

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Annual meeting of Betws Community Council was held as a Hybrid Meeting at **Betws RFC** and virtually on **Microsoft Teams** on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was held on a remote basis in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 and Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Any member of the public who wishes to attend the meeting as a spectator or who has questions to put to the Councillors should contact the Clerk for this to be able to take place and the correct procedure to be followed.

The meeting started at 19:12

PRESENT: Cllr Dave Stacey (Chairperson), Cllrs Peter Comley, Carwyn James, Paul Allchurch, Maureen Williams, Karen McMinn-Davies (attending virtually), Emyr Morgan arriving at 19:15 and Mike Jones arriving at 19:24.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones – not present

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

Member of the Public Present: No one

PCSO: Not present

The outgoing Chair Dave Stacey welcomed all members to the annual meeting.

1. Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Allchurch that Cllr James be appointed Chairperson for 2024 – 2025. There were no other nominations.

This was voted on unanimously by those present.

Cllr James accepted the appointment.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr James be appointed Chairperson from 8th May 2024.

2. Chairperson's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr James signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office with the clerk witnessing his signature.

The new chairperson said a few words bilingually to members:

Gai rhoi ddiolch I fy cyd cynghorwyr am yr anrhydedd o fy'n ethol I yn Cadeirydd Cyngor Cymuned Y Betws.

May I thank my fellow Councillors for the honour of making me chair of Betws Community Council for the coming year. I look forward to working with you all.

May I also extend a big thank you to our retiring Chair, Dave Stacey for his sterling work in chairing our meetings in a convivial manner. Also, for his hard work he has undertaken on our behalf over the last 2 years.

Diolch yn fawr iawn Dave.

3. Appointment of Vice Chairperson.

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Williams that Cllr Morgan be appointed as Vice Chairperson.

A second nomination was proposed by Cllr McMinn-Davies but there was no seconder so this nomination was cast aside.

The proposal by Cllr Stacey for Cllr Morgan to be appointed as Vice Chairperson was voted on unanimously by those present.

Cllr Morgan accepted the appointment.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Morgan be appointed Vice Chairperson from 8th May 2024.

4. Apologies for Absence (to be given to the Clerk prior to the meeting)

Cllr Picouto, Cllr Derrick and County Councillor Jones.

5. Chairperson's report

The outgoing Chairperson Councillor Dave Stacey read out his report:

Chair's Annual Report 2023/2024

Dave Stacey Chair Betws Community Council-May 2023/May 2024

This has been another successful year for Betws Community Council.

I'd like to thank all my fellow councillors for their work, to welcome Emyr to the team, and to thank our Clerk for all her work in keeping us moving forward.

It has been lovely to see the work of the last few years paying off - the maturing of the nature garden and the growing number of community groups making use of the space in particular, but the use that members of the community and beyond are getting from our open spaces and our playgrounds as well.

Each year we build on what has been before, and the ceremony at the entrance to the park to mark the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights was a fantastic addition to our calendar, which included again our Remembrance Day service. The involvement of children from Betws School really did make those two events, and I'd like to put on record my thanks to the staff and pupils at the school for all that they have done around the village over the last twelve months.

We have started to reach out more to the local community through surgeries and better use of notice board spaces, and while those specific events haven't been

particularly well attended, the increase in correspondence with the council from local residents I think is a positive sign, and something we can build on more next year.

We've been unlucky in some of our grant applications this year, and I do think it's a shame that colleagues put such a lot of time and effort into chasing these pots of money, with no guarantees of success. None the less, we look again next year for more opportunities to carry on the work of improving the facilities for the people who live and work in this area.

Last year I donated my Chair's allowance to the Ammanford Food Bank. This year I'm going to ask that it stays in our account, to be used as match funding for future funding applications for improved play equipment for the village.

It's been an honour serving as chair for the last two years, and I'd like to wish Councillor Carwyn James the very best of luck and success for their period in office.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

6. Appointment of members to Committees.

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey that the appointment of members to Committees remain the same this was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all present.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee Members remain the same.

The committee members are as follows:

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2024/2025	
CHAIR	Cllr Carwyn James
VICE-CHAIR	Cllr Emyr Morgan
<u>COMMITTEES</u>	
10-May-23	A committee must have a minimum of 3 Cllrs plus the Chair or Vice Chair who can be Ex-officio members of committees and sub-committees. Ex-officio is a Latin term meaning by virtue of office or position. Ex-officio members of committees, therefore, are persons who are members by virtue of the position that they hold. N.B. A committee cannot comprise of all Councillors as would be Full Council and not a committee.
Finance and Staffing	Chair and Vice Chair, Cllrs. Dave Stacey , Lynwen Phillips, Carwyn James Jose Picouto and Mike Jones

Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces Betws Park, Heol Y Felin Playground and Green and Maesquarre Playground	Chair and Vice Chair, Cllrs. Mike Jones , Lynwen Phillips, Paul Allchurch, Karen McMinn-Davies, James Derrick and Jose Picouto with County Councillor Betsan Jones as an ex-officio member.
Community Engagement and Events	Chair and Vice Chair, Cllrs. Paul Allchurch , Karen McMinn-Davies, Peter Comley and Maureen Williams
	<u>Working Groups</u>
Working Group for the Finance & Governance Toolkit for Town and Community Councils	Cllrs Dave Stacey, Mike Jones and Paul Allchurch
Working Group for the New Contracts for the Recreation Grounds	Cllrs Dave Stacey, Mike Jones, Emyr Morgan and Lynwen Phillips

7. Appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies.

REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

BETWS FAMILY CENTRE	Karen McMinn-Davies (dual hatted role as is Treasurer at the Family Centre and it is run as a social enterprise with 2 others, one being County Councillor B Jones)
CAB	Paul Allchurch
ONE VOICE WALES	Dave Stacey
SCHOOL GOVERNOR	Maureen Williams
BETWS RFC CHECKS AS PER LEASE	Karen McMinn-Davies and Lynwen Phillips

LOCAL HEALTH BOARD	Paul Allchurch

8. Public Questions Representations

No members of the public were present.

The Chair thanked everyone and closed the annual meeting.

Meeting closed at 19:30.