

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 May 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 19:31

PRESENT: Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Cllrs Peter Comley, Paul Allchurch, Maureen Williams, Dave Stacey, Karen McMinn-Davies, Emyr Morgan and Mike Jones.

County Councillor: Not Present

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. Apologies

Cllrs Betsan Jones, Jose Picouto, James Derrick.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Emyr Morgan declared that he is now a member of the Betws RFC Committee.

4. County Councillor Report

County Councillor Betsan Jones had sent her apologies to the meeting.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 10th April 2024

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Morgan seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 10th April 2024 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

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

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 May 2024			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
8/5/2024 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)
8/5/2024 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
8/5/2024 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)
8/5/2024 point 7a	Clay Shaw Butler	Payroll Costs Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£625 VAT £125 Total £750

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

b) Donation Requests –

1. 2024 Llangollen Eisteddfod – No to donation request
2. HoWLTA Annual Membership Renewal 2024/25 – Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Williams that a £30 donation be sent to the Heart of Wales Travellers Association.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform the requestors of the decisions made.

c) Audit – To approve the end of year figures and complete the audit paperwork

The audit paperwork was approved and completed by Council. The chairperson Carwyn James and the clerk signed the document.

d) Audit – Asset List update to approve

The updated Asset List was approved this was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr McMinn-Davies.

The clerk asked Cllr Jones if he wished to attend the code of conduct training that will be held by CCC remotely on Zoom on 28/6/2024 at 2pm.

Cllrs Stacey and Picouto had asked to attend with no reply being received from Cllr Phillips to date. Cllr Jones informed the clerk that he may be available and Has been added to the list.

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

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 - Woodland area off Argoed Road, Argoed Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HS

PL/07624 Previously used as milk dairy and storage area to be turned into a dog grooming salon, operating 1-2 days per week until the business grows Pant Y Betws Farm, Betws Road SA18 2PY

PL/07634 Proposed cover for an existing agricultural slurry pit Llwyndu Farm, Betws SA18 2RE

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

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

PL/07459 Prior notification of demolition part single and part double storey brick building at Old Pit Head Baths, Pentwyn Road, Ammanford, SA18 2EY – closed and decision made – planning application required to demolish.

PL/07376 prior notification agricultural/forestry - for a cover for an existing slurry pit at Llwyndu Farm, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2RE – closed and decision made - planning permission required.

The Council noted the above applications.

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

- a) Pre-election Period Timetable of Actions (OVW) (email sent 16/4/2024)
- b) Carmarthen Area Committee 23.4.24 (OVW) (email sent 16/4/2024)
- c) Re: Code of Conduct Training for Town and Community Councils (CCC) (email sent 16/4/2024)
- d) TfW announce December timetable (CCC) (email sent 16/4/2024) – new timetable and feedback links within.
- e) Email re point 9 r of 10 April 2024 monthly meeting (email sent 16/4/2024)

- f) **Save the Date - Innovative Practice Conference - 3/7/24 (OVW) (email sent 16/4/2024)**
- g) **FREE PLACES UPDATE - Finance and Governance Toolkit (OVW) (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- h) **CEIC project promotion (OVW) (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- i) **REMINDER - 2024 - APRIL, MAY & JUNE TRAINING DATES (OVW) (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- j) **Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- k) **Planning Applications S106 link (CCC) (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- l) **The latest from Actif Communities (CCC) (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- m) **Swansea Local Development Plan 2023 – 2038 (LDP2) - Starting the Conversation on Vision, Objectives and Options for Growth (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- n) **Awards Conference 2024 Report (OVW) (email sent 22/4/2024)**
- o) **EXTRA DATE : FREE PLACES UPDATE Finance and Governance Toolkit (OVW) (email sent 23/4/2024)**
- p) **ADDITIONAL EXTRA DATE : FREE PLACES UPDATE – Finance and Governance Toolkit (OVW) (email sent 26/4/2024)**
- q) **Education Welsh for All: Reaching the Objective (OVW) (email sent 26/4/2024)**
- r) **Preparation and Publication of Annual Reports (OVW) (email sent 26/4/2024)**
- s) **One Voice Wales - News Bulletin (email sent 1/5/2024)**
- t) **Phlebotomy Services - Hywel Dda Engagement (email sent 1/5/2024)**
- u) **West Wales Care & Repair Board Member Vacancy (OVW) (email sent 1/5/2024)**
- v) **Outcome of Primary Rising 4s Policy 2025/26 Consultation (CCC) (email sent 1/5/2024)**
- w) **Members Allowances ref IRPW – 2024/2025 (OVW) (email sent 1/5/2024) – members asked the clerk to email OVW to seek clarification as pages 11 and 12 seem to contradict regarding payments.**
- x) **Letter received ref: Invite to a Forum Meeting at Carmarthen Library at 10am on Saturday 18 May 2024 – Local community enterprises to drive the Welsh economy (email sent 1/5/2024)**
- y) **Hopkinstown path gate (email forwarded to County Councillor Betsan Jones 6/5/2024)**
- z) **Launch of new resources for biodiversity webinar 21/5/2024 11-1 (OVW) (email sent 7/5/2024)**
- aa) **Local Places for Nature Modest Measures return of information relating to the grant received (Natur@Heritagefund.org.uk) response required by 17 May 2024 (email sent 7/5/2024) – Cllr Stacey informed members that he would complete the form.**
- bb) **Cllr Picouto emailed seeking permission for using Heol Y Felin Green for Betws Primary School annual school sports day on the 12th June 2024 along with another activity morning where a farmer and his ducks will attend. (email sent 7/5/2024) - This request was approved by Council.**

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/Cllr Stacey in 2024.

Cllr Stacey met up with Peter Comley from Betws RFC to complete the checks and informed members that all is compliant and had completed the report in draft and would circulate the

completed report. It was proposed by Cllr Stacey that the report be approved this was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by members.

The 2024/2025 annual lease check date will need to be completed prior to 31 March 2025.

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.**
- b) **Council to consider the fact that rent payments have not been received from Betws RFC since they determined by a proposal in their meeting dated 12 October 2022 at point 8.b. that no payment for current rent owed is sought until such a time as the lease is resolved. Council will revisit the rent charges at that point.**
The new lease was signed late last year therefore the matter of non-payment of rent needs to be considered as it has been outstanding since the last payment that was due on 25 September 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding the rent that was owing which had accumulated to £2,000 with the latest payment of £500 being due 25 March 2024. Councillor Comley informed members that the new lease agreement for the Rugby Field had been signed in November 2023. He will provide the clerk with a copy.

Councillor Comley felt that the £6,000 the Rugby Club had spent on the car park was not considered by Betws RFC as maintenance and repair. Council had previously waived £2,000 of unpaid rent during the Coronavirus Pandemic in a meeting held on 27 April 2022.

- i) Cllr Stacey proposed that Council write off the £2,000 owing in rent in lieu of work on the car park, this was seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed unanimously.

Council have now contributed £4,000 to the car park repair by waiving the unpaid rent on 2 occasions.

- ii) Cllr Jones proposed that Council charge Betws RFC for 2024/2025 year an annual fee of £650 which will be reviewed annually by Betws Community Council. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed unanimously with Cllrs Comley and Morgan abstaining from the vote due to their connections with the RFC.

Payments of £325 will be due by 25 September 2024 and £325 due by 25 March 2025.

Discussion ensued with the clerk informing members that Betws RFC should not be running at a loss and should be charging for the use of the facilities. Cllr Comley informed members of the fees charged to the various community groups and other events/occasions that are held at the club. Community use of Betws RFC were

incorporated in the terms of the lease, as it was part of the terms of the original trust deed when the land had been gifted to the community.

- iii) Cllr Jones proposed that Betws Community Council pay Betws RFC for using the venue for its monthly meetings and committee meetings at £50 per meeting to be backdated to 1 April 2024 (10 April 2024 monthly meeting and 17 April 2024 recreation ground committee meeting). 11 monthly meetings x £50 = £550 plus committee meetings.

This will be billed quarterly by Betws RFC.

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** – waiting for the minutes for the meeting held 17 April 2024 to be received so that they can be published on the website (should be done within 7 days of the meeting).

Councillor Stacey forwarded the draft minutes to members and the clerk this evening he informed members that he is also working on the 3-year management plan for the recreation areas.

Betws Park –

- i) **Update – Cllr Phillips** – not present at the meeting.

Correspondence received

1. Betws Park benches (email sent 22/4/2024)
2. Local Places for Nature Modest Measures – National Heritage Lottery Fund – information required by 17 May 2024 as part of the Grant criteria (email sent 22/4/2024 and 7/5/2024) – discussed under point 9. aa) above Cllr Stacey to complete the form.
3. No Mow May – request by Volunteers for an area to be left to grow (email sent 23/4/2024 and 26/4/2024 and 7/5/2024) – request has been sent to the contractor to leave an area between the Pentwyn Steps and the new Nature Garden.
4. Carmarthenshire Food Network – (email sent 1/5/2024)

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

- ii) Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – Cllr Comley informed members that he had removed some of the railings which had rusted away at the bottom due to them being covered by earth/leaves etc. he will weld new bottoms onto the railings. He informed members that the rest of the railings need to be checked and repaired, there would be a significant cost in replacing these railings if maintenance is not carried out.

There is still no work being done by the Community Payback Team due to their staffing issues.

- 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 to 17 April 2024 – waiting for minutes of the meeting – see point 13. a) above and Cllrs Comley and Derrick will work through the annual playground inspection reports.

ii) Feedback from Playground Inspection Training – Cllrs Comley and Derrick – Training went well, both passed and are waiting for their certificates. Cllr Comley informed members that he had not met with the Playground Contractor to conduct the fortnightly checks at the time agreed due to Cllr Comley's availability schedule. **RESOLVED** that the clerk to check with the Contractor to ensure the checks were carried out.

Correspondence received

1. Proludic prices for Tema/Castle unit in Maesquarre Playground (email sent 16/4/2024) – covered in 13. a) above Cllr Comley and Derrick looking at this.

2. Annual Independent Playground Inspection Confirmation (CCC) (email sent 22/4/2024)

3. Dogs in Heol y Felin Park – response from resident after BCC reply (email sent 22/4/2024)

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

Cllr Jones proposed that 2000 traditional large daffodils are planted on the bank in Maesquarre Playground. Planting time would be September/October. The costs were discussed.

A discussion ensued with suggestions that depending on cost traditional large daffodils are also planted between the trees and the railings on Heol Y Felin Green either this year or next year.

Cllr McMinn-Davies proposed that Council ask the Betws Park Volunteers if it were something that they would like to do and source the traditional large daffodils and to delay deciding for 1 month to get a cost comparison. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all present.

RESOLVED the clerk to contact the Betws Park Volunteer Caryn Griffiths and request as above.

- c) **Finance and Staffing Committee** –
- 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 – meeting to be re-convened for Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 19:00 in Betws RFC this meeting was cancelled due to clashing with a Betws RFC meeting on the same evening. To be re-convened or go online only. – Meeting re-convened for Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 19:00 at Betws RFC.*

Karen McMinn-Davies left the meeting at 20:58.

- 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 – work in progress Cllr Stacey to meet with Cllr Jones to work through some of the document.

- 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 1st August 2024 latest* – Cllr Jones - work in progress (see f) above.

Next meeting is Wednesday 12th June 2024.

The meeting Closed at 21:05.