

# **BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Cllrs. Janet Davies, Betsan Jones, Lucy Jones, Delyth Richards, Alex Davies.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk - Miss Angela Brown

**APOLOGIES.** Councillors Jose Picouto, Nolene Morgan, Wendy Haines, Annette Price, Shireen Davies and Maldwyn John.

## **1. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None

## **2. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019.**

Councillor Betsan Jones proposed and Councillor Delyth Richards seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

## **4. DYFED POWYS POLICE**

No one present

### **CRIME FIGURES FOR MARCH 2019**

Assault =            Criminal Damage =            Drugs Offences =            Burglary =

Thefts =            Auto. Crime =            Misc. =

Total Monthly Crimes Reported =

## **5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**5.1** County Councillor Betsan Jones informed members that Caroline Owen from the Grant section of Carmarthenshire County Council could come out to address Betws Community Council meeting to explain the process fully to all members if they wanted her to.

The above information was **NOTED** by members and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact to arrange this.

## **6. MATTERS ARISING**

### **6.1 INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Clerk informed members she had contacted Mr Lyn Llewellyn, and he was again prepared to carry out the Internal Audit for 2018/2019.

Following a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk asks Mr Llewellyn to start the audit.

**6.2** The Clerk gave feedback regarding the next steps from point 5.2b in last month's meeting:

5.2b Site meeting dates were discussed and it was agreed by members that a site meeting with Mr Mike Jacob from CCC would take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 at 9:30 am on the Square (Betws Road) in order to discuss their issues at the various areas within the ward. Where it is hoped solutions can be found for the issues however where no solutions can be found this can also be noted.

**6.3** The Clerk gave feedback regarding the next steps from point 7.1 in last month's meeting:

**7.1a** Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership is an independent Welsh Water Safety Charity and they cover all costs unless the Community Council want a vandal proof cabinet which is expensive at over **£1,400.00** which they would obtain and they would liaise with Carmarthenshire County Council on its installation. The Chair met with Mr Whitehouse who gave a new Life Buoy which was placed in the holder on the bridge plus a spare. CCTV will be installed at the site.

**7.1b** We would need to ensure that any new sited Life Buoy will be secure before this can be done and would need to meet the associated costs as set out above. As a Charity they are unable to evaluate and site more life buoys this is something that we would need to get agreed with the CCC (closer to the Bridge or by Tesco) however CWSP could assist with funding an additional secure cabinet.

**7.1c** Prosecution of offenders would be done using the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2004 and would be enforceable by a **£90.00** fine, court or higher fines up to **£5,000.00** and prison if an adult repeatedly committed this offence. The CWSP charity would pursue if an adult was recorded however a minor would be publicised but without them being identified.

**7.1d** The Clerk has not drafted a letter to go to all the Primary and Secondary schools in the area.

**7.1e** The Clerk has not drafted an article for the local newspaper.

**7.2a** The Clerk has read the Lease for Betws Park and liaised with the relevant department at CCC and it has been agreed that 'no vehicular access, emergency vehicles only' signage can be placed at the park. Once placed the Police can address the issue of those who do not comply.

The gate now has been locked with a number lock by the maintenance company, members and the emergency services will be given the number only.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk inform the emergency services of the number should access be required.

**6.4** The Clerk gave feedback regarding the next steps from point 7.4 in last month's meeting:

**7.4a** The Clerk made enquiries with various quarries regarding boulders some will only supply the boulders and the haulage and placement have to be organised separately. The boulders would need to be set out along the area with approximately a metre between them. A 1 tonne block costs £75-80 plus VAT with 3 x 2 tonne stones costing £500 plus VAT. The Clerk has been informed that 3 tonne boulders would be required to ensure that they could not be moved. A Hiab Crane/Haulier would charge approximately £120 to collect and drop (15 tonne per load) plus then an additional cost of the time taken to manoeuvre the boulders into place at an approximate cost of £50 per hour.

A discussion ensued regarding other materials such as setting kerbs or metal crash barriers at the site.

**7.4b** Cllr Delyth Richards informed members that NRW do not own the bank or river at the site they only look after the river.

**7.4c** The Clerk informed members that she had come to Betws for a tour around to familiarise herself with the local area especially those frequently discussed with the Chair on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

She had met and spoken with Mr Tout who was very determined that he had no intention of putting barriers adjacent to the river. He placed the blame on the drivers of the vehicles who end up in the river. He currently rents the garage and shop and suggested that they are asked to place barriers up. The Clerk asked if he had received the letter, she'd sent which he acknowledged he had. He is aware that he is liable should a serious incident occur and he informed us that he had sought legal advice on the matter. He told us that there had only been 2 incidents in the last 60 years, the Clerk informed him that a brief google search had revealed a couple more incidents than that.

**7.4d** The Clerk contacted the Health and Safety Executive regarding the issues at the garage and was informed that this was not their remit however it was down to the Local Authority – Environmental Health Team/Public Protection Team. This department was contacted and a service request was raised in order that the issue may be investigated. They are aware of the issues at the site from previous incidents. They will report back once the investigation is completed.

**6.5** The Clerk gave feedback regarding the next steps from point 7.9 in last month's meeting:

**7.9** The issue raised regarding the Treforis to Pantyffynnon footpath (footpath number: 3/1/1) has been allocated a job/issue sheet number: 10143 and has been allocated to the local ranger.

**7.9b** The Rangers were contacted and a link to the map of footpaths for the Betws was obtained and forwarded by email to those members who are on the internet. Instructions as to requirements when placing a request for repairs/concerns were also attached to the email.

Cllrs Janet Davies and Wendy Haines had walked the Maerdy Farm to Tycoch footpath where one area was blocked below where the field with a chicken run is

situated. **RESOLVED** that the instructions from 7.9b above be actioned in order that the rangers can be contacted at Tumble.

**6.6** The Clerk gave feedback regarding the next steps from points 10.d in last month's meeting:

This will be actioned along with the signage requests for the parks at 7.2a of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 meeting.

**6.7** The Clerk gave feedback regarding the next steps from points 11.1,11.2,11.3 in last month's meeting:

11.1a Carmarthenshire County Council contacted regarding the issue with the stone bridge who were going to investigate the concerns raised and will find out if a planning application has been made to remove the bridge. I will wait for their reply regarding this before contacting CADW and CCC archaeology department in Llandeilo. I have been informed that a survey of the area has been previously carried out by CADW.

11.2b The asset transfer was agreed except for one abstention in the October 2018 meeting, it did refer to it being deferred to this meeting from the March 2018 meeting. However, the following is the excerpt of M12 in that meeting which does not state that it was deferred to October 2018 only that **the Council had until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 to agree to accept the transfer.** It was proposed and seconded **and agreed by all** at that March meeting **that the Council would decline to accept the transfer of Maesquarre Park due to the current condition of the Park and also the lack of financial support for the transfer of the Park from CCC.**

Cllr Janet Davies has spoken with Caroline Owen from the CCC Grants department who informed her that other Councillors have contacted her regarding Grants. It is too late this year to apply for Grants. A discussion ensued regarding the criteria for obtaining grants which include having a signed lease for the area in question, obtaining match funding of up to 20%.

11.3 The Nursery at the Vestry have been spoken to however the chairs and tables cannot be left down for the Community Council meeting due to Health and Safety and lack of space issues.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE.**

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

**7.1** Managing Green Spaces email received from CCC regarding a free one-day workshop at the National Botanical Gardens of Wales on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – how Town and Community Councils can manage land for which they are responsible for in ways that will be enjoyed by the public, promote biodiversity and nature conservation and are more sustainable long term and can often save money. Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 all Town, Community and County Councils have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. If you wish to attend you need to register on line.

The above is **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** Clerk to send email to Councillors in order they can register if they wish to attend.

- 7.2** Email received from One Voice Wales regarding a joint event with the SLCC on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea. Bookings are required to attend and the cost is £90 per person plus VAT.

The above is **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** Clerk to send email to Councillors.

- 7.3** Email received regarding Carmarthenshire County Council Draft Local Toilets Strategy

The above was **NOTED** however there are no public toilets within the ward.

- 7.4** Email from One Voice Wales – News Bulletin information inside such as ‘tackling the plastic problem’ and ‘Consultation on Disposal of Nuclear Waste’.

The above is **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** Clerk to send email to Councillors.

- 7.5** Email received regarding Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales regarding allowances which will be received automatically after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and are taxable. Councillors **MUST** opt out should they not want to receive the amount. If they wish to receive the allowance, they will need to provide information to the Clerk as they will need to be set up on a PAYE system for tax purposes. The Clerk will provide a form to those who wish to receive the allowance.

Councillor Lucy Jones suggested that the Clerk obtain quotes from accountants with regard to setting up the Councillors who wish to obtain the allowance for a once a year payroll run.

**RESOLVED** Clerk to obtain quotes.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS** – None

## **9. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS**

### **9a. ACCOUNTS**

1. Clerks Income Tax	£ 124.00
2. Clerks Salary and Allowances	£ 552.08
3. Postage Costs	£ 12.34
4. Donald Owen Accountant - Payroll	£ 240.00
5. R A Computers Internet Security for Laptop	£ 30.00
6. Wales Audit Office 2017/2018 Audit Fee	£ 225.00
7. Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscapes Qtr 4	£3798.00
8. Wrenvale Additional Work @ Betws Park	£ 986.90
9. CCC recharge for election held 4/10/18	£ 61.75
10. Parks and Play Qtr 4	£ 411.60

**RESOLVED** that the above be paid.

## **9b DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS**

**9b1.** Funding request by Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli's Cerdd Dant Festival was received.

**RESOLVED** Clerk to send £50 donation proposed by Cllr Betsan Jones and seconded by Cllr Janet Davies.

## **10. REPORTS**

**10a.** The Chair informed members that the wire in the Tennis courts at Betws Park had been repaired by the maintenance company, that the flower beds are being planted and some of the local schoolchildren may wish to help with this which is something that they have done in the past. The maintenance company are working towards Betws Park gaining a Green Flag Award.

The above was **NOTED**.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Request by members that the Clerk asks a solicitor attends the meeting to discuss Betws RFC non-payment of rent/trusteeship. The previous Clerk had been asked to deal with this however this was not actioned. When was the rent last paid? Members of the local community have spoken with some Councillors regarding the RFC.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to:

**11.1a** Finds the correspondence relating to the RFC and non-payment of rent.

**11.1b** Finds out when the rent was last paid.

**11.1c** Asks the Solicitor to attend a meeting to discuss/find out hourly rate/costs of this.

## **12. EXEMPT REPORTS**

**None**

Meeting Closed at 8:25pm.