

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 13th March 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 19:15

PRESENT: Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Cllrs Maureen Williams, Emyr Morgan and Mike Jones.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. Apologies

Cllrs Jose Picouto, Peter Comley, Paul Allchurch, Dave Stacey, James Derrick, Karen McMinn-Davies and Lynwen Phillips.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

4. County Councillor Report

- 1. Update regarding the double yellow lines at Pentwyn Road, the proposals are to be advertised by the end of March as per an email she had received dated 29/2/2024.*
- 2. Footpaths – meetings have taken place with the Betws Walking Group/County Council/Landowners regarding the path to Hopkinstown. They are working together to open the paths however some landowners require the paths to be diverted. There is a cost element to this of £1,300.00. All is in hand and progressing.*
- 3. Regarding the 3 houses in Treforis discussions between CCC and the owner of the 3 properties have taken place. The owner is undecided on how to progress and CCC have suggested options with regards to the future of the properties and bringing them into use.*
- 4. A few dog fouling incidents have been reported on Betws Road and Pentwyn Road. Councillor Morgan distributed some Waste Incident Log to the Councillors present and some No Fouling signs for Betws Park.*

5. *An incident of fly tipping in Betws Park inside the railings opposite Pentwyn Road was reported and dealt with by CCC with advice given to the offender.*
6. *The Recreation Ground Committee meeting was cancelled however it could have gone ahead as despite (if quorate) and a chair for that meeting agreed upon as there are a number of topics on the agenda that need discussion.*
7. *Regarding the allocation of s106 funding for Betws this discussion is ongoing within CCC. The clerk has concerns that if the way of reporting an interest in receiving S106 money is at the consultation stage via email then when the application is being discussed and S106 distributed does the CCC committee refer to the documents of reference and seek out whether there has been a request made by the relevant Community Council and does this get minuted along with their decision for traceability.*

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

County Councillor Betsan Jones left the meeting at 19:40.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th February 2024

Councillor Morgan proposed that an amendment to page 3 to the County Councillors report be made at point 5 with the addition of one word 'between' to be placed before numbers 44-46. This was seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed by all present. **RESOLVED** the clerk to amend the minutes.

Councillor Morgan proposed, and Councillor Jones seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 14th February 2024 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

A total of 1 crime for January 2024 in Betws broken down as follows:

1 – Violence and Sexual Offences

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 March 2024			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
13/3/2024 point 7a	Angela Brown	Clerks Salary/Allowances and office expenses. Section 112 Local Government Act	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)

		1972 (as amended) LG(FP)A 1963 s5	
13/3/2024 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
13/3/2024 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)
13/3/2024 point 7a	Carmarthenshire County Council	Replacement of Lanterns in village Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980 s.301	£173.75 VAT £ 34.75 Total £208.50
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Dave Stacey	£156 – costs of working from home £52 – set rate consumables allowance Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	£208
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Carwyn James	£156 – costs of working from home £52 – set rate consumables allowance	£208

		Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Jose Picouto	£156 – costs of working from home £52 – set rate consumables allowance Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	£208
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Lynwen Phillips	£156 – costs of working from home £52 – set rate consumables allowance Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	£208
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Mike Jones	£156 – costs of working from home £52 – set rate consumables allowance	£208

		Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Peter Comley	£156 – costs of working from home £52 – set rate consumables allowance Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	£208
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Paul Allchurch	£156 – costs of working from home £52 – set rate consumables allowance Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	£208
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Karen McMinn-Davies	£156 – costs of working from home	£208

		<p>£52 – set rate consumables allowance</p> <p>Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)</p>	
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Maureen Williams	<p>£156 – costs of working from home</p> <p>£52 – set rate consumables allowance</p> <p>Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)</p>	£208
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor James Derrick	<p>£156 – costs of working from home</p> <p>£52 – set rate consumables allowance</p> <p>Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)</p>	£208
13/3/2024 point 7a	Councillor Emyr Morgan	<p>£105 - costs of working from home</p>	£140

	Co-opted 24 July 2023 = 35 weeks payment pro rata	£35 - set rate consumables allowance Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - IRPW)	
13/3/2024 point 7a			

The clerk informed members that although no correspondence has been received from HMRC regarding VAT, a claim for VAT 1/4/2022 – 31/3/2023 totalling £4,099.91 has been sent.

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

a) Donation Requests –

- i) HoWLTA AGM 17/2/2024 and donation request (email sent 21/2/2024)
- ii) Carmarthen Ploughing Society donation request (email sent 5/3/2024)
- iii) Eisteddfod

– discussion ensued with a decision being made that no donations are to be made at this time due to the ongoing costs of the recreation area repairs.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform the requestors of the decision.

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

PL/07182 - Woodland area off Argoed Road, Argoed Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HS
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.
This application is in review awaiting a decision by CCC.

PL/06407 - Re-instatement of the previously granted outline planning which has lapsed (previous planning reference E/21113 – granted on 21/5/2009 – see letter in documents on [Documents for reference e/21113: Public Access \(msapproxy.net\)](#)) - Former Dan Yr Allt, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HW

PL/07366 - Discharge of Condition 4 on PL/05546 (Landscape Maintenance and Management Responsibility Plan) Plough And Harrow, 52 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE - Under Consultation 4/3/2024.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/07182 Woodland area off Argoed Road, Betws SA18 2HS regarding 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. **Decision made 23/2/2024: Prior Approval Planning required.**

Discussion ensued regarding the above applications; it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform the planning application department. With no objections being made however a query regarding the original application to be made for PL/06407 as there is no correspondence within the documents of reference list from Betws Community Council and they would wish to seek Section 106 funding to assist in replacing the end of life play equipment at Maesquarre Playground which they inherited from CCC via the asset transfer process.

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

- a) **Event invitation - Community Assets: Policy and Practice in Wales - what's next? (OVW) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- b) **Pethau Bychain - Next event (OVW) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- c) **Free Portrait of His Majesty the King for Community, Town and City Councils in Wales (OVW) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- d) **The National Forest for Wales (OVW) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- e) **Free Event - Innovative funding and procurement (OVW) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- f) **SNN/01851 - Development of a new site with 9 new addresses and 1 new street name (CCC) (email sent 21/2/2024 + 5/3/2024))**
- g) **Draft Modernising Education Programme Strategy Consultation (CCC) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- h) **Public Rights of Way Project (CCC) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- i) **EED Forward Planning - Further consultation on the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal & Habitats Regulation Assessment (Local development plan)(CCC) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- j) **Victim Support - Hate Crime and Engagement Support - February and March training dates reminder (CCC) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- k) **JOINT EVENT ONE VOICE WALES AND PLANNING AID WALES – THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024 FROM 10.00AM UNTIL 2.30PM (REMOTE) (email sent 21/2/2024)**
- l) **Opportunity to join the Fourth Iteration of the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework 2024 (CCC) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- m) **Social Farms and Gardens/CLAS - !photos for film footage (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- n) **D-DAY 80 FLAG OF PEACE - COMMUNITY & TOWN COUNCILS (OVW) (email sent 5/3/2024)**

Proposal by Councillor Williams regarding purchasing a D-Day flag costing £28.80 for Betws Primary School who will fly the flag at the school. She informed members that the children are studying World War II and the flag would be a talking point for their studies. This was seconded by Councillor Morgan and agreed by all present. Clerk to order the flag once the size required is ascertained from the headteacher.
- o) **Cannabis Farm awareness leaflet (CCC) (email sent 5/3/2024) – placed on noticeboard within Betws RFC.**
- p) **Promoting Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire (CCC) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- q) **Business Renewable Energy Fund (CCC) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- r) **Consultation on Modernising Education Programme and discussion on Local Community Enterprises as drivers of the local economy (responses requested) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- s) **GWR Customer & Community Improvement Fund now open for bids (OVW) (email sent 5/3/2024)**

- t) **REQUEST FOR PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME AT THE JUNCTION OF CAEMAWR/BETWS ROAD, AMMANFORD – responses by Friday 29th March 2024 (CCC) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- u) **Town & Community Councils update (CCC) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- v) **Comms Guide: Voter Registration Week (OVW) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- w) **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report - February 2024 (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- x) **Versus Arthritis - New contact/referral form (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- y) **REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE KING'S NEW YEAR HONOURS 2025 (OVW) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- z) **Coetiroedd Bach, Tiny Forest funding is open! 21st Feb – 8th May (OVW) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- aa) **Ammanford Help Centre & Foodbank newsletter (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- bb) **Bottle / recycling banks (Phase 3) – Removal from Betws RFC car park (CCC) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- cc) **Utility Aid - Jargon Busting in the Energy World! (OVW) (email sent 5/3/2024)**
- dd) **One Voice Wales National Awards Conference 27 March 2024 (email sent 6/3/2024)**
- ee) **Intensive Summer Course 2024 – Welsh courses for all levels (email sent 6/3/2024)**
- ff) **Invitation: Public Meeting - The future of our countryside - Dyfodol ein cefn gwlad - Saturday 16th March 2024, 11am St Peter's Civic Hall, Carmarthen (email sent 13/3/2024)**

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

10. To approve the report from the Betws RFC annual lease check for 2023 – 2024 carried out by Councillor McMinn-Davies during January 2024.

Cllr McMinn-Davies was unable to join remotely due to equipment issues at the meeting therefore her apologies were accepted, this item will be moved forward to the next meeting in April.

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)

- Correspondence received 29/2/2024 ref Betws RFC for consideration (email sent 4/3/2024).

Discussion ensued with a decision being made that the Solicitor apply for the document from the Land Registry and advise Council regarding its contents. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk contact the solicitor regarding the above.

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 –

Betws Park –

i) Correspondence

a) **Rubbish, household food /peelings left inside Pentwyn Rd fence of park (email sent 4/3/2024 + 5/3/2024)** – This point was covered by the County Councillor at point 4 above.

b) **Keep Wales Tidy fund (email sent 4/3/2024)** – a meeting took place in the park with Cllrs Phillips, Jones and Karyn one of the volunteers. Wild flower plugs are being sought for the meadow, no more trees or dogwood, Heather and low growing shrubs for the Memorial Garden area.

c) Extension to grounds maintenance contract – Wrenvale (email sent 4/3/2024)

It was proposed by Councillor Jones and Seconded by Councillor Morgan that the extension to the grounds maintenance contract until November 2024 be approved. This was agreed by all present.

d) **Waterlogged Betws Park (email sent 4/3/2024)** the winter has been extremely wet this year with above average rainfall. It was proposed by Cllr Jones that the 3 beds on the right-hand side of the main walkway be grassed over. This was seconded by Councillor Morgan and agreed by all present. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk contact the contractor and request this to be done.

ii)Update – Cllr Phillips – apologies sent will be covered in next meeting.

iii)Update regarding painting of Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley – due to weather conditions and some staffing issues with the Community payback team no work has been carried out recently.

b) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –

i)Annual Playground Inspection Reports –not covered in December meeting. Rec meeting due 27 Feb 2024 item to be placed on the agenda and await feedback – meeting cancelled due to Chairs work commitments to be re-convened. Discussion ensued with it being resolved that the clerk email the chair of the committee with the suggested dates of 17th and 24th April for the meeting to go ahead.

ii) Correspondence - Extension to current playgrounds inspection and maintenance contract – Parks and Play (2 emails sent 4/3/2024)

It was proposed by Councillor Morgan and seconded by Councillor Williams that the current playgrounds inspection and maintenance contract be extended for 1 year be approved. This was agreed by all present.

iii) To confirm the playground inspection training for Councillors Comley and Derrick along with their commitment to undertake the fortnightly inspections along with the associated and necessary documentation to show due diligence during their term of office. Training is week commencing 8th April 2024 days to be confirmed.

Both Councillors have committed to the above and will attend the 2 training days in April. Councillor James wanted it made clear to them that they would not be paid for conducting these fortnightly inspections and completing the necessary documentation.

The clerk will check that the current insurance cover will cover them for conducting the checks once they have completed their training.

- c) Finance and Staffing Committee – Feedback from Councillor James on his recent checks of the financial documentation where he found no discrepancies, he thanked the clerk for her methodical work. Of note is that the minutes are yet to be completed and are waiting for minutes to be completed by Dave from the meeting held 17th January 2024.
- d) Community Engagement and Events Committee – Evaluation of Community Engagement Surgeries January 2024 – Cllr Allchurch to report back on way forward – meeting 2/3/2024 – not quorate notes made by the 2 Councillors to be circulated. A discussion ensued regarding what events have worked in the past for the council with Councillor James providing a list to Councillor Williams of what has been done historically. A consideration that some of the events committee members could attend the weekly RFC meeting which is held on a Tuesday at 19:00 to discuss the RFC and it meeting the terms of the lease as a Community Centre.
- e) Toolkit working group - Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and consider future reviews to take place once per election period and/or when updates are received (see 14 June 2023 minutes point 9d Revised Standing Orders This was **NOTED** by members and agreed that the working group would look at this along with the toolkit).
plus 9a ref Good Councillor Guide to Employment 2023 to adopt? As only noted in 14 June 2023 meeting. – To re-visit in January 2024 – UPDATE – Chair working through in mid-February to report back in March to council – Councillor Dave Stacey sent his apologies to the meeting due to work commitments this will be re-visited at the next meeting in April.
- f) **New Contracts for 1 April 2024 working group** – update – ref playground and grounds maintenance contracts - Cllr Phillips/Jones
 - i) draft documents to be approved before advert for maintenance of recreation grounds tenders to go out in SW Guardian by 1st August 2024 latest – Councillor Phillips had sent her apologies and Councillor Jones informed members that this is still work in progress with regards to the draft documents being drawn up.

Councillor Morgan informed members that he is retiring from Carmarthenshire County Council on 30th April 2024 with his last day of work being the 17th April as he has annual leave to take.

Next meeting is Wednesday 10th April 2024.

The meeting Closed at 21:05.