

# BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Title: 2009 02 February Minutes**

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 11th February 2009 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. Annette Price (Chairperson), Cllrs. Betsan Jones, Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, D Arnallt James, Anthony Richards, Carwyn James, Anne Sizmur and County Cllr. Audrey Jones.

Apologies: Cllrs. Catherine Smith, Menna Roberts, Richard Howell and Maldwyn John.

The Chair thanked Councillor Betsan Jones for chairing last month's Community Council Meeting in her absence. The Chair also welcomed Cllr. Anne Sizmur back to the Community Council.

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 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2009.

Councillor Loreen Lewis asked why the Community Councillors have not received the Welsh minutes prior to the monthly meeting. The Clerk apologised and stated that she will forward the Minutes onto the Councillors.

Councillor Anthony Richards stated that the issue he raised at the previous meeting with regards to footpaths had not been noted in the minutes.

Amendment - Councillor Anthony Richards stated that the footpath leading from Maesllech which is meant to emerge at the Scotch Pine was unwalkable due to a tree lying across the path as well as overgrown brambles etc either side. Councillor Anthony Richards felt it was unacceptable to be paying an officer to maintain the footpaths when it is apparent that this is not being done.

Amendment - Councillor Anthony Richards was the one who asked the County Councillor for a copy of the recycling policy and not Councillor Richard Howell.

Councillor Carwyn James proposed and Councillor June Gunter seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING.

#### 2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin. Betws.

The Clerk read a letter to the Councillors received from Llys Cennen Solicitor. The Solicitor confirmed that he wanted to have a meeting with the Councillors to discuss this matter further. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk, Councillors Annette Price, Richard Howell and Loreen Lewis arranges a meeting with the Solicitor.

#### 2.2 Community Council Notice Board.

The Clerk confirmed that she has today received the license application form from Carmarthenshire County Council with regards to placing the Community Council notice board outside Betws CP School. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk completes and returns the license application form to Carmarthenshire County Council.

#### 2.3 Picnic Bench - Betws CP School.

The Clerk confirmed that she has placed an order for the picnic bench for Betws CP School.

The Councillors NOTED the above point.

#### 2.4 Community Council Benches and Bin.

The Clerk confirmed that she has received confirmation from Mr Gerwyn Thomas that the benches and the bin have been delivered to Glanaman Depot. The Councillors RESOLVED that the benches are to be placed at Pentwyn Road, Waungron Road, Treforis and also at Betws Park. The bin is also to be placed in Betws Park. The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk asks Mr Gareth Howells from Carmarthenshire County Council to contact the Chair, direct with regards to the precise location of the benches and the bin.

#### 2.5 Solar Lights for Betws Park - Sensory & Memorial Garden.

The Clerk confirmed that she has emailed 'Sunset Solar' with regards to the cost of placing a solar light in Betws Park, but to date she has not received a response. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

#### 2.6 Seasonal/Welcome Lights for the Community of Betws.

The Clerk confirmed that she has emailed 'Derwen Lighting' with regards to the cost of purchasing seasonal/welcome lights for the Community of Betws but to date she has not received a response. The Clerk confirmed that she will contact the Clerk to Cwmaman to see where they purchased their lights from? The Councillors NOTED the above point.

#### 2.7 Preservation Order on the Oak Tree at the Old Betws Colliery Site.

The Clerk confirmed that she has not received a response from Carmarthenshire County Council, as to whether there is a preservation order on the American Oak Tree and also the Big Oak Tree on the Maesybetws Footpath. Councillor Loreen Lewis confirmed that when she visited the Council offices in Llandeilo some time ago the American Oak Tree and the Big Oak Tree had preservation orders on them. Councillor Carwyn James proposed that the Clerk contacts Carmarthenshire County Council again and also asks whether the County Council can undertake a survey of the trees within the vicinity of Betws. All the Councillors agreed.

#### 2.8 Shelter Cymru Presentation.

The Clerk confirmed that she is currently waiting for the Officer from Shelter Cymru to confirm whether she is available to provide a short presentation to the Councillors prior to next month's Community Council Meeting. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

#### 2.9 Code of Conduct Training for Councillors.

The Clerk confirmed that she has sent an email to the Clerk of Ammanford Town Council with regards to training for Community Councillors on the new Code of Conduct. To date she has not received a response. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

#### 2.10 Authorised Signatories.

Councillor Betsan Jones confirmed that Councillor Richard Howell and herself have again provided their signatures to Lloyds TSB and that they should now be authorised signatories. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

#### 2.11 Laptop for the Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received two quotes for a laptop and Morgan & Morgan had the cheapest quote. Councillor Betsan Jones proposed and Councillor June Gunter seconded and all the Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk purchases a laptop from Morgan & Morgan.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

- One Voice Wales - Buckingham Palace Garden Party.
- Welsh Assembly Government - The Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report

2007/08.

•Welsh Assembly Government - Appropriate sum under Section 137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### 4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 Carmarthenshire County Council has granted planning permission to the following planning application:-

E/20422 - Demolish existing kitchen, utility room, hall and WC and rebuild kitchen, utility room & bedroom extension at 94 Colonel Road, Betws (18-2008/09).

#### 5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Payment of Invoices.

1. Linpac Environmental Ltd (bench for Betws CP School) £597.71

Total £597.71

5.2 Income.

Carmarthenshire County Council (Footpath Maintenance 2007/08 £741.60 and 2008/09 £1,483.20) £2,224.80

#### 6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 3 crimes committed within the Betws area during the month of January, which consisted of 2 criminal damages to vehicles and 1 possession of cannabis. 100% detection rate.

PC Kevin Jones confirmed that he has emailed the speed camera partnership with regards to the speed camera van being situated within the vicinity of Betws, but to date he has not received a response.

PC Kevin Jones also confirmed that the Police are carrying out ongoing visits to the property concerned at Treforis.

The Councillors asked PC Kevin Jones what was happening with regards to the Blue Light Discos. PC Kevin Jones stated that the Police are looking 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:-

Dog Fouling - She reported that she is currently waiting for a site meeting with an Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council. She will advise the Clerk of the date and time of the meeting in due course.

Bottle Banks - She has spoken to the recycling Section of Carmarthenshire County Council and the County Council have confirmed that they are going to write to the Coopers Arms to see whether another recycling bank can be placed there, they are also going to write to Betws Rugby Club to see whether recycling banks can be placed in the car park. Councillor Betsan Jones proposed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether the County Council will consider resuming the collection of glass for recycling. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Recycling Section of Carmarthenshire County Council. Glyncywarch - She is currently waiting for a response from Mr Towns with regards to a site meeting.

Councillor Arnallt James was concerned that the playing area on Maesquarre Road had still not been completed. Councillor Annette Price reported that Mr Gerwyn Thomas of Carmarthenshire County Council has been chasing up this matter and it has now been referred to Carmarthenshire County Council's Solicitors. Councillor Carwyn James proposed that County Councillor Audrey Jones chases up this matter and all the Councillors agreed.

County Councillor Audrey Jones reported that the seat near the memorial garden in Betws

Park has been moved. Councillor Annette Price confirmed that she will visit the park.

Councillor Anthony Richards asked the County Councillor whether she made enquiries with Carmarthenshire County Council with regards to their recycling policy. She confirmed that she will look into this matter and respond directly to Councillor Anthony Richards.

Councillor Annette Price was concerned with regards to the recent snow fall and the shortage of gritting salt. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to obtain a copy of their gritting policy. All the Councillors agreed.

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

## 8. REPORTS.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she recently attended the Police Liaison Meeting and updated the Councillors accordingly. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

### 9.1 Community Website.

Councillor Loreen Lewis noted that the Community Council Minutes are not up to date on the Community Website. The Clerk confirmed that she will look into this matter. The Councillors NOTED the above point

### 9.2 Betws Community Council - Documents.

The Clerk asked the Councillors for permission to Archive the Community Council Minutes. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

### 9.3 Standards Committee.

Councillor Annette Price explained to the Councillors that she had to postpone the Meeting with the Highways Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council as various Councillors needed to complete the Standards Committee form. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

### 9.4 Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund.

The Clerk reminded the Councillors that the Community Council has not presented the donation cheque to the above fund. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Chair returns the cheque to the Clerk as the date will now need to be amended.

### 9.5 Members Register of Interests.

The Clerk noted that she has still not received the Members Register of Interests forms from Councillors Annette Price and Anthony Richards. Councillors Annette Price and Anthony Richards completed and returned the forms to the Clerk during the meeting. The above point was NOTED by the Councillors.

### 9.6 Annwyl Fan, Betws.

Councillor June Gunter reported that she was concerned with regards to water collecting in the potholes on the road outside Annwyl Fan. Councillor June Gunter proposed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to see who is responsible for the road? The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council.

### 9.7 Foothpaths.

Councillor Anthony Richards reported that the stile is rotten on the footpath leading from Cwmfelin to Maesllech which resulted in the land owner's livestock straying. Councillor Loreen Lewis proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded that the Clerk writes to Mr Burrige to ask him to repair the gate. The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr Burrige to inform him that the Councillors have received strong complaints from

residents with regards to the condition of the footpaths.

9.8 Banc Y Wern, Betws.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that a resident of Banc y Wern, Betws is concerned as water has washed away the gutter away leading to the above property. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether the ditch/gutter can be filled in.

Meeting Ended 9.00pm.