase replacement bulbs.

9.3 Betws Colliery Site.

Councillor Arnallt James reported that T.Richard Jones have placed a mound of earth/rubble near an oak tree (American Oak) which has a preservation order. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to T.Richard Jones to see whether the mound can be moved from the oak tree.

9.4 Maesquarre Road, Betws.

Councillor Carwyn James reported of a lamppost, which is situated along Maesquarre Road, Betws opposite to Golwg Y Mynydd Site where the lights has never been turned on. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council regarding this matter.

9.5 Tesco Store, Ammanford.

Councillor Annette Price has received complaints from residents of Parc Bwtrimawr with regards to the new Tesco Store in Ammanford. She proposed that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether trees can be placed along the riverbank in order that they would hide the construction of the new store. All the Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

9.6 Fireworks.

Councillor Arnallt James reported that fireworks were being left off over Parc Bwtrimawr. Councillor Arnallt James proposed that the Clerk writes to see whether Ammanford Town Council could consider changing the venue of their fireworks display. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Ammanford Town Council.

9.7 One Voice Wales.

Councillor Annette Price reported that One Voice Wales are providing training to Community and Town Councils on the "code of conduct". The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts One Voice Wales for further information.

9.8 Authorised Signatories.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she needs another Councillor to be an authorised signatory as Audrey Jones has resigned from the Community Council. Councillor June Gunter proposed that Councillor Loreen Lewis becomes an authorised signatory. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk obtains the relevant form from Lloyds TSB.

9.9 Community Council Christmas Lunch.

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Community Council Christmas Lunch would be held on the 22nd of January in the Badgers Bar in Blaenau .

Meeting Ended 9.30pm.