

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 11th December 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 19:10

PRESENT: Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Cllrs Emyr Morgan, Maureen Williams, Mike Jones, Dave Stacey, Karen McMinn-Davies

County Councillor: not present

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. Apologies/Approval of Absence

Cllrs Paul Allchurch, Jose Picouto, Lynwen Phillips, James Derrick,

County Councillor Betsan Jones

Peter Comley, Dene Macbeth

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr James regarding 7. b) i) as he is a member and treasurer for Capel Newydd.

4. County Councillor Report

Apologies sent however and email update was given:

1. Update given regarding the fly tipping of the Hot Tub near Maesquarre Hall that was reported by Cllr Williams in April. The Hot tub that was dumped has been removed.
2. Update regarding the double yellow lines on Pentwyn Road the County Councillor informs members that the order for the double yellow lines on Pentwyn Road has been granted and it is hoped they will be placed after the 20th December but it will probably be in the new year.

County Councillor Betsan Jones wished everyone “Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda I chi gyd” at the end of her email.

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

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

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

A total of 13 crimes for October 2024 in Betws

Violence and Sexual Offences = 8, Anti-social Behaviour = 2, Public Order = 2, Other theft =1

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 December 2024			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
11/12/2024 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)
11/12/2024 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
11/12/2024 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)

11/12/2024 point 7a	One Voice Wales (OVW)	Training - Cllr McMinn-Davies – The Councillor Module 2 LGA 2000	£40
11/12/2024 point 7a	Parks and Play	Supply and fit two new cradle swing seats including VAT, delivery and fitting. Also two replacement swing capes on cradle swings Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£269 £ 30 Total £299
11/12/2024 point 7a	Parks and Play	Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playgrounds Qtr 2 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£260.00 £260.00 Total £520.00
11/12/2024 point 7a	Just Print	Dogs on Lead signage for Betws Park Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	A4 x 6 @ £11.19 each = £67.14 with a white background

11/12/2024 point 7a	Orchardweb	Create new minutes and agendas pages for 2025 and update plug-ins Local Government Act 1972 s.142	£30
11/12/2024 point 7a	Cllr James Derrick	Portable work light on a tripod for Christmas Lighting Event Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£44.98

It was proposed by Councillor Williams 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) Cemeteries Capel Newydd and St Davids Church

It was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor Jones that £200 be donated to Capel Newydd and St David's Church Cemeteries and agreed by all present.

- ii) Christmas Lights at St Davids Church

It was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor Jones that £50 be donated to Sta David's Church for their Christmas Lights and agreed by all present.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform the requestors of the above.

Councillor Morgan gave his apologies and left the meeting and Councillor McMinn-Davies arrived at 19:20.

- c) To discuss, approve and adopt the new Financial Regulations issued by OVW

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor McMinn-Davies that the new Financial Regulations issued by One Voice Wales be adopted by Council and agreed by all present.

- d) To review Standing Orders

It was agreed by those present that this would be moved to the January meeting.

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

PL/08498 - Construction of two detached double storey residential properties with attached garage, and associated driveway, parking and turning area - Plots on Maesquarre Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2EY – Consultation date 15/11/2024 – 6/12/2024 (email sent to Cllrs 15/11/2024)

PL/08506 - The change of use of the properties from 2 family dwellings (within Class C3 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, as amended) to an assisted living accommodation with 2 support staff operating on a 24/7 shift pattern would not constitute a material change of use and would not, therefore, require planning permission - Land adjacent to 44/46 Treforis Road, Ammanford, SA18 2RA – awaiting decision

The Council had no objections to these applications. Clerk to inform CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/07432 - Proposed new bungalow - The Cedars, 25 Woodlands Park, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HF – Full Granted 12/11/2024

PL/08063 - Part demolition of existing building, provision of new office and storage within remainder of building (Resubmission of PL/07798 - Old Pit Head Baths, Pentwyn Road, Ammanford, SA18 2EY – Full Granted 12/11/2024

PL/08415 - Single storey rear extension to comprise annex bedroom/en suite and kitchen - 112 Ffordd Y Glowyr, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2FG - Householder Granted 27/11/2024

The Council **NOTED** the above applications.

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

- a) An exhibition showcasing the incredible achievements of our Community & Town Council sector through the Local Places for Nature Funding Programme. 27 November 2024 (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- b) National Conference 2024 Report (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- c) Peace Ambassadors (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- d) IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 19/11/2024)
- e) Consultation of Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- f) CONSULTATION: Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee - UK-Covid Inquiry Module 1 Report - deadline for submissions is 16:00 on 3 January 2024 (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- g) Guidelines about Naming Domains and Websites (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- h) One Voice Wales - News Bulletin (email sent 19/11/2024)
- i) Ystadau Cymru Conference 2024 (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- j) Publication of consultation papers - Planning resilience and preserving trees - **1. Promoting a resilient and high performing planning service - <https://www.gov.wales/promoting-resilient-and-high-performing-planning-service>**
Responses to this consultation are invited by 17 January 2025. **2. Preserving trees and woodlands: new regulations - <https://www.gov.wales/preserving-trees-and-woodlands-new-regulations>** Responses to this consultation are invited by 14 February 2025. (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)
- k) Green Heroes December Event: Help Spread the Word (OVW) (email sent 19/11/2024)

- l) Dementia Action Plan Survey closes 13 December 2024 (OVW) (email sent 29/11/2024)
- m) Training for Councillors (OVW) (email sent 29/11/2024)
- n) Guidelines about Email and Procurement (OVW) (email sent 29/11/2024) – to review periodically, small risk regarding emails.
- o) Christmas toy appeal – Ammanford Foodbank (email sent 29/11/2024)
- p) Top 10 Things to do for Councils (OVW) (email sent 29/11/2024)
- q) TRAINING DATES - NOVEMBER 2024 - MARCH 2025 / DYDDIADUA HYFFORDDIANT - TACHWEDD 2024 - MAWRTH 2025 (OVW) (email sent 29/11/2024)
- r) IMPORTANT: Information on RAAC in Buildings (OVW) (email sent 29/11/2024)
- s) Digital Guidance - Cloud Storage (OVW) (email sent 3/12/2024) – Not applicable
- t) Town & Community Council Update (CCC) (email sent 3/12/2024)
- u) Amman Valley Hospital League of Friends – request to Community Council (email sent 3/12/2024) – to ask again at next meeting in January.
- v) Pethau Bychain Nature Network (OVW) (email sent 3/12/2024)
- w) Community Survey - Local Policy and Innovation Partnership (OVW) (email sent 3/12/2024) – The Chair will complete this survey sent by Aberystwyth University.
- x) INQUIRY LAUNCH: Community cohesion (OVW) (emails sent 4/12/2024)
- y) Dyfed Powys Police . Streetsafe (CCC) (email sent 9/12/2024)
- z) You deserve an award!! One Voice Wales National Awards 2025 (OVW) (email sent 9/12/2024)
- aa) Have Your Say 2024: A message to older people (OVW) (email sent 9/12/2024)

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

10. To discuss and update the Councillor Training Plan to be uploaded onto the website as per Section 67 of the 2021 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act to meet the Council's statutory obligation – Cllr Stacey to email documents to members for their comments (see point 10 of meeting 11/9/2024)

The clerk informed members that the original training plan had been updated and placed onto the website. Cllr Stacey will update the new document in the new year as the tender documents have now been completed.

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) – no documents received from Land Registry to date.** – No correspondence received to date.
- b) **Betws RFC – report to be given by Cllr Emyr Morgan** – updated members prior to leaving to say that a meeting had been held last night. Also, that the following roads within Betws were no longer on the primary gritting routes Colonel Road, Waungron, Maesquarre Road and Heol Y Mynydd. Discussion ensued and the clerk was asked to contact the highways department to give the Councils concerns on this matter.

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 – minutes received during the meeting by the clerk for the meeting which was held on 16 July 2024 and 4 December 2024 from Cllr Stacey

i) Update on the audit of the signage for the 3 Recreation Areas – some signage at Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin needs renewing. The recreation ground committee to discuss the new format/wording.

b) Betws Park –

i) Update ref memorial garden area and new shrubs – Cllr Jones – shrubs which attract pollinators will be sought by the contractor and to be planted by the volunteers by end of February 2025.

ii) Update ref Senedd Local Places for Nature Showcase Event on 27 November 2024 – Cllrs Stacey and Derrick – Members of the Volunteer Group attended the event, the Chair had received an email from one of the volunteers showing pictures of the information boards at the event to update the Council which were shown to those present. It was a good display and event.

iii) Update regarding Bins at Betws Park – Cllr Derrick – not present clerk to ask the contractor to measure the broken bin so that the correct replacement can be sought.

iv) Update regarding damage to Pentwyn Steps bench – the bench has been repaired free of charge by TRJ as a gift to the community. The clerk had liaised with Owain Jones regarding this. Also noted that the coping stones on the Pentwyn Steps had also been repaired free of charge by Wrenvale.

Cllr McMinn-Davies informed members that she had been approached by members of the community who are taking over the Football club which is accessed via Rice Road. The buildings are being demolished and new changing facilities will be built. Discussion ensued with Cllr Williams informing that funding is available to promote Women in sport from the Senedd. Cllr McMinn-Davies to inform them of this and ask to email the Clerk.

Karen McMinn-Davies left the meeting at 20:40.

v) Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – not present – no work carried out due to the inclement weather.

vi) Update re 9 ee (dog fouling toolkit) from November meeting (email sent 18/11/2024) – noted by members that the council are unable to have the toolkit, but the information was forwarded by the clerk to Cllr Morgan for Betws RFC who may wish to obtain one.

Correspondence received

i) Drinking water fountain /&water supply for park (email sent to Cllrs 15/11/2024) – Cllr Stacey informed members that he had been in contact and had a site meeting during the summer and was waiting for costs of connection and regular billing to be sent to him from Welsh Water. There is a water meter on site. He will chase his contact. Discussion ensued regarding the potential to collect water at the site naturally.

ii) Green Flag Award to discuss the request from Volunteers to apply for the

- Community Green Flag Award (various emails sent 20/11/2024) – Discussion ensued Council give permission for the Volunteers to apply for the Community Green Flag Award. Clerk to send email. Volunteers to report back to Council on the outcome of their application in due course.
- iii) Tree branches in Betws Park (email sent 3/12/2024) various emails and Betws Park tree failure Report from Tree Survey Company (emails sent 9/12/2024) – Discussion ensued Cllr Stacey had checked all 3 areas on Sunday and noted that at Maesquarre Playground the wooden garden fence behind No 2 Ffordd Y Glowyr had blown down and the residents were busy mending it at the time of his visit. Branches and conifer tree down in Betws Park. Cllr James had also attended at Betws Park.

Previously it had been agreed that when there is named storm that the areas would be checked afterwards by the councillors who conduct the weekly checks. Also, that the gates would be closed and cable tied shut to prevent entry during the storm but would allow easy access should an incident requiring the emergency services to attend. The recreation ground committee members would carry this out in future.

Storm Damage to 2 trees in Betws Park that need professional attention the clerk has sought costs from the arboriculturist there is also pruning and tidying up needed to other trees that have broken branches caused by the storm.

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Jones that the clerk ask the arboriculturist to carry out the necessary repairs to the trees in Betws Park and this was agreed by those present.

- iv) FOI Request received (4/12/2024) – Discussion ensued, clerk to send the information requested.

At 21:07 Cllr Morgan rejoined the meeting

- c) **Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground** – update – see point ii) below and b iii) above.

i) Annual Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to update- details in Rec Meeting minutes of 16 July 2024 – any recommendations – Cllr Stacey informed members that the actions are with Cllr Derrick to be carried out.

ii) MYB grant for Maesquarre Phase 2 and Sustainable Communities Fund Round 4 – Update regarding phase 2 of the Maesquarre project and timelines for claims email (4/12/2024) Cllr Phillips – Councillor Phillips had sent her apologies to the meeting, the clerk updated members informing that currently there was no installation date as the equipment was on order which takes 4-6 weeks. Once it arrives at the contractor's depot then an installation date will be given. All are aware that there is a deadline to be met of the end of January for all installation and paperwork to be completed. The clerk had been in contact with CCC to update and the playground contractor, so everyone is aware of this. CCC will contact Cllr Phillips regarding information required as part of the process.

- ii) Grass Play Field - Heol Y Felin (Adjacent to Betws Rugby Club) – goal nets (email sent 29/11/2024) – Cllr James** – discussion ensued sizes and costs compared, and it was agreed that a Pair of Steel Socketed 16' x 6' Goals would be purchased for the community. Clerk to order and arrange delivery and inform the requestor of the outcome.

Correspondence received

- d) **Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr James – new Financial Regulations discussed earlier in the meeting at point 7c.
- e) **Community Engagement and Events Committee** – Cllr – Christmas Lighting Event – Wednesday 4 December 2024 - This event went well with the school children singing carols, Father Christmas attending, the gazebo was borrowed free of charge from Ammanford Town Council and erected and removed by the Wrenvale team at no cost. The Chair has thanked all who took part. The clerk informed members that there will be a charge next year for the gazebo as they secured funding for the new large gazebo which was erected this year.

The Chair had approached Tesco, Lidl and the Co-op but had not had any donations for the event. He purchased items for the event it was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Jones that he be re-imbursed for the cost of the items. Also, as a gift he personally bought 30 x selection box of chocolates for the children.

The items left over such as mince pies and some chocolates will be donated to the Ammanford Food Bank.

- f) **i) Toolkit working group** - Good Councillor Guide to Employment 2023 to adopt? As only noted in 14 June 2023 meeting at point 9a. – work in progress - to be re-visited once the new contracts and recreation ground management plan has been completed as per G and H below.
- g) **New Contracts for 1 April 2024 working group** – update – ref playground and grounds maintenance contracts - Cllr Phillips/Jones/Stacey – Documents shared by Cllr Stacey on 14/11/2024 – any comments – Discussion ensued, and the Cllr Jones talked through the document. He suggested that when the tenders are returned by 31 January 2025 that the Chair and the clerk open them. He is more than happy to collate in preparation of the meeting in February. The Chair thanked Cllr Jones, Cllr Stacey and the clerk for the work carried out.
- h) **To Approve the Tender documents** for the new contracts to enable the clerk to send them out to the 3 companies who have given their expressions of interest regarding G – Cllr Jones/Stacey – It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by those present that the tender documents are approved. Clerk to send the documentation to the requestors.

Next meeting is Wednesday 8th January 2025.

The meeting Closed at 21:29