

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2009 10 October Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 14th October 2009 at 7.00 pm.

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

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 16th SEPTEMBER 2009.

Councillor Anne Sizmur had the following amendments to make:-

2.1 Councillor Maldwyn John stated that the top of the Community Council notice board seems unsafe. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the company that supplied the notice board.

4.1 The Councillors require an updated plan of the present Betws Colliery Site Project they also require a copy of the conditions of the recycling planning application from Mr Hugh Towns of Carmarthenshire County Council.

4.3 The Councillors did not object to the planning application, they just required further information.

4.5 The previous planning application expired in May 2008.

11.1 It was not Ammanford Town Council that invited the Eisteddfod to the Amman Valley; it was the Amman Group of Local Councils.

Councillor Arnallt James had the following amendment to make:-

8. It was Councillor Carwyn James and not Catherine Smith that was going to put the bulbs in the flower troughs.

Councillor Catherine Smith had the following amendment to make:-

10. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes from various bus companies and not herself.

Councillor Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Catherine Smith seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 16th September 2009 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Community Council Notice Board.

Councillor Annette Price stated that there should be a light attached to the top of the notice board. Also Councillor Maldwyn John stated that another bracket/catch should be placed at the top of the notice board as it seems unsafe. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk makes enquiries with Atech Signs and Graphics.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she only has one key for the notice board. Councillor Anne Sizmur stated that she will make enquiries with Betws Primary School to see whether they have a key to the notice board.

Councillor Richard Howell stated that the Councillors need to arrange a suitable date and time in order to have their photos taken by the Community Council Notice Board. The Councillors RESOLVED to have their photos taken on Monday the 24th of October at 3pm.

2.2 Wind Turbines.

Councillor Annette Price and Councillor Anthony Richards informed the Councillors that they have recently attended a meeting with Llangfihangel Community Council who informed them that they have placed money into a trust fund therefore after 25 years they will be money there to remove the wind turbines should the company cease to exist. Councillors Annette Price and Anthony Richards provided an in-depth report to the Councillors. Councillor Annette Price wanted to ensure that any money from the Wind Turbines only comes to the Betws Ward. Councillor Annette Price also stated that the County Councillor should be safeguarding the money for Betws.

Councillor Catherine Smith informed the Councillors that a commission has been set up and if a planning application is over a certain size no planning permission is required. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to date from EC02. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter. Councillor Annette Price was concerned as a committee should be set up with residents in order to safeguard the money for the Ward of Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to ensure that any money from the Wind Turbines is safeguarded for the Ward of Betws.

2.3 Footpaths.

Councillors Richard Howell, Catherine Smith, Arnallt James, Loren Lewis, Menna Roberts and Annette Price attended a meeting on the 13th of October with Rangers from Carmarthenshire County Council. Councillor Arnallt James provided a detailed report to the Councillors. Councillor Arnallt James proposed to have a site meeting with Gary Carlsen of Carmarthenshire County Council, regarding the footpaths on the Old Betws Colliery Site. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk arranges a site meeting with Gary Carlsen.

Councillor Arnallt James also informed the Councillors that footpath 3/16 Glyncywarch to Cwm Rhyd yr Erin is covered in colliery waste. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk informs Gary Carlsen.

Councillor Arnallt James also informed the Councillors that the tree trunk is still in the river on footpath 3/11. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Environment Agency. Councillor Anne Sizmur asked Councillor Arnallt James for a copy of his report in order that she can take the issues to the next One Voice Wales Meeting.

2.4 Glyncywarch Washery Site.

The Clerk confirmed that she has not received a response from Hugh Towns with regards to meeting with the Community Council's Planning Sub Committee to discuss the former Glyncywarch Washery Site. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.5 Highway Safety Meeting.

The Clerk read the response received from Mr John McEvoy of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the above. He confirmed that the survey work is ongoing and a report will be prepared on completion of the surveys. He also reported that a vehicle activated flashing sign unit would cost in the region of £2,000 on the basis there is power supply close by. The Councillors NOTED the above points.

2.6 Victorian Brick Buildings. Maesquarre Road. Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a response from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding placing a conservation order on the above. The County Council has advised the Clerk to contact CADW, they will require a plan, photos of the building and reasons why the building should be listed. Councillor Menna Roberts confirmed that she will take photos of the building.

2.7 Betws Community Council Flower Troughs.

Councillor Arnallt James informed the Councillors that the daffodils have been planted in the

flower troughs, by Councillors Carwyn James, Richard Howell and himself. He also received assistance from Mr Brian Lewis on the trough on Maesquarre Road. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerks sends a letter to thank Mr Lewis for his assistance. Councillor Arnallt James also informed the Councillors that there are daffodil bulbs left over. The Councillors RESOLVED to place them on the grass verges. Councillors Richard Howell and Maldwyn John stated that they would assist Councillor Arnallt James.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 Letter received from Carmarthenshire County Council re: Crossing points at Glyn Yr Afon. Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur read a response she has received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the above. Which stated that "it is the authority's intention to install two new crossing points outside the above location, to enable pedestrians to cross the carriageway". The Councillors NOTED the above point.

3.2 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

- Carmarthenshire Tourist Association - 2009 Carms Tourist Awards.
- One Voice Wales - Working together enhancing our Communities - 19th November 2009. Councillors Catherine Smith and Annette Price to attend.
- Carmarthenshire County Council - Seasonal Decorations. Councillor Annette Price stated that there are only a few lamp posts in Betws that are suitable to hold Christmas/Seasonal lights but they are not situated in the relevant areas. She stated that she has spoken to Gerwyn Thomas from Carmarthenshire County Council who has confirmed that he is prepared to plant a tree in Betws Park in readiness for next year. The cost of the tree is £20 per foot and the Community Council would need between 12 and 14 feet. The lights for the tree would cost in the region of £2,500. The Councillors RESOLVED to go ahead and purchase a tree for Betws Park. Councillor Annette Price to inform Gerwyn Thomas. Councillor Annette Price proposed to have carol singing around the tree outside Eglwys Dewi Sant and also to provide mince pies. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Vicar of Eglwys Dewi Sant. Councillors Anne Sizmur and Richard Howell to contact Betws Primary School to see if the Children would like to participate .
- Carmarthenshire County Council- Festive Events.
- Carmarthenshire County Council - Abandoned Shopping Trolleys. Councillor Catherine Smith stated that there will be a new trolley system implemented in the new Tesco Store and the customers will not be able to take the trolley off the site. Councillor Annette Price stated that there are also problems with shopping baskets.
- HOWLTA - handed to Councillor Carwyn James.
- Planning Inspectorate Survey - handed to the Planning Sub-Committee.
- Yr Ardd - handed to Councillor Arnallt James.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

4.1 Betws Community Council offered no objections to the following planning applications:-
E/21839 - Variation of condition 2 at Tyn y Cwm, Garnswllt (16-2009/10).

E21824 - Construction of noise attenuation bund and minor realignment works to existing Haul Road, land at former Betws Colliery Site (15-2009/10). They have no objections to the bund. They do however object to the car park which has appeared on the plans (as this was not on the original plans). They are also concerned as Waunddwfn Road is a very narrow lane and is unsuitable for commercial vehicles. It is a single track road, with only one passing place. The bridle path can not be placed on a public footpath.

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

E/21527 - Erection of 4 dwellings, land at former Betws Colliery (11-2009/10).

E/21142 - Formation of vehicular access and driveway at Waunherod, Betws (8-2009/10).

4.3 Change of Name - Bryncelyn, Maesquarre Road.

The Councillors strongly objected to the change of name for Bryncelyn, Maesquarre Road to Bleu Stone, Maesquarre Road, Betws.

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Payment of Invoices.

1. Morgan & Morgan (Stationery) £73.09

Councillor Annette Price asked whether the Community Council could look into purchasing stationery etc from other suppliers. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk makes enquiries with other stationery suppliers.

The Clerk asked whether the Community Council are going to purchase a remembrance wreath this year. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Betsan Jones seconded that the Community Council purchases two remembrance wreaths. Councillor Arnallt James to purchase the wreaths on behalf of Betws Community Council. Councillor Annette Price also proposed that the Community Council's emblem is placed in the centre of the wreaths. All the Councillors agreed.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones attended the meeting on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police. He reported that there were 16 crimes committed within the, Betws area during the month of September. To date there is a 37.5% detection rate.

He reported on the following:-

- There have been problems with youngsters in Treforis. He has spoken to two lots of parents as their children have been caught on CCTV.
- All the neighbourhood policing team will be working on Halloween night.
- Rubbish on the pavement at Ffordd y Glowyr. PC Kevin Jones has asked the Environmental Health to investigate. Councillor Catherine Smith asked whether a skip could be placed there temporarily.
- Tesco Store in Ammanford, the matter regarding the Security Officer has been resolved.

Councillor Catherine Smith thanked PC Kevin Jones for a very interesting PACT Meeting on the 13th of October.

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

- 1.While the Councillors were having a meeting with officers from Carmarthenshire County Council on the 13th October a Vauxhall corsa was speeding along Maesquarre Road. The Councillors provided the vehicle details to PC Kevin Jones. He confirmed that he will speak to the driver concerned.
- 2.There is a moped driving around Betws in the early hours, which is very noisy.
- 3.There are 2 tractors driving around Betws. One is a green tractor (the driver is a gentleman in his late 20's). There is also another tractor which is carrying passengers. PC Kevin 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 was unable to attend the Community Council meeting. Councillor Anthony Richards complained to the Councillors that the County Councillor has not responded to his letters as a resident nor as a Community Councillor regarding various matters.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that other County Councillors provide detailed reports for their Community Councils. Councillor Catherine Smith stated that the Community Council would like to receive reports from the County Councillor. Councillor Annette Price proposed

that the Clerk writes to County Councillor Audrey Jones to as if she could provide detailed reports on issues that are important to Betws Community Council and also to Betws, also send a copy of the letter to the Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to County Councillor Audrey Jones.

8. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION.

Councillor Catherine Smith handed draft community communication leaflets to the Councillors. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed to discuss the leaflets in the April and September Meetings. Councillor Betsan Jones proposed April and October Meetings. All the Councillors agreed to discuss at the April and October Community Council Meetings. Councillor Richard Howell asked the Clerk to make enquires with the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether a sign can be placed on the bridge into Betws - Y Byd ar Betws. All the Councillors agreed.

9. REPORTS.

9.1 One Voice Wales Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that at the recent One Voice Wales Meeting a presentation was made regarding dog fouling. Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that Carmarthenshire could be a pilot for the new dog fouling scheme, which would take place in late autumn. The Councillor NOTED the above point.

9.2 Planning Sub Committee.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that the Planning Sub Committee recently meet with Mr Mathews, Environment Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council. The Environment Agency is responsible for all water that might be or has become contaminated. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed that the Community Council invites the Environment Agency to talk to the Councillors after Christmas. All the Councillors agreed.

9.3 PACT Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur and Councillor Catherine Smith recently attended the PACT Meeting. They both stated that the meeting was excellent. Councillor Anne Sizmur reported on the following:-

- The next meeting will be on terrorism in Wales.
- Some children are setting up camp in Woodlands Park, which cannot be seen by the residents.
- Some shoppers are finding year 11 pupils intimidating during lunch times as they are walking around Ammanford Town.

9.4 Treforis Playground and Heol y Felin Playground.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she still cannot obtain any money to enhance the above playgrounds. She proposed that the Clerk writes to Clare Tinkler of Carmarthenshire County Council to ask what the current situation is as there is a lack of park in Treforis and Heol Y Felin. All the Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to Clare Tinkler.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

10.1 Foundry Road, Ammanford.

Councillor Annette Price stated that there should be a zebra crossing for pedestrians on Foundry Road. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk writes to Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether they can place a zebra crossing on Foundry Road. Councillor Richard Howell proposed that the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to see whether there are any plans in place to put a zebra crossing on Foundry Road. All the Councillors agreed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk sends a letter to the Planning Department and also sends a copy to Ammanford Town Council.

10.2 Ammanford Town Council- Fireworks Display.

Councillor Annette Price asked whether Ammanford Town Council is holding a fireworks display this year. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk writes to Ammanford Town Council. All the Councillors agreed.

10.3 Section 106 Money.

Councillor Annette Price asked the Councillors whether they wanted to carry on with phase 2 of Betws Park. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk writes to TRJ asking if they can keep Betws Community Council informed of any issues relating to Section 106 money. All the Councillors agreed.

10.4 Betws Park ' - Memorial Garden.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that the flowers in the memorial garden in Betws Park have not been renewed. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas.

10.5 Mining Memorabilia - Old Betws Colliery Site.

Councillor Annette Price was disappointed that the mining memorabilia has been erected on the Old Betws Colliery Site, without consultation with Betws Community Council. Councillor Annette Price proposed that the Clerk sends a letter to Carmarthenshire County Council to inform them that the Community Council is disappointed that they were not involved with the mining memorabilia. She was concerned as to who would be responsible should a child fall and injure themselves.

Meeting Ended 9.30pm.