

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2011 01 January Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 12th January 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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Horace Tout.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS.
None

1. TO READ AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 8th DECEMBER 2010.

Alderman Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 8th December 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

2. DYFED POWYS POLICE

Representatives of Dyfed Powys Police were in attendance, and reported that December was a relatively quiet month with only 3 crimes committed.

There followed a general discussion where the following points were raised:-

- Damage to Fish and Chip shop opposite OAP Hall in Ammanford.
- Pentwyn Road—dangerous driving conditions during recent bad weather.
- Parking on Betws Road.
- Ffordd y Glowyr—large mound of snow at entrance.
- Treforis Estate---Problems with unsociable behaviour. Police aware of the situation. Councillors asked if a greater Police presence is possible? Elderly residents are afraid to contact the police for fear of reprisals. PC Jones would be happy to take calls at any time, including his mobile, and residents can ask not to be contacted or named.
- Taste of Culture Day at Ammanford Pensioners Hall on 13th February 2011 at 1.00 pm

Councillor June Gunter thanked the Police for attending, and praised the good relationship between them and the council.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor had given the Chair a verbal report. :-

High trees at Glanafon are due to be lopped.

Councillor Betsan Jones asked if another letter could be sent to Mario Cresci regarding the gritting of Pentwyn Road.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mr Cresci.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 BENCHES

Anne has spoken to Gerwyn Thomas, and also ordered an additional bench. All outstanding issues with the benches will be dealt with when the new benches are installed.

Gerwyn is also in the process of acquiring a permanent Christmas Tree. Councillors agreed to pursue this matter further if there was no progress by the end of February

4.2 BETWS CHURCH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Annette arranged for two extra sets of lights to be installed, and it was also agreed to purchase one further set. The bill will follow.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes a letter of thanks to Mr Betton for installing the lights.

4.3 FOOTPATHS

The Clerk read out a letter received from Mr Gary Carlsen, regarding the re-routing of path 3/14a.

Councillors agreed with the proposals, and following a long discussion the Clerk was asked to write to Gary Carlsen on the following points :-

- Footpath 3/14a How will this path overcome the huge mound which blocks the route?, and can he make sure the notices and maps are posted. Can we also have a more detailed map of the diversion.
- Footpath3/12 This path is currently closed. What are his proposals regarding re-opening?
- Footpath 3/17 If a section of this path is to be closed, how will people get to the viewing area?

4.4 PLANNING

Land off Cwmfelin Road, Betws.-unauthorised building. The applicants have lodged an appeal to the Assembly, against an enforcement notice served by Carmarthenshire County Council. Anne explained the background to the case to councillors, and asked permission to send an e-mail to the Assembly expressing our objections.

RESOLVED the Clerk e-mails the Assembly.

4.5 PLAQUES

No progress----very difficult to get in touch with Catherine. Carwyn and Anne agreed to try once more.

4.6 AMMANFORD AFC

Invite representatives of Ammanford AFC to the February meeting, to discuss the Club and grounds, and the possibility of some publicity about the large donation given.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to club representatives.

4.7 PUMP HOUSE

Anne informed the meeting that Mr Gerwyn Thomas will assess the Pump House over the next few weeks, and report back to us. Councillors were concerned about the poor condition of the roof, with regard to safety issues. Gerwyn had also asked about some background history regarding the structure.

RESOLVED the Clerk contacts Gerwyn Thomas.

4.8 AMMAN VALLEY GROUP OF COUNCILS

All councillors are invited to the next meeting on Thursday 27th January 2011, where Inspector Paul Williams of Dyfed Powys Police will be present.

4.9 GRITTERS

The Clerk explained that pavement gritters are available at about £500 -£1000 each. However the ongoing costs, plus health and safety issues are major factors. The above points were NOTED.

5. CORRESPONDENCE.

5.1 The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

- Carmarthenshire County Council –Letter from Gary Carlsen re: Footpaths.
- Carmarthenshire County Council – Gypsy and Travellers Community Strategy.
- Carmarthenshire County Council – Integrated Community Strategy.
- Fish and Chip Poster - Spinal Injuries Association.

6. PLANNING MATTERS.

6.1 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.

E/23532 Barn Conversion 1, Bodist Uchaf, Wernoleu Road,
E/23530 Barn Conversion 2, Bodist Uchaf, Wernoleu Road,

7. ACCOUNTS

7.1 Payment of Invoices.

1. Mrs Anne Sizmur--stamps £8.77
 2. Chairpersons Allowance (2nd) £100.00
 3. Morgan and Morgan £45.82
 4. SLCC Membership £82.00
 5. Capel Newydd Donation £25.00
 6. Eglwys Dewi Sant Donation £50.00
- Total £311.59

The Councillors RESOLVED that the above be paid.

7.2 Bank Signatories.

The Clerk explained that he had visited the bank, to arrange to have his name included as a signatory. All current signatories were asked to sign the form. RESOLVED Clerk returns completed form to Lloyds TSB.

7.3 Precept 2011-2012

A copy of the annual expenditure and the estimates for 2011-2012 were sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. All the items listed were discussed in detail, and all the figures were agreed. Following a short discussion, Councillor Anne Sizmur proposed and Councillor Catherine Smith seconded, that a precept request of £16,500 be submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council.

RESOLVED that the Clerk requests a precept of £16,500.

7.4 Tourist Association

Councillor Menna Roberts suggested that we find out what the annual membership fee entails and should we keep paying it?

RESOLVED that the Clerk makes enquiries.

7.5 Clerk's Salary

The Clerk was asked to leave the room whilst councillors discussed his salary scale.

On his return he was informed that his new rate per hour would be £9.941, and not £ 9.591 as previously agreed.

8. NEWSLETTER

Catherine will complete, and arrange to pass to Menna to check the Welsh version, as soon

as possible.

9. COUNCIL DINNER

Venue to be agreed at February meeting.

10. TREFORIS PARK.

Councillor Annette Price expressed her concerns regarding the proposed play area at Treforis.

She and Loreen were due to meet Gerwyn Thomas, and other interested bodies soon. Following a short discussion the following course of action was proposed :-

- Postpone scheduled meeting with Gerwyn.
- Council sub-committee to meet, and report back to next meeting.

11. REPORTS.

PACT MEETING

Councillor Catherine Smith updated members on the issues discussed at the recent PACT Meeting.

- Posters for Notice Board
- Woodland Park-damage to fences.
- Gaps in fences due to be repaired.
- Cultural Day

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Councillor Annette Price informed the meeting that there were plans to merge the Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli Citizen Advice Offices. She asked for the Councils support in opposing the plans. All agreed.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 RAILWAY BARRIERS

Annette informed members that the railway barriers at the Ammanford level crossing were down for a period of 2 hours on the 23rd of December, and 45 minutes on the 6th of January 2011.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to Network Rail.

12.2 TREFORIS PARK

Annette informed members that concrete posts around the park in Treforis were damaged and dangerous.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to Parks Department.

12.3 CENSUS

Anne had spoken to Peter Williams of the electoral office of the county. He was asking if councillors would be willing to help people complete their census forms. Anne and Catherine agreed to help.

