

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2009 03 March Minutes

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

PRESENT: Cllr. Annette Price (Chairperson), Cllrs. Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, D Arnallt James, Anthony Richards, Carwyn James, Anne Sizmur, Catherine Smith, Menna Roberts, Richard Howell, Maldwyn John and County Cllr. Audrey Jones.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Betsan Jones.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.

NOTED that no member declared a Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest.

REGISTER OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

NOTED that Councillor Anne Sizmur had completed and returned her 'Register of Member's Interests' form, to the Clerk.

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11th FEBRUARY 2009.

Councillor Annette Price had the following amendments to make:-

2.2 – She stated previously that the notice board would be erected by Christmas.

7.0 (2nd paragraph) – Mr Noakes from the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council was aware of this matter and the Legal Department of Carmarthenshire County Council were going to write to TRJ.

8 – She stated that 12 accidents alone had been reported in 2008.

The Councillors agreed to the above amendments.

Councillor June Gunter proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th February 2009 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Land at Heol Y Felin, Betws.

The Clerk confirmed that she meet with the Solicitor on the 20th of February 2009, together with Councillors Annette Price, Richard Howell, Loreen Lewis and Catherine Smith. The Clerk confirmed that Betws RFC are claiming possession of the Rugby Club and also the car park. Councillor Richard Howell also updated the Councillors on the meeting with the Solicitor.

Councillor Annette Price handed copies of a plan of the playground and Betws RFC to the Councillors. Councillor Annette Price stated that in 1974 someone had applied for planning permission on the piece of land numbered 655/74 on the plan. Councillor Annette Price also stated that the Solicitor had requested further information with regards to this matter. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr H Jones to see whether Betws RFC requested planning permission from Betws Community Centre to build the new Club House.

2.2 Community Council Notice Board.

The Clerk confirmed that she has forwarded the license application form onto Atech Graphics and Signs (Llanelli) who need to input their insurance details. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.3 Picnic Bench – Betws CP School.

The Clerk confirmed that she has received confirmation that Betws CP School has received delivery of the picnic bench on the 6th March 2009, and the headteacher was very grateful to the Community Council. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.4 Community Council Benches and Bin.

The Clerk confirmed that she has sent an email to Gareth Howells to ask him to contact the Chair direct with regards to where the benches and the bin are to be sited. The Chair confirmed that she has not heard from Gareth Howells to date. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Mr Gareth Howells again.

2.5 Solar Lights for Betws Park – Sensory & Memorial Garden.

The Clerk confirmed that she has received an email from 'Sunset Solar', who are prepared to meet with the Councillors to discuss their needs. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk arranges a meeting with Sunset Solar and also invites Gerwyn Thomas.

2.6 Seasonal/Welcome Lights for the Community of Betws.

The Clerk confirmed that she tried to phone the Clerk to Cwmaman, but to date she has been unable to get hold of the Clerk. The Councillors RESOLVED that she pursues this matter.

2.7 Preservation Order on the Trees within Betws.

Councillor Richard Howell confirmed that he has spoken to Steven Edwards from Carmarthenshire County Council who has provided plans of trees which have preservation orders on them within Betws. The Councillors noted that there were a few trees within Betws which were not included on the plan. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk asks for the American Oak, the tree behind Golwg Y Mynydd and also the oak grove near Treforis to be included on the plan.

2.8 Code of Conduct Training for Councillors.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that a training session on the Councillors code of conduct has been arranged for the 18th March 2009. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.9 Laptop for the Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received delivery of her new laptop and she thanked the Councillors. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.10 Community Website.

The Clerk confirmed that she is having difficulty placing the minutes and agendas onto the Community Website. She did however confirm that the minutes are up to date as far back as March 2008. The Clerk confirmed that the minutes and agendas will be updated onto the website by the next Community Council Meeting. The Councillors NOTED the above point

2.11 Betws Community Council – Documents.

The Clerk stated that she has archived the previous minutes of the Community Council. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.12 Standards Committee.

The Clerk stated that Mr Grafton from Carmarthenshire County Council would like to discuss with Councillors Annette Price and Arnallt James their completed Standards Committee Form. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.13 Cheques - Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund and the Chair Allowance 1st Instalment.

The Chair informed the Councillors that she has destroyed the above cheques as they were dated May 2008. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk provides the Chair with replacement cheques.

2.14 Annwyl Fan, Betws.

The Clerk confirmed that she has written to Carmarthenshire County Council but to date she has not received a response. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.15 Banc y Wern, Betws.

The Clerk confirmed that she has written to Carmarthenshire County Council but to date she has not received a response. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

- Llanelli Trades Union Council.
- Carmarthenshire County Council – Settlement Facilities and Services Survey – Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan.
- One Voice Wales – Carmarthenshire Area Committee
- National Assembly for Wales – An invitation to visit the National Assembly Senedd Building.
- Digital UK Switch Over Information – handed to Councillor Annette Price.
- Publications of candidates site register to be circulated around the Councillors.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 Betws Community Council offered no objections to the following planning applications:-
E/20707 – Agricultural storage shed and workshop, land at Banc y Wern, Betws (23-2008/09).

E/20248 – Amended Plans – Residential development (reserved matters to outline planning permission E/09584) former Betws Colliery site, Betws (16b-2008/09).

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

E/20229 – Discharge conditions 6,9,20 & 24 of planning permission E/17037, at Glyncywarch Washery, Betws (15-2008/09).

E/20339 – Design, external appearance and landscaping of the development (E/15892 – erection of stableblock) land at Bryneithin Farm, Off Maerdy Road, Betws (19-2008/09).

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

E/20338 – Design, external appearance and landscaping of the development (E/15891 – erection of 2 dwellings) land at Bryneithin Farm, Off Maerdy Road, Betws (20-2008/09).

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Payment of Invoices.

1.Morgan & Morgan (001092) £419.76

2.Clerks Salary & Allowance (001093) £914.00

3.Clerks Income Tax (001094) £179.48

4.Capel Newydd Payments (3 x Meetings) (001095) £30.00

5.Paul Pugh Rehabilitation Fund – Replacement cheque (001096) £200.00

6.Chair Allowance 1st Instalment – Replacement cheque (001097) £200.00

Total £1943.24

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

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 February, which consisted of 1 theft, 1 possession of cannabis and 2 thefts of a vehicle. To date there is a 50% detection rate.

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

1.One of the Councillors had received an anonymous phone call and the person on the other end of the line was extremely abusive. PC Kevin Jones suggested that if this matter continues the Councillor concerned should contact BT direct.

2. There are a few teenage boys in Treforis who are causing a nuisance. PC Kevin Jones has spoken to the 'ring leader' a few days ago but he will monitor the situation.

3. There are a few people driving around Betws in new tractors but they are towing extremely old trailers. A Councillor reported that a trailer collapsed a few weeks ago near Tesco's. The Councillors were concerned as to how the drivers are getting away with this? PC Jones stated that there is a new Traffic Department in Ammanford and he's going to ask them to look into this matter.

4. There is a vehicle parked on the corner of Tirydail Square, which is obstructing the traffic. PC Jones 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:-

Glyncywarch – She has received an email from Gary Carlsen which was read to the Councillors re: Old Betws Colliery Site. The Clerk also read an email received from Gary Carlsen to the Councillors, which stated that following a meeting with TRJ on the 13/03/09 he will update the Council accordingly. The Councillors are concerned with this matter and RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards the Councillors concerns onto Gary Carlsen.

Dog Warden – She reported that the dog warden has been situated on Betws Road for three mornings last week between the hours of 6am and 9am, and confirmed that the dog warden did not see any dog fouling. The Councillors noted that they had concern with dog fouling on a number of streets within Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the dog warden to ask for a copy of his report and also asks him to visit other area within Betws.

Councillor Catherine Smith reported that there is a section of road on Mountain Road which is collapsing (it's after the tank). County Councillor Audrey Jones confirmed that she's going to look into this matter.

Councillor Annette Price read minute's ref: 1529 dated 30/07/91 from Dinefwr Borough Council to the Councillors re: proposed provision of the play area at Woodlands Park, Betws. She stated that Dinefwr Borough Council had not chased up the Developer for the money.

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

8. REPORTS.

8.1 Betws Mine Site.

Councillor Anne Sizmur stated that she recently attended a meeting, where Dr John D Evans was present and he expressed his concerns regarding the condition of the Betws Mine Site and the danger aspects. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk writes to Dr John D Evans to ask him to detail his concerns in writing to the Community Council, all the Councillors agreed.

8.2 Footpaths.

Councillor Annette Price reported that the partnership between Mr Burridge and the Community Council isn't working. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Eirian James from Carmarthenshire County Council to see when the County Council are going to take over the maintenance of the footpaths.

Councillor Anthony Richards stated that he is aware that 12 footpaths within Betws that have not been maintained. Councillor Anthony Richards also reported that the following footpaths need urgent attention:- 67/30, 3/20, 3/21, 3/22 (is in a very bad state), 3/1 (Pantyffynnon there is a gate missing), 3/8 (is impassable), 3/4 (the markers/signs have been taken away).

The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr Burrige to inform him of the above.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 Betws Football Club.

Councillor Richard Howell reported that the Chairman of Betws Football Club still wants to meet with the Councillors. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Chairman.

9.2 Betws Park.

Councillor Richard Howell asked whether the picnic in the park will go ahead this year. Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that there was no picnic in the park last year due to the Health and Safety conditions.

9.3 Correspondence.

The Councillors were annoyed as Carmarthenshire County Council is not responding to correspondence being submitted by the Community Council. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards copies of all the outstanding correspondence onto the Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Meeting Ended 10.00pm