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 8th July 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 Carwyn James (Chairperson), Betsan Jones, Mike Jones, Karen McMinn-Davies, James Derrick, Louise Waring and Dave Stacey arrived at 19:08.

Friends of Betws Park Volunteer Group: Mike Millward, Emily Bartley and Andrew Williams.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Arwyn Rees

The meeting started at 19:01

Cllr James welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting.

Point 6 was brought forward and this was followed by point 1 representations given by Friends of Betws Park Volunteer Group at 19:12.

1. Public Questions/Representations

Andrew Williams gave his representation regarding watering/water issues for the Friends of Betws Park Volunteer Group for the plants they grow from seed to harvest. They have 1 x 1,000 litre IBC tank but during the recent heatwaves May, June and the current one they have frequently run out of water. Mike Millward who had brought in lettuce plugs informed members that seedlings were lost last year too but with climate change he explained that they need a good watering in when planted to encourage the roots to grow down.

Discussion regarding a previous request which Council did not approve for a mains water connection to be installed for use Cllr Stacey had been championing this and was told there was no connection.

The proposal was that a connection be gained (from where the old toilets used to be) with the access point being on the pavement. This would become a metered connection with the Council being billed for the standing charge and water used. Re-connection fees and potential grants to be ascertained. A water pipe 25mm minimum would then need to be installed using a mole digger for approximately 150 – 200 meters to where the current IBC tanks is located for use within the nature garden area. The tap would be locked at this point.

The Volunteer Group are being donated guttering to be placed onto the shipping container so that it can help refill their single IBC tank that is in situ and help with their water sustainability.

Another proposal was that the water fountain at the entrance to Betws Park be re-instated to save on plastic bottle usage.

Green Flag award has been awarded to the Nature Garden for the second year; announcement will be on 14th July 2026. A bigger flag has been ordered that will be cable tied to the main gates of Betws Park so that it is visible from the road and more recognition gained.

Councillor M Jones thanked the Friends of Betws Park Volunteer Group for what they are doing and stated that the Council do want to work with you and for you for the benefit of the community. He informed those present that a previous offer that a member of the group attends the Council monthly meeting was initially taken up but has not been a regular occurrence. Mike Millward asked what was required, if there is a proposal that needs consideration the request should be sent to the clerk 2 weeks before the meeting, it would be added to the agenda that is sent out 1 week prior to the monthly meeting and would be forwarded to the Councillors so that they may read/research prior to the meeting. It had not been done on this occasion however the chair had allowed the representations to be made.

Various avenues regarding grants were discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Stacey that Cllr James will discuss avenues with the OVW contact this was seconded by Cllr Waring and agreed by all present.

In the meantime, the clerk was instructed to contact Wrenvale and ask if they could refill the IBC tank as it is empty with their bowser.

Cllr Derrick also offered the use of his 300-litre tank, which he fills and carries in his van. The volunteers advised Council that 200 litres had already been used but was not enough to water all the beds that need regular watering.

Andrew Williams had a proposal that 3 noticeboards are erected one in Maesquarre, one near Betws Primary School and one in Heol Y Felin showing all the footpaths in the ward alongside interesting facts about the area. He informed members that he is involved in a project that is covering a 6-mile loop which has sites of historical interest, mining history, the old oak tree and Betws Park within the route.

A disagreement occurred between Mr Williams and the Clerk, and the Chair intervened. The Chair clarified that the Clerk worked under the instruction of Betws Councillors.

The Friends of Betws Park Volunteer Group members left the meeting at 19:40.

2. a) Apologies (to be given to the clerk prior to the meeting)

Paul Griffiths, Peter Comely.

b) Vacancies

3 vacancies remain within this Community Council

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests
None

4. County Councillor Report

1. The varnishing of the information boards in Betws Park is still to be done. The clerk to chase Wrenvale regarding this.

2. The Maesquarre bin issue – the decision has been made by CCC that the bin will not be put back as the road is too narrow and puts those emptying it at risk. It will be located somewhere in the vicinity, but the exact location is yet to be ascertained.

3. Regarding the picnic benches for the footpath viewing area up near Ffordd Y Glowyr – no response received to date County Councillor B Jones will chase.

4. County Councillor B Jones had overgrowth reports made to her for Maesquarre, and Pentwyn Road and these had been actioned.

5. The banking hub action day on 3rd July was well attended with media attention. They have previously made 2 unsuccessful bids to gain a banking hub however now Betws and Tycroes are incorporated into the population figures along with Ammanford they now have the minimum amount required.

Cllr McMinn-Davies had a question regarding the Hopkinstown footpath consultation. County Councillor B Jones informed that there had only been 1 objection but there had been lots of support including from this community council, Betws walking group and she supported the changes too.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes Monthly Meeting held on 10th June 2026 and of the Recreation Ground Committee meeting held on 30th September 2025

Councillor B Jones proposed, and Councillor James seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 10th June 2026 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor B Jones seconded and resolved that the minutes for the Council's Recreation Ground Committee meeting held on 30th September 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

PCSO Arwyn Rees said he had nothing to report although he had a query from the clerk regarding the Brodawel site and its parking issues. He is not sure if the site has been adopted by the County Council and County Councillor B Jones will follow up on this to ascertain its status.

There are no signs or lines and nothing in the dedicated turning area for all to use. He informed members that no one can get booked if it is a private street only if it's been adopted by the County Council and then only once no parking lines have been placed on the road. There is a Facebook group that the Council can join – Cllr Stacey/Waring.

There have been a few dodgy £20 notes circulating.

Cllr McMinn-Davies brought up an issue regarding vehicles with noisy exhausts speeding within the ward and the Ammanford area. If anyone can pass the vehicle registration details and dates/times of the incidents to the police then they can be spoken to or even have dash cam footage of incidents.

Crimes have not been too bad in Betws, although there have been issues with off road motorbikes in the area with a few issues this week.

<u>Crimes for May 2026 = 13</u>

Violence and Sexual Offences = 6, Other Crime = 3, ASB = 2, Other Theft = 2

The link for Betws ward below.

Betws | Police.uk (www.police.uk)

The above figures were noted by members.

PCSO Arwyn Rees left the meeting at 19:11

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 June 2026			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
10/6/2026 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)
10/6/2026 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
10/6/2026 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
8/7/2026 point 7a	Zurich	Annual Insurance renewal of policy s112 & 140 LGA 1972 (as amended)	£1,398.87 (In 2024 £1385.32)

8/7/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Maesquarre Park maintenance of park as per tender - Qtr 1 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£509.60 VAT£101.92 Total £611.52
8/7/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Heol Y Felin maintenance of park as per tender – Qtr 1 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£384.80 VAT £ 76.96 Total £461.76
8/7/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Betws Park maintenance of park as per tender – Qtr 1 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£3,610.36 VAT £ 722.07 Total £4,332.43
8/7/2026 point 7a	Wales Audit	Audit Fees for full audit 1/4/2024 - 31/3/2025 LGA 1972 s111	£1,294.47

It was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor McMinn-Davies 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

c) External Audit 1/4/2025 – 31/3/2026 –

This has been sent to Wales Audit, Cardiff hence the audit fee above in point 7.a) as no invoice had been received for last year's full audit.

d) Review the training plan for 2026 – 2027

Some of the Councillors who had joined prior to the election in 2022 where they were re-elected will need to do code of conduct training. This was discussed and all councillors will do their code of conduct training when the new term of office begins after the elections in 2027.

e) Review the list of the regular payments for 2026 – 2027 and agree

The payments list was reviewed and agreed and Cllr Stacey proposed to accept it along with agreeing to make the payments during August and December when there are no meetings. The clerk to consult with the chair prior to making the payments. These will then be reported

to full council at the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr B Jones and agreed by those present.

The clerk informed members that the VAT for 1/4/2025 – 31/3/2026 had been claimed.

8. Planning Applications

The following applications were received:

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:
PL/10791 - A single storey extension along the side of the existing house, to be constructed in cavity wall with a tiled roof - 1A Ffordd Y Glowyr, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2FF – Householder Granted 2/6/2026

PL/10880 - Retrospective planning application for the retention of a domestic storage building - Ysgubor Fawr, Bodist Uchaf, Ammanford, SA18 2JH – Full Granted 18/6/2026

The above applications were **NOTED** by Council.

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

a) Betws Primary School and Councils Community Governor (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
b) Community Risk Register Engagement Exercise (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
c) Young People funding opportunities (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
d) TRAINING DATES - JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2026 - INC HIGHLIGHTED FREE PLACES (OVW) (email sent 18/6/2026)
e) Building Better Cultures - Have your say (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
f) Biodiversity Packages 2026-2027 (OVW) (email sent 18/6/2026)
g) Environment funding opportunities (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
h) Wales Nature Week 4 – 12 July 2026 (OVW) (email sent 18/6/2026)
i) Have your say on stroke services (OVW) (email sent 18/6/2026)
j) Invitation to Community Flood Volunteer Events 2026 (OVW) (email sent 18/6/2026)
k) New Funding Opportunity: Road Safety Community Grant Fund (OPCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
l) Facilitation and community engagement support introduction (email sent 18/6/2026)
m) **Community Dog Safety & Wellbeing Project – Request for Local Feedback from Town and Community Councils during July** (email sent 18/6/2026) – this will be done by individual councillors.
n) Environment funding opportunities (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
o) **Consultation of Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)**
p) Funding Opportunities (CCC) (email sent 18/6/2026)
q) **Banking Hub Action Day (various emails sent 18/6/2026) –** covered in point 4. 6. above.
r) One Voice Wales E Bulletin issue 26 (email sent 24/6/2026)
s) **Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC) Research (email sent 24/6/2026**) – it was agreed that individual councillors would respond.
t) Wales Nature Week 4 – 12 July (OVW) (email sent 24/6/2026)
u) HoWLTA update June 2026 (email sent 24/6/2026)
v) National Conference & Awards Ceremony 1.7.26 (OVW) (email sent 24/6/2026)
w) REMINDER - FINAL JUNE TRAINING SESSIONS (OVW) (email sent 24/6/2026)
x) 02.07.2026 Community & Town Council Liaison Forum (CCC) (email sent 24/6/2026)
y) Parking concerns at Brodawel Betws. SA182GY (email sent 24/6/2026)
z) Issue 3 of The Voice (OVW) (email sent 2/7/2026)
aa) Practice Development Note 28 (OVW) (email sent 2/7/2026)

bb) New Digital Training Modules (OVW) (email sent 2/7/2026)
cc) Town and Community Councils update (CCC) (email sent 2/7/2026)
dd) Welsh Election Study 2026 Roadshow Events (CWPS) (email sent 2/7/2026)
ee) Assessment of Local Well-being (CCC) (email sent 7/7/2026)
ff) Food drive (Ammanford Food Bank) (email sent 7/7/2026)
gg) One Voice Wales E Bulletin Issue 27 (OVW) (email sent 7/7/2026)

Cllr Stacey asked if any members could attend the OVW Carmarthenshire Area Committee AGM 14/7/2026 which commences at 18:30 as he is unable to attend and it is a face-to-face meeting – no one could attend.

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 26/92025) –
i) update ref boundary – The clerk informed members that she had chased Wrenvale regarding the boundary fencing and had no reply to date. Cllr M Jones informed Council that he was on annual leave abroad.

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.
i)To Do - Dave - Report required to be sent to the Clerk and Insurance to check.
ii) Issues lift certificate required for the 6 monthly checks and emergency exit stairs need repair 2/3rds of the way up – Cllr Comley
iii)Annual lease check for 2025/2026 to be completed – Cllr Stacey

This has not been actioned to date. Cllr Stacey will chase for the outstanding information for points i) above along with what is required for point iii).
and ii) Cllr Comley was not present.

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 –
b) Betws Park –
i) Update - Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – Cllr Comley was not present in this meeting so this will be revisited in the September meeting regarding escalating as there has been no work done for some time.
The clerk contacted CCC regarding the metal railings being replaced and their expectations under the terms of the lease but had not received a response from the assistant grounds manager to date. After a short discussion it was decided that they would be replaced like for like with the same pattern on the top.

ii) Review suggestion of a Memorial Stone for BP by Major Ken Burton discussed in June/July meetings - update Cllr Comley – was not present and had sent his apologies so this will be revisited in the September meeting.

Correspondence received

i) Water for Betws Park, Park St, Betws (emails received 24/6/2026 & 25/6/2026) – this was discussed at point 1 at the start of the meeting.

ii) Cutting back bamboo (Betws Park Volunteer Group) (email received 6/7/2026) – the clerk had contacted Wrenvale but had not received a reply as he was on annual leave.

iii) Screws missing ,metal plates on green foot bridge park (Betws Park Volunteer Group) (email received 6/7/2026) – this is an issue for the County Council as under the terms of the lease they are responsible for the footbridge at the top end of the park.

iii) Rooted Christmas Tree Betws Park (Wrenvale) (email sent 8/6/2026) – to be brought back to the next month's meeting to discuss options – discussion ensued with suggestions made by the contractor considered. It was proposed by Cllr M Jones to continue with obtaining a cut Christmas Tree each year which Wrenvale organise and erect and remove including all the lighting. This was seconded by Cllr Derrick and agreed by all.

The lights have deteriorated with 2 sets held by Cllr M Jones being completely broken it was agreed that these will be disposed of. Cllr Stacey has 1 set of lights which he needs to check if they work. It was suggested by Cllr McMinn-Davies that industrial outdoor Christmas lights need to be obtained, she had purchased the last set which were used last year for approximately £60.

c) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –

i) Fortnightly Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick – clerk waiting for the reports - Cllr Derrick had sent 2 electronic reports to the clerk, and he will send the outstanding ones in due course.

Cllr Derrick informed Council that there are some urgent repairs required for health and safety reasons on the zip line platform needs replacing, gate doesn't close in the appropriate time frame and needs a new spring, the smaller steep slide grass mats, cycling machine doesn't work.

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey that Council agree an amount to be spent. Cllr M Jones suggested £2,500 to be spent on the repairs including labour costs so that they can be actioned prior to the school holidays beginning this was seconded by Cllr Waring and agreed by all present. Invoices to be sent to the clerk once actioned.

It was suggested to Cllr Comley that rather than emailing just bring hard copies to the next meeting – Cllr Comley was not present at this meeting.

ii) Update on Inclusive Roundabout – issues with original installation – Cllr Comley/Cllr M Jones update regarding progress – this is finally moving forward with an engineer attending recently and the manufacturer of a part will attend in the next couple of weeks to replace a specific part Cllr Comely was not present in the meeting so no update given although Cllr Derrick informed members that he thought it was working when he checked the park but needs a second person to be able to test the roundabout properly. He and Cllr Waring were going to check it after this meeting.

iii) 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 - it was

suggested that Cllr Griffiths assists Cllr Comley to do this – neither Cllr Griffiths or Cllr Comley were present at this meeting to update but the fencing has not been repaired to date.

iv) Regarding the zip line at Maesquarre it was agreed that Cllr Comely with the help of Cllr Griffiths will look at the issues with the zip line - neither were present at this meeting however Cllr Derrick has safety issues as identified in his report at point c) i) above.

Correspondence received

i) Cllr B Jones informed members that she had a letter from Betws Family Centre asking if they could have permission to use Heol Y Felin Green on the 19th August when they are having their Fun Day. They have already liaised with the RFC and the club will be open to provide refreshments and toilet facilities. It was proposed by Cllr McMinn-Davies and seconded by Cllr Derrick and agreed by all present that Council give permission for the Family Centre to use the green for their fun day.

d) Finance and Staffing Committee – Cllr James – see point 7. c)

e) Community Engagement and Events Committee – Cllr McMinn-Davies –that the Christmas Lighting Event will be held in conjunction with Betws Primary School and their Christmas Fete and Party and that it will be held in Betws RFC with a proposed date of 4th December 2026.

Cllr James wished everyone a happy summer break.

Next meeting **Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 19:00**.

The meeting Closed at 20:45