

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 October 2025 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.

PRESENT: Cllr Dave Stacey (Chairperson), Carwyn James, Louise Waring, Peter Comley, Maureen Williams, Betsan Jones and Karen McMinn-Davies.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: not present

The meeting started at 19:10

1. Public Questions/Representations

None

2. a) Apologies and Vacancies

Cllrs James Derrick, Mike Jones

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

The chair brought forward point 12. c. i), iii), iv) and 7. e) /12. b) vi)

12.c. i) Cllr Comley informed members that he has had computer issues and will send the clerk the checks once sorted. He is also waiting on Cllr Derricks checks.

12.c.iv) Cllr Comley had sourced chainlink fencing for £80 however the gauge was too light he therefore requested that the budget be increased to get the heavier gauge this was agreed by members. He also informed that he and Cllr Derrick will be installing and that they are working on getting a bar to stop the wire being squashed down.

12. c. iii) Cllr Derrick has got a quote for the grass mats which are needed to do the repairs in Heol Y Felin. The clerk informed members that she had got a price for some grass mats from Playrite who manufacture them.

7.e)/12.b)vi) Cllr Comley informed members that he'd spoken to a contact regarding prices and installation of the proposed memorial stone in Betws Park. He explained that 2 pillars would need to be built and he had someone to do that, then a slab on top and plinth at the bottom with a granite slab (colour to be decided) in the middle. The costs to the council would be the bricks,

slab, plinth and the granite which would cost £200-£300 the engraving of the names would be done for free by his contact. He estimated the total cost to be £700-£800.

Discussion ensued and a site meeting will be held once the clerk has received the list of names from Major Ken Burton who had made the proposal to the Council earlier in the year.

Cllr Comley left the meeting at 19:30.

4. County Councillor Report

1. Update regarding the issues with a bin that had been missing/removed from the Maesquarre Road end of the footpath 6/6 which leads to Colonel Road. It has not been replaced to date. The clerk has also sent an email to the appropriate department at CCC asking for the bin to be replaced.
2. Regarding the proposed double yellow lines to be placed on the left-hand side of the junction as you exit Colonel Road onto Betws Road. She informed members that notices have not yet been placed near the area and will contact the highways department to chase and enquire when the notices will be going up.
3. The Brambles have been cut back that were coming through the railings on Pentwyn Road from the end of Rice Road to No 23 Pentwyn Road.
4. Update given about the information board in Betws Park that has the local footpaths on – still ongoing waiting for a map to be found that shows the footpaths and bridleways for the area.
5. Some brambles on the pavement in Ffordd Y Glowyr which leads to LBS were reported and have been cut back.
6. Go Safe speed monitoring has been put on Betws Road near Pant Y Betws and are currently waiting for the results. Still waiting for the equipment to be put on Mountain Road to monitor the traffic.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes of the Annual and Monthly Meetings held on 10th September 2025

Councillor B Jones proposed, and Councillor Waring seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 10th September 2025 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

Crimes for July 2025 = 14

Violence and Sexual Offences = 8, ASB = 2, Drugs = 2, Other Theft = 2

Crimes for August 2025 = 16

Violence and Sexual Offences = 7, Shoplifting = 3, ASB = 2, Public Order = 2

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 October 2025			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
8/10/2025 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)
8/10/2025 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
8/10/2025 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
8/10/2025 point 7a	Mr Andrew Williams (Betws Park Volunteer Group)	Wild flower seeds for Betws Park Nature area Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£87.50
8/10/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Qtr 2 Invoice – Betws Park Maintenance and general upkeep of Betws Park (as per management plan) Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£3,471.50 £ 694.30 VAT £4,165.80

8/10/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Qtr 2 Invoice – Heol Y Felin Playground/Green Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£370.00 £ 74.00 VAT £444.00
8/10/2025 point 7a	Wrenvale	Qtr 2 Invoice – Maesquarre Playground/Park Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£490.00 £ 98.00 VAT £588.00
8/10/2025 point 7a	Carmarthenshire County Council	Annual Playground Inspection for Heol Y Felin Playground	£ 85.00 £ 17.00 VAT £102.00
8/10/2025 point 7a	Betws Park Volunteer Group	Annual Public Liability Insurance cover	£89.60.

It was proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor McMinn-Davies 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 for support - Urdd – (email sent 30/9/2025)

After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr James that £100 be donated to the Urdd to support the Local Cylch in the Betws/Ammanford area this was seconded by Cllr B Jones and agreed by all present. **RESOLVED** the clerk pay the donation.

c) Audit – External Audit – result

The chair read out the audit report the next steps will be actioned in due course for next year's audit. This was **NOTED** by all present.

d) To discuss and agree the precept for 2026 – 2027

After a short discussion and a proposal to have £5k as a sinking fund for Betws Park per annum and £5k as a sinking fund for both Heol Y Felin Playground and Green and Maesquarre Playground.

It was proposed by Cllr Waring and seconded by Cllr Williams that once the changes were actioned that the precept for 2026-2027 be increased by £5k to £67,000.

e) Memorial Garden quotes – this was discussed at above between point 3 and 4.

8. Planning Applications –

The following applications were received:

PL/09897 - Verge at Betws Park Workshops, Park Street, Ammanford - Construction and operation of a micro energy storage project - Consultation 24/9/2025 – 15/10/2025

After a short discussion no objections were given **RESOLVED** the clerk to inform CCC.

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn: None

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

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

- a) **Notification of Application for a Licence: Mc Donalds, Tesco Car Park, Ammanford (CCC) (email sent 16/9/2025)**
- b) **Welsh Government Community Facilities Programme (CCC) (email sent 16/9/2025)**
- c) **Ammanford Foodbank (email sent 16/9/2025)**
- d) **Help us be ready for Autumn’s challenges - Ammanford Foodbank (email sent 16/9/2025)**
- e) **Your Biodiversity Team at One Voice Wales (email sent 19/9/2025)**
- f) **Bureau Newsletter (CCC) (emails sent 19/9/2025)**
- g) **Invitation: Dyfed-Powys Police Headquarters Open Doors Events (OPCC) (email sent 19/9/2025)**
- h) **One Voice Wales E Bulletin issue 9 (email sent 19/9/2025)**
- i) **Ammanford Schoolbank - Your skills could help our charity thrive (email sent 22/9/2025)**
- j) **Webinars - Keep Wales Tidy (OVW) (email sent 23/9/2025)**
- k) **2025 Actif Carmarthenshire Sports Awards (CCC) (email sent 23/9/2025)**
- l) **Wales 20mph 2nd anniversary (email sent 23/9/2025)**
- m) **Hate Crime Awareness Week 2025 FREE Open Training (CCC) (email 23/9/2025)**
- n) **Submission of the Draft Annual Remuneration Report 2026–27 (email sent 26/9/2025)**
- o) **Cancelled Conference and AGM 1st October 2025 (OVW) (email sent 26/9/2025)**
- p) **Community Council Appeal: Project Update (Wales Air Ambulance) (email sent 26/9/2025)**
- q) **IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 26/9/2025)**
- r) **Future of Minor Injury Unit at Prince Philip Hospital decided (Hywel Dda) (email sent 29/9/2025)**
- s) **Ammanford Food Bank - Join us Friday 3rd October for our Choir Concert – plus new ways to get involved! (email sent 30/9/2025)**
- t) **Policy advice and resources (OVW) (email sent 30/9/2025)**
- u) **Carmarthenshire Digital Inclusion Fund (CCC) (email sent 1/10/2025)**
- v) **Written Statement Welsh Government (OVW) (email sent 3/10/2025)**
- w) **Town & Community Councils update (CCC) (email sent 3/10/2025)**
- x) **Carmarthenshire - Review of Electoral Arrangements - Notice of Draft Proposal Report Publication (CCC) (email sent 3/10/2025)**
- y) **E Bulletin Issue 10 (OVW) (email sent 3/10/2025)**
- z) **Breaking Barriers: Hate Crime Webinar (OPCC) (email sent 3/10/2025)**
- aa) **Invitation: Dyfed-Powys Police Headquarters Open Doors Events – Councillor (OPCC) (email sent 6/10/2025)**
- bb) **Calon Tân: Autumn 2025 Edition (OVW) (email sent 8/10/2025)**
- cc) **Webinars - Keep Wales Tidy (OVW) (email sent 8/10/2025)**

- dd) **Votes at 16 - media training for young people (OVW) (email sent 8/10/2025)**
- ee) **Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme now open (OVW) (email sent 8/10/2025)**
- ff) **One Voice Wales - Section 6 Report Online Workshops (email sent 8/10/2025)**

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

Cllr Stacey will assist Councillors B Jones and James in setting up their new account.

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) Response received regarding both issues (email sent 7/5/2025 + draft to Dave 20/6/2025, email sent to solicitors 10/7/2025 awaiting response, 18/7/2025 ref surveyor visit 28/7/2025, invoice received 21/8/2025) (22/9/2025 and 26/9/2025) –** The clerk updated members on the progress that has been made with regards to the land issues.
- b) **Betws RFC – (if any correspondence received) –** none received
- c) **Annual Lease check for 2024/2025 to be completed –** Dave and Emyr completed on Saturday 15 February 2025. To Do - Dave - Report required to be sent to the Clerk and Insurance to check. Issues lift certificate required for the 6 monthly checks and emergency exit stairs (2 or 3) need repair 2/3rds of the way up. Email sent to Emyr 14/7/25 suggesting he contact CCC as there is a lift in Ammanford Library and they could use the same contractor to check their lift every 6 months. The clerk spoke with Emyr who had opened the club for the meeting who said that he's not had a response from the committee regarding the email I'd sent him. It is important that they get these health and safety issues resolved – Still waiting for an update from the RFC, Cllr Stacey has received the Insurance Certificate, and this will be forwarded to the clerk.

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):

- a) **Recreation Ground Committee –** Feedback from the meeting Tuesday 30 September 2025 – Cllr M Jones has drafted a development plan and it will be brought to the November meeting once typed up Cllr Stacey is working on it.

Clerk to contact the contractor regarding the revised cost of £350 for planting daffodil bulbs in Heol Y Felin around the trees as per the minutes of the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr McMinn-Davies.

b) Betws Park –

i) Update - Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – the painting work is ongoing with the probation service although weather and their workload impacts. Cllr Comley will chase – no update given.

ii) Update – Simple Metal structure in Nature area (email sent 19/2/2025) reply regarding its construction (email sent 19/3/2025, 21/3/2025)(4/4/2025)

(12/4/2025) (3/7/2025) - the clerk received the licence via email today and has printed and brought to the meeting so that it can be signed by both the Chair and the clerk before returning it to CCC. Once the process is complete CCC will inform the clerk of when the installation of the metal structure and metal shipping container can take place. Update by Cllr Betsan Jones the ground preparations are being done for the structures as agreed by CCC Licence. To be installed.

iii) Update - Missing trees from central avenue Betws park/ (Betws Park Volunteers)(email sent 13/1/2025) – emailed Stephen Edwards/Paul Cleaver 13/2/2025. Room for 2 trees but not where old trees were type TBC as wet Area. Types of Trees (see email sent 2/4/2025) email sent to Hilliers 22/4/2025. Reply received (email sent 7/5/2025, 25/6/2025, 26/6/2025) – Cllr Jones – Delivery address and timing of delivery to be ascertained, clerk to email contact at Hilliers once done. Email sent to Hilliers 15/7/2025 – The contractor informed the clerk earlier this evening that the trees have been delivered today 8/10/2025 and will be planted next week.

iv) Update – Request 10ft long x 8ft wide x 7ft high container at nature area – Volunteer Group (email sent 18/3/2025) Permission being sought from CCC various emails (1/4/2025) and (12/4/2025, 16/4/2025, 22/4/2025, 24/4/2025) and (13/5/2025, 19/5/2025, 20/5/2025, 23/5/2025, 2/6/2025, 3/6/2025, 4/6/2025, 18/6/2025) (3/7/2025) – see ii) above. This has now been installed and the clerk needs to contact CCC as agreed in the licence. It has already been broken into and consideration for signage to be placed informing of CCTV being in operation – Cllr Stacey/Waring.

v) Update regarding site meeting 16/6/2025 regarding the Betws Park Information board (seen previously under correspondence Fw: 250514 - Sign enquiry | Betws Park Information board (email sent 23/5/2025) – see 4. 4. Above in the County Councillors report.

vi) Review suggestion of a Memorial Stone for BP by Major Ken Burton discussed in June/July meetings. – discussed between point 3 and 4 as per point 7. e)/12.b)vi) above

Correspondence received

1. Quote for Christmas Tree for Betws Park (email sent 16/9/2025)

After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr B Jones that the contractor supply and erect and decorate the 20ft tree for £280. This was seconded by Cllr James and agreed by all present. Clerk to contact the contractor.

2. Notice board at park (BP Volunteer Group) (email sent 16/9/2025) – the overhanging tree branches that were obstructing the noticeboard have been cut back.

c) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground

i) Fortnightly Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick to commence from 1st April 2025 as contractor has retired – Feedback from Councillors regarding their first fortnightly checks – discussed between point 3 – 4 above

ii) Update on Inclusive Roundabout – issues with installation

(emails sent 2/6/2025, 3/6/2025, 17/6/2025 + 10/7/2025, 18/7/2025) – After discussion the Chair will contact Sutcliffe Play regarding the issues – email sent this evening once discussed by members.

iii) Heol Y Felin wet pour issues – quotes for repair and renewal as per site meeting on 9/7/2025. – Emroch quotes for repair and renewal. Cllr Derrick doing repairs – update - discussed between point 3 – 4 above

iv) Chain link fencing along Colonel Road requires fixing as sagging – Cllr M Jones – discussed between point 3 – 4 above

Correspondence received

- d) **Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr James
- e) **Community Engagement and Events Committee** – A wet weather plan has been put in place for the Christmas Lighting Event which will commence at 5pm on 3 December 2025 with Betws RFC being used should it be necessary.

The weather forecast will be followed, and the clerk will contact the contractor who collects and erects the gazebo on the day of the event which will be borrowed from Ammanford Town Council as if it is raining it will not be required. Clerk to liaise with the Chair Cllr Stacey on this.

- f) **Toolkit working group** - work in progress - Cllr Stacey informed members that he has worked through part A and plans to complete one section per month.

Next meeting **Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 19:00.**

The meeting Closed at 20:40