

# **BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.00 pm.

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

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk - Miss Angela Brown

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

No one present

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies received from the following Councillors: Delyth Richards, Lucy Jones, Jose Picouto, Janet Davies, Alex Davies, Nolene Morgan, Maldwyn John and Lynwen Phillips.

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

None

## **4. To Confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

A change to the wording in 7.1 required to clarify.

Councillor B Jones proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

## **5. Dyfed Powys Police**

**Crime Figures for August 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** Cllr Jones informed members that there are issues in Park Penrhiw, Treforis which has a number of poor and vulnerable residents with regard to the collection of refuse. A number of black bins are not being removed due to them containing ash which is correct however they do require stickers to be placed on them to identify the contents. These stickers are available from the HWB or by ordering them online from Carmarthenshire County Council.

**RESOLVED** Cllr Price will collect 'ash' stickers from the HWB and distribute to the residents in the area and to the Family Centre.

With reference to 7.3 from last month's County Councillor report regarding the changes to Bin Collections and Recycling Centres the Clerk obtained posters which Cllr Price will put up in the noticeboards and around the village to inform residents.

- 6.2** Cllr Jones informed members that there have been issues with the Family Centre's sewerage system which has affected the local area it has been found that wet wipes are being flushed down the toilets. These are causing the blockage in the sewerage system. Notices have been placed regarding this issue at the Family Centre to inform those who use the Centre not to flush wet wipes down the toilet but to place in a bin. Cllr Jones will be attending next weeks' meeting at the Family Centre and will bring this issue up with those present to ensure the message gets across.
- 6.3** Cllr Jones and Price brought up an issue regarding a child cutting itself on a 25ft skeleton of a trailer which is being used as a ramp by the children who have placed hardboard onto the trailer. This is located in the turning bay of the Treforis cul-de-sac. This child cut its hand down to the bone/sinew and required plastic surgery at Morriston Hospital. This issue has been reported to Housing as the owner of the trailer has other vehicles parked on the grass. An enforcement order will be served on the owner.
- 6.4** Councillor Jones received correspondence from a member of the Community regarding speeding and several accidents occurring near Maesquarre Hall, as they were having difficulty going in and out of their property, requesting traffic calming measures to be implemented. A discussion ensued about the road being closed recently for 3 hours due to an accident which required all emergency services and breakdown service to attend. They would like consideration for SLOW signs on both sides of the road and new road markings.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk email Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the above issue.

**Cheques were signed by Councillor Lewis, Price and B Jones before Councillor B Jones left the meeting at 19:35.**

**The meeting is now inquorate the following are notes of the discussions which took place and of the correspondence received by the Clerk.**

## **7. Matters Arising**

**7.1** The Clerk informed members that the Green Flag award will be applied for by January 2020 after she had discussed the entry with the contractor for Betws Park. This is an online application with documents needing to be uploaded. The Clerk has forwarded information to the contractor.

**7.2** Terms of Reference for Committees and Sub-Committees to be uploaded to the Community Council website – this is a working document and can be changed/added to when new sub-committees are formed.

**7.3** With reference to point 8.4 of last month's meeting regarding the Japanese Knotweed the contractor has been informed however he has advised that 10 days of dry weather are required in order to treat this invasive plant. This will be addressed when the weather conditions allow.

**7.4** With reference to point 9.12 of last month's meeting regarding Members being informed of 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 informed members that the deadline for the report is that it must be published by the end of 2019 and be updated every 3 years thereafter.

**RESOLVED** Cllr Price and Lewis will approach their local Church and Chapel regarding the possibility of allowing areas in the graveyards to be given over to wild flower meadow areas in order to increase the biodiversity within the village.

**7.5** Budget Monitoring Form update given regarding what has been spent so far this year.

**7.6** Discussion regarding the Precept for 2020 and its increase to cover costs of running Betws Park, Heol Y Felin Playground and Maesquarre Playground, Footway Lighting and Christmas lighting etc for the village and Clerk/RFO to the Council. These costs currently add up to more than this years Precept by over £4,000 and doesn't take into account inflation increases on goods and services received/purchased. Clerk suggests that the Precept be increased by £5,000 for 2020/2021. There was an overspend last year by over £5,000 and even with the increase on the precept for 2019/2020 last year's figures would still mean an overspend of almost £1,400 and this was before the Community wanted to take over Maesquarre Playground earlier this year.

**RESOLVED** this discussion will be moved to the next meeting as this one was not quorate and could not be agreed/voted on.

## **8. Correspondence**

**8.1** The Clerk informed members of a thank you email from Jill Evans MEP regarding Betws Community Council's support in opposing the siting an underground high-level nuclear waste store in the area. The government calls this a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). 65 councils were opposed to hosting a GDF and since the consultation closed that figure has risen to 80. The full list is available to view [www.cndcymru.org/nuclear-waste](http://www.cndcymru.org/nuclear-waste) and [www.cndcymru.org/cy/gwastraff-niwclear](http://www.cndcymru.org/cy/gwastraff-niwclear) .

The above was **NOTED** by members.

**8.2** The Clerk informed members regarding an email from Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership (Charity) who chose not to site the CCTV at the site of the Life Buoy as after a recent incident where there was CCTV footage DPP declined to go to the press with the footage to try and reduce vandalism in the area through promoting the issue. Those involved in the incident were minors. They have provided 4 life buoys at a total cost of £280 which Betws Community Council do not contribute to, with the costs being upheld by the Charity. Another Life Buoy will be replaced by the Charity, this is becoming a regular and costly weekly/monthly occurrence. Funding avenues are being sought with £400 being raised so far. Local businesses have been approached and the Clerk is awaiting some responses. Cllr Phillips is in the process of applying for funding from Tesco in Ammanford. The vandal proof cabinet costs £1,400 plus installation costs of a concrete base for the cabinet.

Carmarthenshire County Council have given permission for a second life buoy to be sited near the Bridge at the entrance to Betws Park as the other one is sited at the far end of the park by the footbridge.

The Clerk to implement a solution by accessing Betws Park fund from the County and to draw down on this in order to obtain the first life buoy cabinet with the second to be purchased by donations and fundraising during the forthcoming year. Community Safety is a high priority to Betws Community Council and the continual theft of the life buoy is now untenable with the risks involved and the costs and goodwill of the local charity that provides them.

- 8.3** The Clerk informed members that the Secretary of State had granted consent in relation to Abergelli Power Project. The decision and statement of reasons can be viewed at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/abergelli-power/>
- 8.4** Emails sent to Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the various overgrown footpaths in the area.
- 8.5** Email sent to the South Wales Guardian regarding the winners of Betws in Bloom 2019 being placed in the Betws News section of the paper. A second email was also sent in regarding the good news story of the new pavement that is being installed which leads to Park Penrhiw and Treforis.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to place information in the Betws News section of the SW Guardian regarding the Community Councillor Surgery being held between 18:30 and 19:00 on the second Wednesday each month in the Vestry of Capel Newydd where residents are welcome to attend to speak with the Councillors to ask questions and/or to inform them of any issues that they have concerns about/affect them within the area.

- 8.6** Remembrance Day Service will be held in Betws Park at 11am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. A Bugler will be in attendance. Those who wish to attend should aim to arrive between 10:30 – 10:45 am. The wreaths have been ordered and will be collected by a nominated Councillor as usual.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk send emails to local Fire, Ambulance and Police service inviting them to attend along with local political party members.

- 8.7** The Clerk informed members that correspondence had been received from a member of the community showing interest in understanding how the council contributes towards the village and regarding future plans for the village. The clerk invited the person to attend the next meeting and gave details of the protocol of attendance.
- 8.8** The Clerk informed members that Cllrs J Davies and Haines had been around Park Penrhiw and Treforis areas asking members of the Community whether they used the telephone box in the area, wanted it kept or removed etc. As there has been a proposal by BT that they are removed due to underuse. Some think that it would be a shame to remove as not everyone has mobile phone's and these are the closest public telephones to the mountain road should anyone require to use them for breakdowns/accidents etc.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk informs that they wish to keep the telephone boxes as the one near the park can be used by the children should they need to call 999 as not all children carry mobile phones. Clerk to ask BT if they can keep the box clean as it is currently smells of strong urine.

The Councillors also received positive feedback about the new pavement being installed giving them safe entry and exit from their estates.

- 8.9** The Clerk informed members that a request from a member of the community regarding providing a certain type of swing as they had recently moved to the area with their child who is unable to use the standard style of swing.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk reply regarding the request and being unable to make a decision as meeting not quorate and will be discussed at the next meeting.

- 8.10** The Clerk informed members of an email received regarding Community Asset Transfer Research.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to take part in this hour-long telephone survey.

- 8.11** The Clerk informed members of correspondence received regarding resurfacing the Tennis Courts when funding is gained and to marking it out for various other ball games. The company is prepared to come for a site visit at no cost to the Community in order to quote for the costs so that members are informed and able to have a figure to work towards.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to arrange a site visit.

## 9. Planning Matters

- a. E/39168 – Change of use from Western Shooting Supplies to a Community Kitchen Food Business at 2 Ffordd YGlowyr – update – officer recommendation is to allow Full Granted permission on the planning board date 17/10/2019
- b. E/37271 – **1.** Erection of 3 dwellings on land off Colonel Road, Betws within the development limits **2.** Appeal to Welsh Ministers regarding the above after Carmarthenshire County Council refused the application.
- c. E/39556 – Proposed ground floor extension to front and side of property at Tycanol, Heol Dwr, SA18 2JJ.

**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	£ 127.80
2. Clerks Salary and Allowances	£ 581.84
3. Postage Costs	£
4. Stationery Costs	£ 158.71

5. Wrenvale	£4662.00
6. Parks and Play	£ 561.60

### **10b Donations/Funding Requests**

#### 1. Ammanford RFC

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

### **11. Reports**

None

### **12. Exempt Reports**

Discussion regarding Betws RFC.

**Meeting closed at 20:45.**