

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 10th July 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 19:11

PRESENT: Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Cllrs Paul Allchurch, Emyr Morgan, Dave Stacey, James Derrick arrived at 19:19 after informing the clerk earlier that he would be late, Karen McMinn-Davies attended virtually from 19:20.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. Apologies

- a) Cllrs. Maureen Williams, Lynwen Phillips, Mike Jones, Jose Picouto and Peter Comley
- b) The clerk read out a written request from Cllr Comley regarding approving his absence for the following 2 months, following a short discussion, this was approved by Council with Cllr Stacey proposing approving absence until the October meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Allchurch and agreed by all present.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

4. County Councillor Report

1. Update given regarding the fly tipping of the Hot Tub near Maesquarre Hall that was reported by Cllr Williams in April. A query had been sent to clarify regarding its removal and apparently the land is unregistered however Cllr Derrick knows who owns the land and passed the information to the County Councillor. She will chase up next week if the item is still in situ.
2. Residents had spoken with County Councillor Jones regarding brambles growing through the railings along Pentwyn Road. There are 2 sections of railings one that CCC are responsible for, the other is for Betws Park which the Community Council is responsible for which has been cut back however, the CCC section has not been actioned and the County Councillor has been informed that the relevant department is 3 – 4 weeks behind on its grass cutting contract and is looking at sourcing other contractors to deal with the

backlog. They said it's impossible to give a definite date on when the work will be carried out as there is only 1 machine covering the whole area.

3. An update on the MYB wind farm applications was given, a decision will be made regarding the applications in the Cabinet meeting at the end of July.

County Councillor Betsan Jones left the meeting at 19:35

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 12th June 2024

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Morgan seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 12th June 2024 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present. After one minor wording change requested by Cllr Derrick regarding page 9, point 13 b) ii).

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

A total of 0 crime for May 2024 in Betws.

The clerk informed members that there was a message on the site to say that there was no data for February or March as there was an issue with data feed. She had contacted Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) and was informed by PCSO 8039 Arwyn Rees that at present the crime figures are on the website but as stated are currently not uploading. The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) are not able to give other figures however I am not aware of anything untoward that has happened in the Betws area.

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 July 2024			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
10/7/2024 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)
10/7/2024 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)

		1972 (as amended)	
10/7/2024 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)
10/7/2024 point 7a	Thomas Fattorini Ltd	Chain of Office engraved with Cllr Stacey's term of office	£12.73 Postage £17.22 VAT £ 5.99 Total £35.94
10/7/2024 point 7a	Zurich	Annual Insurance renewal of policy s112 & 140 LGA 1972 (as amended)	£1385.32
10/7/2024 point 7a	Parks and Play	Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playgrounds Qtr 1 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£260.00 £260.00 Total £520.00
10/7/2024 point 7a	Parks and Play	Replacement of two swing legs at Maesquarre Playground including two men labour and lifting jacks. Replacement of two sets of flat seat swing chains labour only at Heol Y Felin Playground.	

		Also replaced two old flat seats with new in Heol Y Felin. Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£480
10/7/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	Betws Park Qtr 1 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
10/7/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	Heol Y Felin Qtr 1 Green and Playground Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan) Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£ 370.00 VAT £ 74.00 Total £ 444.00
10/7/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	Maesquarre Park/Playground Qtr 1 Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as	£ 490.00 VAT £ 98.00 Total £ 588.00

		per management plan) Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.							
10/7/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	3 x Village planters – supply plants and plant Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 100px;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 75.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 90.00</td> </tr> </table>		£ 75.00	VAT	£ 15.00	Total	£ 90.00
	£ 75.00								
VAT	£ 15.00								
Total	£ 90.00								
10/7/2024 point 7a and 13 h	Newsquest Media Group Ltd	Advertising expressions of interest for grounds maintenance contracts for 3 public parks in Betws, Ammanford.	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 100px;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£102.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 20.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£122.76</td> </tr> </table>		£102.30	VAT	£ 20.46	Total	£122.76
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It was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor Allchurch and agreed by all present that the above payments are authorised, and it was **RESOLVED** that the above be paid.

- c) Donation Requests – None received
- d) The clerk informed members that a £240 refund had been given by one of the contractors who had incorrectly charged for VAT on labour as he was not VAT registered this was for work carried out on the Betws Park Nature Garden Project during 2022.
- e) The clerk informed members that a credit/debit sheet had been set up for the Betws RFC rent versus Meeting Room fees at the club.

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

8. Planning Applications –

The clerk informed members of some of the process regarding S106 contributions which she had received from Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) after making enquiries. If planning permission is sought and granted for 1 – 4 dwellings, they cannot seek money for parks and open spaces upgrades for communities.

In terms of requesting the money, as part of the planning consultation process, this is done through the Business and Projects Manager of the Communities Department. As such, you need to liaise with them and advise of your requirements and to learn more of the process of seeking contribution money directly from the Parks Team.

This was **NOTED** by members.

The following applications were received:

PL/07415 - 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 – 19/6/2024 – 10/7/2024 (email sent 21/6/2024)

The Council had no objections to this application. Clerk to inform CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/07634 - Proposed cover for an existing agricultural slurry pit at Llwyndu Farm, Betws SA18 2RE - Full Granted 31/5/2024

PL/07556 - The proposal is for a steel frame agricultural store primarily for farm machinery including 3no tractors and animal trailers, a mini digger and excavator etc with provision to store hay and animal feed in a dry and secure environment for livestock grazing neighbouring land. An area for livestock will be secure from the machinery at Woodland area off Argoed Road, Argoed Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HS - Full Refusal 5/6/2024

PL/07697 – Installation of ASHP heating system. As part other refurbishment works at 8 Wern Terrace, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford, SA18 2PG - Full Granted 6/6/2024

PL/07698 - Installation of an ASHP heating system. Which has not started. Also carrying out other refurbishment works at the property which are currently in progress at 4 Wern Terrace, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford, SA18 2PG - Full Granted 6/6/2024

PL/06535 - 2 new detached residential dwellings - Land adjacent to Serenissima, Heol y Felin, Ammanford, SA18 2HL - Outline granted 27/6/2024

PL/06407 - Re-instatement of the previously granted outline planning which has lapsed (previous planning reference E/21113) - Former Dan Yr Allt, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HW - Outline Refusal 4/7/2024

PL/07366 - Discharge of Condition 4 on PL/05546 (Landscape Maintenance and Management Responsibility Plan) - Plough And Harrow, 52 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE - Discharge of Planning Condition Granted – 04/07/2024

The Council **NOTED** the above applications.

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

- a) **Your council news – reminder residents survey ending 19 June 2024 (CCC) (email sent 14/6/2024)**

- b) Webinar Reminder: Community Transport – Tuesday 18th June 2024 2 – 3.30pm (OVW) (email sent 14/6/2024)
- c) CARERS GROUPS - CCISS Group/Drop-Ins (email sent 27/6/2024)
- d) REMINDER / FW: Innovative Practice Conference on Wednesday 3rd July (OVW) (email sent 27/6/2024)
- e) Hywel Dda University Health Board Stakeholders Reference Group Draft Minutes, 2 May 2024 (OVW) (email sent 27/6/2024)
- f) Tidy Wales Awards 2024 - your time to shine! (OVW) (email sent 27/6/2024)
- g) Multi Location Meetings guidance (OVW) (email sent 27/6/2024)
- h) Launch event video on You Tube - Biodiversity Resources (OVW) (emails sent 27/6/2024)
- i) Date Amendment - Webinar: Youth Engagement (OVW) (email sent 27/6/2024)
- j) New consultation: Draft priorities for Culture 2024-2030 (OVW) (email sent 27/6/2024) responses required by 16 August 2024.
- k) Introduction Letter & Request for Support - Dyfed-Powys Neighbourhood Watch Network Association (email sent 27/6/2024 and 2/7/2024)
- l) PROHIBITION OF STOPPING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS (RURAL) – HTRR/1797 (CCC)(email sent 2/7/2024)
- m) Submission of the Carmarthenshire Revised Local Development Plan for Examination (CCC)(email sent 2/7/2024)
- n) WEBINAR: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (OVW) (email sent 3/7/2024)
- o) TRAINING - JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER TRAINING DATES (OVW) (email sent 3/7/2024)
- p) Carers Trust Crossroads West Wales Carers Newsflash (email sent 4/7/2024)
- q) Carmarthenshire Area Committee Meeting 17/7/2024 at 18:30 (email sent 5/7/2024) Cllr Paul Allchurch will attend as both Cllrs Stacey and Phillips are unable to due personal commitments
- r) Safety of Lithium ion batteries and e-bikes & scooters (email sent 8/7/2024)
- s) Briefing on the new South West Wales Regional Transport Plan – Carmarthenshire (email sent 8/7/2024)
- t) Betws RFC email from Peter Comley (email sent 8/7/2024)
- u) The Allotment and Community Growing Survey (CCC) (email sent 9/7/2024)

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

10. To discuss the Co-Option of a candidate for the Councillor Vacancy (email sent 27/6/2024)

Discussion ensued with the email from the candidate being read out. Councillor Derrick proposed that the candidate be co-opted onto Betws Community Council this was seconded by Councillor Stacey and agreed by all present.

The first meeting for the new candidate will be Wednesday 11 September 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk contact the candidate with regards to the co-option and to invite him to the meeting in September.

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.

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 – discuss who will chair and regarding Maesquarre Playground grant (see email sent 27 June 2024)**

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 in Betws RFC at 19:00. Cllr Stacey will send a draft agenda to the clerk and to all on the committee this evening.

Betws Park –

- i) Update – Cllr Phillips

Clerk informed members that the information board nearest the bridge needs looking at as the contractor repaired the other one next to it, a quote has been requested.

- ii) There are coping stones missing from the pillars on the main steps coming down from Pentwyn Road one was on the bank. Cllr Morgan informed members that he had found a coping stone near his home and had put it safely in his garden which may be from Betws Park.

Correspondence received - none

- ii) Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes - none

- b) **Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –**

i) Annual Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to update

Cllr Derrick has been looking at the reports and these will be discussed in the Recreation Ground meeting next week.

- ii) **Heol Y Felin swing repair – see email from Contractor (sent 27/6/2024)**

Cllr Derrick informed members that the replacement parts for the 2 cradle seats that he had costed worked out costing more than the offer price on the 2 cradle seats that the contractor had sent on email. Cllr Allchurch proposed that the contractor orders the 2 cradle seats from the company at the offer price this was seconded by Cllr Morgan and agreed by all present.

iii) Feedback from Cllrs Comely and Derrick regarding the Castle/Tema unit repairs and costs received from Proludic as per email of 16/4/2024 and point 1. in Correspondence in May's meeting.

Cllr Derrick informed members that he had emailed the company regarding the cost of replacement sides for the slide and was waiting for a reply as he was unsure which were the correct part number as it is an older piece of equipment. There is rubbery type coating on the wood and informed members that it may not

be possible to replicate and would be best to order the parts from the manufacturer. The clerk will speak with the contractor to ask his advice on this.

iii) Cllr Derrick to inform Council of his proposal regarding playground inspections.

This will be discussed in the forthcoming Recreation Ground Committee meeting on 16 July 2024.

Cllr Stacey informed members that he had an update regarding having a tap in Betws Park for the volunteers to water plants in the park as required. Welsh Water will agree a date to meet him on site. Cllr Derrick will also attend.

Correspondence received - none

- c) **Finance and Staffing Committee** – staffing committee meeting – exempt matters – moved to the end of the meeting
- d) **Community Engagement and Events Committee** – next meeting 4 September 2024 Cllr Allchurch to send the clerk the agenda
- e) **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 F and G below.
- f) **New Contracts for 1 April 2024 working group** – update – ref playground and grounds maintenance contracts - Cllr Phillips/Jones – Work in progress - ongoing
- g) **Draft documents** for the new contracts to be approved – Cllr Jones/Stacey - Work in progress - ongoing
- h) **To approve the advert cost for SW Guardian re: point g above** (email sent 2/7/2024) – Cllr Stacey proposed that the advert costs are approved, this was seconded by Cllr Morgan and agreed by all present.

Cllr McMinn-Davies left the meeting at 20:32

Next meeting is Wednesday 11th September 2024.

The clerk left the meeting at 20:35 for members to discuss item c) above.

The meeting Closed at 21:10.