

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2008 09 September Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 10th September 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, Catherine Smith, D Arnallt James and Community / County Councillor Audrey Jones.

APOLOGIES: None.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
Councillor Richard Howell declared a non pecuniary interest in planning application no. E/19546.

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

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that Minute ref no. 2.5 should state that Mr Burrige was reluctant to cut the brambles on the footpath. The Councillors RESOLVED that the minutes be amended accordingly. Councillor Catherine Smith proposed and Councillor Maldwyn John seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9th July 2008 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk and the Chair updated the Councillors on their previous meeting with the Solicitor. They also updated the Councillors on their recent meeting with representatives from Betws Rugby Club, which was held on the 28th August 2008. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has now received a letter from Betws RFC, which was read to the Councillors. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Solicitors to see what their present position is with regards to this matter.

2.2 Purchase of a Community Council Notice Board.

The Clerk presented the Councillors with photos of the outside of Betws CP School, which Councillor Menna Roberts had taken. The Clerk thanked Councillors Menna Roberts for the photos. Councillor Betsan Jones proposed that the Clerk arrange a site meeting to discuss the location of the notice board. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.3 Dog Fouling within Betws Park.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to her letter regarding 'no dog fouling' signs. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursue this matter. Councillor Annette Price proposed whether the Community Council could prohibit dogs from entering into Betws Park. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk make enquiries with Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.4 Picnic Bench - Betws CP School.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not yet received a price for a picnic bench from Gerwyn Thomas for Betws CP School. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursue this matter.

2.5 Footpath Maintenance Officer.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not yet received a Job description from Carmarthenshire County Council for the officer responsible for maintaining the footpaths within Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.6 Footpaths within Betws.

The Clerk read an email received from Gary Carlsen to the Councillors. Councillor Arnallt James informed the Councillors that the footpath leading from Waunddwfn to Scibor Wen is still closed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Gary Carlsen to see whether he is prepared to have a site meeting with the Councillors.

2.7 Betws Football Club.

The Clerk updated the Councillors on the telephone conversation with Mr Davies of Betws Football Club, who confirmed that the field will continue to be used by the Youth and the Women's Football Teams. The Clubhouse will not be used as a public house; however they are looking for occupiers and asked whether Betws Community Council would be interested. The Councillors RESOLVED to invite Mr Davies to a Meeting to discuss this matter. Councillor Catherine Smith also reported that she visited the Land Registry Office and confirmed that the information can be obtained from the internet regarding ownership. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk obtains the relevant information from the Land Registry.

2.8 Gwalia Housing - Parc Penrhiw.

The Clerk read response received from Gwalia Housing to the Councillors, which stated "that a warning has been issued to their tenant in respect of her breach of tenancy for allowing controlled drugs to be kept on the premises". The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.9 Betws Park - Spot Light.

The Clerk read response received from Gerwyn Thomas of Carmarthenshire County Council which stated that "due to the likely cost of providing an electrical connection that a spot light can not be funded at this present time". Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk enquires whether a solar light could be placed there. The Councillors agreed and RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas of Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.10 Weight Restriction on the Bridges in Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received confirmation from Carmarthenshire County Council that a structural assessment of Nant y Ffin Bridge and Colonel Road Bridge has now been completed and both bridges pass the 40 tonne live loads vehicle assessment criteria and as such no weight restrictions are deemed necessary. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.11 One Voice Wales - Funding.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that unfortunately there is no funding available from the Ramblers as they have decided to move the funding to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.12 Ffordd y Glowr, Betws.

The Clerk read a letter received from Mr Canning of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the above, which stated that the planning permission relating to the new residential development at Pen Y Bryn does not contain a condition restricting the amount of Lorries that can use that road. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Anonymous Letter.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received an anonymous letter regarding parking on Betws Square and also along Betws Road. The Councillors discussed this matter

and RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to enquire whether anything can be done regarding parking along Park Street and Colonel Road, Betws.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted. Dyfed Powys Police - 40th Anniversary Open Day.

One Voice Wales - Conference ..

Carmarthenshire County Council - Carmarthenshire Sports Personality Awards 2008.

Carmarthenshire County Council - Draft Policy Adaption's passed to Councillor Richard Howell.

Play for Wales Newsletter - handed to Councillor Betsan Jones.

Local Health Board Meetings - handed to Councillor Annette Price. ~ Keep Wales Tidy Awards.

Land Registry - Registering Land a Guide for Parish Councils.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 Betws Community Council offered no objection to the following planning application :- E/19546 - Proposed dormer window to roof and new window to side elevation at 4 Heol Y Felin, Betws 08-2008/09.

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

E/18954 - Extension to dwelling to provide bathroom, utility and Granny annex at Tyn Y Cwm, Garnswllt, Ammanford 03-2008/09

E/19261 - Residential Development land at the rear of 16-20 and 24-30 Betws Road, Betws 05-2008/09

E/18668 - Formation of surface water detention basin at the former Betws Colliery Site, Betws 01-2008/09

E/19326 - Proposed change of use of an existing integral garage into a dwelling room at 20 Golwg y Mynydd, Betws 06-2008/09

E/19407 - Conversion of existing garage into study room area, at 13 Golwg y Mynydd, Betws 06-2008/09

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Donation - Betws Cricket Club.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a copy of an invoice from Betws Cricket Club but unfortunately there was no covering letter attached. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Betws Cricket Club to ask for further clarification regarding the invoice received.

5.2 Payment of Invoices.

August

1. Zurich Insurance (001049) £354.19

September

2. Carmarthenshire County Council - Footway Lighting Charges (001043) £298.94

3. Capel Newydd Cemetery (001051) £150.00

4. Eglwys Dewi Sant Cemetery (001052) £150.00

5. Clerk Salary & Allowance (001053) £879.91

6. Clerks Income Tax (001054) £175.20

Total £1654.05

5.3 Income Received.

1. Carmarthenshire County Council (2nd Precept Instalment) £4666.67

5.3 Footpath Maintenance Programme for 2007/08.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to date from

Carmarthenshire County Council. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursued this matter.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 6 crimes committed within the Betws area during the month of July and there were also 6 crimes committed within the Betws area during the month of August. The Councillors reported to PC Kevin Jones regarding the disturbance at Waungron Road on Friday and Saturday night. PC Jones reported that a Police Officer has visited the property concerned and the Police have not received any further complaints from local residents. The Councillors reported to PC Kevin Jones the problem of parking along Brooklands, he confirmed that he will look into this matter. 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:-

Relocation of Post Box from Colonel Road to Woodlands - She has now had a site meeting with Mr James who has confirmed that the Royal Mail is not prepared to move the post box from Colonel Road. County Councillor Audrey Jones read a response received from the Royal Mail to the Councillors.

Lagoons - She has received a letter from Mr B Canning, who inspected the lagoons on the 21st August 2008 and confirmed that they are currently secure, but he does however recognised the surrounding area to be a construction site. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr Canning to ask for a site Meeting.

Maesquarre Road Playground - The playground should be completed by the end of December.

Councillor Carwyn James raised the issue with County Councillor Audrey Jones of rubbish being put out a few days before it is due to be collected at Ffordd Y Glowyr. County Councillor Audrey Jones will look into this matter. PC Kevin Jones also stated that he will email the Enforcement Officer concerning this matter.

Councillor Arnallt James reported that during September there was a large quantity of water along Maesquarre Road. Councillor Annette Price also reported that the little brook behind Treforis had burst its bank. Councillor Carwyn James read a copy of a letter received from Mrs A Sizmur which she recently submitted to Mr M Cresci. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk also writes to Mr M Cresci of Carmarthenshire County Council.

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

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Betws In Bloom.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that the Betws in Bloom Presentation Evening had to be cancelled in August. The Councillors RESOLVED to hold the Presentation Evening on Wednesday the 24th September 2008. The Councillors also RESOLVED to keep the prize money the same as the previous year.

9. WIND TURBINE PLANNING INQUIRY.

Councillor Annette Price reminded the Councillors of the Wind Turbine Planning Inquiry which is starting on the 16th September in the Amman Centre, Ammanford. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

10. COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT.

The Councillors RESOLVED to adopt the new Members Code of Conduct.

11. FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09.

Councillor Richard Howell confirmed that he has completed the Footpath Maintenance

Programme for 2008/09, which was handed to the Clerk. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk forward this onto Carmarthenshire County Council.

12. CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Councillors confirmed that this has been circulated around the Councillors. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

13.1 Policy on Unacceptable Action by Individuals.

The Clerk issued copies of the above policy to Councillors Maldwyn John and Anthony Richards. The Clerk to forward a copy onto Councillor Catherine Smith as she has to leave the meeting early. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

13.2 Heol Y Felin & Treforis Playgrounds.

Councillor Richard Howell was concerned regarding the sad state of repair of Heol Y Felin and Treforis Playgrounds. Councillor Richard Howell proposed that a letter is sent to the Parks Department to establish their plans for the playgrounds and the timescales involved. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Parks Department.

13.3 Guardian Newspaper.

Councillor Betsan Jones asked whether news and information on the Community of Betws could be placed in the 'community news' section of the Guardian. Councillor Betsan Jones proposed that Councillor Anthony Richards updates the Guardian with any news on the Community of Betws. All the Councillors agreed.

Meeting Ended 9.20pm.