

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 May 2026 at 7.30pm.

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, Karen McMinn-Davies, Betsan Jones, Dave Stacey, Mike Jones and Peter Comley.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

The meeting started at 19:21

Cllr James welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting.

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. a) Welcome the new Councillor

This was done in the Annual Meeting earlier this evening.

b) Apologies (to be given to the clerk prior to the meeting)

James Derrick and Louise Waring.

c) Vacancies

3 vacancies remain within this Community Council Cllr Comley told members that he is actively seeking members and is urging those he speaks to to email the clerk.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

4. County Councillor Report

County Councillor Jones told members that she was in Patagonia and apologised that her report for last month was found in her drafts folder and hadn't been sent.

1. The graphics / artwork for the Betws Park information board has now been signed off, now waiting for a date for the installation. Cllr M Jones informed members that the battens have been fixed to the rear of the board.

The varnishing of the boards in Betws Park need to be done when there is some dry weather. Clerk to ask Wrenvale to do this.

2. There are a couple of orders for double yellow lines within the ward Colonel Road/Betws Road (DJ170) and Park Street (DJ171).
3. 20mph speed limit has been written on the road in white on Pentwyn Road.
4. The bin issue is still ongoing, and she'll continue to chase this.
5. Cllr James informed the need to place more gravel into a groove on the footpath between Maesquarre and Colonel Road between the 3rd and 4th wicker gate. He also mentioned that some of the areas by the wicker gates are also muddy and need something to make it less muddy for users.
6. Members were informed that she was regularly receiving complaints about the speeding on Pentwyn Road especially as part of it has no pavements. She informed members that the County Council only move forward with these issues once a case has been built for this via gosafe.org. Any resident who wishes to report speeding issues within the ward they need to contact go safe so that a case may be built on the issues and later all the information will be passed on to the County Council so that they can implement safety measures.
7. A discussion ensued regarding the footpath viewing area up near Ffordd Y Glowyr where it had previously been agreed within the Community Councils future planning for this term of office 2022 – 2027 which is recorded in their annual report that a picnic bench would be placed in the area. TRJ own the land and they had agreed to add a second picnic bench if the Community Council also placed one at site.

She informed members that she had sent an email to TRJ regarding this and that the area has lots of overgrowth which needs to be trashed. This area will become part of one of the new footpath routes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk also send an email to TRJ regarding this along with the price for the picnic bench. Cllr M Jones informed members that he recalls the last ones purchased were £1,300 from the local company who make them from recycled plastics.

8. Next Wednesday 20th May is the AGM of Carmarthenshire County Council and County Councillor Jones informed members that she had been nominated for Vice Chair.
9. She informed members that the footbridge at the top of Betws Park has been repaired which under the terms of the lease to the Community Council it is the County Council's responsibility to maintain and repair it.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Annual and Monthly Meetings held on 8th April 2026

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor McMinn-Davies seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 8th April 2026 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

Crimes for March 2026 = 13

Violence and Sexual Offences = 9, ASB = 2, Burglary = 1, Criminal Damage & Arson = 1.

The link for Betws ward below.

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 May 2026			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
13/5/2026 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)
13/5/2026 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
13/5/2026 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
13/5/2026 point 7a	R A Computers	Callout attend to laptop Eset Internet Security 1 year 1 device LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 and Section 58 Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013	£35.00 £25.00 VAT £12.00 Total £72.00
13/5/2026 point 7a	Carmarthenshire Tree Services	Storm damage tree work and clearance of root plate. Three man team, tipper and chipper. Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£350

13/5/2026 point 7a	Xeinadin – Clay Shaw Butler Ltd	Payroll services Preparation of payroll, including maintenance of all PAYE, NI records for the year ending 31 March 2026. Completion of year end submission to HMRC and completion and issuing of P60 for year ending 31 March 2026. LG(FP)A 1963 s5	£480 VAT £ 96 Total £576
13/5/2026 point 7 c) i)	Lyn Llewellyn	Internal Audit Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014	£325
13/5/2026 point 7 e)	Clwb Rygbi Betws RFC	Betws RFC rent payment offset for meeting room hire LGA 1972 s134	£50
13/5/2026 point 7 h)	Dave Stacey	To pay the Chair Allowance for 2025/2026 as per IRPW	£300

It was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor M Jones 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) Audit 1/4/2025 – 31/3/2026

i) Internal Audit result the clerk read out the audit report received from the internal auditor with no issues of concern being raised.

The internal auditor included his invoice it was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr B Jones and agreed by all present that the invoice of £325 be paid.

ii) Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2026 and Annual Governance Statement to agree and complete.

Council reviewed the form and the section completed by the Internal auditor.

Council discussed each question on the annual governance statement and answered them in turn. The chair and the clerk both signed the document once completed.

d) Local Government Pay Claim 2026/27

This was noted by members.

e) To review the Annual rent payment for Betws RFC for 2026/2027 and Room Hire payment for 2025/2026

After a short discussion Cllr BJones proposed that Betws RFC rent remain at £650 for 2026 – 2027 this was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed by all present.

Discussion regarding the contribution for the room per meeting and Council are happy for it to remain the same as last year at £50 per meeting. Last year Council had 14 meetings in Betws RFC with only 1 being held fully online (£700 minus the rent £650 = £50 to be paid to Betws RFC for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)

f) Qtr 4 EOY finance figures

These were noted by members.

g) Annual Report for 2025 to 2026 to be reviewed and approved after a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr M Jones that the report be approved and published.

h) Chair Allowance to be paid to the outgoing chair for 2025 to 2026 Cllr Stacey.

It was proposed by Cllr B Jones that the £300 allowance be paid to Cllr Stacey for his term as chair. This was seconded by Cllr McMinn-Davies and agreed by all present.

Cllr Stacey asked if there were any outstanding costs for the recent event in Heol Y Felin picnic in the park – Cllr McMinn-Davies informed members that there are no outstanding costs for the event.

Cllr Stacey informed members that he would make a donation of £100 to the Betws Park volunteers and £200 to Cefnogi (Ammanford Foodbank).

i) Annual Maintenance uplift based on the CPI for the contractor who maintains the recreation areas. Cllr M Jones explained to members that the contract is based upon the CPI for December 2024 and the uplift is based on the CPI for March 2026. This works out to be 3.98% which rounds up to 4%. Therefore, the contractors' prices for 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 will be increased by 4%.

This was noted by all present.

8. Planning Applications

The following applications were received:

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 – Consultation date – 28/4/2026 – 19/5/2026 (email sent 30/4/2026)

The Community Council had no objections to this application, and it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk inform CCC planning department.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/10575 – Approval of details reserved by a condition to Discharge of Condition 7 on E/32650 (S278 Drawings) – 35 Betws Road, Betws – Withdrawn 15/4/2026

PL/10513 - Construction and operation of a micro energy storage project - Verge at Betws Park, Park Street, Ammanford - Full Granted 24/4/2026

County Councillor B Jones informed members that this is being placed to the rear of the Park Street units and will be placed closer to the Bwtrimawr estate and not on the Betws Park verge area.

The above applications were **NOTED** by members unless otherwise stated.

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

- a) FREE TRAINING PLACES FOR COUNCILLORS - 2026-2027 (OVW) (email sent 17/4/2026)
- b) The Voice e-magazine (OVW) (email sent 17/4/2026)
- c) National Conference & Awards Ceremony 2026 (OVW) (email sent 17/4/2026)
- d) HOWLTA Newsheet 5 (email sent 17/4/2026)
- e) **New NRAP and Section 7 list - Biodiversity (OVW/Welsh Government) (email sent 17/4/2026)** – Cllr Stacey informed members that this was not relevant to Betws Community Council and that it related to planning decisions and habitat.
- f) **Launch of the One Voice Wales Civility and Respect Pledge (OVW) (email sent 17/4/2026)** – this was agreed by the Community Council, and the chair signed the document once the completed. The clerk to return a copy to OVW.
- g) Stroke Prevention Awareness Event Ammanford 23 April 2026 (OVW) (email sent 17/4/2026)
- h) ONE VOICE WALES E BULLETIN ISSUE 22 (OVW) (email sent 17/4/2026)
- i) **FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT (OVW) (email sent 28/4/2026)** – Cllr Stacey informed members that there was nothing to do on this.
- j) **Save the Date - Ammanford Mayor's Inauguration Thursday 4th June 2026 (AATC) (email sent 28/4/2026)** – The chair Carwyn James will attend. The clerk to inform the sender.
- k) Criccieth's 'Welsh Incident' Takes to the Airwaves on BBC Radio 4 (OVW) (email sent 28/4/2026)
- l) Codi Trust Microgrant Scheme (email sent 28/4/2026)
- m) National Awards 2026 (OVW) (email sent 28/4/2026)
- n) People's Emergency Briefing 22nd May (email sent 28/4/2026)
- o) Application for road closure U4347 Betws, SA18 2PG (One.Network: 149733213) 9th June 2026 (CCC) (email sent 28/4/2026)
- p) IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 28/4/2026)
- q) **Invitation to the Annual Meeting and Mayor Inauguration Ceremony in Cwmaman (email sent 30/4/2026)** – The chair and vice chair are unable to attend and asked the clerk to send their apologies.
- r) The Voice - Issue 2 (OVW) (email sent 30/4/2026)
- s) **Notification of Application for a Licence: Plough & Harrow, Betws, Rhydaman/Ammanford (CCC) (email sent 30/4/2026)** – Cllr Comley informed members that he is the licensee there.

- t) Urdd Fund for All (email sent 6/5/2026)
- u) One Voice Wales E Bulletin issue 23 (email sent 6/5/2026)
- v) Carmarthenshire YFC Rally 2026: Invitation (email sent 6/5/2026)
- w) REMINDER - TRAINING DATES - MAY - JUNE 2026 (OVW) (email sent 8/5/2026)
- x) **List of Betws Heroes – Betws Primary School (update)** – the clerk read out the emails received from ex Councillor Maureen Williams who remains as the Community Council’s Governor representative. They will be making a request for a donation in the future to help fund their project.
- y) **WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES (RURAL) (VARIATION NO.42) 2025 - HTTR/1993 (CCC) (email sent 8/5/2026) x 3** – this was discussed above in the County Councillors report at point 4. 2.
- z) PCC Bulletin (email sent 8/5/2026)
 - aa) Webinar – Biodiversity Team (OVW) (email sent 12/5/2026)
 - bb) Health Board launches refreshed long-term strategy (email sent 12/5/2026)
 - cc) **Carmarthenshire Area Committee 15.4.26 (email sent 12/5/2026)** – the minutes were noted by members.
 - dd) **Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018 – 2033** – this was noted by members.

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)** – update on delineating the boundary and putting new fencing up and the repair the other fencing around the green/playground area – Cllr Comley/James. The 3 quotes received to be discussed for 40m V mesh fencing for the boundary.

A discussion ensued regarding the 3 quotes received which vary in price. The fence will butt up to the current low galvanised fence that runs down the Betws RFC side of Heol Y Felin Green and rebates approximately 12ft along the boundary to be fenced. The Councillors left the meeting to view the fence prior to deciding.

It was proposed by Cllr B Jones to go with the cheapest quote once it was confirmed that the brash on the bank that the other two quotes mentioned was included in the price. This was seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk to inform the successful and unsuccessful contractors once the above proviso is confirmed.

Councillor McMinn-Davies left the meeting at 20:47.

- 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 – Cllr Stacey - 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 will be arranged by Cllr Stacey, Cllr M Jones and a representative of Betws RFC in due course.

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- waiting for it to be received to place on the website** – the report has been completed onto a new template.

b) Betws Park –

i) **Update - Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes** – Cllr Comley informed members that once the weather improves the probation service team will continue with the painting. He informed members that he had told the supervisor that Council were disappointed that this task had not been completed last year.

ii) **Update – Simple Metal structure in Nature area - Cllr Stacey** – to remove from the agenda as the Betws Park Volunteers will inform members once it has been erected.

iii) **Update regarding site meeting 16/6/2025 regarding the Betws Park Information board – update Cllr B Jones** - this was updated in point 4. 1. Above.

iv) **Review suggestion of a Memorial Stone for BP by Major Ken Burton discussed in June/July meetings - update Cllr Comley** – He informed members that he had met with Major Ken Burton but the second person is currently on holiday and he hopes that a meeting will take place with the three of them before the next meeting in June.

Correspondence received

1. Update regarding the Wildlife Cameras in Betws Park (Betws Volunteer Group) (email received 13/4/2026) – these have been removed from Betws Park by the Volunteer Group due to the implications of GDPR.

2. Bins overflowing (Betws Park Volunteer Group) (email received 15/4/2026) – A lot of the time it is large cardboard items that block the top of the bins as they are not broken down enough prior to placing and pushing down into the bottom of the bins.

County Councillor Jones also informed members that the County only empty their bins once per week in the ward which is on a Wednesday.

3. Critical Bleed Cabinets – Cllr Comley – informed members that the Ammanford Lyons had purchased and placed 2 critical bleed cabinets within the ward which are sited alongside the current defibrillators. One has been placed at Betws RFC and the second at Ty Coch.

Cllr Comley proposed that the Community Council purchase 2 more critical bleed cabinets 1 for the school and 1 for the family centre. The approximate cost would be £90 each. This was seconded by Cllr M Jones and agreed by all present.

Cllr Comley to liaise with the clerk regarding making payment/invoices.

Cllr Comley also informed members that a training course on how to use the critical bleed equipment as well as defibrillator training would be arranged to take place at Betws RFC in due course.

c) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –

i) Fortnightly Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick – Councillor Comely and Derrick are in the process of placing their reports online and will forward to the clerk in due course once a few issues have been resolved.

Cllr Comley discussed an issue whereby someone is lifting up the new surface (astro turf) and the Cllr Derrick has been re-gluing it on several occasions and has bought more glue at £54 per time in order to do this.

ii) Update on Inclusive Roundabout – issues with original installation – Cllr Comley/Cllr M Jones update regarding progress – Cllr Comley and Cllr M Jones met on site with Gary Parker, a sales manager from Sutcliffe to discuss the ongoing installation issues with the piece of equipment. They informed him that they had contacted Trading Standards and that it was not fit for purpose under the 2015 act. The representative told them that they were having difficulty sourcing the bearings for the roundabout and estimated a date of July 2026 before arrival. He was informed that this was not acceptable given the time already since its installation.

The representative also informed that there was water ingress into the bearings he was told by the Cllrs that that would be their original installation issue as they had not put a drain in which would be something that they would also need to rectify.

To date no technical or engineer has been sent to site by the company it seems that Mr Parker, the sales rep is the only person who attends.

Cllr Comley has agreed that the Company will telephone him on Monday 18th May 2026 to discuss the issue further where they either need to replace or refund the £18,000 spent on this defective piece of equipment.

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 – this is still waiting to be done Cllr Derrick was not present in the meeting. Cllr Comley still has the chain link fencing and due to work commitments Cllr Derrick has been unable to meet up with Cllr Comley.

Correspondence received

i) Resurfacing of the Playground next to Betws Rugby Club email from resident (email sent 5/5/2026) – a discussion ensued with the clerk informing members that Cllr Derrick had spoken to the person concerned and told her what can be done such as spraying it with water or anti-static spray or even regularly dusting the surface with silica sand or rubber. Council will monitor the situation or 6 months. It seems that this tends to happen with new astro turf, it is not dangerous for humans or pets and is caused by friction which is common on newly fitted turf or on dry and cold days but diminishes over time. If the person touches metal after building up a charge the spark can be more intense but is not dangerous.

Clerk to inform the sender.

- d) **Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr James – Audit result see point 7. c) i) and ii) above and 7. d).
- e) **Community Engagement and Events Committee** – feedback on May Bank Holiday event – Cllr Stacey gave an update as Cllr McMinn-Davies had left the meeting positive feedback received from those who attended. It is a good event to develop with Connecting Carmarthenshire would like to attend future events. The consensus would be that the event would be better taking place later in the month and next year that it potentially takes place on the late May bank holiday. The Committee will discuss the new date in due course.

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey that the clerk seek prices for a rooted Christmas tree to be purchased for Betws Park again. The last one which was sourced from Germany died a few years ago from red mite. Since then, a cut tree has been purchased. They do not want a tree that grows more than 15 – 20ft as it would be very difficult to place the lights on it each year. Discussion over the type of tree that meets the requirements, is not prone to red mite and suits the location and ground conditions, a tree which has all year-round interest may be a consideration. Cllr Comley informed members that lights are generally put on any tree rather than on a traditional Christmas tree. Cllr B Jones informed members that there is a Christmas type tree at Maesquarre playground which is now very tall. It would be £4k for the electricity to be installed at the site. Cllr M Jones reminded members that he had walked around the ward with a lighting company a few years ago and discussed where festive lights could be placed. The issues were that there were not available electricity supply at:

1. The Family Centre
2. Betws Park
3. Maesquarre Playground
4. Heol Y Felin Plaground and Green area

Solar lighting in their opinion was not good in the UK.

The Christmas lighting event may be centred up at Betws RFC this year and is being organised by Cllr McMinn-Davies due to inclement weather affecting event at Betws Park. The lights will be switched on by a Councillor in the park with a potential live stream into Betws RFC so that it can be seen by those who attend in the dry. They hope to link in with Betws Primary School PTA.

This was seconded by Cllr Comley and agreed by all present.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk to contact the parks contractor to request he sources options that will suit the requirements and obtain quotes for the trees.

- f) **Toolkit working group** - Cllr Stacey informed members that there is no outstanding work to be done on the toolkit and therefore he suggested that this was now removed from the agenda and will be revisited as required. This was agreed by all present.

Next meeting **Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 19:00.**

The meeting Closed at 21:33