

# **BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> September 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, and Dewi Branch. Mike Lewis (Guardian)

1. **APOLOGIES.** Councillors June Gunter, Wynallt Richards, Rhydian Murray and County Councillor Ryan Bartlett

Prior to the commencement of business, a minutes silence was observed in memory of, and as a mark of respect for Mr Peter Cowell, former Member 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 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013**

Councillor Annette Price proposed and Councillor Cath Smith seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

## **4 DYFED POWYS POLICE**

PCSO Arwyn Rees and Special Constable Rhys Williams were in attendance and gave members the following monthly crime figures.

### **CRIME FIGURES FOR JULY 2013**

Assault = 0      Criminal Damage = 2      Drugs Offences = 2      Burglary = 1

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

Total Monthly Crimes Reported = 7

Total Monthly Crimes Detected = 2

Detection Rate = 29%

### **CRIME FIGURES FOR AUGUST 2013**

Assault =0      Criminal Damage = 1      Drugs Offences =2      Burglary = 0

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

Total Monthly Crimes Reported = 3

Total Monthly Crimes Detected = 0

Detection Rate =0 %

There followed a general discussion regarding various subjects, including underage drinking in Betws Park, and the parking problem in High Street, Ammanford.  
Councillor Price thanked the police for their help at a recent incident.

## **5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett was not present.

Councillor Anne Sizmur commented that Local Authorities are now able to borrow money from the Assembly in order to build new homes.

## **6. MATTERS ARISING**

### 6.1 SITE MEETING (from County Councillor's report)

Alderman Arnallt James asked why a site meeting at the old Betws Mine site had not been arranged?

**RESOLVED** the Clerk asks County Councillor Bartlett to arrange the meeting.

### 6.2 BENCHES FOR CHURCH

The Clerk reported the benches are due to be installed within the next few days.

The above was **NOTED**.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE.**

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

- 1 CCC – Changes to Local Development Plan
- 2 Community Website

The Clerk informed members, the Betws Community Website, run by Carmarthenshire County Councils Tourist Association will be discontinued after December 2013.

He also informed members of a company in Llandeilo who can supply a basic word press site, which covers all our needs for a single sum of £350, plus an annual fee of £10 for the domain name.

Following a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk proceeds to arrange the provision of a new site.

- 3 CCC – Member for Standards Committee
- 4 CCC – Integrated Community Strategy Forum

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS.**

### **NEW APPLICATIONS**

E/28523 – Part of Garage to be used as firearms store.  
2, Ffordd y Glowyr, Betws  
Mr Edward Lee – Western Shooting Supplies

There were **STRONG OBJECTIONS** to this application, and the Planning Department were notified accordingly.

E/28660 – Conservatory and Garage conversion  
11, Parc Nant y Felin, Betws  
Mr Angel-Chapman

There were **NO OBJECTIONS** in principle, but comments re: parking added.

E/28661 – Extension and alterations.  
Glyn yr Eithin, Argoed Road, Betws  
Mr Enzo Sauro

There were **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

E/28662 - Mini Hydro Electricity Generating Scheme  
Tir Elinor Farm, Betws  
Mr Robert Boulton

**NO DECISION** possible due to lack of information. Site meeting requested.

### **APPLICATION GRANTED**

E/28399 – Four two bedroomed flats.  
10-11, Pentwyn Road, Betws  
YUM. Restaurants International (KFC GB)

## **9. ACCOUNTS**

1 Clerk's Salary and Allowances	£1228.83
2 Clerk's Income Tax	£ 254.95
3 Donation – Capel Newydd Cemetery	£ 150.00
4 Donation – Eglwys Dewi Sant Cemetery	£ 150.00
5 BDO – External Audit	£ 180.00
6 Llys Cennen – Solicitor's Fees	£1800.00
7 Thomas Fattorini – Chain of office	£1145.66
8 Loreen Lewis – Betws in Bloom Cups	£ 24.00

**RESOLVED** that the above be paid.

## EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Clerk informed members the External Audit Opinion and Approval has been given and a "Notice of Conclusion of Audit" was displayed in July.

## CLERKS SALARY AWARD

The 2013/2014 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks has been agreed at 1%, and is applicable from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, increasing the hourly rate from £10.198 per hour to £10.300 per hour. The Clerk asked if members would agree to the increase, and include the back payment in the next salary due in December 2013.

**RESOLVED** the increase be implemented.

## **10. REPORTS.**

### BETWS IN BLOOM

Councillor Loreen Lewis gave a report about an excellent presentation evening, and thanked all Councillors who attended for their support. Judging was carried out by Mr Nigel Sheldon of Wrenvale Nurseries, who also kindly donated vouchers to the winners.

There followed a brief discussion about whether to continue the event next year in view of the poor number of entries this year.

**RESOLVED** the event will again be held in 2014, and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mr Sheldon.

### GRANT APPLICATION – HEOL Y FELIN

The Clerk informed members the application for the HUBS Grant has been successful, and it was now a matter of waiting for the outcome of the Wind Farm application. The Clerk is now working on compiling the three quotations in readiness for the Wind Farm application.

### ONE VOICE WALES

Councillor Carwyn James and Anne Sizmur reported that Councillor J Gilasby of Kidwelly has replaced Councillor Wyn Edwards on Carmarthenshire County Council's Standards Committee. They also informed members that a company based in Llanelli sell Christmas decorations to local Councils at discount rates.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### 11.1 TREE IN RIVER AMMAN

Councillor Dewi Branch reported he had contacted the Environment Agency to remove a large tree lodged in the river just above the bridge. The work was carried out successfully. It was also reported the Lifeguards alongside the river were always being removed and thrown in to the river.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk informs the appropriate department.

## 11.2 BETWS PARK

Councillor Dewi Branch complained about underage drinking, and the antisocial behaviour of youngsters in the Park, and asked if the Community Council should consider applying for a licence to make the Park an Alcohol Free Zone. Councillor Annette Price also complained about the same problem, plus the fact we still did not have any signs showing no motorcycles at the Park entrance.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk makes enquiries about an Alcohol Free Zone, and also **RESOLVED** he asks Paul Murray for signs, and if they are not available can we as a Community Council purchase and erect signs.

## 11.3 SPEEDING ON PENTWYN ROAD

Councillor Dewi Branch complained about speeding on Pentwyn Road.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk informs the Police.

## 11.4 OLD OAK AT MAES Y BETWS

Councillor Anne Sizmur reported the old oak on the Maes y Betws footpath was damaged, and was dangerous to children. The Clerk reported County Councillor Bartlett was already looking in to the matter

**RESOLVED** the Clerk speaks to County Councillor Bartlett.

## 11.5 RE-CYCLING BINS

Councillor Loreen Lewis reported the re-cycling facility at the rear of the Coopers, had now been moved to near the rugby club.

The above was **NOTED**.

## 11.6 SHRUBS IN PARK

Councillor Annette Price complained the shrubs promised for Betws Park had still not been planted. She also complained about the need for a stand to place wreaths on. Following a short discussion, Councillor Dewi Branch and the cadets, agreed to look after the Remembrance Garden, and the Clerk was asked to contact Nigel Sheldon with regard to planting the area.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk speaks to Nigel Sheldon.

## 11.7 COOPERS PUBLIC HOUSE

Councillor Annette Price had received complaints from residents near the Coopers Public House, about the noise nuisance on Saturday nights.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk informs the relevant authorities

#### 11.8 PARKING ON BETWS ROAD

Councillor Annette Price complained about the parking problems on Betws Road.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk contacts John McEvoy to ask for a new parking survey.

#### 11.9 PAVEMENT SWEEPER

Councillor Annette Price asked why the pavement sweeper had still not been used in Betws. The Clerk stated that County Councillor Bartlett was looking in to this matter.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk speaks to County Councillor Bartlett.

#### 11.10 SECTION 106 FUND

Councillor Annette Price asked what was happening with the above fund. The Clerk stated that County Councillor Bartlett was following up this item.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk speaks to County Councillor Bartlett.

#### 11.11 STREET LIGHTS AT NANT Y FELIN

Councillor Annette Price asked if there had been any progress in getting street lighting at Nant y Felin. The Clerk stated again that County Councillor Bartlett was looking in to the matter.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk speaks to County Councillor Bartlett.

#### 11.12 PETER COWELL

Councillor Annette Price asked if we should consider a donation in memory of the late Mr Peter Cowell. Following a short discussion it was agreed to place a commemorative plaque on the new benches in the park, but only if the family are in agreement.

The above was **NOTED**.

#### 1113 SURFACE WATER

Councillor Cath Smith reported surface water holding on the entrance to one of the Wind Turbine access roads.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk informs the County, and also asks for white lines to be installed.

#### 11.14 FOOTPATHS

Councillor Loreen Lewis had received complaints about the access being blocked on footpath 3/3 (Maerdy), and 3/11 (Waunherod), and also of waste material being dumped along footpath 3/16 (Cwmrhyd-eirin).

**RESOLVED** the Clerk informs the footpath rangers and the planning department.

