

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 9th October 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 19:08

PRESENT: Cllr Carwyn James (Chairperson), Cllrs Maureen Williams, Mike Jones, and Lynwen Phillips (19:15).

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: PCSO 8129 Nia Quick and PCSO 8039 Arwyn Rees

Point 6 was brought forward as Council waited for Cllr Phillips to arrive.

The PCSO's explained that they work part time and full time respectively and the area they cover is Betws, Bonllwyn, Pontamman and Ammanford Town. They target hot spot areas and do their patrols subject to their shift patterns allowing. Any areas with issues are put onto a patrol plan.

Cllr James asked if the figures were correct, he was told that they were and that they are done centrally now and they explained what crimes could be. An explanation was given on the wide crimes that encompass the violence and sexual offences category which include the minor class of crimes of harassment, common assault and are not necessarily major crimes like murder or GBH. The Cllrs were assured that Betws is a low crime area.

Cllr Mike Jones asked about the breakdown of figures and if there was anything the Council could do to help. If any Cllrs see any trends or any resident sees trends in suspicious activity to inform the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Also to inform when any cold callers attend the area as they tend to target vulnerable people.

County Councillor Betsan Jones asked why there were no PACT meetings being held. An explanation was given that there were low numbers/no attendees and that the senior officers prefer that the PCSO's and Police are out engaging with the public, local businesses and patrolling either in vehicles or on foot and being visible within the communities.

PCSO's left the meeting at 19:24.

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. Apologies

Cllrs Emyr Morgan, Paul Allchurch, Jose Picouto, Dave Stacey, Karen McMinn-Davies, Dene Macbeth and James Derrick

- a) To approve the absence request made by Cllr Paul Allchurch.

Councillor Allchurch's request was read out to the Council by the clerk after a short discussion it was Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr M Jones that Cllr Allchurch's request for an approval of absence would be given for 3 months initially. To be reviewed in January 2025 should more time away be required.

Cllr James informed members that he would purchase items from Tesco that Cllr Allchurch was to do for the Christmas Lighting Event in early December.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

4. County Councillor Report

1. Update given regarding the fly tipping of the Hot Tub near Maesquarre Hall that was reported by Cllr Williams in April. An email has been sent asking for an update from CCC but no reply has been received and she will chase this.
2. Update regarding the double yellow lines on Pentwyn Road the County Councillor has been in contact with the highways department again regarding the Draft Traffic Regulation Order and objections have been given. A process is followed with regards to the objector/s being contacted by CCC if the objections cannot be resolved then a report is prepared for CCC cabinet members to discuss. Betsan will contact CCC highways department towards the end of October for an update regarding the objections.
3. Complaints were received regarding overgrown trees on Pentwyn Road affecting the lights. CCC are in contact with the landowners to ask for the trees to be cut back. One landowner has cut their trees back so far.
4. Carmarthenshire County Council are working together with Betws Walking Group and various landowners to re-open footpath 3/16/1.
5. An update on the grants for Maesquarre Playground. Council have been successful in gaining the Sustainable Communities Grant for £35,000 which had been re-submitted from earlier in the year for additional equipment for Maesquarre Playground. The new equipment must be installed, all work and claims completed before the end of January 2025, with the short timeline and winter looming this may be a challenge. The Grant Agreement document has been signed this evening as 'wet signatures' were required and will be returned to CCC. Councillor Phillips and County Councillor Jones are working together on this project with the money from the MYB wind farm grant and Sustainable Communities grant. Betsan thanked Cllr Phillips for her continued hard work on the projects.
6. An update was given with regards to the Story Board notice boards in Betws Park which need renewing. Her contact is investigating whether the trails that are on the map/story board still exist and is in contact with a different CCC department regarding this, as if the trails that are depicted are not in use there would be no point in renewing. The boards were put up many years ago via a Regional Project with Ammanford and Loughor walking groups being involved.

County Councillor Betsan Jones left the meeting at 19:50

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 11th September 2024

Councillor Jones proposed, and Councillor Williams seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 11th September 2024 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

A total of 6 crimes for August 2024 in Betws

Other theft = 2, Violence and Sexual Offences = 2, Drugs = 1, All other crimes = 1

The link for Betws ward below.

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

7. Payments/Donation Requests –

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

Payments Made in October 2024			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
9/10/2024 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)
9/10/2024 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
9/10/2024 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)

<p>9/10/2024 point 7a and</p> <p>point 13. b) iii) of 11/9/2024 monthly meeting</p>	<p>Proludic Ltd</p>	<p>Maesquarre Park/Playground</p> <p>Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan)</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	<p>£3,242.45 VAT £ 648.49</p> <p>Total £3,890.94</p>
<p>9/10/2024 point 7a</p>	<p>OVW</p>	<p>Cllr Macbeth – New Councillor Induction training</p> <p>LGA 2000</p>	<p>£40.00</p>
<p>9/10/2024 point 7a</p>	<p>Wrenvale</p>	<p>Betws Park Qtr 2</p> <p>Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan)</p> <p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.</p>	<p>£ 3,465.00</p> <p>VAT £ 693.00 Total £ 4,158.00</p>
<p>9/10/2024 point 7a</p>	<p>Wrenvale</p>	<p>Heol Y Felin Qtr 2 Green and Playground</p> <p>Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan)</p>	<p>£ 370.00</p> <p>VAT £ 74.00 Total £ 444.00</p>

		Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	
9/10/2024 point 7a	Wrenvale	Maesquarre Park/Playground Qtr 2 Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan) Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£ 490.00 VAT £ 98.00 Total £ 588.00
9/10/2024 point 7a	Parks and Play	Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playgrounds 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 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) request from Glo Man to enable them to publish 10 copies of the magazine between October 2024 – July 2025 (email sent 16/9/2024)

It was proposed by Cllr Williams and Seconded by Cllr Phillips that £50 be donated to Glo Man this was agreed by all present.

- ii) Our time.. we are asking for help (Dyfed-Powys Neighbourhood Watch) (email sent 19/9/2024)

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Williams that no donation be made this was agreed by all present.

- iii) Urdd Gobaith Cymru – (email sent 25/9/2024)

It was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Phillips that a donation of £50 be made this was agreed by all present.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk inform the requestors of the above.

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

PL/08246 - Construction of double domestic garage at 2 Y Felin, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2HN

Consultation date 19/9/2024 – 10/10/2024 (email sent to Cllrs 20/9/2024)

PL/08290 - Variation of Condition 6 on P6/19992/92 (agricultural occupancy condition) at Mwstwr Y Coed, Maerdy Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2RD
Consultation date 1/10/2024 – 22/10/2024 (email sent to Cllrs 2/10/2024)

The Council had no objections to these applications. Clerk to inform CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/07415 - Construction of two detached double storey residential properties with attached garage, and associated driveway, parking and turning area at Plots on Maesquarre Road, Betws, Ammanford, SA18 2EY – Outline refusal on 16/9/2024

PL/08211 - Conversion of outbuilding, single storey side extension and external alterations to facilitate the change of use of the building to 4 short term holiday lets (Class C6) - Plough And Harrow, 52 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE - Full Refusal on 02/10/2024

The Council **NOTED** the above applications.

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

- a) **PLANED Information network (email sent 16/9/2024)**
- b) **Carmarthenshire State of Nature Report (OVW) (email sent 16/9/2024)**
- c) **One Voice Wales Annual Membership infographic (email sent 16/9/2024)**
- d) **Carmarthenshire Dementia Community Coalition Funding (CCC) (email sent 16/9/2024)**
- e) **IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter - health and social care (email sent 16/9/2024)**
- f) **Practice Development Note 8 Code of Conduct: Members and Officers (OVW) (email sent 16/9/2024)**
- g) **Update: 'Martyn's Law' Bill Now Progressing (email sent 19/9/2024)**
- h) **Notice of Conclusion of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (CCC) (email sent 19/9/2024)**
- i) **FW: Art Exhibition Cartref Cynnes (CCC) (email sent 19/9/2024)**
- j) **FW: Please take part in our annual (short!) consultation (CCC) (email sent 19/9/2024)**
- k) **Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 - Publication of consultation paper (OVW) (email sent 23/9/2024)**
- l) **Free Cookery Session with Welsh Refugee Council (Ammanford Foodbank) (email sent 23/9/2024)**
- m) **Application for road closure C2141 Tirycoed road (One.Network: 140401390) Friday 18th October 2024 for 1 day (CCC) (email sent 25/9/2024)**
- n) **Consultation: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26 (email sent 25/9/2024)**
- o) **Crimestoppers County Lines Campaign (CCC) (email sent 25/9/2024)**

- p) Carmarthen Area Committee 7.10.24 (OVW) (email sent 25/9/2024)
- q) FW: Bryn Celyn Produce, Ammanford - October 24 Menu & Christmas Specials (CCC) (email sent 25/9/2024) + Christmas Dinner Christmas dinner is for collection or delivery only on 24th December 2024. Delivery within a 6-mile radius or a small charge applies. Two courses, either a starter and a main OR a main and a dessert - £25.00 per person All three courses - £30.00 per person. All you need to do is thoroughly heat up your meal and enjoy! A £10.00 deposit is required to secure a slot. (email sent 2/10/2024)
- r) Board to discuss temporary overnight closure of Minor Injury Unit to protect patient safety - Minor Injury Unit at Prince Philip Hospital changing from 24 hour to 12-hour daytime service (HywelDda) (email sent 25/9/2024)
- s) Online Hate Webinar 9 October 10am - 12pm (CCC) (email sent 25/9/2024)
- t) News from the Cost-of-Living Crisis Support Team (OVW) (email sent 25/9/2024)
- u) Invitation to Online Police and Crime Plan Consultation - 1st October (DPP) (email sent 27/9/2024)
- v) Hate Crime Awareness Week 2024 (CCC) (email sent 27/9/2024)
- w) Mentrau Iaith – Gwreiddiau Gwyllt/Wild Roots (OVW) (email sent 27/9/2024)
- x) Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 – for the protection and management of our unique historic environment (CADW)(gov.wales)(email sent 27/9/2024)
- y) Help to achieve a Guinness World Record – Restart the Heart month (OVW) (email sent 30/9/2024)
- z) Invitation to Online Police and Crime Plan Consultation - 1st October (email sent 30/9/2024)
- aa) Town & Community Councils Update (CCC) (email sent 30/9/2024)
- bb) Invitation to Carmarthenshire Carers Forum County Wide Event at The Plough, Rhosmaen Thursday, 24th October (CCC) (email sent 2/10/2024)
- cc) Consultation and Stakeholder Event Looking at the Role, Governance and Accountability of the Welsh Town and Community Council Sector (SLCC) (email sent 2/10/2024)
- dd) Invitation to Participate in the Rural Housing Action Guide for Wales Project Online Survey (OVW) (email sent 4/10/2024)
- ee) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Annual Report 2025-2026 (IRPW) (email sent 7/10/2024)
- ff) A please and a thank you (Ammanford Foodbank) (email sent 8/10/2024) – experiencing a shortfall in donations.
- gg) Recruitment, Updates & Great News! (Dyfed-Powys Neighbourhood Watch) (email sent 8/10/2024) New Website : www.gqdpnw.uk.
- hh)CAVS: Bwyd Sir Gâr Food – survey (email sent 9/10/2024) – the questions were answered during the meeting so that the clerk could send the replies as time sensitive.

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

- 10. To discuss and update the Councillor Training Plan to be uploaded onto the website as per Section 67 of the 2021 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act to meet the Council's statutory obligation – Cllr Stacey to email documents to members for their comments (see point 10 of meeting 11/9/2024)**

This item was deferred to the November meeting as Cllr Stacey had sent his apologies.

- 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.** – No correspondence received to date.
- b) **Betws RFC – report to be given by Chris Morgan** – No one attended defer to next meeting as Cllr Emyr Morgan had sent his apologies.

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** – Feedback from the meeting about items from the July meeting at 13 a), 13 b) i), iii) and iv) that were moved to be discussed in the meeting which was to be held on 16 July 2024.

The clerk as not received the minutes from the last meeting, which was held on 16 July 2024, despite requests being made. Cllr Stacey had sent his apologies to this month's meeting.

Betws Park –

- i) Update – Cllr Phillips/Stacey – see points below.

Correspondence received

- a) **Contract extension, 20ft Xmas Tree, prices for a rooted Christmas Tree to be planted in March 2025, Daffodils for drifts in Maesquarre purchase and planting and brambles to be cut back on Pentwyn Road (email sent 16/9/2024)**

The contractor has agreed to the contract extension as waiting on Cllr Stacey for the documents to be checked with Cllr M Jones and shared with all members.

The rooted Christmas tree has been ordered by the contractor.

The daffodils are being sourced by the contractor for Maesquarre playground.

The brambles have been cut back on Pentwyn Road.

- b) **Apply now for a FREE Community Orchard Package (OVW) (email sent 16/9/2024)**
- c) **Emails regarding damage to Pentwyn Steps (emails sent 19/9/2024)**

Cllr M Jones to speak with TRJ to see if they can assist with repairing the damage to the large Pentwyn Road steps area in Betws Park (coping stones etc) and gaps/holes on a step on the smaller Pentwyn Road need filling in.

The bin at the bottom of the smaller Pentwyn Road steps needs replacing as the lid has broken. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk ask the contractor if he can relocate the red bin that is near the river by Park Street, however, if it won't fit to purchase a new bin if required as recommended by the contractor.

d) Strategy meeting for the Local Places for Nature Showcase Event at Y Senedd. (OVW) (email sent 23/9/2024)

Cllrs Stacey and Derrick have sent their apologies to this meeting therefore no update is available.

e) Emails regarding moped being ridden in Betws Park Thursday 19/9/24 between 17:30 and 18:30 (emails sent 23/9/2024)

The clerk and Cllr Derrick reported the incident to the neighbourhood policing team. The PCSO's earlier in the meeting informed members that the person had been spoken to by the police.

f) Various emails from Volunteer Group

g) Christmas Tree (email sent 27/9/2024)

h) Heno S4C - Filming at Betws Park (email sent 30/9/2024)

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

ii) Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes –

The clerk had contacted the Probation Service and the supervisor who had been on long term absence has returned to work recently and will be getting the team to continue to paint the railings in Betws Park weather permitting starting in the next month as there are other unfinished tasks that they have committed to.

The Probation Service have been painting inside Betws RFC in the last week.

Cllr Comley has the missing railings and will be repairing and replacing them using a slightly narrower angle iron to the original.

b) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update –

i) Annual Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to update- details in Rec Meeting minutes of 16 July 2024.

ii) New cradle swings ? installed – waiting for swings to be replaced by Cllr Derrick prior to contractor being able to attach new cradles. Cllr Derrick sent his apologies and the swings had not been replaced to date.

iii) Feedback from Cllrs Derrick regarding the Castle/Tema unit repairs – parts ordered waiting for delivery and installation.

iv) MYB grant for Maesquarre Phase 2 and Sustainable Communities Fund Round 4 – Cllr Phillips – updated earlier at point 4. 5. in the County Councillors report. Cllr Phillips is liaising with the contractor regarding obtaining quotations for equipment for both grants.

v) Rynat Certificates update ref training for 2 Councillors in April 2024

(email sent 30/8/2024) – the clerk has been in contact with the clerk for Llandybie who had arranged the training and the company who worked alongside the trainer who passed away unexpectedly with regard to obtaining the necessary certificates for the councillors who received the Playground Operational training, no certification has been received to date.

Correspondence received

a) Children's park next to Ffordd Y Glowyr estate (email sent 16/9/2024)

b) Grass Play Field - Heol Y Felin (Adjacent to Betws Rugby Club) – goal nets (email sent 25/9/2024)

c) **Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr James – update on his checks of the finance files and folders – all are kept in a methodical manner and are in order. A meeting is to be convened prior to the next monthly meeting in November to discuss Precept calculations.

d) **Community Engagement and Events Committee** – Cllr Allchurch – Remembrance and Christmas Lighting event

As Cllr Allchurch has requested and been approved for absence Cllr James will purchase the mince pies etc for the Christmas Lighting Event. Discussion regarding items that could be purchased for the event ensued.

Ammanford Town Council have a marquee available for the community council to borrow for the event on Wednesday 4th December 2024. The clerk is to contact the contractor and invite to the event and ask if he would also collect, erect it by 4pm and disassemble on the day after the event.

The clerk is to contact Cllr Macbeth to see if he can source arc lights for the event.

The clerk is to contact Cllr Stacey to see if he can source a microphone for both the Remembrance Service as it was difficult to hear the poems being read last year and for the Christmas Lighting event.

Cllr Williams to confirm the time that the school children can attend so that the start time can be agreed.

The clerk is to send the invitations as usual for the Remembrance Service and place adverts into Gloman and SW Guardian.

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 - to be re-visited once the new contracts and recreation ground management plan has been completed as per F and G below.

f) **New Contracts for 1 April 2024 working group** – update – ref playground and grounds maintenance contracts - Cllr Phillips/Jones/Stacey – waiting for documents to be shared by Cllr Stacey with members for their comments prior to approval.

g) **Draft documents** for the new contracts to be approved by council to enable to the clerk to send out the documents to the 3 companies who have given their expressions of interest regarding F and G – Cllr Jones/Stacey

Due to Cllr Stacey sending his apologies to the meeting points f) and g) above have been deferred to the November meeting. Cllr M Jones is waiting for the contracts to be sent to him by Cllr Stacey so that he can check them over prior to them being sent to all councillors for checking and then need approval at the next meeting in November. The clerk will then be able to send out the tender documents late November/early December to those who expressed an interest so that they can be returned prior to the January meeting and be reported in the January or February meeting as the new contracts are to commence on 1st April 2025.

Next meeting is Wednesday 13th November 2024.

The meeting Closed at 20:47.