

# **BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Loreen Lewis (Chairperson), Cllrs. Annette Price, Betsan Jones, Delyth Richards Lucy Jones.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk - Miss Angela Brown

## **1. Public Questions/Representations**

No one present

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies received from the following Councillors: Jose Picouto, Janet Davies, Wendy Haines, Alex Davies, Nolene Morgan, Maldwyn John and Lynwen Phillips.

Cllr Price asked the Clerk to write a letter of thank you to Reverend John who led the Remembrance Service on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Betws Park.

## **3. Declaration by Members of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr B Jones see point 10b 4

## **4. To Confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Cllr L Jones wanted paragraph 6.2 to be removed as was in her view a duplicate entry from the meeting held in September.

Councillor Price proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

Cllr L Jones queried the legitimacy of the meeting stating that it was not a formal meeting and that they were notes not minutes. Cllr Price left the meeting at 19:10. The Chair informed her that it was a formal meeting until Cllr B Jones left. The 3 Councillors could not vote as the meeting was not quorate (this means you must have a third of the Councillors present to be able to vote as there are 12 Councillors that means there has to be at least 4 present for a vote to be made/be quorate.) With regards to the number of Councillors needed for a meeting to take place the minimum number is 3.

## **5. Dyfed Powys Police**

**Crime Figures for October 2019 –** No one attended with apologies being received from PCSO 8039 Rees.

Assault =      Criminal Damage =      Drugs Offences =

Burglary = Shoplift = Thefts = Auto. Crime = Misc. =

Total Monthly Crimes Reported =

## 6. County Councillors Report

- 6.1 Regarding point 6.4 from the October meeting members were informed that the abandoned trailer in Treforis has gone.
- 6.2 Regarding point 6.2 from the October meeting members were informed that each household must apply individually in order to have their black bags with ash removed by the County.
- 6.3 Cllr Jones informed members that she had attended a meeting on 16 October 2019 with the planning department of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the proposed sites where landowners have made applications for their land to be considered to be placed within the Local Development Plan 2018 -2033. The old LDP has been taken out. In December 2019 the proposed land that has been accepted will be advertised and the Community may then object at this stage should they wish to. She did inform that land at Colonel Road, Wernolau, Coronation Terrace and Park Nant Y Ffin will not be accepted into the LDP.

**RESOLVED** Cllr B Jones to email the Clerk the details regarding this meeting.

## 7. Matters Arising

7.1 Regarding point 7.6 from the October meeting regarding the Precept for 2020-2021 being increased by £5,000. Cllr B Jones informed members that Betws' precept is still very low even with the increase and gave a list of other Councils precepts as a comparison.

It was proposed by Cllr L Jones and seconded by Cllr B Jones that the precept be increased by £5,000 for 2020-2021.

7.2 The Clerk's working hours were discussed with the Clerk leaving the room 19:35 – 19:40 whilst this was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr L Jones and seconded by Cllr Richards that the Clerks weekly working hours be put up to 15 hours per week from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

An updated contract needs to be issued to reflect this change.

7.3 Regarding points 7.3 from the October meeting and 8.4 from the September meeting the Clerk informed members that the Contractor had treated the Japanese Knotweed.

7.4 Regarding points 7.4 from the October meeting and 9.12 from the September meeting and the Environment Wales Act 2016 regarding Section 6 where public authorities including Town and Community Councils must prepare and publish a plan which setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the duty to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity within their current work areas. The Clerk gave out a draft of the report which needs further work including maps and other information to be added as well as an introduction to the biodiversity within the Betws area and

had asked members to help with this aspect. Cllr L Jones was aware of a map that she had seen depicting the village some 50 years ago.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to continue with gathering information from various sources in order to complete the report, members to give the Clerk relevant information they feel needs to be added and Cllr L Jones to endeavour to locate the map she had seen.

**7.5** The Clerk informed members that the Tree Survey for Betws Park was due in December 2019 this is done biannually for insurance purposes. Other contractors had been contacted regarding obtaining quotes.

It was proposed by Cllr B Jones and seconded by Cllr Richards that the contractor who carried out the last Tree Survey be contacted to carry out the survey.

**7.6** Cllr B Jones again brought up the issue of brambles growing on Pentwyn Road and encroaching onto the pavement causing pedestrians to walk out onto the road to avoid.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to contact the contractor for Betws Park regarding this.

**7.7** Regarding point 8.2 from the October meeting it was proposed by Cllr B Jones and seconded by Cllr L Jones that the Clerk send a cheque for £1,000 to the Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership in order to obtain the lockable life buoy cabinet for the far end of Betws Park. The Clerk informed members that permission had been sought to site a second life buoy cabinet near the entrance to Betws Park and that 'Carmarthenshire County Council would have no objection with the Community Council placing a life buoy and cabinet near the park entrance'.

**7.8** A question was brought up regarding where we were with the Tesco Blue Chip which Cllr Phillips was championing.

**7.9** Cllr L Jones informed members that she had not entered the KOMPAN competition for match funding for projects as she believed that the Community Council had no project plan which was part of the criteria of the application.

Cllr L Jones had not informed the Clerk or liaised with the Councillors who have previously been involved in projects within the village of this requirement and the deadline for entry has now passed. A discussion ensued regarding this and that community consultation is required when applying for funding Cllr L Jones suggested using an online survey. The Clerk asked how the hard to reach members of the community would be consulted as not everyone uses computers? The Chair informed members that each time they have knocked doors with questionnaires in order to gauge what the community wants. The Chair informed members that she and Cllr Price had a meeting regarding renewing the Tennis Court area in Betws Park and making it into a multi ball game area. The Clerk is awaiting the quote for this work so that there is something to work towards. This project has been ongoing for some time along with renewing the picnic area on the mountain. Cllr Price is championing this.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk find out the ongoing maintenance costs for the new area once funding is secured.

**8.0** Regarding point 7.2 from the October meeting the Clerk informed members that the Terms of Reference for Committees and Sub-Committees will be published on the website but that it is

a working document and can be changed as and when required or when new projects are championed.

## 8. Correspondence

8.1 The Clerk informed members of an email that had been received regarding the road widening and pavement leading to Park Penrhiw and the South Wales Guardian article on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019. The sender informed that the land had been donated free of charge to enable this to happen by the landowners Mr Eyfion Jones and Mr Wyn Jones. The Clerk sent a reply apologising for not being aware that this was the case as the works had been organised by Carmarthenshire County Council after many years of the Community Councillors campaigning for this to happen due to safety reasons.

The above was **NOTED** by members.

8.2 The Clerk informed members of an email received from One Voice Wales regarding Planning Consultations:

1. Revisions to the Housing section of Planning Policy Wales and associated advice and guidance. This consultation document is available on the Welsh Government's website and the consultation closes on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
2. Revisions to Planning Policy Wales regarding the use of compulsory purchase powers and updated guidance on the compulsory purchase procedure in Wales. This consultation document is available on the Welsh Government's website and the consultation closes on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

This consultation is seeking your views on the proposed revision to paragraph 3.53 of Planning Policy Wales to strengthen support for the use of compulsory purchase powers by Local Authorities in the public interest.

<https://gov.wales/compulsory-purchase-orders-cpos-updated-policy-and-guidance>

3. Revised planning guidance in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. This consultation is available on the Welsh Government's website and the consultation closes on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-15-development-flooding-and-coastal-erosion>

The above was **NOTED** by members and **RESOLVED** the Clerk emails this document to members/gives copies to those not on email.

8.3 The Clerk informed members that Purdah started on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Councillors should think carefully, particularly about their use of social media including commenting on others' posts. Should the content relate to any political manifesto comments of any kind should be avoided.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/purdah/what-purdah-means-practice>

This was **NOTED** by members.

- 8.4 Email received from the Clerk of Llanedi Community Council regarding a training session being set up on visual playground inspections.

This was **NOTED** by members.

- 8.5 Email received from Carmarthenshire County Council 23 September 2019 after the Clerk sent a query from the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September regarding funding that has been available to be drawn down on for both Betws Park (long standing) and Maesquarre Playground since they have been taken on by the Community Council.

- 8.6 The Clerk informed members of the latest Playground inspection.

This was **NOTED** by members.

- 8.7 The Clerk sought advice on how to obtain an exclusion order regarding alcohol and substance misuse in Betws Park. Emails have been sent to Neighbourhood Policing and Carmarthenshire County Council and the contractor so that a tally can be kept on how many bottles and substance paraphernalia are found in the park.

This was **NOTED** by members.

- 8.8 Email received from One Voice Wales regarding a newsletter on Everyday Ageism Campaign.

[https://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/Publications/pub-story/19-10-25/Newsletter EverydayAgeism Campaign Special Bulletin.aspx](https://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/Publications/pub-story/19-10-25/Newsletter_EverydayAgeism_Campaign_Special_Bulletin.aspx)

for Welsh minutes /wl/ instead of /en/

- 8.9 The Clerk informed members of a minor amendment which the Welsh Government proposes to make to the Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Proposed Amendment to the Sustainable Drainage (Enforcement) Order 2018.

This was **NOTED** by members and the Clerk will email the information to members.

- 8.10 Email received from One Voice Wales regarding the Revised Model Financial Regulations and some minor amendments from the 2016 version:

Restriction added to Regulation 11.1.a.ii Clarifying disapplication of contract regulations to legal professionals limited to those **acting in disputes** only – not general legal work.

Update to limits under Public Contract Regulations – footnote to Regulation 11.1.b  
Minor change to heading Regulation 12.

It was agreed that the Revised Model Financial Regulations be adopted by the council.

**8.11** Email received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding broken glass found in Heol Y Felin Park. This was cleared up by Councillor Lewis and it was found to be a broken glass from Betws Rugby Club which had been smashed by a stone into very small fragments.

**8.12** Email received from the Green Flag Co-ordinator to inform of applications being open for entering Betws Park for the Green Flag Award for 2020 with the deadline being 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

This was **NOTED** by members.

**8.13** Email received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the annual Christmas Toy/Gift Appeal giving a list of collection points.

This was **NOTED** by members and the information will be placed upon the Community Notice Boards.

**8.14** Email received from One Voice Wales regarding Guidance on securing biodiversity enhancements in development proposals this was forwarded from the Welsh Government's Department for Environment and Rural Affairs.

This was **NOTED** by members.

**8.15** Email received from One Voice Wales regarding Understanding Welsh Places.

This was **NOTED** by members.

**8.16** Email request by a keen gardener who wanted to collect fallen leaves from Betws Park in order to make leaf mould/compost for his garden – permission was given for their collection.

This was **NOTED** by members.

**8.17** Email received from One Voice Wales regarding VE day 75

This was **NOTED** by members and the information will be placed upon the Community Notice Boards.

## **9. Planning Matters**

- a. E/39716 – Change of use from agricultural to part equestrian and part domestic garden. Demolition of a derelict metal clad open fronted barn. Erection of a stable block comprising of 4 stables and hay storage. Erection of 3 temporary field shelters to accommodate horses in the interim at Cwmfelin, Cwmfelin Road, Ammanford SA18 – No objection
- b. E/39744 – Land at Ty Coch, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford SA18 2HQ application for lawful development certificate for a proposed use or development – original outline permission E/30977 and reserved matters approval E/34102 – No objection

- c. E/39697 – Land adjacent to 100 Colonel Road, Betws, SA18 2HP – non-material amendment to E/24256 – elevations/appearance – external finish materials altered to timber effect cladding and brickwork. Canopy porch to front elevation – No objection
- d. E/39768 – Land adjacent to Maes Y Ffin, Betws, SA18 2PA – change of use from a garage building to a hair dressing salon – No objection
- e. E/39556 – Proposed ground floor extension to front and side of property at Ty Canol, Heol Dwr, SA182JJ – No objection
- f. E/37271 – Clerk informed members that the appeal had been sent.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk informs CCC regarding the discussions on the above planning matters including comments regarding the local development plan.

## 10. Payment of Accounts/Donations/Funding Request/Internal/External Audit

### 10a Payment of Accounts

1. Clerks Income Tax/NI/Emp NI	£ 177.75
2. Clerks Salary and Allowances	£ 681.54
3. Postage Costs	£ 10.52
4. Stationery Costs	£ 17.09
5. SSE Christmas Lights	£ 737.89
6. Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership	£1,000.00
7. Tree Survey	£ 779.40

### 10b Donations/Funding Requests

- 1. The Poppy Appeal – Wreaths for 11/11/19 £100.00
- 2. F Company Dyfed Glamorgan ACF – Bugler 11/11/19 £100.00
- 3. Request for donation towards repair of a road/footpath at Nant Y Ffin – No to donation request
- 4. Ammanford Talking News – No to donation request  
Cllr B Jones Declared an Interest as her mother uses the service.
- 5. Age Cymru Sir Gar – No to donation request
- 6. Carmarthenshire County Council Chair’s Appeal 2019/20 – No to donation request
- 7. Foodbank – No to donation request

As per previous meetings it has been decided that no donations would be given. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk inform requestors of the outcome.

## 11. Reports

Cllr Lewis - 2 complaints regarding the footpaths – Waun Gron to Argoed and Gallant Cottage who have made a driveway into their property using part of the footpath. Clerk informed that footpath numbers are required as per email sent out a few months ago before the rangers will attend.

Stones under the bridge at Plas Y Nant are building up again. Cllr B Jones to chase up.

Cllr B Jones – Argoed Road No HGV signs will be erected and the member of the Community who brought this to the Community Council meeting a few months ago has been informed.

A survey is being conducted regarding the possibility of traffic calming measures at Scotch Pine/Maesquarre Hall. This takes time and the Welsh Office is involved.

Update on issues of substance misuse near LBS – since the meeting the local neighbourhood policing teams have been regularly patrolling the area, there has been no more trouble in the area and they have moved on.

## **12. Exempt Reports**

Discussion regarding Betws RFC.

**Meeting closed at 21:20.**