

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 13th March 2019 at 7.00 pm.

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

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk - Miss Angela Brown

A two-minute silence was held due to the sad news that former Councillor Anne Sizmur had recently passed away.

1. **APOLOGIES.** Councillor Nolene Morgan
2. **DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None

3. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2019.**

Some changes were requested before Councillor Janet Davies proposed and Councillor Jose Picouto seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 13th February 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

The Chair asked who would like the minutes in Welsh for future meetings – Cllrs Betsan Jones, Delyth Richards, Maldwyn John and Loreen Lewis.

4. **DYFED POWYS POLICE**

No one present

CRIME FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY 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 changes were going to be made to refuse collections for approximately 36 houses in a rural area of Betws. Letters will be sent on 18th March 2019 to those affected by the change which will begin the week after the 1st April 2019. Cllr Jones believes the day of collection will change from a Friday to a Thursday.

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

5.2 The new roundabout in Ammanford is now open, Betws is now on the move concerns raised over possible increase to traffic flow into Betws which will exacerbate the ongoing long term issues within the village. Discussion regarding the issues, Safer Routes to Schools funding – in process, possibilities of the schools to help with funding.

RESOLVED Clerk to:

5.2a send a monthly email to the Highways Department until a resolution is found - Mike Jacob and Thomas J Evans.

5.2b. request a site meeting as last site meeting was approximately this time last year with John McEvoy.

5.2c. Cllr Picouto to liaise with the schools regarding funding as discussed above.

5.3 Members were informed in the previous month's meeting that there is a consultation regarding double yellow lines being placed on the corner near Y Felin (not Heol Y Felin) and Colonel Road. She has sent an email with the proposal and map to the Clerk.

The above has been **NOTED**.

6. MATTERS ARISING (APPOINTING INTERNAL AUDITOR, RISK ASSESMENT and MAESQUARRE PARK PLAYGROUND).

6.1 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk informed members the annual internal audit was due, and an independent auditor needs to be appointed. Following a short discussion, it was agreed once again to ask Mr Lynne Llewelyn to conduct the audit.

RESOLVED the Clerk asks Mr Lynne Llewelyn to carry out the audit for 2018/2019.

6.2 RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY 2019-2020

The Clerk passed the risk assessment around for members to read the list of all the activities of Betws Community Council on the Risk Assessment Schedule for 2019/2020, and following a short discussion, all points were agreed.

RESOLVED the Risk Assessment Schedule for 2019/2020 be adopted.

6.3 Maesquarre Park Chair informed members that the discussion be moved to later in the meeting under Reports.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

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

7.1 The Clerk read out emails sent to Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership regarding replacing the missing life belt at Betws Park. Also, with regard to addressing the thefts of the life belts – a suggestion by CWSP was to install a wildlife camera to monitor. Discussion regarding adding an extra life belt and the legalities of prosecution of offenders

as Cllr Price informed that youths frequently during warmer weather use the life belt as a swing under the bridge.

7.2 Cllr Price brought up the issue of cars entering Betws Park and she has liaised with the local police regarding the matter. Discussion regarding signage for the park regarding the issue, community safety and closing one of the gates to stop vehicles entering easily.

RESOLVED the Clerk ascertain the following:

7.1a. if any costs will be associated to the wildlife camera installation.

7.1b. to find out whether CWSP would supply another life belt in a different area as there is a long stretch of river.

7.1c. to ascertain the legalities of prosecution of offenders.

7.1d. to write a letter to all the local schools (Primary and Secondary) asking them to inform all pupils of the dangers and possible consequences, costs and legalities of theft of life belts from Betws Park.

7.1e. the Clerk to draft an article for the local newspaper regarding the above issues and find out the associated costs.

7.2a. RESOLVED the Clerk to read the Lease to see if there is a clause within regarding vehicles accessing the site if there is then signage can be placed at the park and the Police can address the issue.

7.3 The Clerk informed members of an incident at Heol Y Felin Playground where a 4-year-old boy injured his face which required stitches on the outer ring of the Kompan Multispinner Carousel on 25th February 2019. Checks of the equipment was made with no faults found, investigation into the circumstances of the incident, safety of equipment etc conducted with a report being made to the Insurance Company.

7.4 The Clerk read out the letter sent to Mr Tout regarding the longstanding Health and Safety issues at the site which remain unaddressed. Emails were also read out that had been sent to Natural Resources Wales who own that stretch of the River Amman and part of the bank along with the reply received. A discussion ensued regarding the issues.

RESOLVED the Clerk:

7.4a to make enquiries regarding the cost of large stone boulders from a local quarry which would address the issue and contact Mr Tout and NRW regarding this.

7.4b to contact NRW regarding the issue again to see if they can work with the Mr Tout in resolving issue which has been passed to their Operations Team.

7.4c to contact Mr Tout on a monthly basis until matter is resolved.

7.4d to contact HSE regarding the above matter for advice.

7.5 Play Sufficiency Assessment questionnaires for Carmarthenshire Town and Community Councils – Discussion regarding the facilities available along with their location/addresses and postcodes.

RESOLVED the Clerk to send the information into Carmarthenshire County Council in order for them to map the available play opportunities to children and young people in Betws.

7.6. Independent Remuneration for Wales – Annual Report 2019/2020

RESOLVED Clerk to send all members a copy.

7.7 Operation London Bridge - regarding the protocol and procedure on the death of a senior member of the Royal Family.

7.8 The Clerk read out an email from Jill Evans MEP and CND Cymru Chairperson regarding Nuclear Waste Dump in Wales –

RESOLVED Cllr Annette Price Proposed and Cllr Delyth Richards Seconded that a motion be carried that Betws Community will not volunteer to host an underground nuclear waste dump.

the Clerk to inform heddwch@cndcymru.org that the motion was unanimously carried for the Betws Community regarding the above motion.

7.9 The Clerk informed members of the consultation regarding Bridleways in Betws. The information and map were circulated to the members. Discussion regarding the state of the footpaths within the community some being overgrown, some being closed, Cllr Haines informed members that the bank is eroding on the Coedcae path (Treforis to Pantyffynnon). A request for a map of the footpaths was made.

RESOLVED Cllr Janet Davies will place the consultation on the public noticeboard in Betws Park. The Clerk to send the email to Cllrs Janet Davies and Jose Picouto.

RESOLVED the Clerk to contact the Rangers (Tumble) regarding the issues and obtain a map for the footpaths.

Discussion regarding Carmarthenshire County Council planning to go paper free and that not all members of the community are computer literate, some can't afford the associated costs of computers/broadband etc and some areas have poor broadband speeds. This led on to how the schools are now going cash less for school meals and the issues regarding some children in Secondary schools missing out if no money on their cards. Primary schools must still ensure the children receive a meal regardless of the monetary status on the card.

8. PLANNING MATTERS – None

9. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS

9a. ACCOUNTS

1. Clerks Salary and Allowances	£ 607.81
2. Postage Costs	£ 11.83
3. Stationery Costs	£ 110.59
4. Professional Membership – SLCC - ILCA	£ 118.80
5. Professional Membership – SLCC - ALCC	£ 40.00
6. Professional Membership – SLCC	£ 114.00
7. Footway Lighting	£ 1,072.51
8. Clerks Income Tax	£ 139.09
9. 2 nd Instalment of Chair's Allowance	£ 100.00

RESOLVED that the above be paid.

9b DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS

9b1.Funding request by Menter Bro Dinefwr Balance Sheet received

RESOLVED Clerk to reply - no donation to be sent.

9b2.The Chair requested that the second instalment of her allowance be paid which she should have received in January 2019 be paid.

RESOLVED Members agreed - Clerk to pay Chair.

9b3.The Clerk requested that a reference book called Arnold Baker be purchased as OVW advised she should have to hand.

RESOLVED Members agreed that the Clerk purchases the book.

10. REPORTS

10a. Cllr Janet Davies informed members on behalf of Cllr Morgan there is a community engagement project called the 'Big Lunch' which is being funded by the Eden Project and the National Lottery. There is information regarding it on the Betws facebook page. Suggestions made regarding Street Parties or an event in Betws Park.

The above was **NOTED**.

10b. Cllr Alex Davies commented on the re-painting of the road markings to Treforis.

The above was **NOTED**.

10c. Cllr Picouto updated members on the status of obtaining another defibrillator. He informed members that he has a meeting this Sunday regarding funding/costs and will update at the next meeting. He also informed members that there was a defibrillator course at Betws Rugby Club next week at 19:00hrs

The above was **NOTED**.

10d. Cllr Price requested that the Noticeboard in Betws Park requires a laminated Betws Community Band/Logo with the Clerks contact details.

RESOLVED Clerk to get a band/logo.

10e.Cllr Price informed members that the Parks and Play contractor will look into grants etc for a water fountain to be placed in Betws park to help lessen the use of/littering by single use plastic drinks bottles.

The above was **NOTED**.

10f. Cllr Price informed members that she attended a meeting in Ammanford regarding the buildings which the Citizens Advice Bureau were using as they have now relocated. The buildings will either be advertised for use by charitable organisations or if sold the proceeds would go to charity.

The above was **NOTED**.

10g. Cllr Lewis (Chair) informed members of the costs of insurances from now until the Summer and the annual costs of Maesquarre Park.

The above was **NOTED**.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. Cllr Lewis discussed that a stone bridge has been knocked down twice and that the Council have replaced it with wire and wood. This bridge is near Heol Llŵch off Maesquarre Road where it is known locally as the 'babbling brook'. This area is mentioned in a poem which is used to entice tourists to the area. This stone bridge has been there for as long as members can remember. Discussion regarding observation posts being preserved in the County.

RESOLVED that the Clerk:

11.1a. Contact the County Council and complain about the bridge being replaced and asking them to restore the original stone bridge as they have a duty to preserve it for local tourism and heritage.

11.1b. Consult with CADW regarding the Heritage of the bridge.

11.1c. Contact the CCC archaeology department in Llandeilo.

11.2. Cllr Lewis brought up Maesquarre Park. Previous emails were read out regarding the park. A discussion ensued regarding the longstanding debate regarding the community council accepting the asset transfer and the associated costs of the park especially for renewal of equipment. Carmarthenshire County Council do not have a budget for Playgrounds the equipment is dilapidated and its life span of only 12 years is believed to have been exceeded. It was discussed that the equipment had spent some 3 years in the yard of a local building company. Cllr Betsan Jones informed members that the County would maintain the area by cutting the grass etc. until the end of March 2019 also that S106 money had been allocated for the park. Funding/Grants to improve the park was discussed along with the need to firstly complete the outstanding areas in the other parks that are managed by the community council such as the Tennis Courts etc. before taking on and improving another park. The administration and implementation processes of a funding request was discussed by Cllr Price and Cllr Janet Davies along with the time constraints/deadlines. Match funding was debated with Cllr Betsan Jones and Cllr Lucy Jones claiming no match funding was required and Cllr Price disagreeing and informing that it was required. Cllr John informed members that they need to be showing the community that they are doing something with regards to the park. A special meeting be called regarding the park should it be necessary.

11.2a. RESOLVED that Cllr Jones email the Clerk with the funding documents in order that she may be informed on the issue to hand and the process.

11.2b. RESOLVED the Clerk to check previous October meeting minutes regarding accepting the asset transfer as Cllr Lucy Jones believes the asset transfer was agreed at this meeting.

11.3. Cllr Price request that the Clerk write a letter to the Nursery that uses the Vestry asking them to leave the chairs and table down for the monthly meeting for the community council as members are having difficulty in getting them down from the stage for the meeting.

RESOLVED the Clerk writes a letter.

12. EXEMPT REPORTS

None

Meeting Closed at 9:20pm.