

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2009 01 January Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 21st January 2009 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Betsan Jones (Chairperson), Councillors Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, Maldwyn John, D Arnallt James, Richard Howell, Anthony Richards, Carwyn James, Menna Roberts, Anne Sizmur and County Councillor Audrey Jones.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Annette Price and Catherine Smith.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

NOTED that Councillor Anne Sizmur 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 10th DECEMBER 2008.

Councillor Anthony Richards proposed and Councillor Richard Howell seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 10th December 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 now received an interim invoice from Llys Cennen Solicitors. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Solicitor to see what his present position is, to date, with regards to the land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

2.2 Community Council Notice Board.

Councillor Richard Howell updated the Councillors regarding the recent site meeting with Mr Francis of Carmarthenshire County Council. The Clerk confirmed that she has requested a license to place the notice board outside Betws CP School from Carmarthenshire County Council. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.3 Picnic Bench - Betws CP School.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has spoken to the Headteacher of Betws CP School who has provided details of the bench (£555 plus VAT). The Councillors RESOLVED to purchase the picnic bench for Betws CP School. The Clerk to place an order for the picnic bench.

2.4 Community Council Benches and Bin.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Mr Gerwyn Thomas has confirmed that the order has been placed for the benches and a bin. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.5 Betws Park - Sensory & Memorial Garden.

The Clerk confirmed that she is currently waiting for a response from the Public Lighting Department of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the cost of purchasing a solar light to be placed on the Sensory & Memorial Garden in Betws Park. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.6 Welcome Lights.

The Clerk confirmed that she is waiting for information to be forwarded onto her. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.7 Betws Colliery Site.

The Clerk read letter recently received from T R Jones regarding the oak tree on the Old Betws Colliery Site, which stated that there are no preservation orders on any trees on the Old Betws Colliery Site. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Carmarthenshire County Council, to make further enquiries. Councillor Arnallt James also reported of an oak tree on the Maesybetws Footpath.

2.8 One Voice Wales.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Carmarthenshire County Council are at present providing training courses for Community Councillors. However, they are waiting for further information from Ammanford Town Council, before they can deliver the training courses. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter with Ammanford Town Council.

2.9 Authorised Signatories.

Councillor Loreen Lewis informed the Councillors that when she took the 'Change of Signatories' form to Lloyds TSB, they had no record of Councillors Richard Howell and Betsan Jones as authorised signatories. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Shelter Cymru.

Correspondence has been received from Shelter Cymru, they would like to provide a presentation to the Community Councillors. Councillor Richard H owe 11 proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded that the Clerk arranges for Shelter Cymru to provide a presentation to the Councillors. All the Councillors agreed.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

- Play for Wales - handed to Councillor Betsan Jones.
- One Voice Wales - The Voice.
- One Voice Wales - Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan - Community & Town Council Stakeholder Event.
- Carmarthenshire County Council - Welsh Assembly Government draft guidance on setting local speed limits.
- Wales Air Ambulance - Shout.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 Betws Community Council offered no objections to the following planning applications:-
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).

E/20469 - Winter cattle storage, Pant Y Betws Farm, Betws.

E/20339 - Design, external appearance of the development (E/15892 - erection of dwelling) land at Bryneithin Farm, off Maerdy Road, Betws (19-2008/09).

E/20338 - Design, external appearance of the development (E/15891 - erection of stable block) land at Bryneithin Farm, off Maerdy Road, Betws (20-2008/09).

E/20425 - Discharge condition 3 of planning permission (E/17037) Glyncywarch Washery, Betws (17-2008/09).

E/20333 - Discharge condition 14 of planning permission (E/17037) Glyncywarch Washery, Betws (21-2008/09).

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

E/20162 - Formation of surface water attenuation pond, land of the former Betws Colliery, Pentwyn Road, Betws (13-2008/09).

E/20161 - Single storey extension to rear of dwelling, at 34 Pentwyn Road, Betws (12-2008/09).

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

E/20108 - Detached double garage, agricultural storage area, replacement of existing structure, at Banc Y Wern Farm, Betws (10-2008/09).

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Payment of Invoices.

1. Chair Allowance (Final Instalment) (001085) £100.00
2. Carmarthenshire County Council (Footway Lighting) (001086) £298.94
3. Capel Newydd (Maintenance of Lights) (001087) £25.00
4. Eglwys Dewi Sant (Maintenance of Lights) (001088) £50.00
5. Mr Burrige (Footpath Maintenance) (001089) £824.00
6. Llys Cennen Solicitors (Fees) (001090) £1451.00

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

5.2 Income.

Carmarthenshire County Council (Final Precept Instalment) £4666.67

5.3 Setting of Precept for 2009/2010.

A copy of the annual expenditure and the estimates for 2009/2010 had been sent to all the Councillors prior to the meeting. All the items listed were discussed in detail and all figures were agreed. Following a short discussion Councillor Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Maldwyn John seconded that the Community Council requests a precept of £14,000 from Carmarthenshire County Council for 2009/2010. All the Councillors agreed. RESOLVED that the Clerk requests the above figure from Carmarthenshire County Council.

5.4 Other.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that a letter has been received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the footway lighting charges for 2009/2010. Estimated amount to be charged to Betws Community Council is £1000.53 (£870.03 + VAT £130.50). True figures will be sent to the Community Council in April 2009.

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 December, which consisted of 2 assaults, 1 burglary other, 1 theft from vehicle, 1 theft and 1 criminal damage.

The Councillors reported of disturbances caused by a young person, who has been fostered and is currently living near the Family Centre in Betws. PC Kevin Jones reported that the Police are aware of this matter.

The Councillors enquired into the number that attended the recent Blue Light Disco held in January 2009. PC Kevin Jones reported that the turn out was very poor. The Police are going to issue questionnaires to the children at Ammanford Comprehensive School.

County Councillor Audrey Jones reported that there is a speed camera van situated outside Betws School at approximately 6.00am. The roads are very quiet at this time of the morning, which is the van situate there? PC Kevin Jones stated that unfortunately the Police are not responsible for the speed camera van it's the Speed Camera Partnership.

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 has planned a meeting next week with the Health and Safety Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the dog fouling on Betws Road. Councillor Richard Howell asked whether Carmarthenshire County Council had any leaflets available that the Councillors could distribute to dog owners. County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

Councillor Betsan Jones asked whether Carmarthenshire County Council are going to collect glass for recycling from householders. County Councillor Audrey Jones stated that Carmarthenshire County Council have confirmed that they will provide more glass recycling facilities. Councillor Richard Howell stated that a large quantity of recycling is still going to landfill sites. What is Carmarthenshire County Council's Recycling Policy? County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she would look into this matter.

Councillor Arnallt James again reported of his concerns regarding the footpaths on the Old Betws Colliery Site together with the temporary closures of the footpaths. County Councillor Audrey Jones stated that she would look into this matter. The Councillors also RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Mr Towns to see whether he is available to have a site meeting with the Councillors.

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

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

8.1 Laptop - Clerk.

The Clerk asked whether the Community Council would purchase a laptop for her to carry out her duties, as her personal computer is not working. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk to make enquiries into the cost of a laptop.

Meeting Ended 9.00pm