

# **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 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 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 19:11**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Paul Allchurch, Emyr Morgan, Maureen Williams, Peter Comley, Dave Stacey and James Derrick at 19:13.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

The chair welcomed everyone to this month's meeting and thanked the Council for the condolence card received after the death of his father.

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

None

### **2. Apologies/Approval of Absence**

Cllrs Mike Jones, Jose Picouto, Lynwen Phillips and Karen McMinn-Davies

### **3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

**Cllr Derrick at Point 12c iii)**

### **4. County Councillor Report**

1. The County Councillor conveyed her condolences to the chair as she had worked for many years with Arnallt James when they were both on Betws Community Council. He was also an elder at Capel Newydd where she is also a member of the congregation. She said he was a special person.
2. Betws Family Centre have 303 families and 890 individuals which include children and adults on their books who they support from the local area. Members are helped in various ways including supply food packs and various courses which help them. They attend Betws Park Nature Garden each Monday where they have a raised flower bed that members look after. There is a Facebook page, and they have a timetable of events including an easter event this year. Betsan is the chair of the Family Centre and Karen McMinn-Davies is the Treasurer.

3. A member of the public requested that a bigger bin be placed on Colonel Road on the footpath known locally as the Black path which leads to Maes Y Betws from near Nant Y Ffin. Within 10 days a larger bin was in situ.
4. The chair informed the County Councillor that the bin on the other side of the path mentioned above is missing on the Maesquarre end of the path.
5. A request was received for the pavement at the top of Colonel Road to Waun Gron was cleaned as it had moss and debris on it. It was cleaned today 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
6. The new BSL signs have been delivered, and Cllr Derrick will collect and install at both playgrounds in due course.
7. A suggestion to the chair that Council celebrate the good they do and have a photo opportunity regarding the new playground equipment in Maesquarre Playground. They will liaise regarding this.
8. A thank you received from the resident of 18 Pentwyn Road who wishes to thank the Community Council for recently removing the conifer tree which was causing concern opposite her home.
9. Discussion regarding the new metal walls which have been put up on the walkway from the Foundry Road roundabout at the bottom of Betws into Ammanford near the railway. Comments about it not enhancing the area have been made. Some Councillors have not seen this and will take a view once seen and feedback to the County Councillor.

The chair asked members if they had any questions for the County Councillor with a comment being made regarding point 9. As people from Betws would like the walkway re-opened as a road.

The County Councillor asked the chair if point 13. b. iii) could be brought forward for discussion – Update – VE Day (Betws Park Volunteers) BH Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May event in Betws Park.

Cllr Stacey informed members that a poster was promoting the event on social media.

The clerk gave an update regarding

- i) The gazebo that is being borrowed from Ammanford Town Council and Cllr Derrick has agreed to collect on the Friday before and store it, erect it with help from the volunteers, take down and store before returning it the following week.
- ii) The Bouncy Castle company had sent their new Public Liability Insurance cover and all was in order.

Cllr Stacey brought up some points from the Community and Events committee meeting held last evening 8 April 2025:

- i) A risk assessment needs to be carried out for the event, which he had drafted and shared with the County Councillor and Cllr Derrick once approved would be forwarded to the clerk.
- ii) A suggestion by Cllr Jones that toilets may be needed after consideration it was decided that it was not necessary.

- iii) To be mindful of dogs being off leads on the day of the event which may cause issue with those having their picnics.
- iv) Litter from the event will be collected and bagged by the Volunteer Group County Councillor and Cllr Derrick informed members as they were part of the litter picking task force for Betws Park and left by the bins for removal by the contractor.
- v) Who would man the Bouncy Castle as it was mentioned that the company erects it and does not remain on site. Cllr Derrick and County Councillor Jones will steward.
- vi) A proposal to purchase a mobile speaker as one has previously been borrowed from Ysgol Gymraeg however with the annual Remembrance Service and Christmas Lighting events it would be beneficial to purchase one and hold as an asset and could be lent to Betws Primary School when not in use. The cost of the equipment was under £100 and its purchase was seconded by Cllr Allchurch and agreed by all present. He found a Bluetooth speaker costing £64.03. Once purchased by Cllr Stacey he will be re-imbursed and will give the receipt to the clerk for processing.

**County Councillor Betsan Jones leaves the meeting at 19:30**

**5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Allchurch seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

**6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws**

Crimes for December 2024 = 8 (as 0 in the February meeting)

Violence and Sexual Offences = 4, Drugs = 2, Burglary = 1, All other Crime = 1

Crimes for January 2025 = 7

Violence and Sexual Offences = 3, Drugs = 2, Public Order = 1, All other Crime = 1

Crimes for February 2025 = 16

Drugs =5, Vehicle Crime = 5, Shoplifting = 3, Violence and Sexual Offences = 3

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 2025
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MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
9/4/2025 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)
9/4/2025 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments.  Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
9/4/2025 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments.  Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
9/4/2025 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
9/4/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Maesquarre Playground/Park Qtr 4  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage	£ 490.00  VAT £ 98.00 Total £ 588.00

		recreation grounds.	
9/4/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Heol Y Felin Playground and Green Qtr 4  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£ 370.00 VAT £ 74.00 Total £ 444.00
9/4/2025 point 7a And 8/1/2025 point 13. b. iv)	Wrenvale	Betws Park  Remove and dispose of rotten fencing.  Replace fencing with new fence.  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£ 350.00 VAT £ 70.00 Total £ 420.00
9/4/2025 point 7a	Carmarthenshire Tree Surgery	Carry out works following tree survey  Three man climbing team, tipper and chipper.  2 days work at £675 per day extra day due to 3 conifers being set alight in the park which was originally a smaller job. Plus 3	£1350

		<p>conifers by along bank to Pentwyn Road, 1 large conifer and the fallen conifer.</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	
9/4/2025 point 7a	Carmarthenshire County Council	<p>DLO Recharges Highways – Public Lighting – Footway lighting, maintenance and energy for 1/4/2024 – 31/3/2025</p> <p>Energy Charges – Public Utilities – Electricity - Footway lighting, maintenance and energy for 1/4/2024 – 31/3/2025</p> <p>Parish Councils Act 1957, s3 &amp; Highways Act 1980, s301</p>	<p>£491.86</p> <p>£647.42</p> <p>Total £1,139.28</p> <p>VAT £ 227.85</p> <p>Total =</p> <p><b>£1,367.13</b></p>
9/4/2025 point 7a	Just Print	<p>Signage for Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playgrounds</p> <p>A4 x 2</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	<p>£24.19 each</p> <p>Total £48.38</p>

re-submitting and maybe A3 size not A4			
9/4/2025 point 7a And 12/3/2025 meeting point 4.3.	The School Sign Shop	BSL signage for Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playgrounds  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£100 each  Total £200 VAT £ 40  <b>Total £240</b>
9/4/2025 point 7a	Parks and Play	Heol Y Felin Playground Qtr 4  Maesquarre Playground Qtr 4 final inspections  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£260  £260  <b>Total £520</b>
9/4/2025 point 7a  To pay once grass mats and new handrails have been installed. Contractor waiting for suitable conditions for installing grass mats.  Forward Invoice and Bank Statement to CCC ref Sustainable Communities	Parks and Play	Maesquarre Playground/Park – re-installing Tema Play unit to embankment after it was removed in error by the Phase 2 contractors  Phase 2 – Sustainable Communities Funding Grant – new play equipment £35,000.00	Supply four new wooden legs including materials £165  Supply 4 grass mats £100  Supply new decking board cut to fit £135  Supply new bolts, handrails and plastic caps £100

Grant once actioned.		Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	Labour 2 men three and a half days £1400  <b>Total £1,900.00</b>
9/4/2025 point 7a	Parks and Play	Supply Memory Bank for Playground Inspections from Parks and Play  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£55
9/4/2025 point 7a and 12/3/2025 point 1.a) i), 12.b) iv)  To be paid after the event	Ajak Party Time	Adult Disco Castle  For 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 Event in Betws Park  LGA 1972 s.145 (1) (a)	£150
9/4/2025 point 7a and 12/3/2025 point 12. b. ii)	Cllr Comley	Paint for metal railings in Betws Park.  Painting being done by the Probation Service.  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£48.00 VAT £ 9.60  Total £57.60

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

**b) Donation Requests –**

**i) 2025 Local Authority Appeal Llangollen Eisteddfod**

Discussion and it was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor Morgan and agreed by all present that no donations be made. Clerk to inform requestors.

**c) Audit 2024/25**

The clerk informed members that the cost of this year's internal audit will be £325. Following a short discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Morgan and agreed by all present that the fee for Mr Llewellyn to conduct the audit was approved.

**8. Planning Applications –**

The following applications were received:

**PL/09130** - Variation of Condition 2 on E/32650 (Amended plans) - 35 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE – consultation date 7/4/2025 – 28/4/2025

After a short discussion there were no objections to the above application, the clerk to inform CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

**PL/08671** - Variation of Condition 2 on E/15850 (rewording of condition) - Former Betws Colliery Site, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford, SA18 2LF - Removal / Variation of Condition Granted – Withdrawn 13/3/2025

**PL/08874** - To retain new access/driveway to access existing car parking to rear of property  
- 38 Colonel Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HP – householder granted 5/3/2025

The Council **NOTED** the above applications.

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

- a) **Senedd report published on Role, Governance and Accountability of Community and Town Council Sector (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- b) **Senedd Review of Final Determinations for the 2026 Review of Senedd constituencies (Welsh Gov) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- c) **TRAINING DATES - MARCH - JUNE 2025 (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- d) **National Awards Conference 2025 (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- e) **Digital Guidance (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- f) **Carmarthenshire Sustainable Communities Fund - Grant Opportunity for Community Projects (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- g) **Re wording of Freedom of information request 1 of 3 (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- h) **Webinar - Section 6 Reports 2025 (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- i) **FINAL REMINDER One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales Joint Event 27 March (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- j) **IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- k) **Re: Freedom of information request 2 of 3 (email sent 19/3/2025)**
- l) **Freedom of Information request 3 of 3 (email sent 19/3/2025)**

Discussion ensued regarding the FOI requests at point g), k) and l) above further legal advice had been sought and Council drafted a response during the meeting which was forwarded to the clerk so that the reply could be sent to the requestor.

- m) **Launch of the New One Voice Wales Website! (OVW) (email sent 19/3/2025)**

- n) Ammanford Foodbank - Can you help us? Your voice is crucial (email sent 21/3/2024)
- o) Problem-Solving Group (PSG) Feedback Survey- closing date 25 April (CCC) (email sent 2/4/2025)
- p) REMINDER Area Committee Survey (OVW) (email sent 2/4/2025) – The chair informed members that he had completed the survey.
- q) Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018 – 2033 (CCC) (email sent 2/4/2025)
- r) What are your views on the Active Travel Act Guidance? (OVW) (email sent 2/4/2025)
- s) WALES & VE DAY 80 - 8TH MAY 2025 (OVW) (email sent 2/4/2025)
- t) Have your say - we want your input! Ammanford Foodbank Survey (email sent 2/4/2025)
- u) Transfer of functions from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales to Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (IRPW) (email sent 2/4/2025)
- v) Town & Community Councils Update (CCC) (email sent 2/4/2025)
- w) Webinar 8/4/2025 - Seals: Wales' Giant panda! (Pethau Bychain/OVW) (email sent 2/4/2025)
- x) Evaluation of the Local Places for Nature (Lleoedd Lleol ar Gyfer Natur) Scheme (OVW) (email sent 8/4/2025)
- y) Carmarthen Area Committee 14.4.25 (OVW) (email sent 8/4/2025)
- z) Welsh Government Democratic Engagement Grant (OVW) (email sent 8/4/2025)
- aa) Motions for 2025 Annual General Meeting OVW (email sent 8/4/2025)
- bb) Ammanford Foodbank (email sent 8/4/2025)
- cc) Proposed Memorial Tree and Bench in Betws Park for the late WW2 Veteran Mr Neville Bowen who passed away aged 102.

After a discussion regarding the request and siting of a tree and bench within the park two locations are available and the clerk will convey the areas to the requestor when responding based on the seating plan that Council have for the park.

The Tree is a 6-8ft Wild Cherry Tree which will be donated, planted and cared for by Jonathan Andrews an arboriculturist.

Permission is given with regards to holding an event once the bench and tree are in situ. The clerk is to be informed of the date and time of the event so that Councillors may be informed as some may attend.

The above details were proposed by Cllr Derrick and seconded by Cllr Comley and agreed by all present. The clerk is to inform the requestor and give details of the local company who supplies the recycled benches.

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

**10. 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)**

**11. Exempt Matters –**

- a) **Betws RFC and Land issue at Heol Y Felin (if any correspondence received)** – correspondence received today, clerk had emailed requesting an update on both items mentioned above on 7 March 2025. Discussion ensued regarding the request and a quote will be obtained so that progress can be

made. Clerk to inform Council once quote is received. It was proposed by Cllr Comley and seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed by all present that Council is happy to go ahead with a land survey providing the costs are kept to a couple of hundred pounds.

- b) **Betws RFC – report to be given by Emyr Morgan – nothing to report.**
- c) **Annual Lease check for 2024/2025 to be completed – Dave and Emyr to completed on Saturday 15 February 2025. To Do - Report required to be sent to the Clerk and Insurance to check – outstanding.**

**12. 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):**

**a) Recreation Ground Committee**

**b) Betws Park –**

- i) **Update - Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – receipt for paint required from Cllr Comley to reimburse - received.**
- ii) **Update – Simple Metal structure in Nature area (email sent 19/2/2025) reply regarding its construction (email sent 19/3/2025 and 21/3/2025) and (4/4/2025) Council is waiting for CCC to go through their processes of giving permission for the shelter, a process which doesn't happen instantaneously.**
- iii) **Update – VE Day (Betws Park Volunteers) (email sent 20/2/2025) and Public Liability Insurance for the Bouncy Castle (email sent 18/3/2025) New Insurance Certificate has been issued and sent to the clerk.**
- iv) **Update - Missing trees from central avenue Betws park/ (Betws Park Volunteers)(email sent 13/1/2025) – emailed Stephen Edwards/Paul Cleaver 13/2/2025. Room for 2 trees but not where old trees were type TBC as wet area. Types of Trees (see email sent 2/4/2025)**

The placement of the 2 new trees to be determined by consulting with Stephen Edwards. Mr Williams has secured an offer from Hilliers whereby 2 mature trees will be donated for the avenue of trees. The type of trees to both suit the site/soil conditions as some of the area gets wet, aesthetic as to how they fit in with the current avenue of trees which are set out at regular intervals. Advice has been provided that new trees cannot be placed in the same place as the fallen trees due to potential to damage the roots of the existing trees which are in the avenue. Some suitable trees have been suggested such as a Royal Alder (likes wet conditions) and a Handkerchief Tree which would be something of interest and something different. A list of a range of medium and large trees suitable for parkland areas has been forwarded to Cllrs which had been received from Paul Cleaver.

The clerk to liaise with Cllr Jones regarding contacting Hilliers for a site meeting to take place with 2 Cllrs and Mr Williams to discuss.

- v) **Drinking water fountain /&water supply for park (email sent to Cllrs 15/11/2024) update from Cllr Stacey – chasing 12/2/2025.** Cllr Stacey Updated members regarding the costs for a re-connection request with the 4 different charges Initial application fee, a connection charge and a one-off water infrastructure charge. Discussion ensued regarding Welsh Water allowing up to 2,000 litres per day to be extracted from a river this equates

to 2 IBC tanks and could be used to water the garden area. Cllr Comley informed members that he had a pump which could be used for this. It was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Derrick and agreed by all present that the re-connection would not be pursued further.

- vi) **Update – Request 10ft long x 8ft wide x 7ft high container at nature area – Volunteer Group (email sent 18/3/2025) Permission being sought from CCC various emails (1/4/2025).** Council is waiting for CCC to go through their processes of giving permission for the container as per point ii) above. Consideration regarding ongoing maintenance, the visual impact will it be painted or cladded and what happens to the Victorian Summerhouse that is currently being used by the Volunteers? Will it revert to the Council where it can be used by the contractor and/or Council for storing items?

### **Correspondence received**

- c) **Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –**

**i) Fortnightly Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 as contractor has retired – Feedback from Councillors regarding their first fortnightly checks – to be forwarded to the clerk each time.**

Cllr Comley and Derrick conducted their first fortnightly checks earlier this week together. They will forward the documents to the clerk.

### **Maesquarre Playground**

They have identified a few things gate closure speed at Maesquarre checked, some new signs are required for the sports equipment, and they will inform council in due course what is required. The zip line is ok but will need the legs replaced in the future which they will monitor. The new inclusive roundabout has not been installed correctly with a gap of ¼ inch on one side and is tight on the other side. Also, the bolts which hold it down are correct ¾ of the way around but are off line ¼ of the way around. Clerk to contact the installation company Sutcliffe Play and ask them to rectify.

### **Heol Y Felin Playground**

The rubber flooring is lifting around the edge, and the gap has widened to 1 ½ inches which could become a trip hazard they will work together to come up with a solution to rectify.

There are a few holes here and there in the rubber which could be rectified by patching with triangle, round or square designs of new rubber.

The climbing frame has some cloth missing but is safe and they have been advised not to worry unless the metal splinters.

Warning signs are required Cllr Comley/Derrick to put up as youths are jumping onto the chain link fencing which is the playground boundary from the bench on the Colonel Road side of the fence. The fence needs replacement, Cllrs will get costings for this and Clerk to contact the County Councillor regarding asking for the bench to be re-located further away from the fence so that the youths can no longer use the fence to jump onto and damage.

The clerk informed Council that she had received the Annual Playground Reports actioned by CCC prior to this meeting which were done on 16 March 2025 and will forward to Councillors to review.

**ii) MYB grant for Maesquarre Phase 2 and Sustainable Communities Fund Round 4** – Update regarding phase 2 of the Maesquarre project and project closure outputs document - **Cllr Phillips/Cllr Stacey** update required from Cllr Stacey regarding the project closure documents.

**iii) Grass Play Field - Heol Y Felin (Adjacent to Betws Rugby Club) – goal nets - Delivered to Cllr Derrick – installation costs to be determined.** Cllr Derrick sent the clerk the cost of installing the goal nets which is £925. Cllr Derrick left the room whilst discussion took place. It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Morgan that Cllr Derrick installs the goal nets, and that Cllr Comley check the installation.

**iv) Update on inclusive roundabout and holes in wet pour – (email sent 18/3/2025)** - all work carried out.

**v) Update on newly designed Castle/Tema unit slide (part of Phase 2 Sustainable Communities Fund)** Eamonn is waiting for the handrails and grass mats to be delivered. The grass mats need to be fitted after there has been some rain so that they are fitted correctly. He will inform the clerk once fitted. Once completed the invoice will be paid and a copy will be sent to CCC as it is part of the grant funding recently received.

**Correspondence received** - none

- d) Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr James – next meeting will be after EOY.
- e) Community Engagement and Events Committee** – Cllr Allchurch April meeting update – update given and he is looking into conducting a survey within Betws further details will be shared in due course. Cllr Derrick will collect the gazebo from Ammanford Town Council on Friday 2 May 2025 he has the contact details to arrange collection and will store and erect and remove on the day with assistance from other volunteers and store again before returning to Ammanford Town Council.
- f) i) Toolkit working group** - work in progress - to be re-visited once the new contracts and recreation ground management plan has been completed. Cllr Stacey informed members that he has begun working on the Toolkit and he will email it round to members. He has a few queries to send to the clerk in due course. To be placed on the Agenda for the March meeting. (Cllr Stacey) pushed to a future meeting due to other commitments.

Next meeting is the Annual Meeting which will be held on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 19:00** and will be followed by the Monthly meeting.

**The meeting Closed at 21:19**