

# BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Title: 2013 01 January Minutes**

### BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 9th January 2013 at 7.00 pm.

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

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett and Mike Lewis (Guardian)

1. APOLOGIES Councillors Cath Smith and June Gunter.

2. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

3. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2012

Alderman Arnallt James proposed, and Councillor Maldwyn John seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 12th December 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett gave a brief report of his activities since the last meeting.

He reported on a number of issues including the sale of parcels of land by the County Council at Treforis, and at the rear of the Plough and Harrow, the dangerous distraction caused by the wind turbines on Betws Mountain, and the discussions at County Hall about broadcasting their meetings, and the debate about a living wage.

He also informed the meeting that Eifion Bowen is actively pursuing the possibility of Section 106 money from the former Betws Mine site development.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 FOOTPATHS AND TIPPING

The Clerk reported he had written to Mr Dafydd Jones, but to date had not received a reply. There followed a long discussion about the area, including the ongoing tipping, the dirty colour of the Glyncywarch stream during heavy rain, drainage, and the removing of an oak tree. The councillors in general were aggrieved at Mr Jones's failure to reply, and it was agreed the Clerk should once again invite him and Mr Owain Jones to attend our meetings.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes again to both Owain and Dafydd Jones

## 5.2 SHRUBS IN BETWS PARK

It was agreed to send a reminder to Mr Gareth Howells after the February meeting, of his promise to plant shrubs in Betws Park.

The above was NOTED.

## 5.3 NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

The Clerk had been in touch with the Eisteddfod office, and was told that they no longer ask for Shields and Cups as donations, but would be happy to have donations to pay for competition prize monies. The Clerk read out a list of available competitions we could donate to, and it was agreed to pay £300 towards the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes of the Dawnsio Gwerin dan 25 competition.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the Eisteddfod office of our choice, and sends a cheque after the next meeting.

## 5.4 HOMELESS IN BETWS PARK

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed the Housing Department of homeless people using Betws Park, of which they were unaware. Councillor Dewi Branch had visited the park before Christmas, and found no evidence of anyone using the park.

The above was NOTED.

## 5.5 CHILDREN'S CONCERT

Councillor Anne Sizmur had not yet had a chance to discuss with Mrs James, the possibility of a concert by the children, but she would try and sort something out by the next meeting.

The above was NOTED.

## 5.6 ANNUAL DINNER

Following a short discussion it was agreed there was no interest in arranging an Annual Dinner for this year.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents NOTED.

- 1 CCC – Code of Conduct Training – Clerk and Annette to attend..
- 2 Fire and Rescue Service – Annual Performance Assessment
- 3 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual Report
- 4 Buckingham Palace Garden Parties
- 5 One Voice Wales – Courses – passed to Carwyn
- 6 ERM Evans – re: Treforis Playground
- 7 One Voice Wales – The Voice

## 7. PLANNING MATTERS.

### NEW APPLICATIONS

E/27500 – Kitchen extension at Brynheulog, Argoed Road, Betws  
Mr V Phillips

E/27515 – Single storey side extension at Penllech Farm, Cwmfelin Road, Betws.  
G Williams

E/27575 – Agricultural track and hard standing at Bryn Cathan, Betws  
G Mainwaring.

There were NO OBJECTIONS to the above applications.

## 8. ACCOUNTS

1 Chairpersons Allowance (2nd instalment) £100.00

2 Capel Newydd – Christmas lights £25.00

3 Eglwys Dewi Sant – Christmas lights £50.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid

## PRECEPT FOR 2013-2014

A copy of the annual expenditure and the estimates for 2013/2014 were sent to Councillors prior to the meeting, in which the Clerk had suggested a precept request of £19,000. All the items listed were discussed in detail, and the only figure altered was the Footway Lighting proposal which increased by £500 from £1200 to £1700.

Following a detailed discussion Councillor Carwyn James proposed, and Councillor Richard Howell seconded, that a precept request of £17,500 be submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council.

RESOLVED the Clerk requests a precept of £17,500

During the Precept discussion a number of issues arose:-

1. Timer to Church Xmas Tree Lights – Councillor Rhydian Murray agreed to provide a new timer.
2. Chairperson's Chain of Office – to be sent away to be engraved after this years' AGM.
3. Footway Lighting – Clerk to speak to Nigel Francis about renewal costs.

## 9. REPORTS.

### CRIME FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 2012

Assault = 1 Criminal Damage = 0 Drugs Offences = 3 Burglary = 1

Thefts = 2 Auto. Crime = 0 Misc. = 0

Total Monthly Crimes Reported = 7

Total Monthly Crimes Detected = 2

Detection Rate = 28.6%

Councillor Annette Price queried the number of burglaries reported, because she knew of at least two instances.

RESOLVED the Clerk queries figures with Kevin.

#### AMMAN VALLEY GROUP MEETING

Councillor Anne Sizmur gave a brief report of the meeting she and Councillor Carwyn James had attended on the 17th December 2012.

The discussion centred on the County Councils proposals to pass responsibility for amenities such as toilets, parks and bus stops over to the Community and Town Councils. She was asked to find out our thoughts about sharing the costs of maintaining these facilities with other councils, when they were relevant to us. Following a brief discussion, members agreed in principle to discuss the sharing of costs when appropriate.

#### PLANNING SEMINAR

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed members she now had a set of notes, which detailed the content of the Planning Seminar she and June had recently attended, and she would be happy to pass them around to members, as long as they were returned safely.

#### 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

##### 10.1 DOG FOULING ON BETWS SQUARE/PARK STREET

Councillor Annette Price complained about the amount of mess on the pavements around Betws Square Park Street and Colonel Road.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the wardens.