

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 8th May 2019 at 7.00 pm.

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

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk - Miss Angela Brown

APOLOGIES. Councillors Jose Picouto and Janet Davies.

1. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Made by Cllr Lucy Jones see Point 8b1.

2. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2019.

Councillor Betsan Jones proposed and Councillor Alex Davies seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

3. DYFED POWYS POLICE

No one present

CRIME FIGURES FOR April 2019

Assault = Criminal Damage = Drugs Offences = Burglary =

Thefts = Auto. Crime = Misc. =

Total Monthly Crimes Reported =

4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

4.1 Councillor Betsan Jones informed members that the County Council had a new Chief Executive Wendy Walters she was successful out of 8 applicants which were short listed to 4 applicants who attended an Assessment Centre. The interview process was explained. Members were also informed that Carmarthenshire County Council had decreased the Chief Executive's pay by £30,000.

Cllr Price asked how many assistants the new CEO had. Cllr Jones informed members that there was 1 and 6 Heads of Services.

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

4.2 Councillor Betsan Jones informed members of the Family Centre's AGM which took place on 30th April 2019 and gave an overview of the services provided such as parenting classes and that it was a support network and hub for parents who can attend from across Carmarthenshire. The groups that are set up are well attended such as Herbal Baby Massage and Breastfeeding. They have secured grants for some external work involving new fencing and false grass.

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Clerk informed members of the Welsh Audit Office information that had been compiled for the audit and that the paperwork would be going to Mr Lyn Llewellyn on 10th May 2019 for him to carry out the Internal Audit for 2018/2019.

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

5.2 The Chair gave feedback regarding the Site meeting on Friday 3rd May 2019 at 9:30am with Mr Jacob from the Highways Department.

Cllr's Lewis, Haines, Davies and Price were present. There were not as many cars as normal however Mr Jacob took their comments on board, took photographs, gave suggestions regarding possibilities regarding congestion in the area including setting up a one-way system up Park Street – Betws Road – Mill Road – Colonel Road. Double and single yellow lines use in some areas. Contacting local businesses to make them aware of congestion issues and try and find workable solutions a discussion ensued regarding the local parking issues.

The above information was **NOTED** by members and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs would speak with the Leader of Meithrin and the hairdresser and any others regarding the parking issues.

5.3 The Clerk gave feedback regarding the next steps from last month's meeting regarding the Life Buoy. Cllr Price informed members that there was funding available from Tesco a discussion ensued as it is regularly being stolen from its current holder.

RESOLVED Clerk to apply for funding for New Life Buoy cabinet as suggested by Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership and for a Defibrillator for Betws Park.

5.4 The Clerk gave update regarding the new signage for the Parks which was in the process of being agreed and the Clerk was waiting for the proof to be emailed for checking.

Cllr Price informed members that a professional photographer used the park to take pictures of children and that on occasion there are loose dogs nearby and could anything be done regarding this and dogs knocking over a child. A

discussion ensued regarding responsible dog ownership and keeping dogs on leads.

RESOLVED the Clerk to check Insurance Policy and to add Dogs to be kept on a lead to the new signage.

5.5 The Clerk gave an update on the Health and Safety Issue at the garage opposite Betws Park the County Council are unable to enforce any regulations and after a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Lucy Jones and agreed by all members that the Clerk compiles a report and sends to the Public Protection Department regarding this issue as there is nothing that either the Community Council, County Council or the HSE can do unless a serious incident occurs.

RESOLVED Clerk to compile report and send copy to CCC Public Protection Department.

5.6 The Clerk informed members that the Stone Bridge is not listed or situated in a conservation area. The query has now been forwarded to a Mr Andrew Francis, Development Manager for CCC who may be able to help.

NOTED and **RESOLVED** Clerk to continue with enquiries.

5.7 Discussion regarding RFC.

RESOLVED the Clerk to contact the solicitor to see if he can attend a meeting with regards to the issues.

5.8 Discussion regarding Grants and CCC attending the meeting to inform members of the process etc.

RESOLVED the Clerk to contact and arrange this.

5.9 Forms 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.

RESOLVED Forms to be returned at next meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

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

6.1 Email received from CCC regarding free 2 sessions of Code of Conduct training being held by the County for Councillors and Clerks. All new members should attend with those who have not received training within the last couple of years needing to attend for refresher training.

The above is **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** Clerk to send email to Councillors who can then inform the Clerk which session they will be able to attend as a return is required for CCC in order to gauge how many will be going.

6.2 Email received from Carmarthenshire County Council. Code of Conduct Data required by CCC – how many declarations of interest and training received.

The above was **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** Clerk to provide the information.

6.3 The Clerk informed members of correspondence received regarding completion of an examination of the Abergelli power plant.

The above was **NOTED** by members and Clerk to forward email.

6.4 Email received regarding Ammanford Twinning Associations 21st Anniversary Celebration on Friday 24th May 2019 6pm – 8.30pm.

The above was **NOTED**.

6.5 The Chair informed members that the H&S Officer for the County had been out to inspect Maesquarre Park and compile his Annual Inspection Report. He had told her that the Community Council should not sign the lease until a site visit is conducted by the person dealing with the Asset Transfer at the County as there are many issues such as holes in the ground which fill with water and possibility of the equipment being removed and the report is seen and then discussed by all members. He had mentioned to the Chair that there is a second park nearby which is a green area in front of a few houses. Cllr Lucy Jones stated that it is not a second park but is only a green grassy area.

RESOLVED Cllr Betsan Jones to chase the County with regards to the two issues above.

7. PLANNING MATTERS –

a. E/38730 – No objections

b. E/38801 – **RESOLVED** objections to be forwarded to CCC planning department by the Clerk.

8. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS

8a. ACCOUNTS

1. Clerks Income Tax	£ 130.00
2. Clerks Salary and Allowances	£ 691.55
3. Postage Costs	£ 3.62
4. Stationery Costs	£ 16.18
5. Just Print – Park Signage	£ 143.06

RESOLVED that the above be paid.

8b DONATIONS/FUNDING REQUESTS

8b1. Funding request by Carers Trust Crossroads Sir Gar – Catchup Service was received.

Councillor Lucy Jones Declared an Interest.

RESOLVED Clerk to request Balance Sheet.

9. REPORTS

9a. The Chair informed members that the Ammanford Ramblers had told her that the Treforis to Maerdy path is overgrown.

The above was **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Haines would get the exact location by looking at the Rights of Way site on CCC website as a footpath number and exact location is required before the local rangers attend.

9b. Discussion regarding a Camper Van that is being parked outside the gate of Heol Y Felin play area and blocks the view when exiting the lane and about small children using bikes in the park by Cllr Morgan, Price and Haines and insurance cover.

RESOLVED number plate to be taken and passed to the police.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

11. EXEMPT REPORTS

None

Meeting Closed at 8:50pm.