

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2010 07 July Minutes

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 14th July 2010 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. Anne Sizmur (Chairperson), Cllrs. Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, Carwyn James, Menna Roberts, Annette Price, Richard Howell, Betsan Jones and Maldwyn John.

APOLOGIES: Alderman Arnallt James, Councillor Catherine Smith and County Councillor Audrey Jones.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response to the letter she submitted to Councillor Anthony Richards. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts One Voice Wales.

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 9th JUNE 2010.

Amendments:-

2.8 Councillor Annette Price asked for a site meeting.

10.3 Councillor June Gunter stated that she has been approached by residents.

Councillor Annette Price proposed and Councillor June Gunter seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9th June 2010 were confirmed and then signed by the Chairperson.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Footpaths.

The Clerk reported that she has received an email from Gary Carlsen regarding a possible site meeting. He did confirm that he has provided his availability to County Councillor Audrey Jones but he has not received a response from her. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to Gary Carlsen stating that the Councillors are available for a meeting on Tuesdays throughout July and August.

2.2 Maesquarre Road Playground.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has submitted an email to the developer but to date she has not received a response. Councillor Annette Price proposed and all the Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter with the developer.

2.3 Parks and Playgrounds.

Councillor Annette Price informed the Councillors that the Projects Sub Committee has arranged a meeting with the Grants Section from Parc Amanwy. Councillor Annette Price also reported that the County Council are going to pass the parks onto the Community Council. She asked whether the Community Council had enough money to maintain the parks. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and all the Councillors agreed that the Projects Sub Committee should apply for any grants relating to the parks and playgrounds.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received any correspondence from

Gwalia Housing regarding Treforis Playground. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues a meeting with Gwalia Housing Association.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has not received a response from Eammon Davies regarding replacing the rocking horse carcass at Heol Y Felin Playground. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.4 Traffic Survey of Betws.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received an email from Eleri Jones of Carmarthenshire County Council requesting dates in September of when the Councillors are available to meet with her to conduct the traffic survey of Betws. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk responds accordingly.

2.5 Commemorative Plaques.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received an invoice from Siop y Crydd in Ammanford for 3 laminated plaques which are weather proof. The cost of the invoice is £75. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pays the invoice.

2.6 Community Council Benches.

Councillor Annette Price was disappointed that she has not had a meeting with Gareth Howells. The Councillors RESOLVED that Clerk pursues this matter.

Also the Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk asks Chris Burns for a meeting in order to discuss outstanding issues/correspondence relating to Carmarthenshire County Council.

2.7 Betws Park.

Councillor Annette Price asked the Clerk to follow up the matter regarding lights for the memorial stone at Betws Park. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk pursues this matter.

2.8 Betws Primary School.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that she has spoken to the Headteacher of Betws CP School regarding providing the school with a gazebo. The Headteacher confirmed that this has not been very good on passed experience as it is a hazard. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.9 Authorised Signatories.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that unfortunately she has not been available on Saturdays to meet with the Councillors to visit Lloyds TSB Bank. The Councillors RESOLVED that Councillors Loreen Lewis, Richard Howell and Betsan Jones would make the relevant arrangements and visit Lloyds TSB Bank. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she would make an appointment with Lloyds TSB to speak to the Manager regarding the Community Council's Accounts. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.10 Betws Community Council Flower Troughs.

Councillor Annette Price reported that there is a large hole in the flower trough situated on Betws Road. The Councillors RESOLVED that Councillor Richard Howell will have a look at the trough.

2.11 Footpath Sign.

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported that the footpath sign on the Mountain Road has been reinstated. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

2.12 Property on Pentwyn Road, Betws.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she did not feel that the Community Council had enough information to send a letter to the property owner, therefore she

informed the Clerk not to contact the property owner. She did advise the Clerk to contact Carmarthenshire County Council. The Clerk reported that she has spoken to an officer from the County Council Stephan Nurse who confirmed that he will visit the property concerned and report back to the Clerk. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

3. CORRESPONDENCE.

3.1 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

- Welsh Assembly Government – Local Authority Byelaws in Wales.
- City and County of Swansea – Local Development Plan.
- Ombudsman – Annual Report 2009/10.
- 2011 Census.
- Betws Primary School – A letter of thanks for the donation of £200.
- HOWLTA – handed to Councillor Carwyn James.
- Yr Ardd – handed to Councillor Maldwyn John.
- One Voice Wales Training – Councillor Carwyn James to attend training on the 26th October 2010.

4. PLANNING MATTERS.

No new planning applications or planning approvals have been received since the last meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that Councillor Catherine Smith has sent an email to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council as the American Oak on the old Betws Colliery Site has died. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

Councillor Anne Sizmur also reported that Councillor Catherine Smith has sent an email to the Enforcement Department to see whether there are unlicensed holiday lettings on Betws Mountain. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a letter from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding modification of Public Footpath 3/12 Betws, Ammanford. The modification order has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate for determination. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk asks the Planning Inspectorate to keep the Clerk informed of any developments.

5. ACCOUNTS.

5.1 Donations.

Councillor Carwyn James reported that 3 requests for donations had been received since the last Finance Sub Committee Meeting held in March. The Councillors discussed the requests in detail. The Councillors RESOLVED as per donations below:-

5.2 Payment of Invoices.

1. Capel Newydd (8 x Meetings) £80.00
 2. Llys Cennen Solicitors £3788.88
 3. Crydd Yr Amman (3 x Plaques) £75.00
 4. One Voice Wales (Training) £25.00
 5. Donation – Shelter Cymru £100.00
 6. Donation – Marie Curie Cancer Care £100.00
 7. Donation – YFC Carmarthenshire £100.00
- Total £4268.88

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

The Clerk asked if a resolution could be passed in that she can make payments in August should they arise for example Community Council Insurance. All Councillors agreed. RESOLVED that the Clerk can process payments in August providing that she contacts the Chair for prior approval.

6. DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT.

PC Kevin Jones was not present at the Community Council Meeting.

The Councillors reported on the following:-

- Complaints received regarding mope heads going around Betws between 2-3am in Treforis. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk informs PC Kevin Jones.
- Vehicles are parking on the pavement of Betws Road. It is very difficult for residents to use the pavement and they have to walk on the road. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk informs PC Kevin Jones.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

County Councillor Audrey Jones was not present at the Community Council Meeting, but she did however provide a written report which was handed to the Councillors.

8. REPORTS.

Councillor Annette Price reported that she has spoken to Rhys Jones a Youth Worker from Carmarthenshire County Council who is trying to get a bus shelter for Betws which will incorporate a radio, lighting, Bluetooth etc. He would like the Community council to support this and he requires a donation of £500. Councillor Carwyn James proposed that he comes to talk to the Community Council in September. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Rhys Jones.

9. PRO'S AND CON'S OF TAKING OVER THE RUNNING OF THE PARKS.

Councillor Annette Price has received a grant application form for Treforis Play area. She has completed the grant application form on behalf of the Community Council. She also has a meeting to try to obtain further grants. Councillor Maldwyn John proposed that the Projects Sub Committee looks into the pro's and con's. All the Councillors agreed.

10. REPORTS.

10.1 PACT Meeting.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that she attended the PACT Meetings on the 13th July 2010. It was reported that the County Councillor has arranged for the dog warden to come and visit Betws on Thursday regarding one dog owner in Betws who does not clean up the dog mess after the dog. The Councillors NOTED the above point.

Councillor Anne Sizmur also informed the Councillors that she informed PC Kevin Jones on heavy vehicles speeding along Maesquarre Road. He confirmed that he will contact Swansea City Council regarding the sat navigation signs.

10.2 Ammanford Court.

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Councillors that she has read in the Guardian of the possible closure of Ammanford Court. Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and all the Councillors agreed that a strong letter of objection is submitted regarding the closure of Ammanford Court.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that she has been approached by Dr John D Evans as he would like the assistance of the Community Council. He would like to hold classes on communication skills and the history of Betws to parents who in turn would help their children. He is asking if the Community Council would assist him by covering the cost of the teaching materials. The Councillors RESOLVED that the Community Council could not assist Dr John D Evans as this would set a precedent for the future. The Clerk to inform Dr John D Evans accordingly.

Meeting Ended 9.15pm

