

# BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Title: 2011 02 February Minutes**

### BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 9th February 2011 at 7.00 pm.

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

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

3. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2011

Addition to item 12.3.

Should also read that "councillors will be willing to open Capel Newydd Vestry in order to meet and help residents who need assistance to complete their census forms"

Anne advised that census day is on 27th March 2011, and forms will be sent out from 7th March 2011.

Councillor Cath Smith proposed and Councillor Richard Howell seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 12th January 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4. AMMANFORD AFC

Mr Mark Thomas of Ammanford AFC was welcomed to the meeting.

He explained that their intentions as a club was to maintain the facilities, which includes maintenance of the pitch, nets and the surrounds, and one of their biggest issues is security. They have on many occasions blocked both entrances to the site, but their efforts are always undone by vandalism. They have erected signs at strategic points, but again they are removed or damaged. The Police are satisfied with their attempts at security, but because they are all volunteers, they find it difficult to police. It was suggested that PC Rob Chapman could liaise with club officials, and advise on security.

Councillor Betsan Jones mentioned that children as young as four and five years old, are often seen climbing the fences and buildings.

It was suggested to Mr Thomas that the post box be emptied of junk mail before someone sets it alight.

Following a donation from the council of £600 towards the purchase of new goal posts, Councillor Carwyn James asked if they would be happy to hold a photo opportunity, when the new goal posts are installed. Mr Thomas said he would be happy to arrange this, and thanked the council for their generosity.

## 5. DYFED POWYS POLICE

.PC Kevin Jones was in attendance.

For the month of January he reported 9 crimes of which 5 were detected, giving a 55.6% detection rate.

The crimes were as follows :-

1 Wounding : 1 Assault : 1 Public Order offence : 1 Rape : 2 Thefts : 3 Possesion of Drugs.

Parking on Betws square was still a problem.

Venue for the "Taste of Culture Day" had been changed to the Amman Centre

Councillor Annette Price asked about a string of incidents at Treforis, where the police and ambulance services were called out a few times for the same person. PC Jones was aware of the incident and the police took positive action.

Councillor Betsan Jones asked about the Rape incident. PC Jones assured everyone that the person concerned was known to them, and has been bailed to stay out of the area.

## 6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

No report received from County Councillor.

Anne mentioned that the next County Hall Meeting will be discussing Council Tax.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING

### 7.1 GRITTING OF PENTWYN ROAD

Letter received from Mr Cresci stating that a grit bin will be placed at the Park Street end of Pentwyn Road.

### 7.2 BENCHES

The Clerk was asked to make enquiries about the benches, the fingerpost, the benches removed from the Pump House, and ask that a damaged bench in Treforis is removed.

RESOLVED the Clerk contacts Gerwyn Thomas and Gareth Howells.

### 7.3 FOOTPATHS

The Clerk read the reply received from Mr Gary Carlsen.

Following a long discussion, members asked for further clarification on the following:-

3/14a When is the temporary bund likely to be removed?

3/12 Has a report been received from the WAG inspector?

Is it possible to get new plans of all the footpaths in Betws

RESOLVED the Clerk contacts Mr Carlsen.

### 7.4 PLAQUES

Councillor Carwyn James has spoken to Catherine, who states that she did not collect the

plaques from Crydd yr Aman.

RESOLVED that Clerk writes to both parties for clarification.

#### 7.5 PUMP HOUSE

Due to the recent incident at this location, Councillors feel that a decision on this structure needs to be dealt with urgently.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to Gerwyn Thomas

#### 7.6 CARMARTHENSHIRE TOURIST ASSOCIATION

The Clerk informed the members that the annual fee was for having the web site facility, and if we ceased to pay then we would no longer be able to place our minutes on line.

RESOLVED the Clerk asks how many "hits" the site gets, and would our minutes remain on the site if we did not pay the annual fee.

#### 7.7 TREFORIS PARK

Councillor Annette Price informed members that a meeting was due to take place on Thursday 10th February.

There are still many occurrences at the estate, including anti-social behaviour, drug offences, driving cars without insurance, and the police are constantly called to the estate.

Councillor Anne Sizmur suggested that we invite Mr Huw Evans, the Executive Member for Housing in Carmarthenshire County Council to attend our next meeting.

Anne agreed to ask Mr Evans.

#### 7.8 RAILWAY BARRIERS

The Clerk reported the complaint about the barriers had been, acknowledged, and would hopefully be resolved.

RESOLVED that monitoring of the situation should continue

### 8. CORRESPONDENCE.

8.1 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

1. Buckingham Palace Garden Party
2. HOWLTA Newsletter
3. WAG---Appropriate sum/Borrowing
4. Following the flame
5. Mynydd y Betws Wind farm
6. Referendum Poster
7. CCC Landscaping of Ammanford outer distributor Road
8. Carmarthenshire Area Committee
9. Lloyds TSB
10. CCC Footway Lighting Charges
11. HMCS-Court Reform Programme
12. CCC Tourist Brochure
13. Hydropower Workshop, Pontyates

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS.

E/24244 Residential Development at Amman Engineering, Maesquarre Road

NO OBJECTION, providing the sewers were capable of taking the extra capacity.

Questions for Planning Officer :-

- 1 Does the building currently on this site have some sort of "preservation order"?
- 2 There is an old mine air shaft near this site. Is it wise to build near it.?
- 3 There is a lagoon nearby. Again is it safe to build near it ?

RESOLVED Clerk writes to Planning Department

E/24256 Residential Development-6 dwellings at Colonel Road, Betws

Councillors OBJECT to this application due to the access being on a bend, and the increase in traffic it will produce.

## 10. ACCOUNTS

10.1 Payment of Invoices.

1. Carwyn James postage £3.83

RESOLVED that the above be paid

## 11. REPORTS.

### AMMAN VALLEY GROUP OF COUNCILS

Inspector Paul Williams and Sergeant Theresa Ross were welcomed by Anne Sizmur.

The evening began with Anne Sizmur asking what effects will the current cut backs have on staffing within the force, especially in Ammanford and the surrounding areas.

Inspector Williams explained that cut backs and a reduction in staff, was inevitable, and that a working group has been set up to produce a "cost reduction plan". The annual budget amounts to £95 million, of which 85-90% is for wages. The "cost reduction plan" was on going, and has been tasked to save £9 million in the first two years.

A comprehensive restructuring and merger scheme was being introduced, where many of the higher level posts were being lost, in order to leave more resources at the lower levels. Office staff were also being affected, with 70 being released over the last nine months through early retirement schemes.

At the moment the force is running at 25 officers below compliment, but more Special Constables are being recruited over the coming weeks.

Increased efficiency plans were also being looked at, including asking officers to complete their paperwork on laptops in their cars, and save the need to return to the station.

It was pointed out that the Public Protection Unit, will not be affected with any cut backs.

There followed a lively discussion on a number of points, which covered the importance of councillors attending the monthly PACT meetings, the Police helicopter, Drugs, Ammanford Parks, and Ammanford Police Station.

## CARMARTHENSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE

Councillor Carwyn James attended the recent meeting and reported as follows :-

The first presentation was about the Community Health Council, which was followed by a discussion with the new Chief Executive of One Voice Wales—Mr Lynn Cadwalader. Some of the issues discussed included a new charter between Community and County Councils, visiting all area committees, and possibly changing some of the procedures, a new manifesto and a strategic action plan for OVW, Local Government Association, CAB, training for Councillors, and grants from Community Cohesion funds.

## INTEGRATED COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported that all authorities are working together with the core aim of saving money. Many issues in the report have been discussed before. The aims are fine, but whether they will be implemented is not so certain.

Councillor Sizmur suggested that we agree with the contents of the document, and wish good luck to all concerned.

## PACT

Issues raised included antisocial behaviour, use of drugs in the area, bus service no 127, cultural day, and a successful speed monitoring scheme, implemented by schoolchildren in Pantyffynnon, which hopefully PC Kevin Jones and WPC Sheree Treharne will be able to do in Betws.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to VEOLIA regarding bus service.

## BETWS TRAFFIC SURVEY

Councillor Anne Sizmur gave a report about the recent meeting with Mr John McEvoy of Carmarthenshire Transport and Engineering Division.

Mr McEvoy acknowledged that a solution was needed, but as usual the main problem is finance. He did however suggest a quick short term solution, which was the implementation of a 20 mph speed limit to all affected areas.

Whilst most members were happy that something was being done about the speed, it was felt that Betws Community Council should still push to get a permanent solution to the parking problem.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes again to Mr McEvoy.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 12.1 TELEGRAPH POLE

Councillor Annette Price reported an incident, where a telegraph pole had been knocked down by a lorry, and on closer inspection the pole was found to be rotten.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to the Technical Services asking that all posts are checked.

### 12.2 COUNCILS ANNUAL DINNER

Red Lion, Llandybie, agreed as venue, for Thursday 17th March 2011.

### 12.3 HIGHWAYS

Councillor Annette Price asked if Betws Community Councillors could be present when Ammanford Town Council discuss road issues which are of interest to Betws.  
RESOLVED that Councillor Anne Sizmur speaks with Wendy Evans of Ammanford Town Council.