

# BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Title: 2011 09 September Minutes**

### BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

1. APOLOGIES 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 13th JULY 2011

Alderman Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Anne Sizmur seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 13th July 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4. DYFED POWYS POLICE

PC Kevin Jones informed the meeting that there were 9 crimes committed in Betws during July of which 5 had been detected giving a 55.6% detection rate, and 6 crimes in August with 5 detected giving an 83.3% detection rate.

Councillor Betsan Jones pointed out the danger to pedestrians, whilst walking past the road works in Rice Street/Pentwyn Road. Pc Jones agreed to look in to the matter.

Councillor Loreen Lewis thanked PC Jones for sorting out the traffic problems in Colonel Road.

Both Councillor Richard Howell and Councillor Annette Price asked about some of the crimes reported, and especially the ones relating to drugs.

Other topics discussed included the trains approaching the barriers before they are lowered, traffic congestion in and around Tesco, drivers not complying with the Highway Code on the Tesco roundabout, the possibility of a Zebra Crossing at the bottom of Park Street, and the erection and removal of a Pelican Crossing near the Tesco Stores.

Councillor Annette Price also commended the emergency services that attended the incident at Tout's Garage.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Audrey Jones was not present, but had informed Councillor Anne Sizmur that a bus shelter has now been installed at Parc Penrhiw, and that she was still working on the proposed 20 mph speed restriction in the Betws Road and Betws Square area.

## 6. MATTERS ARISING

### 6.1 ARCHWAY IN BETWS PARK

The Clerk reported that he had once again spoken to Gerwyn Thomas regarding this issue, and again he is still awaiting a decision about the cost and type of repair to be carried out.

RESOLVED the Clerk keeps reminding Gerwyn.

### 6.2 WASTE BINS

Councillor Betsan Jones informed the meeting that residents in the Pentwyn Road area, wished to thank the Community Council for providing a waste bin, at the top end of Pentwyn Road.

### 6.3 PLAQUES ON BENCHES

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked if a letter of thanks can be sent to Mr Smith for installing the plaques.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes a letter of thanks.

### 6.4 SIGNS IN BETWS PARK.

The Clerk reported that Mr Gareth Howells was still waiting for new signs.

RESOLVED the Clerk keeps reminding Gareth.

### 6.5 SECTION 106 FUNDS- MAESQUARRE PARK

The Clerk reported that Mr Eamond Davies the Playground Officer was still trying to resolve this issue with T R Jones. Councillor Anne Sizmur mentioned that the grass needed cutting again.

RESOLVED the Clerk rings Mr Davies about the grass cutting, and also keep reminding him about the unfinished work.

### 6.6 QUAY STREET RAILWAY CROSSING

The Clerk informed the meeting that Network Rail had not answered his letter. There followed a long discussion about the many problems with traffic congestion in the area, and the recent articles about the problems in the Guardian.

All points raised were NOTED.

### 6.7 AMBER HOWELL

On behalf of his daughter, Councillor Richard Howell thanked the Community Council for their kind donation.

### 6.8 MYNYDD Y BETWS WIND FARM

It has now been two months since the Wind Farm “Road Show” at Betws RFC, and members are keen to have an update of what’s happening with the project. Following a long discussion the Clerk was instructed to write and ask a number of pertinent questions, and also suggest that Mr Fellows attends one of our future meetings—possibly November.

RESOLVED the Clerk write to Mr Fellows.

#### 6.9 PARKING OUTSIDE MAESQUARRE PLAYGROUND

The Clerk informed members that he has written two letters to Mr Mc Avoy, and was still awaiting a reply.

RESOLVED the Clerk follows up the matter.

#### 7. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents NOTED.

- 1 Society of Local Council Clerks Conference
- 2 CCC – Quotation for Xmas Tree lights.

The Clerk informed members that the installation of a power supply to the Christmas Tree, would cost £2,640. Following a short discussion it was agreed to proceed, but delay the start until Spring 2012, in readiness for Christmas 2012.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs Mr Arwel Price.

- 3 CCC – Queen’s Diamond Jubilee
- 4 One Voice Wales – Queen’s Diamond Jubilee
- 5 HOWLTA – Newsletter
- 6 Hywel Dda Health Board - Talking Health
- 7 CCC – Review of Polling Districts and Places 2011.

Agreed that the current venue for voting was suitable.

RESOLVED the Clerk completes and returns the questionnaire.

- 8 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Annual Report
- 9 Community Health Council – Five Year Plan—passed to June.
- 10 CCC – Nomination of Minor Authority Representative. Betws Primary School.

NOTED Councillor June Gunter agreed to continue as our representative.

- 11 One Voice Wales – Courses- passed to Richard.
- 12 Neath Port Talbot – Local Development Plan
- 13 Celtic Community Link

#### 8. PLANNING MATTERS.

##### NEW APPLICATIONS

E/25152 – Single Storey Extension at Tir Eleanor Morgan Farm, Betws

## NO OBJECTIONS

E/25170 – Cul de sac of 11 dwellings with garages, at land at rear of 16-20 and 24-30 Betws Road, Betws.

STRONG OBJECTIONS, on seven points ranging from location, traffic congestion, flooding and rights of way.

## APPLICATIONS GRANTED

E/24742 – Submission of reserved matters, Betws Colliery site.

E/25048 – Erection of temporary wind measuring masts at Mynydd y Betws.

## 9. ACCOUNTS

- 1 Clerks Salary and Allowances £994.77
- 2 Clerks Income Tax £196.83
- 3 Carmarthenshire Tourist Assoc. Website Fees £ 42.00
- 4 Donation – Capel Newydd Cemetery £150.00
- 5 Donation – Eglwys Dewi Sant Cemetery £150.00
- 6 Betws in Bloom – Betws CP School £ 10.00
- 7 Betws in Bloom – Best Garden £ 10.00
- 8 Betws in Bloom – Small Garden £ 10.00
- 9 Betws in Bloom – Medium Garden £ 10.00
- 10 Betws in Bloom – Large Garden £ 10.00
- 11 Betws in Bloom – Planters/Baskets £ 10.00

The Chairman suggested that we give a donation of £50 to Cartref Annwyl Fan, for their efforts in the Betws in Bloom Competition. Following a show of hands it was carried by 10 votes to 1 that a donation be given.

- 12 Donation – Cartref Annwyl Fan £ 50.00
- 13 Chris y Crydd £ 29.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid

## INCOME

- 1 Precept – 2nd instalment £5,500

## REPORTS.

### PACT

Councillor Anne Sizmur attended the monthly meeting where the main topic of discussion was the town centre congestion.

### CAB

Councillor Annette Price reported that an event to promote the amalgamation of the CAB offices is to be held at the White Hart in Llandeilo.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 11.1 FOOTPATHS

Alderman Arnallt James raised a number of queries regarding progress on footpath 3/14 and the network of bridleways nearby. It was also reported that a stile on footpath 3/17 was damaged, and the bench at the viewpoint was loose and unsafe. Councillor Loreen Lewis also reported that a landowner was restricting access to walkers on footpath 3/11. Alderman James also suggested that the new officer responsible for footpaths contacts councillors for a site meeting.

RESOLVED the Clerk passes the above points on to the Footpaths Officer.

### 11.2 BETWS IN BLOOM

Councillor Anne Sizmur reminded councillors of the presentation evening on Tuesday 20th September 2011 at 7.00 pm.

It was also agreed to discuss future prize money for the event at the December finance meeting.

The Chairman thanked all concerned for their work at organising the event.

### 11.3 SEWAGE IN RIVER AMMAN

Councillor Tout was concerned that raw sewage was being seen in the river Amman.

RESOLVED the Clerk reports the incident to the Environment Agency.

### 11.4 POTHOLES NEAR SCOTCH PINE.

Councillor Loreen Lewis had received complaints from the landlord of the Scotch Pine regarding potholes on the road outside his premises.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the Highways Department.

### 11.6 TREFORIS PARK

Councillor Annette Price asked the Clerk to contact the Housing Officers responsible for Treforis, to ascertain if the problems on the estate had been resolved, in order to move forward with applying for grants.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Melanie Torrence.

### 11.7 WINDFARM

The Chairman read out a letter from Dr John Dorian Evans regarding his concerns about the underpinning of the turbines, and asked if we as a Community Council could ask the Wind Farm Liaison Officer for his thoughts about the matter.

RESOLVED the Clerk sends a copy of his questions with the previously agreed questions to Mr Fellows.

#### 11.8 AIRSHAFT AT MAESQUARRE HALL

In the same letter, the Chairman read out Dr John Dorian Evans' concerns about the safety of an airshaft situated near Maesquarre Hall.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes to the Coal Authority outlining Dr Evans' concerns.