

# **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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 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 in order for this to be able to take place and the correct procedure to be followed.

## **The meeting started at 19:10.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Dave Stacey (Chairperson), Cllrs Carwyn James, Maureen Williams, Lynwen Phillips with Cllrs Paul Allchurch, Mike Jones and Karen McMinn-Davies attending virtually.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones attending virtually

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

Member of the Public Present: No one present

PCSO: Not present

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

No one present

## **2. Apologies**

Councillors José Picouto, Peter Comley and Andrew Williams.

## **3. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws**

A total of 11 crimes for October in Betws broken down as follows:

### **October 2022**

Violence and Sexual Offences – 5

Criminal Damage and arson – 2

Other theft – 2

Public order – 2

Email received from PCSO 8087 Alexander Mullock:

All of our crime figures can now be found on our website, this includes a map of results and also stop search results. The latest figures published are for the period of September, therefore October figures will be available next month.

I have included the link for Betws ward below.

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

Moving forward, Betws Community Council and any member of the public can utilise our website in order to obtain crime figures at any time.

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

Carwyn James regarding agenda point 7b as he is a member of Capel Newydd.

#### **5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting Held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

Councillor Phillips proposed and Councillor M Williams seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be accepted as a true record once Cllr A Williams time of leaving the meeting is recorded due to certain discussions and comments made between him and the clerk.

A discussion ensued with the clerk being asked to clarify what she'd meant by using the word 'diseased' in certain discussions regarding attendance at meetings.

The clerk stated that it wasn't directed at any one person, lots of people could have COVID, and it was a wrong choice of words.

#### **6. County Councillor Report**

1. Email received from CCC regarding a site visit on the footpath to Hopkinstown where several issues identified: the path is severely overgrown, there are obstacles/obstructions and there may be a requirement for a sleeper bridge to be built. They will be contacting the relevant landowners with regards to the issues. CCC PROW will be working with the Betws Wanderers walking group to trash the overgrowth and mend some broken styles and fencing to help with re-opening this footpath.
2. There will be a site meeting with CCC Highways department on 20<sup>th</sup> December regarding the lifting of some of the parking restrictions from outside some of the properties on Colonel Rd due to issues raised by some residents as they are unable to stop or unload due to the newly installed double yellow lines. Also issues at Woodlands Park regarding having white lines at a junction, Ffordd Y Glowyr white lines near the park and regarding double parking issues along Pentwyn Road.
3. County Council officers had a site meeting at the bottom of Maesquarre park to see if electricity can be sourced from the street light for the Christmas tree in the Park on 4<sup>th</sup> November. They are obtaining a quote from the energy supplier regarding this and should Betws Community Council wish to go ahead once the quote is received then a box would be placed in the park and extra low voltage lights would need to be sourced for display on the tree. Betws Community Council could seek grant funding for this.

4. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 new waste collection timetables begin the current days of collection will change and black glass collecting boxes are being issued to residents. For Betws Blue bags will be collected on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 along with food bags. Black bags will be collected every 3 weeks with the first collection on the new timetable being Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February where only 3 bags being collected every 3 weeks. Garden waste is collected on different days. The County Council are sending out leaflets to inform residents of the changes.

Cllr M Williams asked members if they were aware of the Welsh Governments Winter Fuel Allowance which is a one off £200 payment to those receiving certain benefits. This is available until mid-January 2023, she only became aware after taking her mother to the HWB.

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

At 19:38 Karen McMinn-Davies joined virtually.

Cllr M Jones asked County Councillor B Jones about a meeting in Betws Park, she explained that each year the Volunteers met on the last Saturday before Christmas to have an informal get together where they would have mince pies and mulled wine.

County Councillor B Jones left the meeting at 19:40.

## 7. Payments/Donation Requests –

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

Payments Made in December 2022			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
14/12/2022 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)
14/12/2022 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments.  Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
14/12/2022 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)

14/12/2022 point 7a	Carmarthenshire Tree Surgery	Tree felling and maintenance as per Tree Survey Report 2022  1 large ash tree 1 cherry tree Side prune branches next to main road  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£600
14/12/2022 point 7a	Karen McMinn-Davies	Amazon purchase of Christmas Tree Lights  Local Government Act 1972 s.144	£67.96
14/12/2022 point 7a and 9/11/2022 point 13b	Parks and Play	Swing repairs at Maesquarre Playground  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£1093.27 (£150 labour to be charged when other swing repair completed as waiting for parts)  £240 swing rotten leg repair
14/12/2022 point 7a	Parks and Play	Qtr 3 Contractor payment  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£520
14/12/2022 point 7a	Cllr D Stacey	IBC tank lockable tap and hose lock from waterlineproducts.co.uk  Betws Park Nature Project Funding from the Welsh Government Local Places for Nature and National Lottery Heritage Grant Funding	£13:01 tbc when invoice received

		Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	
14/12/2022 point 7a	Cllr A Williams	Paint from Wilko for IBC tank  Betws Park Nature Project Funding from the Welsh Government Local Places for Nature and National Lottery Heritage Grant Funding  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£7.00

It was **RESOLVED** that the above be paid.

#### **b. Donation Requests/ Payments Received/ Donation Received**

Capel Newydd Betws Cemetery annual donation for 2022 of £200  
Eglwys Dewi Sant Cemetery annual donation for 2022 of £200  
Capel Newydd Betws Christmas Lights annual donation for 2022 of £25  
Eglwys Dewi Sant Christmas Lights annual donation for 2022 of £50

The power which enables the Community Council to pay towards the upkeep of the cemeteries comes from the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 and Local Government Act 1972 s.214 (6).

The power which enables the Community Council to pay towards the Christmas Lighting at the Church and Chapel comes from s.137(1) and (3) Local Government Act 1972.

Cllr James clarified that the lighting payments were for the lights on the Cross on Capel Newydd and for lights on the Christmas Tree and for the floodlights at Eglwys Dewi Sant.

It was agreed by members that the above be paid this was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr M Williams.

It was **RESOLVED** that the above be paid.

#### **c) Councillor payments - Opt Out forms are no longer applicable as payments are mandatory see IRPW April 2022 report.**

A discussion ensued regarding the payments and tax implications; also, how would this affect those councillors who are receiving benefits.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk seek advice on the on how these payments are made to Councillors.

The chair allowance procedure was clarified by Cllr James who informed members that at the end of the financial year the Chair gives the clerk a report and a list of donations made along with any receipts. If some of the £300 remained the chair would divide and give to local charities.

## 8. Planning Applications –

The clerk informed members that **PL/04887** – External alterations, provisions of external wall insulation, provision of new air source heat pumps and solar panels to roof plane – 45 – 51 Parc Penrhiw, Betws SA18 2SP had been approved.

The Chair enquired about the S106 payment for the Maes Melyn/TRJ planning application at Ffordd Y Glowyr. The clerk will contact the County Councillor regarding this as the original application was submitted some years prior to her becoming clerk. Her enquiries and responses from CCC so far had been emailed to the Chair some weeks ago.

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

### a) **20 mph legislation** (email sent 18/11/2022)

This was **NOTED** by members.

### b) **Traffweb** (email sent 18/11/2022) linked to 9a

This was **NOTED** by members.

### c) **A Fund to help Communities suffering fuel poverty and energy costs in Carmarthen** (email sent 18/11/2022)

This was **NOTED** by members.

### d) **Council Tax: Consultations on draft Regulations to extend exceptions to second home premiums and on Guidance** (email sent 28/11/2022)

This was **NOTED** by members.

### e) [Get help from your supplier - Priority Services Register | Ofgem](#) (email sent 28/11/2022)

This was **NOTED** by members.

### f) **Request from resident for a memorial tree and plaque to be placed in Betws Park**

This was discussed by members and **RESOLVED** that the Recreation Ground Committee along with the Ground Maintenance Contractor who is a specialist in his field to agree and draw up a plan of where the best site is to place trees/shrubs/benches etc within the park based on eventual height and spread, growing conditions required etc. This was also discussed in the November meeting at point 14 a) i). It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact

the resident to inform and that it would be an honour for a tree and plaque to be planted which will be done once the plan is in place and Council would get back in contact with the resident at this time.

- g) VAT exception request letter** sent to HMRC due to the grants received this year.

This was **NOTED** by members.

- h) Reference request from Gorslas Community Council regarding Emroch Landscapes Ltd** and response.

This was **NOTED** by members.

The Chair commented that the clerks filtering of emails was working and that less emails were being received by councillors.

- 10.** Request by Mrs Picouto and Cllr Picouto asking Council to consider allowing the placement of a small plaque at the foot of the willow tree planted in memory of their beloved son Alex in Betws Park.

This was discussed by members and that it would be an honour for a plaque to be placed at the foot of the willow tree. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform Mrs Picouto and Cllr Picouto of the decision.

- 11.** The following Policies/documents need to be approved and ratified:  
a) Bullying and Harassment Policy

The above policy was approved and ratified and **RESOLVED** that it be placed on the website.

- b) Section 6 Biodiversity Report – updated document needs to be on the website by Dec 2022

The Chair had some outstanding entries to place within the report and would forward to the clerk for publishing on the website as per legislation once actioned.

- c) Filling a Casual Vacancy

The above document was approved and ratified and **RESOLVED** that it be placed on the website.

A discussion ensued regarding the procedure and co-option of 2 new Councillors with a closing date for the notice being 17:00 on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

- 12.** Councillor Vacancies update – discussed in 11c above.  
**13.** Exempt Reports – Update regarding the proposals to resolve the issues for the land held in Trust for the people of Betws which include Betws RFC – no correspondence received, waiting for a response from other side.  
**14.** Feedback from planned visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 to check Betws RFC as per the requirements of the lease – Cllr McMinn-Davies and Cllr Phillips – this has been

held off due to a number of reasons but will be done prior to the next meeting in January 2023.

A discussion regarding the report and checklist ensued.

## 15. Feedback from Committees

### a) **Recreation Ground Committee – update Betws Park Project – Cllr M Jones**

Cllr M Jones informed members that the Herass fencing had been removed from site. Cllr A Williams had been liaising with Black Mountain Signs regarding the bilingual signage required for the park such as the educational signage and dogs to be kept on leads as currently signage is only in English.

Cllr M Jones enquired with the Chair about the Terms of Reference which each committee is to decide asking for the latest copy which had been drafted earlier in the year.

Cllr M Jones informed members that he had emailed the Grant funder enquiring as to the type of event they expected for the opening of the new area.

Cllr M Jones informed members that there will be a joint meeting between the Events and Recreation Ground committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January – agenda to be agreed between both chairs prior.

Date to be agreed for the event as the report with photographs of the event will need to be completed and along with the invoices which need to be uploaded prior to submitting. All to be completed by 31 March 2023.

### b) **Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – swing repair update and proposal from contractor regarding a third repair required on another swing at Maesquarre.** – discussed above under payments.

### c) **Events Committee**

#### i) **Update on the Remembrance Service – Cllr Allchurch** – the service went well and council wish to thank the bugler, curate, Betws Primary School children for the reading, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mrs Picouto for attending. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk send letters. Also the Chair wishes to thank Councillor Picouto for taking the second wreath which is laid annually at the Remembrance Service which is held in Ammanford.

Cllr Allchurch informed members that he is still working on the information sheet which can be posted onto the website, noticeboards and given to residents.

#### ii) **Update regarding Christmas Tree and lights – Cllr McMinn-Davies**

The Christmas tree is up and lit.

The Council wish to thank Gower Farm Christmas Trees for donating the tree, Kevin Roberts for providing the lorry to collect the tree which he and Cllr M Jones collected, Mathew Gealy of Dragon Hire for constructing the base for the Christmas Tree to be placed in and Wrenvale for helping to place the lights onto the Christmas Tree.

Cllr Phillips asked about what happens to the hole when the tree is removed – this will need to be capped for safety.

- a) **Finance Committee** – Chair informed members that he was going through the finance files.
- b) **Defibrillator Project** – Cllr M Jones informed members that Cllr Picouto is anxious to bed down the project as it has been funded by Betws in Need. Cllr Comley is dealing with the project funding and procurement. The clerk is waiting for an invoice so that payment can be made.

The Chair closed the meeting wishing everyone a Merry Christmas with the next meeting being on second Wednesday of the month which is the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**The meeting Closed at 20:55**