

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2011 03 March Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 9th March 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, Maldwyn John. County Councillor Audrey Jones.

1. APOLOGIES Betsan Jones, Horace Tout.

2. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

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

Amendment to item 7.7 TREFORIS PARK

Should read "Arnallt proposed and Annette seconded that Mr Evans be invited to the next meeting"

Amendment to report on Carmarthenshire Area Committee on page 5.

Should read "Un Llais Carmarthenshire Area Committee"

Councillor Cath Smith proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9th February 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUW EVANS

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Huw Evans (Executive Board Member for Housing), Mr Jonathon Morgan (Area Housing Manager) and Melanie Torrance (Housing Officer).

The guests were invited to attend, in order to shed light on the continuing problems at Treforis Estate. Anne Sizmur explained that we have grave concerns about the problems on the estate, and are uncertain whether to proceed with a plan to provide a childrens play area.

Jonathon Morgan felt that the best way forward was for all concerned, which includes Councils, Police and Residents to work together to remedy the situation.

Melanie Torrance then gave a long and detailed report about the work her department was doing on the estate. These included regular visits by her team, and the community wardens, to inspect the condition of gardens and surrounding area, and notifying tenants, and owner/occupiers to remove rubbish. Organising a walkabout with the police and County Councillor. Arranged for a skip to be provided on the estate, and she has also been able to reduce the

amount of rent arrears on the estate.

Her Department are now in the process of formulating a "letting policy management plan", which will hopefully continue to improve standards. Anne Sizmur thanked Melanie for her report.

Jonathon Morgan then gave members statistics about the County's allocation policy, emphasising that only 2% of allocations are to people from outside the County. He also explained about a few new initiatives, including a letting policy specifically for Treforis, and a 12 month introductory tenancy.

He concluded by saying that a lot of work is going on behind the scenes, and asked whether setting up a Residents Association would be a good idea?

There followed a long open discussion, with many interesting points raised.

In closing the Chairperson thanked all three for attending.

5. DYFED POWYS POLICE

No members of Dyfed Powys Police were in attendance.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Audrey Jones did not stay to give a report.

Councillor Anne Sizmur briefly mentioned that she had attended two County Council Meetings to discuss Care Homes and Council Tax.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 BENCHES/FINGERPOST/PUMP HOUSE

The Clerk reported that the benches and finger post were due to be installed by the end of the week.

The Pump House was awaiting the outcome of a structural survey, which will decide whether it will be repaired or demolished.

RESOLVED that the Clerk monitors the situation and chases up if work is not done.

7.2 FOOTPATHS

The Clerk read out replies received from Gary Carlsen regarding the queries raised. He also mentioned that he has received the Order on the proposed diversions.

The above points were NOTED.

7.3 PLAQUES

RESOLVED that Clerk visits Crydd yr Aman, and orders new plaques.

7.4 CARMARTHENSHIRE TOURIST ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED that we continue to pay the annual subscription.

7.5 TREFORIS

Annette Price once again expressed her concerns about the situation in Treforis, and added that as much as the Housing Officers are doing their best, the situation has got worse due to their previous lack of involvement.

It was suggested that maybe a green play area and seating, might be a better solution.

RESOLVED we give the Housing Officers a chance to improve the situation, and re-visit the matter in June or July.

7.6 RAILWAY BARRIERS

The barriers on the level crossing in Ammanford, have once again closed for a lengthy period, causing traffic chaos.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs Network Rail

7.7 TREE/SHRUB PLANTING AT REAR OF PARC BWTRIMAWR

No reply from the County therefore RESOLVED that Clerk pursues the matter.

7.8 SERVICE 127. GARNSWLLT-BETWS

Still no reply from VEOLIA, and there are also rumours that the service will cease.

RESOLVED the Clerk pursues the matter with Veolia, and also write to the County Councillor to see if she knows anything about the matter.

7.9 TELEGRAPH POLES

No reply from the County, but Loreen reported that officials were inspecting posts in the area.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes again to the relevant department.

7.10 FOUNDRY ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Members were dissatisfied by the poor traffic management in place whilst work was being carried out at the Foundry Road Roundabout.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes a letter of complaint to the relevant department.

7.11 LLANGOLLEN EISTEDDFOD

Councillor Carwyn James wanted to know why no complimentary tickets had been received?

RESOLVED the Clerk makes enquiries

7.12 GLO MAN

Members were unhappy about the negative comments made in the paper with regards to the Betws area, especially when they are not firstly brought to Councillors to try and resolve.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to GLO MAN to express our disappointment about some of the remarks in the paper.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Care and Repair Carmarthenshire.
2. One Voice Wales—Volunteer Responders
3. Ammanford AFC
4. CCC Licensing Act 2003
5. CCC Foundry Road Roundabout Closure
6. Energy Saving Trust
7. Carmarthenshire YFC Annual Report
8. Llangollen Eisteddfod
9. Countryside Council for Wales—Funding Newsletter
10. Open Doors
11. The Planning Inspectorate
12. Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan
13. C.C.C -Mapping of Public Sector Land

The above correspondence was acknowledged and the contents noted.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

- 9.1 E/23739 Steel Framed Building at Glyncywarch Washery, Betws
- 9.2 E/23281 Dwelling at Groeslwyd, Argoed Road, Betws

10. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- 1 Clerks Income Tax £196.83
 - 2 Clerks Salary and Allowances £981.88
 - 3 Staples £ 4.99
 - 4 Stapler £ 16.79
 - 5 Paper/Ink/Envelopes £ 24.78
 - 6 Morgan & Morgan—Printer and Ink £190.96
 - 7 Donation—CAB £100.00
 - 8 Donation---Dawnsywyr Penrhyd £100.00
 - 9 Donation---Llangollen Eisteddfod £100.00
 - 10 Donation---CRUSE £100.00
 - 11 Donation---CEREBRA £100.00
 - 12 Donation---Glo Man £100.00
 - 13 Donation---Eglwys Dewi Sant £150.00
- £2,166.23

The Council RESOLVED that the above be paid.

11. REPORTS.

11.1 PACT

Meeting attended by Anne and Cath. Very little to report. Most of the problems experienced in Betws are replicated elsewhere.

11.2 AMMAN VALLEY GROUP OF COUNCILS

Anne informed members that the guest speaker at the next meeting would either be someone dealing with grants or footpaths.

11.3 CENSUS

Anne informed the meeting that Census Day is on 27th March 2011, and a decision as to whether there is a need to open the vestry to help residents complete their forms will be taken shortly.

11.4 C.A.B.

Annette gave members an update of the on- going merger between Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli offices. She also gave information about the performances of each office, the proposed new management structure, and the proposals for retaining the Iscennen office. Members agreed with all her thoughts on the matter, and gave her the Councils full support.

11.5 MYNYDD Y BETWS WINDFARM

Councillor Anne Sizmur, County Councillor Audrey Jones, and Cerith Griffiths (clerk), met with Mr Andy Paine, Mr John O'Donahue and Mr Rob Fellows of Cambrian Renewable Energy, on Thursday 17th February 2011.

The gentlemen wanted the opportunity to introduce themselves, and give some initial details about the wind farm project, and how it would progress in the coming months.

Mr O'Donahue, who is the Project Director for Mynydd y Betws, explained that over the last six months, they have been carrying out various tests, which were necessary under the planning conditions. They are now in a position to sign off these consents, and will soon move on to procuring equipment, machinery, plant and contractors, through a tendering system. They hope to start work on the turbines in late summer, probably August or September 2011, and complete all turbines in about 12 months. The turbines will be transported through Pontardawe and Rhydyfro. The concrete to erect the bases, will hopefully will be sourced locally.

Whilst in the area, they have met with Rhodri Glyn Thomas, the local MP, and members of Cwmaman Town Council. They hope in the near future to organise an "Information Day" for all residents.

They will employ a full time liaison officer, and at a later date they would like a "Community Liaison Group" to be formed to deal with all matters relating to the scheme, especially the overseeing of a "Trust Fund" which will determine how the community benefits are allocated and spent.

Following a discussion on the above report, it was agreed to wait until we are contacted by Cambrian Renewable Energy, regarding the next stage of the process.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 POTHoles

Councillor Cath Smith complained about the potholes on the mountain road between the Scotch Pine and the Rhydyfro turn off.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to Highways

12.2 BETWS COLLIERY SITE

Alderman Arnallt James was concerned about the amount of tipping being carried out at this site, and for how long it will continue.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to Huw Towns for an explanation.

12.3 BANK COMPENSATION

Councillor Carwyn James asked if the £100 compensation from Lloyds TSB had been credited to our account? The Clerk stated that nothing had been received to date.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Lloyds TSB.