

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: 2013 03 March Minutes

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 13th March 2013 at 7.00 pm.

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

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett and Mike Lewis (Guardian)

1. APOLOGIES: Councillors Richard Howell, Cath Smith, Wynallt Richards and Dewi Branch.

2. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

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

From County Councillors report – amend to read “a letter from Councillor Ioan Richard.

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

CAMBRIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr Rob Fellows and Mr Noel Galhager were in attendance to give an update on progress at the Mynydd y Betws Windfarm.

Mr Galhager explained that all turbines had been erected and the project was nearing completion. The first 8 turbines in Radial A were energised today, and the next 7 in Radial B would be energised in Mid-April, which means all turbines will be turning and producing electricity. Demobilisation of workers will then start with the hope of handing over the site to maintenance and operations contractors by the end of April 2013.

Mr Fellows explained that the split of funds between Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot was agreed by ESB and the CEO's of both Authorities. The person administering the fund in Carmarthenshire is Amy Hawkins, and the money should hopefully become available in April. Mr Fellows agreed to send the Clerk a copy of the “Terms of Reference” which apply to Carmarthenshire County Council.

There followed a general discussion which covered topics such as match funding (which Mr Fellows stated was not suggested by ESB), a site visit, and access to the public along the contractor's road.

Councillor Annette Price concluded by expressing her worries about the sun reflecting off the turbines and blinding motorists at the Tiryddail Lane traffic lights junction.

4. DYFED POWYS POLICE

Officers from Dyfed Powys Police were not in attendance.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

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

There was very little to report about the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, because the next meeting is not scheduled until Wednesday the 20th March 2013. An update will be given at next month's meeting.

A PACT meeting for Councillors will be held at Ammanford Town Hall at 2.00 pm on the 14th March 2013.

Jim Jones, Executive Board member for the Environment has suggested two dates to visit the village. It was agreed to meet him on 4th April 2013. County Councillor Bartlett will confirm exact time and location.

Other items discussed included the County Councils budget for 2013/2014, a letter from Mr Mark Evans of UNISON, which was published in the Guardian, the "STOP" sign on Betws Square, Section 106 money, and the Food Banks being organised in Ammanford.

He concluded by informing members that work on repairing the roof of the Archway in Betws Park, will commence next week.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 SHRUBS IN BETWS PARK

Councillors Annette Price and Loreen Lewis advised that shrubs had still not been planted as arranged by Gareth Howells.

RESOLVED the Clerk contacts Gareth again.

6.2 TREFORIS – GRANT APPLICATION

The Clerk informed members the Regeneration team had visited Treforis on Monday, but due to the very cold weather, there were no children playing in the street or in the park. They would now ascertain the number of children in Treforis and Parc Penrhiw by other means, and they also wanted to know what we as a Community Council wanted at the site.

Following a long discussion it transpired that our "wish list" for the site was discussed at meetings held with the regeneration team and Mr Gerwyn Thomas at least two or three years ago ! It was agreed to ask for a meeting with the Medi Williams as soon as possible.

RESOLVED the Clerk arranges a meeting with Medi Williams.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was acknowledged and the contents NOTED.

- 1 Welsh National Mining Memorial
- 2 CCC – Housing Benefit Reforms (Bedroom tax)
- 3 CCC – Councillor Composition
- 4 CCC – Armed Forces Community Covenant

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

NEW APPLICATION

E/27815 – Extension and Alterations at Glyn yr Eithin, Argoed Road, Betws
Mr Enzo Sauro

There were NO OBJECTIONS to the above application.

9. ACCOUNTS

- 1 Clerk's Salary and Allowances £1248.49
- 2 Clerk's Income Tax £ 254.95
- 3 Solicitors Bill £ 2122.00
- 4 Anne Sizmur – Seminar for Mr John £ 25.00
- 5 Countrywide (Heol y Felin) £ 2130.05
- 6 British Red Cross £ 100.00
- 7 Urdd Gobaith Cymru £ 100.00
- 8 Cruse £ 100.00
- 9 Kidney Wales Foundation £ 100.00
- 10 Amman Valley Womens Aid £ 100.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid

The Chairperson Anne Sizmur explained to Mr Mike Lewis (Guardian) that two of the above bills were in relation to Heol y Felin, and that Councillors had agreed it was time to go public regarding our acquisition of the playing field and playground.

She asked if he would be willing to meet the trustees, and members of Betws RFC, sometime over the coming weeks in order to give him details of the long process, and produce a joint statement to be published in the Guardian.

Mr Lewis agreed to meet when it was convenient to all.

10. REPORTS.

PACT

Councillor Anne Sizmur was the only person in attendance, and the police are considering merging the meeting with the Saron and Tirydail areas. Councillor Annette Price suggested the Police Van which is used in Carregaman car park could be used to hold PACT meetings to save on cost. Councillor Sizmur agreed to mention this valid point at the next meeting.

11. HEOL Y FELIN MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

The Clerk read out details of 3 quotations received for the maintenance of Heol y Felin.

1. Countrywide: Playing field - £700.00
Playground - £1135.00

TOTAL = £1835

2. Carm C.C.: Playing field - £750.00
Playground - £1986.31

TOTAL = £2736.31

3 IQP Garden & Tree Services – Playing field only - £1380

TOTAL = £1380.00

The Clerk had also contacted two other companies, but both were unable to provide quotations.

During the discussion that followed all quotations were discussed in detail, which led to Councillor Rhydian Murray proposing and Alderman Arnallt James seconding that the contract be given to Carmarthenshire County Council. All councillors agreed.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs all parties of the council's decision.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 SIGNS AT ENTRANCE TO VILLAGE

Councillor Rhydian Murray suggested that when funds are available, we ask the County if a new and different sign could be sited at all entrances to the village.

RESOLVED the Clerk makes enquiries.

12.2 BENCHES FOR THE CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Councillor Annette Price apologised for not following up this request, and would report back by the next meeting.

The above was NOTED.

12.3 TRAINING

Councillor Carwyn James informed members of a Sustainable Development Course being held at 6.30 pm, on the 11th of April 2013 at the Ammanford Indoor Bowling Centre.

The above was NOTED.