

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 12th June 2019 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Cllrs. Wendy Haines, Lucy Jones, Betsan Jones, Maldwyn John, Nolene Morgan, Delyth Richards, Annette Price, Alex Davies and Janet Davies

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk - Miss Angela Brown

APOLOGIES. Councillors Jose Picouto.

Election of Chair – Councillor Loreen Lewis asked for a show of hands with regard to her remaining as Chair as this was not done during the AGM - 8 with 1 abstention.

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/REPRESENTATIONS

Members of the Public present with one representation made by Dr Dorian Evans regarding safety issues on Argoed Road relating to HGV's (No HGV's signage at bottom of road as one at the top) and Speeding (Slow signs). A discussion ensued involving Dr John Dorian Evans, Councillors and PCSO regarding the issues. The PCSO informed members that he too would contact CCC regarding the above issues.

RESOLVED Clerk to email CCC regarding the issues.

2. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Made by Cllr Betsan Jones regarding being 'twin hatted' as she is both a Community and County Councillor and has spoken with CCC democratic services with regards to this and her position with regard to declaring interests.

3. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2019.

Date incorrect on Agenda and incorrect information on page 4 at point 6.5.

Councillor Nolene Morgan proposed and Councillor Alex Davies seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

4. DYFED POWYS POLICE

PCSO 8039 Arwyn Rees attended.

CRIME FIGURES FOR May 2019

Assault = Criminal Damage = Drugs Offences = 3 arrested in Betws Park
Burglary = Shoplift = 1 Thefts = 1 Auto. Crime = Misc. =

Total Monthly Crimes Reported = 5

Councillor Price brought up the issue regarding a Ford Van parking near Heol Y Felin park causing poor visibility in the area. PCSO Rees informed members that DPP can't enforce as not causing an obstruction. He suggested that the Community Council contact Carmarthenshire County Council asking for zig zag keep clear lines to be placed similar to what is placed near schools.

Councillor John brought up regarding parked cars outside Ty Tafarn – PCSO advised to contact DPP on 101 when causing an obstruction. But also stated that cars parked on roads slow drivers down, shouldn't cause an obstruction as when they do, they can be booked by the police.

Councillor Betsan Jones informed members that in May an elderly female in her 80's felt frightened and vulnerable when walking in Betws Park as a gang of youths on bicycles circled her, she asked them to stop. The matter was reported to the Police.

PCSO Rees informed members that recently they had removed bicycles from youths for Anti-social behaviour of doing wheelies in the middle of the road.

Councillor Price brought up bicycles being used in Heol Y Felin park, PCSO Rees informed members that you can't stop them unless they are messing about and they can be asked to leave. With reference to the older youths cycling in the park he advised to call 101 at the time.

Councillor Alex Davies reported that youths in cars are parking in the old Soccer Club and smoking cannabis.

PCSO Rees asked if specific details were taken - Councillor Betsan Jones and Alex Davies gave information regarding the drug issues in the various areas within the village.

Councillor Janet Davies informed members that she and Councillor Haines had walked in Betws Park with their dogs and found the life buoy rope tied up in knots.

PCSO Rees informed members that there was a Life Buoy at the Station that needed to be collected.

Councillor Lewis informed members that there had been an article in the Carmarthen Journal regarding the ongoing issue of the Life Buoy being removed in Betws Park.

Councillor Price informed members that she has spoken with the local Fire Station officers who have a grappling hook and will try and get any Life Buoy that gets stuck on the river bank.

PCSO Rees informed members that a secure unit is required and catching whoever is doing it in the act.

A discussion ensued with regard to contacting local business for a donation to help fund the purchase of the secure life buoy unit.

PCSO 8039 Rees left the meeting at 19:30.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

5.1 Councillor Betsan Jones informed members that she had attended a Civic Service regarding Councillor Kevin Madge being this years Chairman of the Council. She congratulated him on his new post.

The above information was **NOTED**.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Maesquarre Park Lease Signing

The Clerk read out the lease which was then signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

Member of the Public asked the Chair if he may speak – Mr Mike Jones said thank you we can work together with Betws Community Council as we are an enthusiastic lot and will work and help with the park. He also stated that the parks/playgrounds should be run as a whole and not as 3 separate ones.

The Clerk displayed the new signage for Betws Park and Heol Y Felin Playground informing that similar could be supplied for Maesquarre Playground in due course.

The above information was **NOTED** by members.

6.2 Councillor Price informed members that Japanese Knotweed branches had been found by the Parks contractor near the Bridge. Questions asked whether this was left by the recent Community Event. The legalities of spreading Japanese Knotweed were discussed.

The above information was **NOTED** by members and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the organisers of the community event to ascertain if they had used any Japanese Knotweed at their event.

6.3 Model Standing Orders 2018 (Wales) were emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting in order that they familiarise themselves with them as previously running on a much earlier version 2006/2007.

The above information was **NOTED** by members and agreed that specific additions for Betws Community Council will be incorporated into the document and it will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is kept current and members are updated on any changes. It was **RESOLVED** that the new standing orders be worked to and adopted.

6.4 Model Code of Conduct documents (OVW and the Guidance from the Ombudsman) were emailed/posted to all Councillors prior to the meeting in order that they familiarise themselves with the content including personal and prejudicial interests, predetermination and predisposition, bullying and harassment sections.

The above information was **NOTED** by members with Councillor Betsan Jones having given an example relating to declaring an interest at County level when a discussion regarding a school where her son works came up in a meeting she attended. It was **RESOLVED** that the code of conduct be adopted and adhered to.

6.5 BASIC ONLINE LEARNING MODULES link sent in email to all Councillors and printed the first module Code of Conduct for Cllrs. John and Price who are not on email. This is a Free Online Training Tool that is provided by OVW. The training covers Code of Conduct, Council as an Employer, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety, Induction, Local Government Finance and Understanding the Law.

This was NOTED by members and RESOLVED that members access this Free Training this is good for new members and for refresher training and should be utilised by all members.

6.6 Breastfeeding in Meetings this is covered by The Equality Act 2010 Protected Characteristics No.25 there is no need to have a policy as it is covered under the above act. This is the extract:

Breast-feeding is not a protected characteristic as defined by section 4 of the 2010 Act (see paragraph 4 of the Act). However, section 13 (6) (a) specifically makes discrimination against a breast-feeding mother unlawful. The relevant protected characteristic is sex.

Example: It is unlawful for a council to ask a woman to leave a council meeting because she is breast-feeding her baby/child.

Which mean there are no issues with regard to this taking place. It is unlawful to discriminate against a woman because she is breastfeeding a child of any age. Betws Community Council have an obligation ensure that a woman who is breastfeeding whilst going about their day to day business is not treated unfairly. If other people present at a community meeting treat a breastfeeding mother unfairly whilst on the meeting premises Betws Community Council are responsible, must act to ensure that discrimination does not take place and action must be taken as failing to act is unlawful Section 40 of The Equality Act 2010 in section 11 and 12 under the heading Harassment cover this.

However, should the child need to have a nappy change then the mother would need to excuse herself from the meeting likewise should the child become unsettled and begin to disrupt the proceedings the Councillor would then need to either ask for a break in the meeting if she needed to take part or excuse herself from the remainder of the meeting. There is no time limit on a how long a mother breast feeds her child as it is specific to each person.

The above information was **NOTED** by members.

6.7 Safer Routes in Communities application discussed and a map of the proposed Year 1 and Year 2 works were circulated to members which related to the application made last year.

A new application had been sent to the Clerk and this was given to the Chair to complete.

The above information was **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** that the new application be completed and that the Clerk email the application to all members along with the email containing the map of the proposed works to be carried out.

6.8 2 Forms re-distributed to Councillors regarding the Independent Remuneration Panel allowances in order for them to either Opt out or complete their details as the allowance is taxable. These were returned to the Clerk with only 2 more outstanding Cllr John and Picouto.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

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

7.1 Letter received from the Head teacher of Betws Primary School asking for permission to use Betws Park for the annual School Sports day on 27th June and for their annual Summer Fair on 4th July.

The members discussed this and the park is insured by the Community Council, it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Lucy Jones that Betws Primary School are given permission to use the park for their annual events.

7.2 Election Posters were given out as there is a vacancy for a Community Councillor. Posters would be placed on the 2 Community noticeboards (Betws Park and Betws Primary School) and the shop owners of Siswrn and Touts Garage would be asked if they will display the notices.

A discussion ensued regarding the charge for obtaining polling cards should this be necessary the estimated cost being £1310.00. Should polling be necessary other options will be used to inform the Community of the candidates for the election. It was proposed by Cllr. Lucy Jones and seconded by Cllr Morgan that Polling cards would not be requested.

7.3 The Clerk informed members of the articles that had been placed in the South Wales Guardian on a couple of occasions during the past month regarding the issue with the continual removal of the Life Buoy from Betws Park.

Cllr Lewis informed members that Mr Whitehouse of the Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership will be placing a camera at the site but due to his personal and work commitments has been unable to do so yet. Cllr Price informed members that she was regularly patrolling the park during the last school half term holidays.

Councillor Lucy Jones left the meeting at 20:25.

7.4 Cllr Price previous request for a defibrillator and life buoy at another location in the park was discussed, the defibrillator needs an electricity supply.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes a letter to Mr Tout at the Garage/shop on Park street to ask if he would be prepared for a defibrillator and second life buoy to be placed at his business.

7.5 The Clerk informed members that the Garage opposite Heol Y Felin Playground which has the CCTV owned by the Community Council on their property and supply the electric have not been paid their annual payment of £40 since February 2017.

RESOLVED the Clerk pays the 2 outstanding annual payments of 2 x £40.

7.6 The Clerk informed members that the Council website needs to comply with the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility (Websites & Mobile Applications) (No 2) Regulations 2018. As their website was published prior to 23rd September 2018 Betws Community Council will need to comply with the Regulations by 23rd September 2020. (All mobile apps must comply with the Regulations by 23rd June 2021). The regulations came into force on 23rd September 2018. Older websites may require revision and so Councils must allow themselves time to make the necessary changes.

The Directive is designed to allow citizens, particularly those with disabilities, to gain better access to public services by making public sector bodies' websites and mobile applications more accessible. It works harmoniously with varying accessibility standards within the EU and, in particular, the statutory duties imposed on public sector bodies under the Equality Act 2010 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to make reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities. The Regulations will be reviewed once the UK leaves the EU to access whether the UK may want to modify any requirements.

'Accessibility' refers to the principles and techniques to follow when designing, building, maintaining and updating websites and applications, in order to make them easy for people to use, especially those with disabilities.

The Clerk informed members that the website designer may need to make some changes to the website in order to comply and this work will be chargeable.

RESOLVED the Clerk to work towards updating the website by the 23rd September 2020.

7.7 Email received from the Mess Up The Mess Theatre Company who used Betws Park for their creative event for youths on 6th June 2019. An article will be submitted to the local newspaper along with photographs of the event.

7.8 Email received via OVW regarding 'Is there a tree in your community you would like to champion?' Could it use some 'Tree-L-C' in terms of a £1,000 tree care grant? Nominations are open until 19th July 2019 and there will be a public vote in the Autumn. The Woodland Trust (Coed Cadw) is currently organising a Wales Tree of the Year competition.

Discussion regarding the 'Oak' tree on the Black Path which is on the Public Footpath near Ffordd Maes Y Bedw Lane. Cllr Price asked about the 'Yew' tree that is in Betws Church, Betws Road. Cllr Price wants to know the age of the yew tree and asked if it had a TPO on it.

RESOLVED the Clerk to make enquiries regarding the Yew tree, members of the Community to be asked about the Oak.

7.9 Email received from OVW regarding the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust Carers Survey. The link to the survey is <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WAST-CARERS/>

8. PLANNING MATTERS –

a. E/38851 – Councillors have No Objections to the conversion of 1 unit into 2 units at Unit 32, Betws Workshops, Park Street, Betws SA18 2ET.

RESOLVED the Clerk to inform CCC planning department.

9. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS/INTERNAL AUDIT

9a. ACCOUNTS

1. Clerks Income Tax	£ 140.60
2. Clerks Salary and Allowances	£ 616.59
3. Postage Costs	£ 3.94
4. Stationery Costs	£ 39.62
5. Zurich Municipal Insurance (Maesquarre)	£ 82.63
6. Internal Audit Fee – Lyn Llewellyn	£ 425.00
7. CCTV electricity running costs 2018/19	£ 80.00
8. Chair Allowance Donated to Life Buoy Fund	£ 300.00 1 st and 2 nd Installments

RESOLVED that the above be paid.

9b DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS

9b1 Funding request by Carers Trust Crossroads Sir Gar – Catchup Service

9b2 Guide Dogs for the Blind Llanelli and District Branch

9b3 Dinefwr Indoor Bowls Club

A discussion regarding giving donations where it was no donations would be given to 9b1 and 9b3 however it was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Morgan that £100 be donated to 9b2. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk pay 9b2 and inform 9b1 and 9b3 of the outcome decided at the meeting.

9c INTERNAL AUDIT

The Clerk reported that the internal audit for the year ending 31st March 2019, had been completed by Mr Lyn Llewellyn, and apart from needing to claim for the last 2 years VAT as not done last year and to ensure members are provided with a “Budget Monitoring Form” three times a year, no issues of concern were raised. The external audit was due to commence on 30th June 2019.

The Clerk read out the letter from Mr Llewellyn and results from his Internal Control/Testing.

The Clerk and the Chairperson signed all the relevant documents.

The above was **NOTED**.

10. REPORTS

10a. Cllr Price informed that when the Betws park contractor was planting flowers in the park a dog that was loose in the park started to dig up what he was planting, it also urinated on him. The owner was present and thought the incident was funny.

10b. Cllr Price asked about the water fountain and the Clerk informed that a different contractor had advised that this was not recommissioned due to the possible implications with regard to listeria. Regular due diligence checks would need to be made and the water tested. **RESOLVED** that recommissioning the water fountain would not be pursued at this time.

10c. Cllr Price requested that the Clerk book the Bugler for the annual Memorial Service.

RESOLVED the Clerk contact and book the Bugler for the Memorial Service on 11/11/2019.

10d. Cllr Betsan Jones informed members that there was a possibility that voting that currently takes place in the Vestry may be changing location to the RFC. There will be implications regarding the sale of alcohol as voting takes place between 7am – 10pm on the relevant days.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. EXEMPT REPORTS

RFC issue/correspondence discussed.

Meeting Closed at 9:10pm.