

# **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 10<sup>th</sup> June 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), Paul Griffiths, Betsan Jones and Peter Comley arrived at 19:54.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

## **The meeting started at 19:11**

Cllr James welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting and informed members that he had attended to functions on behalf of the Council to the grand garden opening at the Betws Family Centre which was a lovely event. He also attended the Inauguration of the Ammanford Town Council mayor.

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

Betws Primary School WW1 and WW2 Heroes Project – Maureen Williams

She thanked the clerk for being helpful in the correspondence that she had sent the council.

She explained that Major Ken Burton has attended the school and spoken with the children and teachers regarding the older children researching and locating the homes where the 21 soldiers from Betws who had lost their lives in WW1 and WW2 had lived.

In September Major Burton will attend the school for 6 weeks to work 1 day per week on the project and produce information for the children to present externally. They currently have identified 19 of the 21 addresses for the soldiers.

The children will make a presentation on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2026 and are hoping that each home that has been identified in the village will allow a small wreath to be erected with each soldier's details on it. Along with the list of names that will also be placed on a plaque in the Remembrance Garden in Betws Park (Cllr Comley is organising this).

Major Burton is keen to ensure the connectivity between the school pupils and the remembrance of the soldiers. He feels that as each generation moves further away from the soldiers and the wars that they become estranged.

Discussion regarding the Remembrance Service in Betws Park for 2026 regarding the 21 children each naming one of the 21 soldiers each year and that this becomes

part of the service and includes the children reading out the commendation that the Chair of the Council would normally do. This would make the service and connection to the fallen soldiers memorable for each child that takes part and the attendees and hopefully keep their memories alive.

Maureen Williams explained that they were seeking a donation for the 21 small wreaths which cost £15 each.

It was proposed by Cllr B Jones that the Council pay for the 21 wreaths at a cost of £315. This was seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by those present.

The invoice for the wreaths will be sent to the clerk for payment by Major Ken Burton in due course.

Maureen Williams thanked the members and left the meeting at 19:29.

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

Karen McMinn-Davies, Mike Jones, Dave Stacey, James Derrick and Louise Waring.

## **b) Vacancies**

3 vacancies remain within this Community Council, Cllr B Jones reminded members that next year there will be Council elections in May.

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

Paul Griffiths at point 11. a) ii) as he is a member of Betws RFC committee.

## **4. County Councillor Report**

1. The graphics / artwork for the Betws Park information board has now been completed and is in situ and looks great.

The varnishing of the boards in Betws Park will be done when there is some dry weather by Wrenvale the clerk has spoken to them about carrying out the task on an annual basis too.

2. The orders for double yellow lines within the ward Colonel Road/Betws Road (DJ170) and Park Street (DJ171) have been done.

3. With regards to the speeding on Pentwyn Road the case is still being built by CCC, and she urges that members of the public report any issues via gosafe.org. CCC are waiting for funding, and the request remains on record however they asked that speed monitoring equipment be placed on the road.

4. The Maesquarre bin issue is still ongoing, with CCC needing a risk assessment as it is claimed that where the bin had been sited was dangerous for its emptying, she'll continue to chase this.

5. With regards to last month's request by Cllr James regarding the need to place more gravel into a groove on the footpath between Maesquarre and Colonel Road between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> wicker gate. Also, that some of the areas by the wicker gates are also muddy and need something to make it less muddy for users. She had received a reply from the PROW department that the path has been inspected and is in good order. This is clearly not the case and Cllr James and County Councillor B Jones will feed this back to the PROW department.

6. A member of the public had informed her that there was evidence of dog fouling within Maesquarre playground and a significant increase on local pavements in Pontamman along with bags of dog waste being left on the pathway over Pontamman Bridge and wanted the issue investigated. Discussion ensued with regards to Maesquarre where dogs are not allowed to enter but loose dogs may get in, and foxes and cats roam freely. Any dogs with owners seen inside by Councillors will be asked to leave. County Councillor Jones has requested more information regarding exact locations about the Pontamman pavements prior to escalating the concerns.

7. Regarding the picnic benches for the footpath viewing area up near Ffordd Y Glowyr the clerk had sent an email but to date had no response from TRJ. However, County Councillor Jones had spoken to TRJ and will be contacting them next week regarding this.

**5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Annual and Monthly Meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and of the Recreation Ground Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Councillor Griffiths proposed, and Councillor Jones seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council’s annual meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

Councillor Griffiths proposed, and Councillor Jones seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council’s monthly meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

The minutes were unable to be confirmed for the Council’s Recreation Ground Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 as only one member of the committee was present this will be confirmed as a true record of the meeting in a future meeting.

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

Crimes for April 2026 = 9

Violence and Sexual Offences = 4, ASB = 1, Criminal Damage & Arson = 2, Shoplifting = 2.

The link for Betws ward below.

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

The above figures were noted by members.

**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)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)

		LG(FP)A 1963 s5	
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)
10/6/2026 point 7a	OVW	Code of Conduct training – for new councillor Paul Griffiths – 14/5/2026	No charge as free place was allocated
10/6/2026 point 7a	OVW	New Councillor induction – for new councillor Paul Griffiths – 3/6/2026	£44

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

b) Donation Requests –

i) Mess up the mess (email received 13/5/2026)

It was proposed by Cllr Jones that £100 be donated this was seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by those present. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform the requestor.

c) Audit 1/4/2025 – 31/3/2026

i) External Audit – the clerk informed members that this will be sent off next week.

## 8. Planning Applications

The following applications were received:

PL/10879 - Retrospective planning application for the conversion of an agricultural barn into a residential dwelling - Ysgubor Fawr, Bodist Uchaf, Ammanford, SA18 2JH – Consultation date – 20/5/2026 – 10/6/2026 (email sent 21/5/2026)

PL/10880 - Retrospective planning application for the retention of a domestic storage building-  
Ysgubor Fawr, Bodist Uchaf, Ammanford, SA18 2JH - Consultation date – 20/5/2026 – 10/6/2026 (email sent 21/5/2026)

The above applications were **NOTED** by Council.  
Cllr Comley arrived at 19:54

PL/10361 – Serenissima, Heol Y Felin SA18 2HL – proposed change of use from a dwelling (C3) to a residential home for up to 4 children (C2) – Consultation date 21/5/2026 for 21 days – regarding Retrospective Planning permission (email sent 8/6/2026)

A discussion ensued with regards to the various issues surrounding this application. The Community Council have objections to this application, and it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform CCC planning department of their objections.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn: None

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

- a) Community Cohesion Small Grants Fund - 2026/27 (CCC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- b) HoWLTA April update (email sent 21/5/2026)
- c) Community Renewable Energy Grant (CCC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- d) Biodiversity Packages 2026-2027 (OVW) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- e) Peoples Emergency Briefing- Caerfyrddin (email sent 21/5/2026)
- f) REMINDER - TRAINING DATES - MAY - JUNE 2026 - INC HIGHLIGHTED FREE PLACES (OVW) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- g) Application for road closure C2193 Betws (TO15) (One.Network: 149806691) (CCC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- h) Application for road closure U4346 Betws (TO15) (One.Network: 150049590) (CCC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- i) One Voice Wales E bulletin Issue 24 (email sent 21/5/2026)
- j) Bureau newsletter (CCC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- k) Find Your Volunteer Role Webinar (OPCC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- l) Notification of Application for a Licence: Tesco Ammanford (CCC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- m) Have your say on future pharmacy services (Hywel Dda) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- n) Join us for a record-breaking National Conference! (OVW) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- o) Dinosaurs in Ammanford - 28th May (AATC) (email sent 21/5/2026)
- p) Young People (CCC) (email sent 28/5/2026)
- q) Health and Wellbeing (CCC) (email sent 28/5/2026)
- r) Introduction - Community Connector for the Early Years Integration Team (CCC) (email sent 28/5/2026)
- s) HoWLTA update May 2026 (email sent 28/5/2026)
- t) Biodiversity Team (OVW) (email sent 28/5/2026)
- u) Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 28/5/2026)
- v) It started with a food parcel (Cefnogi) (email sent 2/6/2026)
- w) Practice Development Notes (OVW) (email sent 2/6/2026)
- x) Clinical Services Plan - Stroke Services - Phase 2 Consultation (Hywel Dda) (email sent 2/6/2026)
- y) Town & Community Councils update (CCC) (email sent 2/6/2026)
- z) PCC Bulletin (OPCC) (email sent 2/6/2026)
- aa) Upcoming training from Planning Aid Wales (email sent 2/6/2026)
- bb) Invitation to a meeting for Town and Community Councils - Clinical Services Plan Consultation: Stroke Services (Hywel Dda) (email sent 3/6/2026)

- cc) Reminder Join us for a record-breaking National Conference (OVW) (email sent 3/6/2026)
- dd) **Consultation Documents - Public Footpaths at Gwern Y Felin, Wernoleu Road - Extinguishment (SC)(CCC) (email sent 8/6/2026)** – no objection to the parts of the path being extinguished.
- ee) **Consultation Documents - Public Footpaths at Gwern Y Felin, Wernoleu Road - Diversion (SC) )(CCC) (email sent 8/6/2026)** – no objection to the path being diverted.
- ff) Bureau Newsletter (CCC) (email sent 8/6/2026)
- gg) **Section 6 reports (OVW) (email sent 8/6/2026)** – the report was sent to the clerk this evening and will be published on the website tomorrow.
- hh) ONE VOICE WALES E BULLETIN ISSUE 25 (email sent 8/6/2025)

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) –**

i) update ref boundary – The clerk informed members that Wrenvale will be doing the boundary fencing end of June beginning of July and will contact Cllr M Jones to be present whilst they mark the correct boundary prior to fencing.

ii) suggestion ref Farmers Market to be held in Betws RFC car park – Cllr Derrick This was discussed as Cllr Griffiths had been involved in this too and he informed members that the RFC had no objections to a market being held in the car park.

Betws RFC were therefore informing the Council of this as under the terms of their lease of the RFC and Car Park it is a requirement.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones that the Council allow the RFC car park to be used for the Farmers Market. This was seconded by Cllr Comley and agreed by those present with one abstention.

**b) Betws RFC – (if any correspondence received) – see point a) ii) above**

**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**

As Cllr Stacey was not present point c) will be re-visited in the next meeting.

**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 –**

- i) **Section 6 Biodiversity Report – update – Cllr Stacey-** see point 9. gg) above
- b) **Betws Park –**
  - i) **Update - Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes –** Cllr Comley will be escalating this as there has been no work done for some time. Also the clerk to speak with CCC regarding the metal railings being replaced and their expectations under the terms of the lease as discussed.
  - ii) **Update regarding site meeting 16/6/2025 regarding the Betws Park Information board – update Cllr Jones –** see point 4.ii) above.
  - iii) **Review suggestion of a Memorial Stone for BP by Major Ken Burton discussed in June/July meetings - update Cllr Comley –** see point 1.

**Correspondence received**

- i) **Trees in Betws Park (Treeconsultants.wales) (email sent 3/6/2026)** - noted by members
  - ii) **TreeConsultants.Wales- Quote -Tree Surveys for 3 Recreation grounds in Betws – for their biannual surveys (email sent 8/6/2026)** – It was proposed by Cllr Comley and seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present that the quote for the biannual survey be carried out in the Summer be accepted.
  - iii) **Rooted Christmas Tree Betws Park (Wrenvale) (email sent 8/6/2026)** – to be brought back to the next months meeting to discuss options.
  - iv) Councillor B Jones members that the Japanese Knotweed is still present within Betws Park at the top of the bank inside the railings opposite Rice Road. This is under treatment by the contractor – clerk to liaise with the contractor regarding this.
- c) **Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –**
    - i) **Fortnightly Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick –** clerk waiting for the reports. Cllr Derrick not present. It was suggested to Cllr Comley that rather than emailing just bring hard copies to the next 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.
    - 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 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – update from Cllr Comley/Cllr Derrick -** it was suggested that Cllr Griffiths assists Cllr Comley to do this.
    - 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.

**Correspondence received**

- d) **Finance and Staffing Committee –** Cllr James – see point 7. c) i)
- e) **Community Engagement and Events Committee –** feedback from May 16<sup>th</sup> event at Betws RFC – Cllr McMinn-Davies – Cllr Griffiths was present at the event and feedback to Council that the event went well and that they will be returning to do more events next year.

Next meeting **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 19:00.**

**The meeting Closed at 20:28**