

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2018

The Chair, Cllr Loreen Lewis, presided over the monthly meeting of Betws Community Council held in the Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws, on Wednesday, 10th October 2018.

PRESENT: Councillors: Annette Price, Loreen Lewis, Petula Matthews, Betsan Jones, Delyth Richards, Maldwyn John, Alex Davies, Lucy Jones, and Shireen Davies.

Mrs Llinos Jenkins – Clerk

1. Public questions/Representations

None received

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Noleen Morgan.

2a. Declarations of Interest

None were made.

3.To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 12th September 2018

It was proposed by Cllr Lucy Jones, seconded by Cllr Shireen Davies and resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12th September be accepted as a true record bar the amendment of Cllr Shireen Davies' surname which was noted in the minutes as Matthews.

At this point Cllr Janet Davies asked for clarification regarding a matter relating to a complaint made against her by a member of the public, although Cllr Davies had not been present at the last meeting a letter was presented in advance to the Clerk regarding the matter. At the previous meeting the Clerk advised that she had spoken to the Public Services Ombudsman for guidance regarding sharing information regarding complaints made against Councillors. The Ombudsman advised that under item 5a of the Code of Conduct the matter should be treated as a confidential matter as the complaint had not been upheld. Cllr Davies passed a letter to the Clerk from the Public Services Ombudsman advising that she was able to discuss the matter publicly.

4. Dyfed Powys Police

No one in attendance.

5. County Councillor Report

Cllr Betsan Jones gave an overview of the work of the Task and Finish Group on Affordable Housing in Carmarthenshire. Cllr Annette Price asked for clarification on the County Council policy on housing families brought in from other areas.

Cllr Jones gave an update on Road Safety at Ffordd y Glowyr.

6. Matters Arising

Betws RFC

The Clerk advised that a meeting would be held with Mr Hywel Davies towards the end of the year. Mr Hywel Davies advised the Clerk that the Council that there were no individuals from Betws Community Council listed as trustees on the land under discussion.

Maesquarre Park Asset Transfer

Cllrs Janet Davies and Annette Price asked that Cllr Lucy Jones declare an interest in this matter and withdraw from the meeting as she was involved with the 'Save Maesquarre Park Group'. Cllr Jones acknowledged that she had led the group at one point but was no longer involved.

Council had previously asked Mr Mike Jones for advice regarding Maesquarre Park and at this point he was asked to contribute to the discussion.

The Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from Emily Hughes at CCC advising that they would maintain the park, but not replace any equipment until March 31 2019.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Shireen Davies, seconded by Cllr Betsan Jones and agreed by all bar one abstention that the Cllr Betsan Jones should write to CCC advising that Betws Community Council accept the transfer of Maesquarre Park from the 1st April 2019.

Cllr Janet Davies asked that the minutes note that this decision was unlawful as the matter under discussion was not on the Agenda. The Clerk advised that the matter was discussed in March 2018 and deferred until this meeting and also that although it was being discussed at the time when Matters Arising were being reviewed it was placed on the Agenda under 'Council Property'.

Safer Routes to School

Councillors present at the meeting with CCC gave an update on the matter and it was agreed that Council would await further correspondence.

Correspondence from Cllr Annette Price

The Clerk clarified that it is the duty of the public to question and make any instrument of Governance accountable and is a democratic right. However, the law still applies and any crime associated with this opposition should be dealt with accordingly.

Safety at Touts Garage, Betws.

The Clerk advised that she had tried to contact the owner but without success and would write in due course.

7. Finance

The following payments were authorised –

Parks and Play	£411.60
Clerks Salary and Expenses(September)	£411.15
Wrenvale Nurseries (Q2)	£3,564
HMRC PAYE	£89.40
Capel Newydd Cemetery	£200
Eglwys Dewi Sant Cemetery	£200
Capel Newydd (Room Hire)	£190
Clwb Jam	£100

The Clerk advised that she had not been able to contact Cwmamman Town Council regarding a payment agreed at the last meeting, but would continue to try.

The Clerk advised that the Annual Return had been marked as qualified due in part to the lateness of the signing of the Annual Accounts. The Clerk advised that the deadline given to the Council by Grant Thornton (31st July 2018) was later than the statutory reporting deadline (30th June 2018).

The matters and payments as above were proposed by Cllr Delyth Richards, seconded by Cllr Shireen Davies and agreed by all.

8. Correspondence

One Voice Wales Code of Conduct Training 24.10.18 – Noted

Community and Town Council Liaison Forum – Noted

Cllr Petula Matthews Resignation Letter – Noted. The Clerk advised that she would contact Electoral Services to advise.

A letter of resignation from the Clerk – It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate and advertise the vacancy as soon as possible.

9. Planning Applications

None

10. Council Property

Cllr Delyth Richards raised the issue of the state of the sleepers near the War Memorial in the Park. It was agreed that this should be dealt with ahead of the Remembrance Day Service.

11. Reports

None received.

12. Any other business

Cllr Annette Price gave an overview of the arrangement for the Remembrance Service at 11am on the 11th of November at the memorial in the Park.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Signed

Date