

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 February 2026 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.

PRESENT: Cllr Dave Stacey (Chairperson), Carwyn James, Betsan Jones, Mike Jones with Louise Waring and Karen McMinn-Davies attending virtually.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

The meeting started at 19:15

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. a) Apologies and Vacancies

James Derrick and Peter Comley

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Stacey at point 7. b) iii)

Cllr James at point 7. b) iv)

4. County Councillor Report

1. Update given about the information board in Betws Park that has the local footpaths on – still ongoing the community council logo has been sent and there is a QR code going onto the board. The County Councillor has received the latest proof and will forward onto the clerk. Cllr M Jones and County Councillor Jones liaised and checked the Welsh and made some changes. Regarding the clerks question previously if the local bridlepaths would be marked on the board, this would not be done only the footpaths are being marked, unless the community council paid for this. Discussion regarding the frames requiring wood preservative and that fixings are required on the back of the board prior to the installation of the new information board. Clerk to contact the contractor regarding this and ask him to liaise with Cllr M Jones.
2. Update regarding the flooding in the gardens of 3 properties in Treforis and further down on Betws Road where a garden wall has been damaged from the water pressure from the flooding – initial repairs have been done to the blocked drains and culverts.

3. Cllr Comley brought up the issue which has been reported previously Regarding the no dropped kerb being on the junction between Maesquarre Road and Pentwyn Road on one side of the road which had been brought up by Cllr Comley and reported previously. It makes it difficult for less abled people to cross the road. County Councillor informed members that an email had been sent in June 2025 and that it is a CCC issue and they are aware.

Update – email received by the County Councillor

Requests of this nature for highway infrastructure and road safety improvements throughout the County make a far greater call on our resources than budgets can realistically deliver; to this end, a means of assessing and prioritising requests held has been developed (approved by the Council’s Executive Board on 27th February 2017) so that limited resources can be targeted most effectively.

The Highway Infrastructure and Road Safety Prioritised List is periodically reviewed to consider new scheme requests as well as existing requests on an exception basis in the event of changes in local circumstance; please be advised that record will be made in respect of your request (as detailed below) for inclusion in a future highway infrastructure and road safety improvements prioritisation review exercise –

‘C2214 / C2198 Betws: Request for provision of pedestrian tactile crossing facilities at the junction areas of Maesquarre Road, Pentwyn Road and Wernoleu Road’

Notwithstanding the above, please be informed that such recorded requests remain on our records in the event of alternative funding sources potential becoming available in the future (such as external grants, developer contributions) in order to achieve implementation of appropriate highway infrastructure / road safety measures - noting: as and when an attributable funding source is identified, a request location would require site investigation surveys and assessments to be undertaken so that a viable scheme proposal can be developed / progressed.

CCC waiting for funding County Councillor Jones will follow up regularly regarding this until it is actioned.

4. County Councillor informed members that there had been an incident on the weekend 17/1/2026) after the last meeting regarding a young person living at Serenissima. She had been contacted by some of the neighbours who were concerned for varying reasons. She contacted the owners. The young people who are placed there can’t be fostered due to behavioural issues and are aged between 12 – 18. Objections have been made by her and residents to planning application PL/10361.
5. County Councillor Jones informed members that there have been some young boys truanting from Amman Valley School in Heol Y Felin, Playground. Residents had informed her and she telephoned the school a few times.

Councillor Waring informed members that she has spoken to the local PCSO and has asked him to attend the community council meetings if possible. They have not attended recently.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Annual and Monthly Meetings held on 14th January 2026

Councillor M Jones proposed, and Councillor James seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council’s monthly meeting held on 14th January 2026 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

Cllr Stacey informed members that due to the incident mentioned at point 4 in the County Councillors report above that the Council also updated their comments with regards to planning application PL/10361 once new information came to light from residents regarding incidents at the property they have updated their feedback with an objection.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws – moved to later in the meeting

Crimes for
December 2025 = 11

Violence and Sexual Offences = 7, Criminal Damage = 2, Drugs = 1, All Other Crimes = 1
The link for Betws ward below.

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

The above figures were noted by members, December’s figures not available to date.

7. Payments/Donation Requests – moved to later in the meeting

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

Payments Made in February 2026			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
11/2/2026 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)
11/2/2026 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)

11/2/2026 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
11/2/2026 point 7a	Orchardweb	Annual hosting including web space, domain renewal and SSL certificate Create new minutes and agendas pages for 2026 and update plug-ins Local Government Act 1972 s.142	£ 80 £ 30 Total £ 110
11/2/2026 point 7a	ALCC	Annual Membership LGA 1972 s.143	£ 50
11/2/2026 point 7a	SLCC	Annual Membership LGA 1972 s.143	£200
11/2/2026 point 7a And 14/1/2026 point 12. c) iii)	D.G. Davies Plant Hire	Heol Y Felin playground repairs and maintenance – pressure washer. Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£40 VAT £ 8 Total £48
11/2/2026 point 7a And 14/1/2026 point 12. c) iii)	Grass 247	Heol Y Felin playground repairs and maintenance – grass mats Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£2,122.50 VAT £ 424.50 Total £2,547.00

11/2/2026 point 7a	RA Computers	Admin fee Microsoft 365 Personal 1 year 1 user LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 and Section 58 Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013	£ 10.00 £ 70.83 Subtotal £ 80.83 VAT £ 16.17 Total £ 97.00
11/2/2026 point 7a	Solicitor	Finalising matters with regards to Betws RFC, Betws Community Council and the Llewellyn Estate boundaries (ongoing since 2012 last bill 2018) plus disbursements Land registry search Office copies	£3,000 VAT £ 600 £ 9 £ 3 Total £3,612
11/2/2026 point 7a	Information Commissioner	Annual Data Protection Fee Data Protection (charges and information) Regulations 2018 (as amended) all organisations must pay the fee.	£52

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

b) Donation Requests –

- i) Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2026 (email sent 23/01/2026) – no to donation
 - ii) YFC Financial Support Letter (email sent 23/01/2026) – no to donation
 - iii) Menter Bro Dinefwr (email sent 2/2/2026) - £100 proposed by Cllr B Jones which was seconded by Cllr Waring. Cllr McMinn-Davies informed members that they are good at helping out with local events. All present agreed.
 - iv) Capel Newydd Betws Cemetery for 2025 - £200
 - v) Eglwys Dewi Sant Betws Cemetery for 2025 - £200
 - vi) Eglwys Dewi Sant Betws Christmas Lights for 2025 - £50
- It was proposed by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr B Jones that the the above payments be made with all present agreeing to this.

It was proposed by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr B Jones and agreed by all present and **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform the requestors of the decisions made and that the donations are paid.

- c) Review and Approve Standing Orders for 2026 – 2027 – no change however the website has been updated with the meeting schedule as it is not referred to in the Standing Orders.

d) Review and approve Financial Regulations for 2026 – 2027 – Cllr Stacey to contact OVW regarding the audit result and wording of the financial regs at sections 5 and 6. To bring back to the next meeting.

e) Qtr 3 Finance update – Council reviewed the update and after a short discussion **NOTED** them and thanked the clerk for the work.
The clerk gave Cllr James the files and folder to check as per normal.

8. Planning Applications

The following applications were received: None

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/10138 - Alterations and extension - Pant Meredith, 71 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HG - Householder Granted 27/1/2026

The above applications were **NOTED** by members unless otherwise stated.

9. Correspondence/Matters for Information/Action (emails sent out to members) - moved to later in the meeting

- a) **RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2026 (OVW) (email sent 23/1/2026)**
- b) **Budget Consultation x 2 (CCC) (email sent 23/1/2026)**
- c) **Calling Welsh Towns: Could a Welsh town be crowned the first UK Town of Culture? (OVW) (email sent 23/1/2026)**
- d) **Consultation on the Strategic Development Plan Draft Delivery Agreement (OVW)(email sent 23/1/2026)**
- e) **Joint event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales (OVW) (emails sent 23/1/2026)**
- f) **E Bulletin issue 16 (OVW) (email sent 23/1/2026)**
- g) **Older People Commissioner survey - finishes 30.1.26 (OVW) (email sent 23/1/2026)**
- h) **Questionnaire for Betws Community Council (Mentrus) (email sent 2/2/2026)**
Cllr Stacey informed members that he's looked at the questionnaire and it was not applicable to this council.
- i) **Health Board to decide on future model for nine clinical services (Hywel Dda) (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- j) **Upcoming Events from Planning Aid Wales (Planning Aid) (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- k) **Climate Conversations Event 12th February 2026 at the National Botanic Garden of Wales (OVW) (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- l) **St David's Conference 2026: Policing in a Digital Age (OPCC) (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- m) **Town & Community Councils update (CCC) (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- n) **INFO-OFFICIAL] Carmarthenshire - Review of Electoral Arrangements - Notice of Final Recommendations Publication (OVW) (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- o) **IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- p) **One Voice Wales National Awards 2026 (email sent 4/2/2026)**
- q) **The Financial Impact of Hate Crime (Pilot session) (CCC) (email sent 5/2/2026)**
- r) **Join EYST Wales: Why Should I Vote? – An Ethnic Minority Perspective (CCC) (email sent 5/2/2026)**
- s) **Digital Divide Research Project (CCC) (email sent 5/2/2026)**
- t) **PCC Bulletin (OVW) (email sent 9/2/2026)**
- u) **ONE VOICE WALES E-BULLETIN ISSUE 17 (OVW) (email sent 9/2/2026)**
- v) **Have your say on local community pharmacy services survey closes 9th March 2026 (Hywel Dda) (email sent 10/2/2026) – for individuals to have their say.**

Cllr Stacey informed members that he had attended OVW AGM which was at point 9 in the last meetings correspondence list.

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) (22/9/2025 and 26/9/2025)** – The final bill has been received, and the final payment has been agreed at point 7 above. The clerk informed members that this long-standing matter from 2012 has finally been resolved giving thanks to all who have been involved especially Cllr Comley who has been a great help liaising with all involved. The matter is now closed.

Although, fencing is needed to delineate the boundary at that end of the land held by the Community Council on behalf of the residents of Betws.

- b) **Betws RFC – (if any correspondence received)** – None
c) **Annual Lease check for 2024/2025 to be completed** – Dave and Emyr completed on Saturday 15 February 2025. To Do - Dave - Report required to be sent to the Clerk and Insurance to check. Issues still outstanding = lift certificate required for the 6 monthly checks and emergency exit stairs need repair 2/3rds of the way up – see point b) above. Cllr Stacey has received the Insurance Certificate and will forward to the clerk – waiting to receive.

Councillor Comely was not present at the meeting to update the community council on the matters below.

Cllr Comley informed members that it was the water boiler that provides water for the showers had malfunctioned and Rhydian Murray had asked him to have a look at the boiler, which he did, and it has now been repaired. He informed members that the heating boiler is in working order and that it hadn't had any issues.

Cllr Comley informed members that the lift still hasn't been serviced, and he is working with the RFC to find someone who can do the job.

Cllr Comley has also removed the step that require repairs from the emergency exit stairs which will be welded by him by the next meeting.

Cllr Comley also informed members that the drain from Brynffin has historically been silting up and that it needs to be cleaned a couple of times a year as it silts up there is a big pipe which leads into a ditch which has wire at its entrance behind the containers/sheds at the rear of the RFC. The land where this occurs is owned by a local family and Betws RFC need to negotiate with them regarding this issue. Under the terms of the lease maintaining the car park and drains are their responsibility not Betws Community Council.

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** – Cllr M Jones – the next Recreation Ground Committee meeting will be held in March – Cllr M Jones to send the agenda to the clerk in due course.

i) **Section 6 Biodiversity Report – update – Cllr Stacey** – his laptop required repairs, so this was not shared with members – moved to February meeting – Clerk waiting to receive the report.

b) **Betws Park –**

i) **Update - Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes** – he’s going to contact the office and previous supervisor as this is all at a standstill although the weather is also not great for painting at this time of year – Cllr Comley not present so unable to receive an update

ii) **Update – Simple Metal structure in Nature area (email sent 19/2/2025) reply regarding its construction (email sent 19/3/2025, 21/3/2025)(4/4/2025) (12/4/2025) (see point iv) below** – still being built Cllr Stacey to get an update from the volunteer group.

iii) **Update regarding site meeting 16/6/2025 regarding the Betws Park Information board (seen previously under correspondence Fw: 250514 - Sign enquiry | Betws Park Information board (email sent 23/5/2025)** – see County Councillor report at point 4 for the update. The wooden frame needs to have wood preservative painted annually as it does not need renewing only maintenance.

iv) **Review suggestion of a Memorial Stone for BP by Major Ken Burton discussed in June/July meetings - Memorial Garden quotes received from Cllr McMinn-Davies regarding cost of a proposed new commemorative plaque as per point 1 in the meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2025 and 13. b. point 7. In the meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025. List of names received and sent to Cllrs** – It was proposed by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr B Jones that Cllr Comley arranges a meeting with Ken Burton and the person who can make the commemorative plaque to move this forward. He will feed back at the next meeting – Cllr Comley not present in this meeting so no update available.

v) **3 Public Parks maintenance tender review – Cllr M Jones** explained the options, it was proposed by Cllr M Jones that the contract be extended to 3 years, and the contractor can base his costs on CPI this was seconded by Cllr James and agreed by all present. Cllr M Jones informed members that the contractor will be contacted regarding this – The contractor has agreed to continue his contract as per the original contract.

Correspondence received

1. Petanque pitch in Betws Park from Betws Park Volunteers (email sent 2/2/2026) – discussion ensued regarding the request Cllr Stacey to contact the requestor.

2. 260204- CLLR SR- Betws Park, Park Street - stones and holes (CCC environment business support hub) (email sent 5/2/2026) – A response to be sent to CCC as one of their employees caused the damage which need rectification – Clerk to send response.

3. Public scared of these trees overhanging – Betws Park (email sent to chair 28/1/2026) – The clerk has been in contact with the arboriculturist who checked the tree and informed that it was not dangerous, but he will cut the hanging branch gratis.

Ongoing maintenance required within the park, have been approved once the ground is drier so that no damage is caused this was proposed by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr James for the previously agreed ongoing work to be carried out once conditions allow.

Advice also received regarding the piles of woodchip being tipped as they change the ground making it more acidic which the trees surrounded by grass are not used to. Cllr Stacey to advise the volunteer group to ensure the woodchip is only dropped/piled onto the tarmac areas not the by the trees and only used on the paths around the nature area.

Discussion regarding bulbs enquiry on 21 January 2026 it is too late for bulbs to be planted for spring.

Cllr Stacey will be contacting the volunteer group regarding the various issues above once he has looked at the holes as per point 2.

c) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update

i) Fortnightly Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to commence from 1st April 2025 as contractor has retired – Clerk is waiting for the fortnightly reports, the checks have been done but the paperwork is required to be sent to the clerk on email as agreed in previous meetings – Cllr Comley proposed that the reports are sent monthly by him as Cllr Derrick is busy with his business, Cllr Derrick will report any issues at Maesquarre playground to Cllr Derrick and Cllr Comley will send the report to the clerk however, both councillors will conduct minor repairs and larger repairs will be discussed at each meeting. Where issues are identified they will be marked as Low, Medium or High risk on the report. Cllr Comley informed members that he checks Heol Y Felin playground regularly probably more than once per fortnight as does Cllr Derrick at Maesquarre - clerk waiting for the reports to be received

ii) Update on Inclusive Roundabout – issues with installation (emails sent 2/6/2025, 3/6/2025, 17/6/2025 + 10/7/2025, 18/7/2025) – update from Cllr Stacey – ref site meeting 17/11/2025 – Cllr Stacey updated members on the Roundabout he'd had an email from Sutcliffe informing him that the new board had been ordered. He has not had an update regarding the status of the malfunctioning bearing but will chase Sutcliffe for a firm date as to when both items will be replaced. It has been installed 1 year this month. Failure for Sutcliffe to fix the faults then it has been suggested by Cllr M Jones that it be removed and compensation sought from the Company as it has not been fit for purpose since installation, it has not been repaired even though the company have had a few site visits over the past year and correspondence. The item remains under warranty – update email received by Cllr Stacey informing that it had been repaired – Cllr James/Cllr Comley to check that the board and bearing have been replaced, Cllr Waring to check its working and report back to the chair Cllr Stacey.

iii) Heol Y Felin wet pour issues – quotes for repair and renewal as per site meeting on 9/7/2025. – Emroch quotes for repair and renewal – Cllr Derrick doing repairs – update – quotes received – update on progress Cllr Derrick/Cllr Comley

Council reviewed the quotations and after careful consideration it was proposed by Cllr B Jones that Council would go with the cheapest option at £5,350 this was seconded by Cllr James and agreed by all present. It was **RESOLVED** the clerk

to inform all who quoted of the decision – the clerk informed members that the work is starting on Thursday.

iv) Chain link fencing along Colonel Road requires fixing as sagging – Cllr M Jones – to be actioned as per point 13. c) correspondence received point iii) at meeting of 9th July 2025 – update from Cllr Comley/Cllr Derrick

update from Cllr Comley – he will be doing the repairs with help that he has found by the next meeting – update - the repairs will be actioned at the same time as point iii) above.

Correspondence received - none

- d) Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr James – Qtr 3 figures approved and files given for checking.
- e) Community Engagement and Events Committee** – Cllr Stacey – feedback from meeting 3rd February 2026 moved to 5th February – the committee wanted to propose that on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026 that a picnic is organised on Heol Y Felin green. It has been agreed with Betws RFC that the club will be open so that the toilets can be used. This may bring extra revenue into the club too. This was seconded by Cllr M Jones and agreed by all.
- f) Toolkit working group** - work in progress - Cllr Stacey

Next meeting **Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 19:00.**

The meeting Closed at 20:50