

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett and Mike Lewis (Guardian)

1. **APOLOGIES.** None
2. **DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
None
3. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th OCTOBER 2013**

Councillor Annette Price proposed and Councillor Carwyn James seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9th October 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4 DYFED POWYS POLICE

PCSO Sophie Lambert was in attendance and gave the following crime figures.

CRIME FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 2013

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

Thefts = 0 Auto. Crime = 1 Misc. = 0

Total Monthly Crimes Reported = 3

Total Monthly Crimes Detected = 2

Detection Rate = 66.6%

There followed a general discussion on issues including an escaped snake in Rice Street, the Commissioners Grant, speeding and drug abuse. Councillor June Gunter wanted to convey here thanks to PCSO Arwyn Rees who successfully managed to get the caravan in Rice Street removed.

PCSO Lambert concluded, by reminding members to be vigilant with valuables as Christmas approaches.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett gave reports on the following items.

SPEEDING AROUND VILLAGE

Over the last few weeks the Police have been actively carrying out speed checks in Pentwyn Road, Maesquarre Road and Betws Road, with only one person being caught exceeding the speed limit.

COUNTY COUNCIL DRUG TASK FORCE

Councillor Bartlett informed members that he was on the above task force, and that drug related offences caused the highest percentage of crimes in the County.

SITE MEETING AT GLYNCYWARCH

A meeting was arranged, but had to be cancelled due to the weather. A new meeting will be arranged at a future date.

STREETLIGHTS AT PARC NANT Y FELIN

Councillor Bartlett gave members a brief update of the current situation, stating that a water certificate is needed before moving on with adopting the estate.

JOHN McAVOY

Councillor Bartlett stated that he was still pursuing Mr McAvoy regarding a number of issues which included Argoed Road, Maesquarre Road, and Betws Square.

COUNTY BUDGET CUTS

Councillor Bartlett explained that cuts were on the way, and any suggestions to help the situation would be helpful. There followed a lively discussion on a variety of subjects.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 BETWS PARK

Councillor Annette Price asked if it was possible to have an area in the Remembrance Garden to accommodate small wooden crosses. Councillor Dewi Branch suggested a possible solution, and was willing to do the work when he had a chance.

The Clerk pointed out that Councillor Branch cleaned around the garden area without help, and had been thanked on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Branch carries out the work.

6.2 GRAFFITI AT ENTRANCE TO BETWS PARK

The Clerk had requested the Parks Department to remove the graffiti, but to date it had not been done.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the Parks Department again.

6.3 PARKING IN BETWS ROAD

A meeting had been arranged with John McAvoy for Thursday 14th November, but was cancelled because County Councillor Bartlett was not available.

RESOLVED the Clerk tries to arrange another meeting suitable to all.

6.4 STREET LIGHTS AT PARC NANT Y FELIN

The Clerk reported the annual cost for street lighting at the estate was £553.77 + vat. Following a long discussion it was agreed that we were financially not able to meet this cost.

The above was **NOTED**.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

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

1 Betws Family Centre

The Clerk was asked to get a copy of the annual accounts, and a decision as to who will represent the Council be deferred until next month.

2 Ammanford Foodbank Newsletter – Clerk to write a letter of support.

3 World War 1 Commemoration Service. – donation of £10 given and to request a balance sheet to include in next month's finance/donation meeting.

4 CCC – Toybox Scheme

5 Asset Transfer from Carmarthenshire County Council – Clerk to reply by saying we are not financially in a position to agree to accept any assets.

6 PCS Union – DVLA

7 Collaborative Communities Newsletter

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED

E/28523 – Garage to be used as firearm storage
2, Ffordd y Glowyr, Betws
Mr Edward Lee

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the Planning Department of our disappointment with this decision.

9. ACCOUNTS

1 CCC – Bench for Church	£780.00
2 British Legion Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00
3 Purchase of Daffodils	£ 12.00
4 Golden Jubilee Charity Account	£ 10.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid

10. REPORTS.

BETWS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Councillor Anne Sizmur informed members about a well attended service, which included a few schoolchildren, despite the poor weather conditions.

CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU

Councillor Annette Price gave a detailed report about the problems with money lenders and loan sharks.

ONE VOICE WALES

Councillor Carwyn James gave a detailed report from the latest meeting he had attended, which included a number of topics such as a meeting to be arranged between County Council officials and representatives from the Community Councils, a presentation by Linda Williams of Hywel Dda Health Board, a Citizen Advice Bureau report, the One Voice Conference, grants for websites and training.

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Councillor Loreen Lewis attended a meeting to raise funds for Marie Curie, but unfortunately only three people were in attendance

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 WAUNDDWFN ROAD

Councillor Rhydian Murray complained about fly tipping at Waunddwfn Road.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the appropriate authority.

11.2 CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Councillor Annette Price asked if a service could be organised for next year.

RESOLVED the matter be placed on the agenda in good time for next year.

11.3 BENCH IN MEMORY OF PETER COWELL

Councillor Annette Price reported that Mrs Cowell would be pleased to see a bench in Peter's memory at the new park, if we succeed in securing the grant.

The above was **NOTED**.

