

BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Betws Community Council was held as a Hybrid Meeting at **Betws RFC** and virtually on **Microsoft Teams** on Wednesday 10th April 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 19:07

PRESENT: Cllr Dave Stacey (Chairperson), Cllrs Paul Allchurch, Carwyn James Maureen Williams, Emyr Morgan, Karen McMinn-Davies and James Derrick.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones (attended remotely)

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present

The Chair moved agenda Item 4 to first place as the County Councillor had another meeting to attend.

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. Apologies

Cllrs Jose Picouto, Mike Jones, Peter Comley and Lynwen Phillips.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

4. County Councillor Report

- 1. Update regarding the double yellow lines at Pentwyn Road, the proposals are to be advertised by the end of April/early May as the legal team are making their way through the draft traffic rural TRO's.*

Councillor McMinn-Davies arrived at 19:12

- 2. An email had been received regarding from a resident as there was hole in the footbridge at the far end of Betws Park which has now been fixed.*

Councillor Derrick arrived at 19:14

- 3. An email had also been received from the head of Grounds and Cleansing Services with CCC who has asked her for her views on a proposal to close the footbridge at the far end of Betws Park as they have had representation from the Local Construction Company who's land abuts the area to the North of the bridge requesting that the footbridge be closed due to Anti-Social behaviour to include*

burning of wooden pallets at this location. It was stipulated that there is no formal continuity in the footway and as such the bridge has no significant use.

The County Councillor informed members that she had no objection to the closure of the footbridge at the far end of Betws Park.

Members will discuss this proposal later in the meeting and their response will be sent to the head of Grounds and Cleansing Services. The County Councillor will forward the email received to the Community Council so that they may respond.

4. Great disappointment that the Community Council were not successful with gaining grant funding from the Levelling Up Fund with CCC.
5. She informed members that the Mynnydd Y Betws Funding applications open on 29 April and end 31 May 2024. With the panel sitting on 19 June 2024. She suggested that Cllr Phillips re-submits the application.
6. She informed members that she had attended a meeting in Carmarthen regarding grant funding and will go through the information gained in the Recreation Ground Committee meeting which is to be held on 17th April 2024.
7. Cllr Williams had a question regarding fly tipping for the County Councillor as she had been informed that an 8-seater fibreglass hot tub has been dumped opposite Maesquarre Hall. According to Cllr Derrick that has been there for some time as he had reported it to the County Councillor who was unaware that it had not been removed and she will investigate and let the Council know the outcome at the next meeting.

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

County Councillor Betsan Jones left the meeting at 19:27.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th March 2024

Councillor Williams proposed, and Councillor James seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 13th March 2024 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

A total of 1 crime for February 2024 in Betws broken down as follows:

1 – Drugs

The link for Betws ward below.

[Betws | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk)

7. Payments/Donation Requests –

a. Clerk Salary and Allowances and Invoices to be paid (see document below)

Payments Made in April 2024			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT

10/4/2024 point 7a	Angela Brown	Clerks Salary/Allowances and office expenses. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) LG(FP)A 1963 s5	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
10/4/2024 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
10/4/2024 point 7a	Nest Pension paid by Direct Debit	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
10/4/2024 point 7a	R A Computers	McAfee Total Protection security software 1 year licence LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 and Section 58 Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013	£25.00 VAT £ 5.00 Total £30.00
10/4/2024 point 7a	OVW	Membership 2024/2025 Based on 1057 chargeable dwellings @ £0.41p per dwelling based on Valuation List not Electoral Register LGA 1972 S.143	£433
10/4/2024 point 7a	Carmarthenshire County Council	Annual Independent Inspection of Playgrounds	£80 VAT £16 Total £96

		Completed on 13/9/2023 reports received on 6/11/2023. Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	
10/4/2024 point 7a	Carmarthenshire County Council	DLO Recharges Highways – Public Lighting – Footway lighting, maintenance and energy for 1/4/2023 – 31/3/2024 Energy Charges – Public Utilities – Electricity - Footway lighting, maintenance and energy for 1/4/2023 – 31/3/2024 Parish Councils Act 1957, s3 & Highways Act 1980, s301	£503.85 £702.36 VAT £241.24 Total £1,447.45
10/4/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	Betws Park Qtr 4 Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan) Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£ 3,465.00 VAT £ 693.00 Total £ 4,158.00
10/4/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	Heol Y Felin Qtr 4 Green and Playground	£ 370.00 VAT £ 74.00

		<p>Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan)</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	<p>Total £ 444.00</p>
10/4/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	<p>Maesquarre Park/Playground Qtr 4</p> <p>Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan)</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	<p>£ 490.00</p> <p>VAT £ 98.00</p> <p>Total £ 588.00</p>
10/4/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	<p>Betws Park Flower Beds</p> <p>To supply 5 cubic metres of top soil</p> <p>Labour to fetch, spread and firm soil. Spread grass seed. No charge.</p>	<p>£400</p> <p>VAT £ 80</p> <p>Total £480</p>
10/4/2024 point 7a	Parks and Play	<p>Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playground Qtr 4</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	<p>£260.00</p> <p>£260.00</p> <p>Total £520.00</p>

--	--	--	--

It was proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Allchurch and agreed by all present that the above payments are authorised, and it was **RESOLVED** that the above be paid.

b) Donation Requests – none received the clerk informed members that the donation agreed at point 9n in the March meeting will be paid this month as the D-Day flag has been received by the school today.

c) Audit – ongoing and see 13. d) i) and ii)

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

PL/07376 prior notification agricultural/forestry - for a cover for an existing slurry pit at Llwyndu Farm, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2RE – closed and decision made - planning permission required.

PL/07432 Proposed new bungalow, The Cedars, 25 Woodlands Park SA18 2HF. Consultation started 5/4/2024 and ends 26/4/2024.

The Council have no objections to the above application. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk inform the planning department at CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn: None

9. Correspondence/Matters for Information/Action (emails sent out to members)

Councillor Allchurch distributed the Police and Crime Commissioners Annual Conference documents to members as per 14 February 2024 meeting ref 9 p.

- a) **Community Cushions – (OVW) (email sent 20/3/2024)**
- b) **Co-Option (email sent 20/3/2024)** – the chair asked if anyone is interested to please let the chair know and cc clerk.
- c) **Events at CofGâr, the Carmarthenshire County Council Museums and Arts Service (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- d) **Ammanford College Public Meeting (email sent 3/4/2024)** proposal to close Ammanford College- Councillor Allchurch and Williams had attended the meeting and a discussion ensued.
- e) **Funding Opportunities (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- f) **The Urdd's Fund for All (email sent 3/4/2024)** – Councillor Williams had passed this information on to Betws Primary School.
- g) **South West Wales Regional Transport Plan (email sent 3/4/2024)** – any comments for the attached letter – none received.
- h) **2024 - MARCH, APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2023 TRAINING DATES OVW (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- i) **Annual Financial Timetable of Actions – OVW (email sent 3/3/2024)**
- j) **New consultation: Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill (OVW) (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- k) **NEW DIRECTORY ENQUIRY FORM – New Directory for Care and Support for Carmarthenshire (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- l) **Town & Community Councils Update – CCC (email sent 3/4/2024)** – including Have your say on how homes are allocated in Carmarthenshire and copper switch over to digital voice BT information roadshow.

- m) **Focus group for youth representatives of community and town councils – (OVW) (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- n) **Forum on "Local Community Enterprises as Drivers of the Local Economy" - 10.00 and 12.00 on Saturday 18th May in Carmarthen Library (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- o) **Big News! | Ammanford Foodbank (email sent 3/4/2024)**
- p) **Invitation to *Mudiad Meithrin yn 'Yr Egin'* on Friday, May 3rd from 10.00 until 12.00. (email sent 4/4/2024)**
- q) **Local Councils set new standards across Wales! (OVW 2024 Awards Ceremony) (email sent 5/4/2024)**
- r) **Betws RFC Home and Away teams training on Heol Y Felin Green query from resident via Councillor James – Councillor Comley sent his apologies to meeting although the clerk informed members that previously the green was used when the playing field was too wet.**
- s) **Email from resident regarding dogs in Heol Y Felin green - an audit is being conducted regarding the signage in each of the 3 recreation areas with new signage highlighting the potential fine of up to £1,000 for not picking up dog faeces. CCC ask dog walkers to place their bagged dog faeces into their bins so that it is not left on pavements and other places. The community council will look at the siting of the bin in the playground area to see if it can be moved to a different location.**
- t) **Cost of Living Crisis Newsletter: April 2024 (OVW) (email sent 9/4/2024)**
- u) **Cyfarfodydd Pethau Bychain Meetings (OVW) (email sent 9/4/2024)**
- v) **DIRECTORY OF CARE AND SUPPORT - CATALYST FOR CARE, CARMARTHENSHIRE (CCC partnership) (email sent 9/4/2024) – leaflet printed and placed on noticeboard within Betws RFC.**

The points above are all **NOTED** by members unless otherwise stated.

10. To approve the report from the Betws RFC annual lease check for 2023 – 2024 carried out by Councillor McMinn-Davies during January 2024.

Cllr McMinn-Davies has not fully completed the check to date and needs to arrange to meet up with Peter Comley from Betws RFC.

11. To consider a motion to exclude the public and members of the press with regards to matters in point 12 due to the confidential nature under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) 1960, s.1 (2) and Local Government Act 1972, s. 100 (2)

12. Exempt Matters –

a) Betws RFC and Land issue at Heol Y Felin (if any correspondence received)

- Correspondence received 18/3/2024 ref Betws RFC.

The Solicitor has applied for the document from the Land Registry however it is not a referred document which means that it is not available electronically, they have requested that the document be manually processed. They will advise Council regarding its contents once received.

b) No correspondence received regarding the land issue still waiting on the other side to reply from mid-year 2023.

13. Feedback from Committees/Working Group/Outside Bodies (all minutes of the Committee Meetings can be viewed on the Community Council Website where the Full Council Meeting minutes are also available as per 26ZA (1) (2) of Schedule 12

of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 55 (c) of Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013):

a) Recreation Ground Committee –

Betws Park –

- i) Update – Cllr Phillips** – Cllr Phillips had sent apologies to the meeting however Cllr Stacey updated members regarding a recent meeting at the park with Social Farms and Gardens and the volunteers. The Resilience plan was discussed which is more for larger gardens and not for Betws Park. A discussion with the volunteers regarding the year-on-year management plan which is currently work in progress and they will be consulted once it is ready.

Correspondence

Correspondence received

- a) CLAS Award - Parc Betws (email sent 3/4/2024)** – Volunteers attended the award ceremony.

- b) Keep Wales Tidy update from Caryn Griffiths and Saturday planting (emails sent 3/4/2024)** – the funding had stringent guidelines as to which plants were to be purchased which were native plants therefore some have been placed in the memorial gardens and most of the plugs went into the meadow area.

- c) Sustainable Communities Fund Round – Rejection Letter (email sent 3/4/2024)** – this was discussed in point 4. 5 by the County Councillor.

All of the above will be discussed in the Recreation Ground Committee meeting which is due to be held on 17 April 2024

- ii) Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – None.

b) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –

- i) Annual Playground Inspection Reports –not covered in December meeting. Rec meeting due 27 Feb 2024 item to be placed on the agenda and await feedback** – meeting cancelled due to Chairs work commitments to be re-convened to 17 April 2024.

- b) Finance and Staffing Committee – waiting for minutes from Dave from the meeting held 17th January 2024 – received draft minutes.

- c) Community Engagement and Events Committee – Evaluation of Community Engagement Surgeries January 2024 - Cllr Allchurch to report back on way forward – meeting 2/3/2024 – not quorate notes made by the 2 Councillors to be circulated – meeting to be re-convened – Tuesday 7th May at 19:00 at Betws RFC. Cllr Allchurch to send agenda to the clerk for circulation in good time.

- d) **i) To Adopt the Financial Regulations** which were reviewed by the Finance Committee at point 3 in the meeting held on 22nd November 2023.

This was proposed by Cllr Derrick and seconded by Cllr James and agreed by all present.

- ii) To Adopt the New 2023 Standing Orders** as distributed by One Voice Wales last year.

This was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Derrick and agreed by all present.

iii) Toolkit working group - Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and consider future reviews to take place once per election period and/or when updates are received (see 14 June 2023 minutes point 9d Revised Standing Orders This was **NOTED** by members and agreed that the working group would look at this along with the toolkit).

plus 9a ref Good Councillor Guide to Employment 2023 to adopt? As only noted in 14 June 2023 meeting. – To re-visit in January 2024 – UPDATE - Working through in mid-February to report back in March to council – apologies sent by Dave Stacey moved to April meeting – moved forward to next meeting.

- e) **New Contracts for 1 April 2024 working group** – update – ref playground and grounds maintenance contracts - Cllr Phillips/Jones – This will be discussed in the Recreation Ground Committee meeting on 17 April 2024.
- f) draft documents to be approved before advert for maintenance of recreation grounds tenders to go out in SW Guardian by 1st August 2024 latest – Cllr Jones – sent his apologies and this will be discussed in the Recreation Ground Committee meeting on 17 April 2024.

Next meeting is Wednesday 8th May 2024 with the Annual Meeting commencing at 19:00 and the monthly meeting will be held afterwards.

The meeting Closed at 20:50.