

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 11th October 2023 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 in order for this to be able to take place and the correct procedure to be followed.

The meeting started at 19:06

PRESENT: Cllr Dave Stacey (Chairperson), Cllrs Peter Comely, Carwyn James, Emyr Morgan, Lynwen Phillips, Jose Picouto, James Derrick, Maureen Williams, Mike Jones and Paul Allchurch attended virtually.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present

The chair explained that the order of the agenda order will be changed in order to arrange for the committee meeting dates to be agreed and get back on track for the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Recreation Ground Committee Meeting was cancelled for yesterday as not quorate/low numbers. The main agenda item is for the contracts for the recreation grounds and it was **RESOLVED** that a working party would be set up comprising of Cllrs Phillips (Chair), M Jones, Morgan, Derrick, County Councillor B Jones to be held on Wednesday 18th October 2023 venue and time TBC.

Finance Committee meeting week commencing 23rd October availability - Mon Tue Fri or w/c 30th October date, time and venue TBC.

Events Committee meeting Wednesday 1st November 2023 venue Betws RFC Chair (Paul Allchurch) to draft an agenda and send to the clerk. Time TBC.

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. a) Apologies

Cllr Mike Jones sent apologies as may arrive late.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Peter Comely regarding point 12 and Cllr Morgan regarding point 8 planning application PL/06535.

4. County Councillor Report

1. I contacted the CC highways department on Sept 24th regarding the removal of the yellow lines on the pavement at Colonel Rd some have been done however there are more to be removed. 6m of double yellow lines have been removed from No 23a.

2. No news regarding the draft plans and the placement of double yellow lines at the bottom of Pentwyn Rd this will be ongoing for the next 6 months due to the departments workload.
3. I enquired about S106 monies for Maes Melyn and have received an email reply which I have shared with you and the clerk which stated the following:

Planning contributions cannot be imposed after a decision has been granted.

The 66 new dwellings are Phase 2 of S106 Agreement ref E/09584 15th May 2006. The developer T Richard Jones was required to execute NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play) works or pay the difference of up to £176,250.00. They executed and also paid the differences of £8,750.00 (spent in 12/11/2015 for fencing to Playground at Heol Y Felin, Betws) and £8,069.71 (spent in 21/01/2021 by the Betws Community Council for maintenance of the Maesquarre Playground).

There are no Section 106 monies held in Betws ward.

To identify items which your ward and community wish to seek a planning obligation (section 1-6) contribution for the relevant application, could you send your consultation response direct to: planningconsultations@cararthenshire.gov.uk. Further guidance is available at [Section 106: Planning obligations \(gov.wales\)](#)

Discussion regarding S106 ensued Council have submitted requests for PL/05546 Land opposite the Plough and Harrow, Betws Road, and PL/04371 land at rear of Ty Coch and PL/026821 and PL/03959 Old Pit Head Baths, Pentwyn Road.

4. I have met with Eamonn at Maesquarre Playground regarding the new roundabout and Lynwen and I are continuing with the application for the Wind farm grant. We met on 4th October.

Councillor M Jones arrived at 19:29 (during Maesquarre discussion meeting with Eamonn ref MYB funding for disabled roundabout)

5. On 13 September 2023 I attended a cost-of-living tackling poverty seminar which is part of HWB fach y wlad. They are travelling around the county answering questions regarding poverty etc. There are millions of pounds of unpaid benefits. There were 4 case studies with one example becoming better off by £500/month after attending. I have leaflets to share with you.

6. On 25 September 2023 I had correspondence regarding the Vision information panel up on the mountain near Scotch Pine. The sign was not robust enough and they are currently obtaining quotes for a replacement.

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

County Councillor B Jones left the meeting at 19:42

5. **To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th September 2023 and the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023.**

Waiting for the chair to update on his report for the Annual Meeting minutes - he stated that he was working on his report.

The Chair noted that the spelling of one of the volunteer's names may be incorrect Caryn not Karyn and once confirmed for the minutes to be amended.

Councillor James proposed and Councillor Picouto seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 13th September 2023 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

A total of 14 crimes for August 2023 in Betws broken down as follows:

- 6 – Violence and Sexual Offences
- 1 – Shoplifting
- 5 – Theft other
- 1 – Drugs
- 1 – other Crime

The breakdown for the 3 crimes for May:

- 2 - Violence and Sexual Offences
- 1 – Criminal damage

The breakdown for the 14 crimes for June:

- 4 - Violence and Sexual Offences
- 3 – Anti social behaviour (ASB)
- 3 – Drugs
- 4 – all other crime

The link for Betws ward below.

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

PCSO 8178 Morgan informed the clerk that the crime map has the facility to change the months on the right-hand side in order to compare the different monthly information.

The clerk also enquired as to why the data was behind and it was explained that the crime information is uploaded to police.uk who manage that section of the website and crime data. It seems that SWP and NWP are also behind on their data. DPP send they're to police.uk. and they would expect to see the previous months data by the middle of the month i.e., August data by mid-September. The error ahs been flagged up with police.uk so that the issue can be fixed.

A question was raised with regards to the number of crimes and were they carried over until resolved? The clerk will make enquiries.

7. Payments/Donation Requests –

a. Clerk Salary and Allowances and Invoices to be paid (see document below)

Payments Made in October 2023			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
11/10/2023 point 7a	Angela Brown	Clerks Salary/Allowances	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)

		and office expenses. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) LG(FP)A 1963 s5	
11/10/2023 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
11/10/2023 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)
11/10/2023 point 7a	Parks and Play	Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playground Qtr 2 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£260.00 £260.00 Total £520.00

It was proposed by Councillor Phillips and seconded by Councillor James that the above payments are authorised and it was **RESOLVED** by all that the above be paid.

b) Donation Requests –

- i) Ammanford Netball
- ii) Urdd
- iii) Wales Air Ambulance

Councillors discussed the request for the donations, it was proposed by Councillor Phillips that no donation is made this year to the above which was seconded by Councillor Comley and agreed by all present.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk reply to the requestors.

c) Audit Completion for 2022/2023 (email sent 27/9/2023)

The notices have been placed on the noticeboard and website.

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received: PL/06535

Betws Community Council have no objections to planning application PL/06535 application however would like to ask for a Section 106 contribution to enhance the playground at Heol Y Felin as requests have been received for goal posts for the green. The goal posts need to be removable as the green is used for Betws Primary school sports day annually.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk contact planning with regard to the above.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/06252 for 2 Ffordd Y Glowyr, Betws SA182FG Discharge of Condition 8 on E/39168 (equipment control) the discharge was granted on 4/9/2023.

PL/06036 for Swn Yr Adar, Colonel Road, Betws SA18 2HR householder planning application for a single storey extension to dwelling and first floor to replace existing timber veranda/decking structure. This was granted 6/9/2023.

PL/06357 for 34 Ffordd Y Betws, Betws SA18 2HE Removal/Variation of condition 2 on PL/03617 (additional design alterations) were refused on 11/9/2023.

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

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

a) **Lessons Learned Boundaries Commission Questionnaire (email sent 22/9/2023)**

b) **Pethau Bychain Next event 27 Sept 2023 – for a green network for Town and Community Councils (email sent 22/9/2023)**

c) **The Welsh Ombudsman's public consultation: Our Equality Plan 2023-2026 (email sent 22/9/2023)**

d) **Motions for One Voice Wales AGM 2023 – 30/9/2023 (email sent 22/9/2023)**

e) **Public Convenience Strategy for Carmarthenshire Consultation (email sent 22/9/2023)**

f) **Welsh Revenue Authority newsletter (email sent 22/9/2023)**

g) **HWB Presentation from T&C Liaison Meeting 14/9/2023 (email sent 22/9/2023)**

h) **Town and Community Council 20mph update (email sent 22/9/2023)**

i) **Councils - Connect your community to the Slow Ways national walking network (email sent 22/9/2023)**

j) **More free financial awareness training in Wales (email sent 22/9/2023)**

k) **One Voice Wales Newsletter No.1 (email sent 22/9/2023)**

l) **World Alzheimer's Day in Carmarthenshire (email sent 22/9/2023)**

j) **White Ribbon Event Ammanford Pensioners Hall 23rd November 2023 (email sent 26/9/2023)**

k) **DPSC-207 Code of Conduct Training for Town and Community Councillors from Carmarthenshire County Council (email sent 26/9/2023)**

Councillor Morgan informed members that the training takes 1 hour 44 minutes and is informative especially the case studies. The Clerk stated that all members need to have Code of Conduct refresher training once per elected term as a minimum.

l) **Consultation: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25 - ends 30 November 2023 (email sent 26/9/2023)**

m) **VR sessions St Clears and Llanelli for unpaid carers. We will be moving around the county withing the next 6 months. If you do have anyone interested in an area of Carmarthenshire please let us know and we can see if we can do a session near them. (email sent 26/9/2023)**

- n) OVW - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023 TRAINING DATES (email sent 26/9/2023)
- o) Electrical Safety Fund Opening – 2023 – deadline 22 October 2023 (email sent 28/9/2023)
- p) Autumn Update | Ammanford Foodbank & Help Centre (email sent 28/9/2023)
- q) Carmarthenshire County Council’s Town & Community Councils update (email sent 28/9/2023)
- r) Audit Wales September newsletter (email sent 3/10/2023) including Audit Wales Report regarding Failures in financial management and governance – Ammanford Town Council and Llanferres Community Council – Procurement arrangements
- s) PCC Bulletin (police and crime commissioner) (email sent 3/10/2023)
- t) Bevan Commission: engagement events Health and Social Care Services in Wales. (email sent 5/10/2023)
- u) ONE VOICE WALES & D-DAY 80 - 6TH JUNE 2024 (email sent 5/10/2023)
- v) Versus Arthritis - INSPIRE magazine is available to view free of charge online Free digital copy - [Inspire magazine - Versus Arthritis magazine](#) Paper copy – regular supporter with welcome pack action.versusarthritis.org/page/131534/donate/1 (email sent 5/10/2023)

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

10. To approve the report from the Betws RFC annual lease check carried out by both Councillor McMinn-Davies who did the document check and visual checks carried out by Councillor Stacey. (see email sent to Peter 25/7/2023 ref 2 trailers and discarded items at rear of 2c Heol Y Felin)

Councillor McMinn-Davies was not present at this meeting. This item will be placed on the agenda for November. This was **NOTED** by members

Councillor Comley informed members that he had received the Fire Extinguisher certificate and that the RFC’s insurance was due for renewal during November.

Councillor Comley informed members that 1 trailer had been removed from the car park however 1 remained along with other items. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk write a letter to the owners asking them to relocate their trailer from the car park.

11. To consider a motion to exclude the public and members of the press with regards to matters in point 13 due to the confidential nature under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) 1960, s.1 (2) and Local Government Act 1972, s.100(2)

No members of the public present.

12. Exempt Matters:

a) Betws RFC point 14, 15 and 3.11.3 on lease and letter attached from Betws RFC and email from Peter Comley in his capacity as Secretary of Betws RFC. Reply from Solicitor regarding the Land Issue and Betws RFC lease (as per June Meeting) – waiting for application from Betws RFC requesting approval for the changes made previously – letter in from Llyscennen forwarded to Dave 25/7/2023 with extract of the email I sent to them – email sent ref next steps from meeting held on 13/9/2023 – reply received from Llyscennen 21/9/2023 (email sent 22/9/2023)

The reply was **NOTED** by members with the next steps being required to be made by Betws RFC in providing the relevant document to the solicitor and for them to register the changes made with the Land Registry.

b) Peter Comley Dispensation application – waiting for his application to go to CCC Standards Committee

Cllr Comley informed members that he had sent his dispensation application to the Standards Committee at Carmarthenshire County Council yesterday 10 October 2023.

Discussion regarding the long-running ongoing issue with the landowner and the Council whereby the solicitor is waiting for replies from the other side regarding the agreed changes.

13. To discuss and update the Council Training Plan as per point 13 of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023.

The chair stated that he believed that the Council had members who had received training within the sections which covered all that was required.

Councillor Comley asked the clerk to confirm what training he had done as he wanted to attend more training.

The clerk informed members that all councillors needed to have a basic knowledge and that the training provided by One Voice Wales covered this.

14. 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 – update – Cllr Phillips

Betws Park –

i) Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS) Community Management Award 2024/Social Farms and Gardens has been awarded to the new nature area at Betws Park/Friends of Betws Volunteers (email sent 22/9/2023)

Discussion regarding the above and it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk contact the sender to clarify award details/recipient.

Also discussed were the communication channels between the volunteer group and the council. It was **RESOLVED** that correspondence would be conducted via emails sent to/from Caryn/Mandy who are the volunteers who attended the meeting, Cllr Derrick as he is dual hatted being both a Friends of Betws Volunteer and Councillor and include the Betws Community Council email so that the clerk can pass to members.

ii) Update regarding painting of Betws Park railings and request by Volunteer group ref Community Payback team painting lanterns on Pentwyn Road entrance steps – Councillor Peter Comley

The painting is being carried out when the weather permits – ongoing.

Discussion regarding public liability insurance cover for the Friends of Betws Volunteers when volunteering in Betws Park. Cllr Derrick to look into this and inform of cost and give details at next meeting in November for council to consider. The clerk informed members that the group are not covered by the

council's insurance whilst they are in Betws Park. The company informed the clerk that the group need to get their own public liability insurance cover.

The Recreation Ground Committee meeting was not quorate last night and was cancelled. The minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2023 have been circulated and will need ratifying at their next meeting.

It was agreed by all that the main requirements were to set out what is needed for the new contracts which start 1 April 2024 and they would therefore set up a Working Group comprising of Councillor Phillips, M Jones, Morgan and Derrick and County Councillor B Jones as discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

**b) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –
i) Annual Inspection Report costings for high and moderate risk issues highlighted for Playgrounds (email sent 22/9/2022) waiting for full reports from CCC.**

Annual Reports not received to date from Carmarthenshire County Council.

Councillor Phillips proposed and Councillor Williams seconded that the high and moderate risk repairs at both playgrounds as per email sent above be actioned by the contractor. Clerk to confirm that the chains are stainless steel.

RESOLVED the clerk contact the contractor and ask for the repairs to be actioned.

ii) Correspondence ref MYB grant application for playgrounds. (emails sent 5/10/2023)

The application costs were discussed and members NOTED that the application needs to be in by end 31st October 2023. Councillor Phillips is currently working on gaining 3 quotes for the roundabout. It was proposed by Councillor Picouto and seconded by Councillor Williams that Councillor Phillips will email members with the quotes to approve them and this was agreed by all present.

c) Finance and Staffing Committee – date TBC Chair to send Agenda and date to clerk.

Councillor Emyr Morgan left the meeting at 21:25.

d) Defibrillator Project – update from Cllrs Comley/Picouto

Photo will be taken on Monday 16th October 2023 at 11am at Betws Primary School. The article for the newspaper etc has been drafted but needs finalising and Councillor Picouto will work on this over the next couple of weeks.

e) Community Engagement and Events Committee – Remembrance Service/Christmas Tree for 2023

Councillor Picouto informed members that his wife Jayne could collect the wreaths when ready. The Chair Dave Stacey will lay the wreath on Saturday 11th November 2023. The second wreath will be laid in Ammanford by Cllr Picouto on behalf of the Council at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12 November 2023. Next year as it is a leap year the Remembrance Service will be held on Monday.

With regards to the Christmas tree Councillor McMinn-Davies stated in the last meeting that she was 'already on it'. Discussion ensued that going forward a

rooted tree will be sought and planted the various types/styles were discussed. With the best time to plant being March 2024.

It was proposed by Councillor Comley that Council authorise £250 to be spent on a cut tree of about 15ft for Christmas 2023 Councillor McMnn-Davies to be informed and seconded by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Jones informed members that the lights were in storage in his garage.

f) Toolkit working group -

Next meeting is Wednesday 8th November 2023.

The meeting Closed at 21:45.