

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 11th December 2013 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Alderman Arnallt James, Cllrs. Anne Sizmur, Annette Price, Richard Howell, Catherine Smith, Maldwyn John, Carwyn James, June Gunter and Dewi Branch.

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett and Mike Lewis (Guardian)

1. APOLOGIES. Councillor Rhydian Murray and Wynallt Richards

Prior to the commencement of business, a minutes silence was observed in memory of Mr Hywel Davies, former Councillor and Chairman of the Council, who sadly passed away recently.

2. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

3. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2013

Item 11.3 – should read plaque on bench.

Alderman Arnallt James proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 13th November 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4 DYFED POWYS POLICE

PCSO's Sheree Treharne and Sophie Lambert were in attendance and gave the following crime figures.

CRIME FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 2013

Assault = 0 Criminal Damage = 0 Drugs Offences = 3 Burglary = 0

Thefts = 0 Auto. Crime = 0 Misc. = 0

Total Monthly Crimes Reported = 3

Total Monthly Crimes Detected = 3

Detection Rate = 100%

The officers circulated illustrative drug boxes to Councillors, which gave an insight as to what drugs look like, and the way they are administered. There followed a general discussion on local drug problems, and also car parking in Ammanford's Quay Street.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Bartlett gave reports on the following items.

TRAFFIC SURVEY ON BETWS ROAD

County Councillor Bartlett read out an e-mail from Alison Roberts following the recent traffic survey carried out along Betws Road. She concluded that parking in Betws Road was short term and sporadic, and the use of double yellow lines was not an option.

Councillor Richard Howell asked if a copy of the response could be placed in the notice board. The Clerk agreed to look in to the matter. The above was **NOTED**

GLYNCYWARCH

County Councillor Bartlett met with Dafydd Jones at the site and walked with no problem, .all the way up to the viewing point. Work is proceeding to improve the area, which includes the planting of trees and improving a bund.

STREET LIGHTING AT PARC NANT Y FELIN

The problems at this estate are still ongoing, with all parties trying to resolve the matter. It now appears that the developer did not enter into a Sect 38 Highway Adoption Agreement. Hopefully there will be developments soon.

FUEL CLUB

County Councillor Bartlett informed members that a fuel club is operating from the Betws Family Centre in Treforis, and that he is advising constituents to attend the meetings held every Wednesday.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 BETWS PARK

Councillor Dewi Branch informed members that he has completed the work of fixing hooks to hang wooden crosses.

The above was **NOTED**.

6.2 GRAFFITI AT ENTRANCE TO BETWS PARK

The Clerk had once again informed Paul Murray, but without success. County Councillor Bartlett agreed to ring Paul, and failing that, Councillor Dewi Branch agreed to tackle the problem.

The above was **NOTED**.

6.3 BETWS FAMILY CENTRE

Following on from last month's meeting Councillor Anne Sizmur gave a brief report of the recent meeting she had attended at the centre, and the Clerk had obtained copies of the

Centre's Balance Sheets. Members now needed to select someone to represent the Community Council on the centre's management committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Carwyn James and seconded by Councillor Kath Smith that the Chairperson should represent the Council. The motion was carried

RESOLVED that the Chairperson attends Betws Family Centre meetings.

6.4 PLAQUES ON BENCHES

Following a discussion on the issuing of plaques, it was agreed that from now on, plaques will be placed on benches in the village in memory of past members of the council, providing the families agree.

The above was **NOTED**.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents **NOTED**.

1 CCC – Review of Regional Technical Statement for Minerals.

2 Kate Thomas – Designated Public Place Order- **NOTED**

3 Review of County Electoral Arrangements

4 County Liaison Forum – Carwyn will represent Community Council

5 Carmarthenshire Sports Personality of the Year Awards 2013 – ask Rhydian if he wants to attend.

Councillor Anne Sizmur asked if a letter of congratulations can be sent to Rhodri Williams on gaining his first Welsh cap.

6 Section 137 Expenditure 2014-2015

7 Llangollen – Souvenir Programme

8 CCC – Council Tax Reduction Scheme – passed to Annette.

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

NEW APPLICATION

E/29260 – Proposed Agricultural Building

Plas y Betws, Hopkinstown

A Jones

There were **NO OBJECTIONS** to the above application.

APPEAL

E/27815 – Appeal against Planning Decision

Glyn yr Eithin, Argoed Road, Betws

Mr Enzo Sauro

The above was **NOTED**

9. ACCOUNTS

1 Clerks Salary and Allowances	£ 1,274.08
2 Clerks Income Tax	£ 262.60
3 Society of Local Council Clerks Membership	£ 101.00
4 Chairpersons Allowance (re-issue)	£ 200.00
5 Heol y Felin, Sunshine Playgrounds 1 st Invoice	£21,150.00
6 Carmarthenshire Young Farmers	£ 100.00
7 Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre	£ 100.00
8 Bobath	£ 150.00
9 Kids Cancer Charity	£ 150.00
10 Marie Curie	£ 150.00
11 Betws RFC	£ 600.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid

10. REPORTS.

HEOL Y FELIN PLAYGROUND

The Clerk informed members the Grant Application to the Wind Farm Fund was successful, and following a meeting with Sally Bonnell, the Community Regeneration Officer, the letter to proceed was issued. He informed the chosen contractor, and work on site started on Monday the 9th December 2013.

He also informed members that he has spoken to Zurich Insurance regarding the additional cover required for the new apparatus, which amounts to approximately £118.00 per annum. There was also an additional amount of £283.00 per annum required, to cover damage or faults to the equipment. Following a short discussion it was agreed to take out additional cover for both the above.

RESOLVED the Clerk contacts Zurich Insurance.

The Clerk also explained the need to send cheques to the contractor in three stages, which might fall between our monthly meetings. Following a short discussion it was agreed to sign the cheques in advance.

RESOLVED that members sign three cheques and three transfer of funds slips in advance, in order to speed up the process.

There followed a long general discussion regarding a number of issues including annual inspections, VAT, a press release, and the launch event. Members had a variety of ideas as to how and when the event should take place. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the January meeting.

Councillor Richard Howell raised a few issues which need to be discussed with the contractors which included minor repairs, levelling of surfaces and the possibility of changing one of the apparatus.

RESOLVED the Clerk discusses the issues with the contractor.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 FIRE SERVICE DOWNGRADING

Councillor Carwyn James informed members of a meeting being held at the Pensioners Hall on Saturday 14th December at 1.00 pm to discuss the above.

The above was **NOTED**.

11.2 BETWS IN NEED

Councillor Dewi Branch reminded members of the Carols and Christmas Tree event on Friday 13th December at 7.30.pm

The above was **NOTED**.