

# **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 8<sup>th</sup> January 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 19:05**

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

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

The chair welcomed everyone to this month's meeting and wished a Happy New Year.

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

None

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

Cllrs Paul Allchurch, Jose Picouto, Peter Comley

Dene Macbeth

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

None

**Councillor Mike Jones arrived at 19:12**

## **4. County Councillor Report**

1. Update regarding the double yellow lines on Pentwyn Road the County Councillor informs members that she has not had a date for the installation but was told January so will chase.
2. An email had been received regarding the gritting of Colonel Road to Waungron to Maesquarre Road (C2214) informing that these roads would be reinstated as part of the Primary Gritting route however that it would be reviewed at the end of the winter season in April/May. Discussion ensued Cllr Stacey informed members of the primary gritting route on the map that was sent with the email and that everything else is classed as secondary. Cllr Williams stated that the re-instated roads were on a bus route and were where the majority of the residents resided. Cllr Morgan to send an email regarding this to CCC and copy in the County Councillor and clerk.

3. There had been flooding over Christmas on Betws Road which had been caused by a blocked culvert in Treforis which was thought to have been resolved however last Sunday the water was gushing out of the drains again. The Land Drainage department are taking the lead on this along with the housing and highways departments.
4. County Councillor Jones asked Cllr McMinn-Davies about the last paragraph in point 13. B) iv) in the December minutes regarding the Football Club plans. A discussion ensued with County Councillor Jones declaring an interest as she resides on Rice Road which has been mentioned as being the access and that the residents would object to the cul-de-sac being used as the entrance to the club. She informed members that the access was from Colonel Road.

**5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Williams seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 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 not been updated when checked today as the October crimes were still showing

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 January 2025			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
8/1/2025 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)
8/1/2025 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments.  Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)

8/1/2025 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments.  Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
8/1/2025 point 7a	Carmarthenshire Tree Surgery	Carry out works following tree survey  Three man climbing team, tipper and chipper.  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£1,350
8/1/2025 point 7a	Audit Wales	2023/24 Audit Fees  LGA 1972 s.111	£200
8/1/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Betws Park Qtr 3  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

8/1/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Maesquarre Playground/Park Qtr 3  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£ 490.00 VAT £ 98.00 Total £ 588.00
8/1/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Heol Y Felin Playground and Green Qtr 3  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£ 370.00 VAT £ 74.00 Total £ 444.00
8/1/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	3 x Village Planters - Supply Plants and plant planters Qtr 3  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£75.00 VAT £15.00 Total £90.00
8/1/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Christmas Tree for 2024 in Betws Park  Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£150.00 VAT £ 30.00 Total £180.00
8/1/2025 point 7a	Carmarthenshire County Council	Replacement Lanterns to LED for the year 2025 10 @ £139 each to be invoiced annually from 2021/2022 to 2028/2029	£173.75 VAT £ 34.75 Total £208.50

		Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980 s.301	
8/1/2025 point 7a and 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 VAT £ 13.43  Total = £80.57

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 – None received**

**It was requested by County Councillor Jones and Cllr Phillips that Point 13.c) ii) be brought forward and this was agreed.**

Councillor Phillips informed members that the installation of the new play equipment had started on Monday 6 January 2025 and all of the outcomes and documentation, and payments needed to be completed by 31 January 2025 to meet the grant criteria. Cllr Phillips is the lead on this and will ensure that the documentation for receipt of the grant funding is completed.

**County Councillor Betsan Jones left the meeting at 19:50.**

**c) To review Standing Orders**

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Williams that the Standing Orders to remain as is with changes made only to the heading and one of the brackets needed completing as missed and was approved by all present.

**d) To review the Risk Assessments for 2025/2026**

Cllr James to meet with the Chair of the Volunteer Group so that 2 copies of the Risk Assessment for 2025 can be signed and placed onto the notice board with the second signed copy being returned to the clerk.  
No changes were made to the main risk assessment document.

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Jones to approve both risk assessments this was agreed by all present.

**8. Planning Applications –**

The following applications were received:

**PL/08671 - Variation of Condition 16 of E/21721 - (Variation of Condition (1 of E/09584 to extend the period of time for the submission of reserved matters for a further 24**

months)) - Former Betws Colliery Site, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford - Consultation date 19/12/2024 – 9/1/2024 (email sent to Cllrs 20/12/2024)

**PL/08709 – Variation of Condition 2 on E/15850 (rewording of condition) – Former Betws Colliery Site, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford SA18 2LF – Consultation date 7/1/2025 – 28/1/2025**

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

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

**PL/08246** - Construction of double domestic garage - Construction of double domestic garage – Full Granted 12/12/2024

The Council **NOTED** the above application.

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

- a) **Review of deliberative engagement in Wales (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- b) **FW: Sharing NESO's consultation on the SSEP and linked methodologies (OVW) (emails sent 20/12/2024)**
- c) **Day and Respite Opportunities Questionnaire (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- d) **Road Gritting concerns in Betws ~ C2214 & U4347 Mountain Road (CCC) (email sent 20/12/2024)** Discussed at point 4.2 in the County Councillors report.
- e) **REVIEW OF SENEDD CONSTITUENCIES (Boundary Commission Wales) (emails sent 20/12/2024)**
- f) **Community Ambassador Role – MAWWFRS (CCC) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- g) **Town & Community Council Update (CCC) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- h) **Age Without Limits Day: Micro-grants for Age-friendly Communities (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- i) **Consultation on Reforms to the Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Rules (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- j) **Valuation Tribunal for Wales Tribunal Members (OVW) (emails sent 20/12/2024)**
- k) **Hywel Dda University Health Board Stakeholder's Group (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- l) **Independent Member (Community) Opportunity - Hywel Dda University Health Board (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- m) **TRAINING DATES - JANUARY - MARCH 2025 (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- n) **Law Commission consultation on Burial and Cremation law reform (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)** Cllr Stacey informed members that he had answered one of the questions on the consultation
- o) **COVID-19 Day of Reflection - 9 March 2025 (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- p) **IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 20/12/2024)**
- q) **Digital Health Maturity Report (OVW) (email sent 20/12/2024)** Councillor Stacey discussed the recommendations from the report it was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Morgan to leave as is.
- r) **PROHIBITION OF STOPPING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS (RURAL) – HTRR/1797 (CCC) (email sent 2/1/2025)**
- s) **Independent Member (Community) vacancy (Hywell Dda) (email sent 7/1/2025)** Cllr Allchurch had emailed the clerk informing that he had an interest in this vacancy.
- t) **Gritting Request ~ C2214, Colonel Road to Waungron Road to Maesquarre Road, Betws (email sent 7/1/2025)**
- u) **Celebrate the successful OVW event held at the Senedd 27/11/2024 (email sent 8/1/2025)**

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)**

Councillor Stacey informed members that he had checked other councils websites and Betws' training plan was similar to other he suggested the clerk look at Llandybie's training plan with regards to their cover sheet and adapt for Betws.

**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** – nothing to report.
- 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 Stacey forwarded the required documents to both for ease of access.

**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**

Councillor Jones informed members that the Christmas tree would be taken down on Friday 10 January 2025 by Wrenvale. The spare lights and lighting that is on the tree will be returned to him for safe keeping until next year.

Councillor Williams informed members that she had been approached by a resident who told her about the first place of worship in Betws being on the black path and he thought that the area should be recognised on any new information boards. This will be kept in mind should new boards be designed and erected in the area.

Councillor James asked members if a bench could be placed in Betws Park in memory of the late Ryan Bartlett. The map of the locations was sent by Cllr Stacey to Cllr James so that a location for installation can be decided upon for purchase. An email request needs to be sent to the clerk.

- i) **Update on the audit of the signage for the 3 Recreation Areas – 6 x 'Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times' signage given to Recreation Ground Committee for putting up in Betws Park.**

**b) Betws Park –**

- i) Update regarding Bins at Betws Park – clerk waiting for dimensions emailed Wrenvale 18/12/2024 and 2/1/2025. Cllr Derrick looking at the correct size of metal bin and will inform the clerk for ordering.

- ii) Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes. (See email sent 2/1/2025 from Probation Service) one day has been spent on the railings so far due to the inclement weather and they hope to do more weather conditions permitting.
- iii) To discuss the wish list that was on the Senedd Event for the Nature Garden – discussion regarding the volunteers needing to inform the community council of their plans for the area as they would need to contact the freeholders regarding additions and changes for approval prior to any work being undertaken for such things as ponds/buildings on site.
- iv) Costing for removal and replacement of post and rail fencing damaged by a fallen tree in the storm in Betws Park by Wrenvale approved proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Phillips.

#### **Correspondence received**

- i) FOI request regarding Tree Surveys in Betws Park update (email sent 2/1/2025)

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

##### **i) Annual Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to update- details in Rec Meeting minutes of 16 July 2024 – any recommendations**

- ii) **MYB grant for Maesquarre Phase 2 and Sustainable Communities Fund Round 4 – Update regarding phase 2 of the Maesquarre project (emails 20/12/2024 and 2/1/2025) Cllr Phillips/Jones – discussed earlier in the meeting after point 7. b).**
- iii) **Grass Play Field - Heol Y Felin (Adjacent to Betws Rugby Club) – goal nets – clerk will order in January and will be delivered to Cllr Derrick**
- iv) **Fly tipped garden fencing in Maesquarre Playground – Cllr Stacey check carried out on 24/12/2024 (email sent 2/1/2025) and (7/1/2025)**
  - The old fencing has been removed and the homeowner had also requested that low branches were trimmed as they were touching the new fence. The work has been carried out by Wrenvale along with them checking for any tree seedlings that may have self-seeded and growing along the fence line which have also been removed.

#### **Correspondence received**

see 13. c) iv) above

- d) **Finance and Staffing Committee – Cllr James**
- e) **Community Engagement and Events Committee – Cllr**
- 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) **Tender Documents returns – these are due back by 31 January and once opened by the Chair and clerk will go to Cllr Jones as he will compile the report and check the documentation in preparation for the February meeting.**



Next meeting is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Cllr Williams gave her apologies to the Chair and clerk for the February meeting and will be at the March meeting next.

**The meeting Closed at 20:38**