

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2011 12 December Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 14th December 2011 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. Carwyn James (Chairperson), Alderman Arnallt James, Cllrs. Loreen Lewis, June Gunter, Menna Roberts, Annette Price, Richard Howell, Maldwyn John, Anne Sizmur, Horace Tout. Mr Mike Lewis (Guardian)

1. APOLOGIES Councillors Catherine Smith, Betsan Jones and County Councillor Audrey Jones.

2. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

3. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2011

Councillor Richard Howell proposed and Alderman Arnallt James seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9th November 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4. DYFED POWYS POLICE

PC Kevin Jones was not present

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Audrey Jones was not present, but had asked the Clerk by telephone to mention the steps in Betws Park will be done before Christmas, weather permitting.

A letter had been passed via County Councillor Jones from residents of Parc Bwtri Mawr, regarding the issue with the Tesco Store. A meeting with representatives of Tesco has been arranged for January 13th 2012 at 3.00pm, and all councillors are asked to attend.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs Mrs Ellsmore that councillors will be attending.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 TREES AT MAESQUARRE ROAD

The Clerk read out a reply from the Tree Officer regarding Tree Preservation Orders and the felling of trees. Following a short discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact the Tree Officer again, and ask how many TPO's there are in Betws, and how can a tree be nominated to receive an order.

RESOLVED the Clerk contacts the Tree Officer.

6.2 ARCHWAY IN BETWS PARK

Councillor Annette Price asked if demolishing the Archway would be a better option than repairing, due to its poor condition, and other problems.

RESOLVED that the issue be deferred until County Councillor Jones is present.

6.3 SECTION 106 FUNDS - MAESQUARRE PARK

The County Councillor had promised to try and resolve this matter, but there was nothing to report at this time.

RESOLVED the Clerk pursues the matter with the County Councillor.

6.4 QUAY STREET RAILWAY CROSSING

The Clerk informed members that he had written seven letters on this subject, to include Network Rail, Carmarthenshire County Council, and our local MP's and AM's.

Replies had been received from nearly all, and the overall response was that re-opening the Quay Street Crossing was not viable and would not be considered.

There were varying reasons, which included the cost of approximately £1,000,000, the disruption to the proposed re-generation of Ammanford, and simply that re-opening the gates would not improve the traffic problems.

The traffic congestion problem was raised in the Assembly by Rebecca Evans AM, to which the First Minister suggested that the South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium need to identify the second phase of the distributor road as a priority.

Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that the Clerk writes to all concerned asking them to lobby SWWITCH to make this relief road a priority.

It was agreed that all avenues have been exhausted and this item would not be pursued further.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to all concerned.

6.5 PARKING OUTSIDE MAESQUARRE PLAYGROUND

The Clerk read out an exchange of e-mails between himself and John McAvooy regarding the matter of parking outside Maesquarre Road playground. There were three options available, namely pavement bollards, kerbside bollards, and road markings. Following a short discussion it was decided that the road marking option would be the most suitable.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs Mr McAvooy

6.6 FOOTPATHS

Alderman Arnallt James informed members that he had met Mathew Palmer, and had discussed a number of issues of concern on the footpath network. Alderman James however, was still not happy about the speed of progress of re-opening paths at the former Betws Colliery site.

RESOLVED the Clerk asks Mathew Palmer for another update on progress.

6.7 POTHLES

Although Technical Services had repaired some of the potholes, members reported that there were still a few which needed attention.

RESOLVED the Clerk contacts Technical Services again.

6.8 AIRSHAFT AT MAESQUARRE HALL

The Clerk read out a letter from The Coal Authority, which stated that an inspection of all shafts had been completed and there were no major problems.

The above was NOTED

6.9 SPORTS PERSONALITY AWARDS

Councillor Carwyn James informed members that he had sent in the nomination forms for Amber Howell.

The above was NOTED.

6.10 FOOTPATH SIGNS

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from the occupier of Waunherod saying that footpath signs near her property were all intact.

The above was NOTED

6.11 CAROL SERVICE

Councillor Anne Sizmur reminded members of the forthcoming Carol Service at Cartref Anwyl Fan. The Chairman thanked Councillor Sizmur for organising the event.

The above was NOTED.

6.12 FOOTBALL GOALPOSTS

The Chairman reported that he had attended a photo shoot with officials and players.

The above was NOTED

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents NOTED.

1 Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Annual Action Plan 2012-2013

2 Policing and Crime Act 2009. Sexual Entertainment Venues

3 OVW – Antibiotics Awareness Day 18th November 2011

4 Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm

The Clerk informed members that he had received a reply to the questions posed by Dr J D Evans, from Mr Rob Fellows of Cambrian Renewable Energy. Mr Evans had written back stating that he was very unhappy with the content of the reply, and that he was very concerned that the turbines were not underpinned.

- 5 Buckingham Palace Garden Parties
- 6 OVW – Training
- 7 Consultation on Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill
- 8 Adult Social Care

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

APPLICATION REFUSED

E/25158 – Extension at Tir Eleanor Morgan Farm, Betws

9. ACCOUNTS

- 1 Clerks Salary and Allowances £867.86
- 2 Clerk's Income Tax £189.90
- 3 Tesco – Stationery £ 25.16
- 4 Morgan & Morgan £ 40.13
- 5 SLCC Membership £ 83.00
- 6 Donation – NSPCC £ 150.00
- 7 Donation – Bobath £ 150.00
- 8 Donation – Christian Lewis Trust £ 150.00
- 9 Donation – National Eisteddfod – Vale of Glamorgan £ 100.00
- 10 Donation – Blas £ 150.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid

10. REPORTS.

PACT

Councillor Anne Sizmur had attended the monthly meeting where the subjects discussed included the problems with minor road accidents at the Tesco Car Park, and the lorries travelling along Maesquarre Road to the Wind Farm site.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 LORRIES ON MAESQUARRE ROAD

Members were concerned at the number of construction vehicles passing along Maesquarre Road to the Wind Farm site. Although we were aware that a few vehicles would be involved with constructing the sub-station, the number passing far exceeds this amount, with as many as 8 lorries passing within 30 minutes.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the Head of Planning and Mr Rob Fellows.

11.2 TREFORIS

Councillor Annette Price suggested that the Projects sub-committee, meet with Melanie Torrence and other interested parties, on Tuesday 10th January 2012, to discuss the proposed Playground at Treforis. Members agreed that a standard conventional playground would be the preferred option.

The above was NOTED.

11.3 SOLAR PANELS

Councillor Annette Price asked whether it would be feasible to install solar panels on our

footway lights.

RESOLVED the Clerk makes enquiries.

11.4 JOGGERS

Councillor Annette Price raised her concern about Joggers using the roads, and not the pavements, especially after dark.

RESOLVED the matter be raised at the next PACT meeting.

11.5 GRAFFITI AT TREFORIS

Councillor Richard Howell reported obscene graffiti on fencing at Treforis.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the Cleansing Department.

11.6 BREAKS IN POWER SUPPLY

Councillor Maldwyn John informed members that the power supply in Betws Road had been cutting off quite often recently.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs Western Power

11.7 MR MIKE LEWIS – GUARDIAN

Councillor June Gunter thanked Mr Lewis for attending and reporting our meetings.

The above was NOTED.

11.8 BETWS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Councillor Annette Price asked if a letter of congratulations could be sent to the staff and pupils, for putting on an excellent Christmas Concert.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to the school.