

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 12th February 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 19:10

PRESENT: Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Emyr Morgan, Dave Stacey and Paul Allchurch attended virtually.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

The chair welcomed everyone to this month's meeting.

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. Apologies/Approval of Absence/Resignation

Cllrs Jose Picouto, Peter Comley, Maureen Williams, Mike Jones, Karen McMinn-Davies, James Derrick

Dene Macbeth the clerk informed members of the email received from Cllr Macbeth who was resigning from the Council. The Chair asked the clerk to contact CCC so that the process of advertising a vacancy can be followed. The clerk will need to contact Dene Macbeth with regard to some administrative matters prior to the end of this financial year.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

4. County Councillor Report

1. The double yellow lines on Pentwyn Road have been installed.
2. The double yellow lines for Caemawr/Betws Road have not been installed and she will chase CCC's Highways department.
3. Discussion regarding change of use to a home to include as a residential home for 12 – 18-year-old children on application PL/08795. Clerk to enquire with CCC as the residents are unaware that this is the intention of the homeowner.
4. Footpath 316/1 to Hopkinstown CCC are working with the landowners and walking group regarding a diversion proposal.
5. Concerns received from a resident regarding a conifer within Betws Park opposite 18/19 Pentwyn Road with the increase in storms. Clerk to contact

arboriculturist and tree survey company who have planned a site visit to check the health of the trees after the recent storms and advise Council on any work required.

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

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 8th January 2025

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Morgan seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council’s monthly meeting held on 8th January 2025 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

The clerk informed members that the crimes had been updated with the crime figures for November 2024 showing as follows with 11 crimes:

Violence and sexual offences = 6 with 4 being at Betws RFC, 1 at Pentwyn Road and 1 Treforis area

Criminal damage = 2 with 1 being at Betws RFC and 1 at Glynmoch/A474 area

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) = 1 at Treforis area

Possession of Weapons = 1 at Treforis area

Public Order = 1 at Golwg Y Mynydd area.

Crimes for December 2024 = 0

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 February 2025			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
12/2/2025 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)

12/2/2025 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
12/2/2025 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
12/2/2025 point 7a	Carmarthenshire Tree Surgery	Carry out works following storm damage to trees in Betws Park Three man climbing team, tipper and chipper. Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£1,350
12/2/2025 point 7a	Sutcliffe Play	Maesquarre Playground/Park Phase 2 – Sustainable Communities Funding Grant – new play equipment £35,000.00 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£33,100.00 VAT£6,620.00 Total £39,720.00

12/2/2025 point 7a	Sutcliffe Play	<p>Maesquarre Playground/Park</p> <p>Phase 2 – Mynydd Y Betws funding grant – inclusive roundabout = £12,253.00</p> <p>National Lottery Grant received 24 November 2023 for Inclusive Roundabout = £2,363.00</p> <p>Total of Grants received = £14,616.00</p> <p>Community Council contribution = £3,384</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	<p>£15,000.00</p> <p>VAT £3,000</p> <p>Total</p> <p>£18,000.00</p>
12/2/2025 point 7a	Orchardweb	<p>Annual hosting including web space, domain renewal and SSL certificate.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 s.142</p>	£80

12/2/2025 point 7a And 11/12/2024 point 13. b) iii)	Roadware	New hooded black bin on post and post clips for below small Pentwyn Steps in Betws Park Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£107 + £22 = £129.95 VAT £ 25.99 Total £ 155.94
12/2/2025 point 7a And 11/12/2024 point 13. c) ii)	Sports Equipment	Goal posts with supports and nets for Heol Y Felin Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£1,020.00 VAT £ 204.00 Total £1,224.00

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) Menter Dinefwr (email sent 31/1/2025)

ii) Cancer Support Wales (Swansea charity) (email sent 31/1/2025)

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) To review Qtr 3 Finances

The various documents were reviewed by those present and agreed

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

PL/08765 - Variation of Condition 2 on PL/07432 (Amendment to plans to increase floor area of proposed bungalow) - Land at 25 Woodlands Park, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HF – Consultation date 17/1/2025 – 7/2/2025 (email sent 27/1/2025)

PL/08795 - Lawful development: Proposed use - Proposed change of use from a dwelling (C3) to a residential care home for up to 2 children (C2) - Serenissima, Heol Y Felin, Ammanford, SA18 2HL – In review awaiting decision 21/1/2025.

PL/08766 - Non-Material Amendment to E/32650 (Amended plans) - 35 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE - In review awaiting decision 15/1/2025

PL/08804 - Extension to Storage Shed and Enlargement of External Storage Yard Area (Resubmission of PL/06372 Refused on 25/01/2024) - Penllech Fach, Cwm Felin Road, Ammanford, SA18 2SG – consultation date 31/1/2025 – 21/2/2025 (email sent 31/1/2025)

PL/08874 – To retain new access/driveway to access existing car parking at rear of property – 38 Colonel Road, Betws, SA18 2HP – consultation date 6/2/2025 – 27/2/2025 (email sent 6/2/2025)

The Council asked the Clerk to enquire regarding PL/08795 and had no objections to the other applications. Clerk to inform CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/08409 - Single Storey Side Extension - Llwchisawl Farm, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2PF – Householder Granted 22/1/2025 delegated decision.

The Council **NOTED** the above application.

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

- a) **2025 TRAINING DATES - JANUARY - MARCH 2025 (OVW) (email sent 13/1/2025)**
- b) **Participate in new important Wales community resilience research (OVW) (email sent 13/1/2025)**
- c) **Consultation to seek views on whether to designate two new sites as bathing waters for the 2025 bathing season (7/1/2025 – 17/2/2025) (Welsh Government/OVW) (email sent 13/1/2025)**
- d) **One Voice Wales National Awards 30 April 2025 (email sent 13/1/2025)**
- e) **Asbestos Awareness Training - Save the Dates (OVW) (email sent 13/1/2025)**
- f) **Town & Community Councils Update - Budget Consultation 2025 (CCC) (email sent 13/1/2025)**
- g) **22.01.2025 Community & Town Councils Liaison Forum (CCC) (email sent 13/1/2025)**
- h) **Carmarthenshire's Public Rights of Way Team and Ramblers Cymru (CCC) (email sent 16/1/2025)**
- i) **Green Flag Community Awards - deadline looming! (CLAS Cymru/Social Farms and Gardens) (email sent 16/1/2025)**
- j) **Dyfed Powys Victims Service name consultation (victim support/CCC) (email sent 16/1/2025)**
- k) **Carmarthen Area Committee 22.1.25 (OVW) (email sent 16/1/2025)** Councillor Stacey informed members that he had attended and gave feedback on the meeting.
- l) **Area Committee Survey (OVW) (email sent 16/1/2025)**
- m) **Invitation: Evidence-Based Policing Conference 2025 (DPP) (email sent 16/1/2025)**
- n) **Llais Y Geodwig – Networking Day local to you (email sent 16/1/2025)**
- o) **LPIP Survey - Cambrian News (OVW) (email sent 16/1/2025)**
- p) **REQUEST FOR PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME AT THE JUNCTION OF CAEMAWR/BETWS ROAD, AMMANFORD (CCC) (email sent 27/1/2025)** Discussed in point 4. 2. Above.
- q) **Unjumbling the Jargon (OVW) (email sent 31/1/2025)**
- r) **Can You help RVS volunteer drivers Carmarthenshire (OVW) (emails sent 31/1/2025)**
- s) **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) supports Register my Appliance week (CCC) (email sent 31/1/2025)**
- t) **Town & Community Councils Update (CCC) (email sent 31/1/2025)**
- u) **Online free Asbestos Awareness Training (OVW) (email sent 31/1/2025)**
- v) **One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting ONLINE 11-03-2025 (OVW) (email sent 31/1/2025)**
- w) **WAITING RESTRICTION AND STREET PARKING PLACES (VARIATION NO. 41) – HTTR/1790 (CCC) (email sent 3/2/2025)** Discussed in pint 4.2 above.

- x) **Shaping my work as Older People’s Commissioner – short questionnaire by phone 03442 640 670 (OVW) (email sent 4/2/2025)**
- y) **Draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Draft Allotment and Community Growing Strategy – Have your say – Survey ends 21 March 2025 (CCC) (email sent 5/2/2025)**
- z) **One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales Joint Event 27 March (OVW) (email sent 10/2/2025)**
- aa) **REMINDER FW: Area Committee Survey (OVW) (email sent 10/2/2025)**
- bb) **Carmarthen Area Committee 22.11.25 (OVW) (email sent 10/2/2025) Discussed at point K above.**
- cc) **Let Us Know How Your Council Will Support the 10th Great British Spring Clean (Keep Britain Tidy) (email sent 10/2/2025)**
- dd) **One Planet Development - Planning (CCC) (email sent 10/2/2025)**
- ee) **Streetsafe/Ask for Angela Posters (CCC) (email sent 11/2/2025)**
- ff) **Consultation - older people's commissioner (CCC) (email sent 11/2/2025)**
- gg) **Have your say on the future of travel in Mid Wales! 05-02-25 (CCC) (email sent 11/2/2025)**
- hh) **Carers Priority Survey (CCC) (email sent 11/2/2025)**
- ii) **LGBTQ+ Future Leaders programme (CCC) (email sent 11/2/2025)**
- jj) **2025 Electoral Review Programme (Welsh Government) (email sent 11/2/2025)**

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) – front sheet updated and on website.

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 correspondence received.**
- b) **Betws RFC – report to be given by Emyr Morgan – the Scott Quinnell night went well, permission sought for a Bouncy Castle to be placed on the Heol Y Felin Green for a forthcoming birthday party at BRFC – request approved by Council. Finances - ahead of the quarter.**
- c) **Annual Lease check for 2024/2025 to be completed – Karen and Emyr to complete in January 2025 and would be reported back in the February meeting. Cllr Morgan informed members that he had agreed to meet with Cllr McMinn-Davies 2 days after the last meeting and that they would meet after 4pm as RFC open until 6.30pm – Cllr Morgan had all the relevant paperwork ready for inspection however, Cllr McMinn-Davies did not arrive. It was arranged that Cllr Stacey would meet with Cllr Morgan this Saturday 15 February 2025 at 2.15pm to conduct the Annual Lease check.**

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

- i) **Update on the audit of the signage for the 3 Recreation Areas –** signage has been updated in Betws Park. Changes may be made to some of the Playground signage on the Recreation Ground Committee's to do list.

b) Betws Park –

- i) **Update regarding Bins at Betws Park –** ordered and being delivered to Cllr Derrick who will install.
- ii) **Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes –** Council noted that some of the railings were being painted on 3rd February - Park Street between the bridge and Pentwyn Road by the Probation Service.
- iii) **Missing trees from central avenue Betws park (Betws Park Volunteers)(email sent 13/1/2025)** Clerk to contact the arboriculturist and tree survey company to get advice on the amount, type of trees that can be planted to fit in with the ground conditions and trees already in situ.
- iv) **Plans for simple metal shelter (Betws Park Volunteers) (email sent 7/2/2025) –** Tentative agreement from CCC with no objection in principle however safety of the building and its erection to be ascertained. Clerk to email Volunteer group.
- v) **VE May 5th 2025 Betws Park Celebration suggestion (Betws Park Volunteers) (email sent 11/2/2025) –** Council are happy for Betws Park Volunteers to organise and if they design a poster to promote Council are happy to support, idea sounds good.
- vi) **Arts and Crafts in the Park – Timetable of events in BP – Penny Flower (email sent 11/2/2025) –** Council are happy to approve the arts and crafts events to take place in Betws Park however care must be taken when displaying any painted stones and they must not be placed in the grass or anywhere where the contractor's lawn mower can be damaged. Ideally place around the base of the trees.

Correspondence received

- i) Drinking water fountain /&water supply for park (email sent to Cllrs 15/11/2024) – Cllr Stacey – ongoing
- ii) Brocken fence, trees, branches removed – email from Volunteer Group (email sent 16/1/2025) – Noted by Council
- iii) Pine trees above path riverside, opposite nature orchard area. – email from Volunteer Group (email sent 27/1/2025) - Clerk to contact the arboriculturist and tree survey company to get advice.
- iv) Severe weather warnings for Carmarthenshire – email from Volunteer Group (email sent 27/1/2025)

Cllr Stacey informed members that he checked the park for damage after the storms and as it was a yellow warning didn't close the gates. Gates to be closed on Red or Amber alerts only as previously agreed.

Cllr James informed members that the hole in the steps on nearest to Park Street from Pentwyn Road had been filled. Thank you to the Wrenvale team.

- c) **Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground** – update – Clerk informed members of an email received from a resident enquiring when the new playground would be opened and later the same day a second email was received informing the clerk that the playground had been opened.
- i) **Annual Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to update- details in Rec Meeting minutes of 16 July 2024 – any recommendations** – ongoing
 - ii) **MYB grant for Maesquarre Phase 2 and Sustainable Communities Fund Round 4** – Update regarding phase 2 of the Maesquarre project and its installation - **Cllr Phillips**
- iii) **Grass Play Field - Heol Y Felin (Adjacent to Betws Rugby Club) – goal nets** – this has been ordered and will be delivered to Cllr Derrick.

Correspondence received

- d) **Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr James – see point 7c above.
- e) **Community Engagement and Events Committee** – Cllr Allchurch to send the clerk an agenda for the next meeting to be held in April. Clerk informed Cllrs that the previous minutes needed to be signed by the Chair Cllr Allchurch who has been absent from recent meetings.
- 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. To agree when this will be worked on 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.
- g) **To consider the tender documents received from the contractors who have tendered for the maintenance contracts for the 3 Recreation Grounds in Betws** - Cllr Jones had sent his apologies to the meeting however the clerk had circulated a report to Council along with a recommendation. It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and Seconded by Cllr Morgan and approved by those present that Tender 1 be accepted. Clerk to inform the successful and unsuccessful applicants.

Next meeting is Wednesday 12th March 2025.

The meeting Closed at 20:50