

# **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 12<sup>th</sup> June 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 19:05**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Cllrs Dave Stacey, Mike Jones, Jose Picouto, Karen McMinn-Davies attended virtually, James Derrick arrived at 19:07 and Emyr Morgan at 19:26.

County Councillor: Present

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present

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

None

## **2. Apologies**

- a) Cllrs. Maureen Williams, Paul Allchurch and Peter Comley.
- b) Discussion ensued regarding the request with the clerk explaining why this was back on the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr Stacey that the Councillors absence be approved until the meeting on 9 October 2024 and that no emails would be sent to the Councillor during this time. Any contact information that is required will be done via the Chair Cllr James. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all present.

Councillor James was requested by the clerk to ask the Cllr to respond to an email regarding IRPW and Home Working allowance when he informed her of the above decision.

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

None

## **4. County Councillor Report**

1. Members were informed of the draft order regarding double yellow lines on Pentwyn Road (DJ170) which had been circulated on email earlier today along with no waiting at the Caemawr/Betws Road junction (DJ172). These draft orders are being placed in the newspapers and any comments or objections are to be sent into Carmarthenshire County Council by 3 July 2024.

2. The county councillor had received a few complaints regarding parking issues on the junction of Colonel Road and Betws Road which are causing issues for those turning left. A request has been made for yellow lines to be placed at the location to ensure exiting the junction to the left can be made without entering the opposite side of the road.
3. Update given regarding the fly tipping of the Hot Tub near Maesquarre Hall that was reported by Cllr Williams in April. The county councillor had received an email on 6 June stating that the job had been completed and removed on 29 April. Cllr Derrick informed the County Councillor that the item was still in situ. A query will be sent to clarify regarding its removal.
4. A query had been raised by the primary school headmaster regarding the zig zag lines outside the school and the safety of children as there had been an increase of parents parking on them when dropping off/picking up their children. He had spoken with the County Council and was informed that a parking order was required to enforce the zig zag lines. County Councillor Jones had this request to the appropriate department at Carmarthenshire County Council CE620325663.
5. 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, and she will contact the relevant department, the other is for Betws Park which the Community Council is responsible for. The clerk was requested to contact the contractor and ask that the brambles are cut back along the Betws Park railings.

**5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the Annual Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Morgan seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council’s monthly meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Morgan seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council’s Annual meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

County Councillor Betsan Jones left the meeting at 19:39.

**6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws**

A total of 0 crime for March 2024 in Betws broken down as follows:

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.

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 June 2024			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT

12/6/2024 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)
12/6/2024 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments.  Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
12/6/2024 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)
12/6/2024 point 7a	Rynat – Playground - Operational Inspection Training Course Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 and Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 Cllrs Comley and Derrick	Public Health Act 1875 s164  Power to provide and manage recreation grounds	£780  VAT £156  Total £936
12/6/2024 point 7a	Mr Lyn Llewelyn	Internal Audit Service  Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014	£319.30

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

b) Donation Requests –

1. Ammanford RFC – Fireworks Night (email sent 31/5/2024)

No donation to be given due to the ongoing costs of maintenance for the playground repairs and cost of living crisis.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform the requestor of the decision made.

c) Audit – Internal Audit results

The clerk reported that the internal audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, had been completed by Mr Lyn Llewellyn, no issues of concern were raised.

The clerk informed members that the notice of appointment of the date for the exercise of electors' rights has been placed onto the website and the noticeboard in Betws Park today, 12 June 2024. It commences on 1 July 2024 to 26 July 2024.

The results and information were **NOTED** by members.

d) Annual Report – to approve the draft annual report for 2023/2024

Discussion ensued and with a few minor changes Cllr Jones proposed that the annual report be approved and published on the website. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed by all present.

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

**PL/07697** - Installation of ASHP heating system. As part other refurbishment works - 8 Wern Terrace, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford, SA18 2PG - Consultation date 16/5/2024 – 6/6/2024 (email sent 17/5/2024)

**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 - 4 Wern Terrace, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford, SA18 2PG - Consultation date 16/5/2024 – 6/6/2024 (email sent 17/5/2024)

**PL/07621** - Portable cabin for use as a less-abled 'Granny' annex for ancillary use to the main dwelling - Plas Maes Gwyn, Maerdy Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2RD – Consultation date 21/5/2024 – 11/6/2024 (email sent 22/5/2024)

**PL/07798** - Part demolition of existing building, provision of new office and storage within remainder of building - Old Pit Head Baths, Pentwyn Road, Ammanford, SA18 2EY - Consultation date 30/5/2024 – 20/6/2024 (email sent 31/5/2024)

**PL/07806** - Proposed erection of agricultural storage shed/workshop - Plas Maes Gwyn, Maerdy Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2RD - Consultation date 4/6/2024 – 25/6/2024 (email sent 5/6/2024)

The Council have no objections to the above applications which were **NOTED**. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk inform the planning department at CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn/decision made:

**PL/07267** – Replacement roof at the commercial unit and change of use from calligraphy studio and education centre to 3 no units for commercial use – Lettering and Calligraphy Studio, Pentwyn Road, Betws SA18 2EY – Delegated decision full application granted 15/5/2024.

**PL/06965** - New dwelling house including integral garage - Land Adjacent to 38 Colonel Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HP - Full planning permission granted 23/5/2024.

The Council noted the above applications.

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

- a) **School Request – Thank you email from Betws Primary School (email sent 14/5/2024)**
- b) **Webinars: Join Our Webinar Events (OVW) (email sent 17/5/2024)**
- c) **Hywel Dda University Health Board's Arts and Health Charter (OVW) (email sent 17/5/2024)**
- d) **WEBINAR: Is the Cost-of-Living Crisis Over? X2 (OVW) (email sent 17/5/2024 and 22/5/2024)**
- e) **Launch of New Resources WEBINAR – Biodiversity (OVW) (email sent 17/5/2024)**
- f) **Safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters (UK Parliament) (email sent 17/5/2024)**
- g) **Update to Swansea Local Development Plan 2023 – 2038 (LDP2) - New documents available to view and extension to consultation dates! (email sent 22/5/2024)**
- h) **Innovative Practice Conference on Wednesday 3rd July (OVW) (email sent 22/5/2024)**
- i) **You Pay: We Pay launch & new British Gas Energy Trust analysis (Senedd) (email sent 22/5/2022)**
- j) **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Community and Town Councils - Councillor Allowances (email sent 22/5/2024) – The clerk informed members of who was outstanding as responses are required.**
- k) **Notification of Application for a Licence: Anvil Kitchen, 2 Ffordd Y Glowyr, Betws, Ammanford.**
- l) **Betws in Bloom query from a resident in Hopkinstown – discussion regarding the boundaries and the competition which is hoped to be resurrected next year with Cllr Williams taking the lead on this. The resident's address is required to ascertain which ward they reside in. The clerk is to contact the resident.**
- m) **Town & Community Councils Update (CCC) (email sent 23/5/2024)**
- n) **Pre-election Period Timetable of Actions (OVW) (email sent 31/5/2024)**
- o) **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Community and Town Councils - Councillor Allowances (OVW) (email sent 31/5/2024)**
- p) **Guidance on Working Digitally (OVW) (email sent 31/5/2024)**
- q) **Ammanford RFC - Junior Duck Race - along a section of the Amman River adjacent to Betws park on Saturday 17th August – permission sought (email sent 31/5/2024) – permission granted for the Junior Duck race, clerk to inform and ensure that the event holders have the appropriate cover in place.**
- r) **Launch of New Biodiversity Resources for C&TCs May 2024 (OVW) (email sent 31/5/2024)**
- s) **Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 (OVW) (email sent 31/5/2024)**
- t) **Application for road closure C2214 Colonel Road, Betws - closure is necessary for Welsh Water to renew a leaking stop tap from 21:00 hours on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 to 03:00 hours on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. (CCC) (email sent 31/5/2024)**
- u) **Community Grant Funding Available up to £2000 (CCC) (email sent 31/5/2024) – Clerk to forward to the Betws Park volunteer group as it may be of interest to them.**

- v) Carers Week Event Poster (email sent 31/5/2024)
- w) JUNE, JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER TRAINING DATES (OVW) (email sent 31/5/2024)
- x) OVW Response to environmental principles governance and biodiversity targets consultation (email sent 31/5/2024)
- y) Ammanford Foodbank's 11th Anniversary (email sent 31/5/2024)
- z) Members Allowances Query to OVW reply (email sent 31/5/2024) – This was NOTED by members.
- aa) Tree Surveys due after 6 July 2024 when the previous inspection period expires for the 3 Recreation Grounds – quotation received for the inspections.
- bb) INITIAL BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING SESSIONS (OVW) (email sent 5/6/2024)
- cc) Amman Valley Hospital Summer Fete - 6 July 2024 (email sent 31/5/2024 – Chair invite & 5/6/2024)
- dd) Innovative Practice Conference on Wednesday 3rd July (OVW) (email sent 5/6/2024)
- ee) Celtic Wildflowers - Tour 2.7.24 AM (OVW) (email sent 5/6/2024)
- ff) Latest news from Planning Aid Wales (email sent 5/6/2024)
- gg) OVW Showcase Event - Senedd Cymru (OVW) (email sent 10/6/2024) – email forwarded to the Betws Park Volunteers contact to see whether someone would like to attend along with one Councillor (work commitments allowing) Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 10 – 3 to talk about the Nature Project within Betws Park that received the recent grant funding.
- hh) Letter from Ken Skates MS, Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport - 05-06-2024 (Welsh Government) (email sent 10/6/2024) – Cllr Jones informed members that he had shared this information with others who may respond but felt that no response was required from the Betws Ward.
- ii) Application for road closure A4069 Gwynfe (One.Network: 138886839) (email sent 10/6/2024) 9-5 Sunday 14/7/2024 re-route involves A474 Ammanford to Park Street roundabout.
- jj) ORDER - CARMARTHENSHIRE (WAITING RESTRICTION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (VARIATION NUMBER 41) - HTTR/1790 (CCC) (emails sent 12/6/2024) (DJ 170 Pentwyn Road and DJ 172 Caemawr/Betws Road junction)

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

## 10. To discuss the Councillor Vacancy

Discussion ensued with Cllr Derrick informing members that he may know of someone who may be interested in joining the community council. Cllr Picouto also stated that he could share the information regarding the vacancy.

## 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 by solicitor, still waiting for the owners of the land/their solicitor to respond to the Community Council solicitor since Summer 2023 – chaser phone call has

been made and the other side will be contacted so that the matter can be concluded.

**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 – feedback from meeting**

**Betws Park –**

**i) Update – Cllr Phillips –**

**Correspondence received**

1. Councillor Derrick suggestion regarding 360 view cameras for Betws Park and Age Concern VR sampling session for Betws RFC.

Councillor Derrick explained about the 2 items above that he had seen with Llandybie Community Council. The camera system cost £5,000 to install using solar panels which has helped with anti-social behaviour. The system is linked to a smart phone.

The Virtual Reality (VR) sampling is a good experience and is used to help those who have mobility issues to take a virtual reality tour. This may be something that Betws RFC could investigate and could benefit members of the community (especially those at Annwyl Fan/Glanafon), Cllr Comley was not present at the meeting.

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

2. Betws Park inspection 10am after heavy rain wind of Monday (email received 14/5/2024 and forwarded 14/5/2024)

Cllr Derrick had cut up the large branch that had fallen.

Cllr Stacey informed members that he had had a successful meeting with Mr A Williams regarding the management of the 3 recreation grounds was still compiling the new document.

3. Will you take part in Have a Grow? (Social Farms & Gardens) (email sent 17/5/2024)
4. Bins at Betws Park (email x 2 from volunteer)

ii) Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – no changes and Cllr Comley not present.

The clerk informed members that she had seen that there were coping stones missing from the main steps coming down from Pentwyn Road with the copings being on the bank on the side nearest the nature garden.

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

**b) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground** – update – Swing repairs – the contractor was paid for the parts which included delivery on 10 November 2023 (number 0143) and that labour would be charged for once the work was done – clerk to chase contractor to get a date for installation and Cllr Derrick to assist if available as it's a 2 person job to be done before the school summer holidays begin.

**i) Annual Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to update** – work in progress

**ii) Feedback from Playground Inspection Training – Cllrs Comley and Derrick** – this had been done in a previous meeting the clerk informed members that the trainer had passed away unexpectedly during May. The certificates will be sent out by the team as they process the work. ID badges and sample check sheets had also been requested when they attended the training.

Cllr Derrick to make a proposal to Council with regards to playground inspection and maintenance. He informed members that he had carried out some repair work for Llandybie Community Council.

**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 last month's meeting.**

This unit is still sealed off, discussion regarding repair Cllr Derrick will look at the unit and inform members at the next meeting what needs to be done to get it back in working order in preparation for the school summer holidays.

#### **Correspondence received**

**1. Response from the Volunteers regarding the procurement and planting of 2000 traditional large daffodils on the Maesquarre Playground bank (email sent 14/5/2024) RESOLVED** the clerk to contact the contractor at Wrenvale to ask to procure and plant at the correct time the traditional large daffodils.

**2. Contractor fortnightly checks query (email sent 17/5/2024)** the checks were carried out however he was unable to meet Cllr Comley at the time that he could attend, and Cllr Comley was unavailable in the afternoon due to his other commitments when the contractor could attend site due to transport issues.

**3. Request for a memorial bench near the basketball court in Maesquarre playground (email sent 22/5/2024)** – this was approved by the Council, the clerk to reply to the requestor.

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

- c) **Finance and Staffing Committee** – Staffing Committee to meet 26/6/2024
- d) **Community Engagement and Events Committee** – feedback from the meeting held on 15 May 2024 - Cllr Allchurch not present however Cllr Stacey feedback to members as he was present at the meeting. Previous discussions regarding setting up a Facebook page had been discussed and this was proposed by Cllr Stacey that it was set up and trialled for 6 months. Cllr Stacey and Cllr Derrick would be moderators. There would be links to the Family Centre, Friends of Betws Park Volunteer Group etc on the page. This was seconded by Cllr Derrick and agreed by all present.
- 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.



- f) **New Contracts for 1 April 2024 working group** – update – ref playground and grounds maintenance contracts - Cllr Phillips/Jones – Cllr Jones informed members that he was working on this at present.
- g) **Draft documents** for the new contracts to be approved before advert for maintenance of recreation grounds tenders to go out in SW Guardian by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 latest – Cllr Jones/Stacey – Cllr Jones informed members that he would send the clerk the advertisements.

Councillor Picouto left the meeting at 21:17

Next meeting is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**The meeting Closed at 21:20.**