

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 8th January 2014 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 Wynallt Richards, Rhydian Murray and June Gunter.

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett and Mike Lewis (Guardian)

1. **APOLOGIES.** Councillor 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 11th DECEMBER 2013**

First paragraph on Page 5 (English) to be deleted.

Councillor Richard Howell proposed and Councillor Cath Smith seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th December 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 DECEMBER 2013

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

Thefts = 4 Auto. Crime = 0 Misc. = 3

Total Monthly Crimes Reported = 9

Total Monthly Crimes Detected = 5

Detection Rate = 55.6%

The officers took questions from councillors regarding the traffic lights in Ammanford and motor bikes being ridden in Betws park and around Ger yr Afon. PCSO Treharne stated they were aware of the problem and will be targeting the area.

It was also announced that PCSO Sophie Lambert has now become a PC, but as yet she does not know where she will be stationed.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Ryan Bartlett gave reports on the following items.

STREET LIGHTING AT PARC NANT Y FELIN

County Councillor Bartlett reported the dispute is close to being resolved, which will allow the County to adopt the street and activate the street lighting.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT MAESQUARRE PLAYGROUND

The County have issued a "Prohibition of waiting at any time" order, which means the lines will be painted soon.

STOP SIGN ON BETWS SQUARE

The Welsh Government has given its authorisation for a STOP sign on Betws Square, but due to a lack of resources it will not be installed until the next financial year.

County Councillor Bartlett also mentioned he had attended a seminar with Families First, and that the graffiti on the park gate pillars had been removed.

In the general discussion that followed the items discussed were a discarded mattress, and unsafe pillars at Treforis, dumping in Waunddwfn, fallen fence near Ffordd y Glowyr, and water collecting outside Cartref Annwyl Fan. Councillor Bartlett agreed to investigate all matters discussed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 GRAFFITI AT ENTRANCE TO BETWS PARK

The Clerk read out an e-mail from Paul Murray in which he stated the graffiti had been removed, but they were having difficulty with the graffiti in the archway, and they might have to use a steam cleaner.

The above was **NOTED**.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

- 1 Carmarthenshire Environment Partnership
- 2 One Voice Wales – Buckingham Palace Garden Parties
- 3 CCC- Waiting and Parking restrictions

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

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

NEW APPLICATION

E29342 – 4 Dwellings and 2 Flats
Land adjacent 44/46 and 45/47, Treforis, Betws.
A Davies

There were **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application, but an observation was made regarding an underground water course at the site.

9. ACCOUNTS

1 Zurich Insurance – additional cover	£ 265.09
2 Chairpersons Allowance – 2 nd Instalment	£ 100.00
3 Capel Newydd lights	£ 25.00
4 Eglwys Dewi Sant lights	£ 50.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid

PRECEPT FOR 2014-2015

A copy of the annual expenditure, and the estimates for 2014/2015 were sent to Councillors prior to the meeting, in which the Clerk had suggested a precept request of £19,250. All the items listed were discussed in detail, and there were no amendments.

Following a detailed discussion Councillor Richard Howell proposed, and Councillor Carwyn James seconded, that a precept request of **£18,000** be submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council. Following a show of hands it was agreed to request £18,000.

RESOLVED the Clerk requests a precept of £18,000

During the precept discussions the Clerk was asked to carry out the following.

- 1 Contact HOWLTA regarding the annual membership fees.
- 2 Ask Nigel Sheldon of Wrenvale Nurseries to give a quote for maintaining the four plant troughs in the village.
- 3 Send a letter of thanks to Brian Lewis for looking after the plant trough in Maesquarre Road.

RESOLVED the Clerk completes the above.

10. REPORTS.

COUNTY LIAISON FORUM

Councillor Carwyn James gave a detailed report about the first County Liaison Forum he had attended. The forum covered a variety of subjects such as funding cuts, community asset transfer, a data base of local government assets, community websites, and grants. It is hoped to hold three such meetings every year.

HEOL Y FELIN

The Clerk gave a brief update of events since the last meeting. The project is on schedule to be completed in Mid/End of January, but this will depend on the weather.

The Clerk read out an e-mail from Councillor Dewi Branch, about his suggestions for the opening ceremony at the park. There followed a long discussion on the subject, and it was proposed by Councillor Maldwyn John and seconded by Councillor Cath Smith that the Councils Project Sub-committee meet as soon as possible, to organise the event.

The Clerk was asked to contact officers at Parc Amanwy to find out how many guests they will want to invite.

RESOLVED the Clerk speaks to officers at Parc Amanwy.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT

Councillor Anne Sizmur gave a brief explanation of the content of the report, which was an exercise to equalise the number of constituents for each County Councillor. There were no changes proposed for Betws, but the overall number of County Councillors in Carmarthenshire would increase by one.

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Councillor Annette Price explained to members that in future the income of a person would be means tested to calculate the amount of benefits awarded.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 PLAQUES TO BENCHES

Councillor June Gunter informed members the family of the late Hywel Davies would have no objections to a plaque being placed on a bench in the village in his memory.

The above was **NOTED**.

11.2 MAESQUARRE ROAD BRIDGE

Alderman Arnallt James complained about the build up of stones and boulders in the stream once again.

RESOLVED the Clerk informs the relevant authority.

11.3 ARCH IN MAESQUARRE ROAD

Alderman Arnallt James asked if a plaque to commemorate miners who lost their lives, can be placed on the arch.

RESOLVED the matter be discussed by the Projects Sub Committee.