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 14th October 2026 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 Carwyn James (Chairperson), Karen McMinn-Davies, Paul Griffiths, Mike Jones, Betsan Jones, Louise Waring with James Derrick attending online and Peter Comley arrived at 19:08.

Major Ken Burton and Maureen Williams

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present.

The meeting started at 19:01

Cllr James welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting.

1. Public Questions/Representations

i) Update on the Betws School Remembrance Project - Maureen Williams and Major Ken Burton

Major Burton informed members that he had been to Betws Park Memorial area with Cllr Comley and Mr Gimlett the stonemason to discuss the siting of the new memorial in granite and updating the older plaques. Mr Gimlett is doing this free of charge for the community. The format was discussed of the with the wording being all in Welsh as it would have been the language that was spoken at that time in history.

Major Burton has been working with Betws Primary school children on producing the wreaths that will represent each fallen soldier. These will be displayed during the week of 2nd November on the houses where the fallen soldiers resided within Betws. Plaques for these wreaths are being produced locally for all the soldiers, with another resident making the frame for each plaque free of charge and the wood has been donated by LBS, Betws for this to be done. A few plaques where the residence of the fallen cannot be confirmed will be erected in the Assembly Hall at Betws Primary School. Those who have donated for this project will be invited to an opening ceremony which will have press and TV coverage the date is to be confirmed. The wreaths are now full size so therefore the donation that was agreed previously needs amending as it is now 21 x £30 = £630. It was proposed by Cllr Waring and seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present that the Council donate the cost of the wreaths for the school project. The centres are being designed by the children at Betws Primary School which will have a QR code too. The children are also recording the research they've done and found out about each of the fallen soldiers which will be accessed via the QR code on each wreath.

Maureen Williams informed members that a trail had been mapped around the village which is 7 miles long. On Monday evening 9th November 2026 a Remembrance walk will be led by Mr A Williams around this new trail. He will also lead a second walk around the trail after the Remembrance Service which will be held on Wednesday 11th November 2026.

The Order of Service was confirmed clerk to make the changes and forward to those taking part.
Cllrs Comley and Griffiths will set up the BRFC sound system at the Memorial area for the school children who will be reading a poem at the service.

Cllr James will attend the Ammanford Remembrance service at All Saints in his capacity of Chair of the Community Council. Cllr B Jones will attend in her capacity of County Councillor to represent Carmarthenshire County Council.

2. a) Apologies (to be given to the clerk prior to the meeting)

Dave Stacey

b) Vacancies

i) Co-option request (email sent 7/10/2026)

It was proposed by Cllr McMinn-Davies and seconded by Cllr M Jones that Jayne Grazette be co-opted onto the Council and agreed by all present.
Clerk to inform and invite to the next meeting in November.

2 Vacancies remain with Local Council elections May 2027.

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

At 19:27 Councillor Derrick left the meeting as unwell.

4. County Councillor Report

1. Members informed that she is still chasing up the Pentwyn Road speed monitoring results.
2. She is also chasing up about why the Maesquarre Road speed monitoring equipment has not yet been installed.
3. She also contacted a resident who wanted to know about the Pentwyn Road speed monitoring results, the clerk had forwarded an email received to her.
4. Complaint received regarding the bin on Betws Road always being full and smelling.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes Monthly Meeting held on 9th September 2026

Councillor Comley proposed that an amendment be placed on page 7 regarding the subletting of Betws RFC under the terms of the lease to clarify the Community Council's position, and this was seconded by Councillor M Jones and agreed by all present.

An apology had been given by SW Guardian for the incorrect article.

Councillor M Jones proposed and Councillor Comley seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 9th September 2026 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

Cllr Comley asked if point 12. b) and c) could be brought forward to this point in the meeting as he would need to leave early this evening.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

<u>Crimes for July 2026 = 21</u>

ASB = 5, Shoplifting = 5, Violence and Sexual Offences = 5, All other crimes = 6

Crimes for August 2026 = 9

Shoplifting = 4, Violence and Sexual Offences = 4, Public Order = 1

The link for Betws ward below.

Betws | Police.uk (www.police.uk)

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 October 2026			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
14/10/2026 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)
14/10/2026 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
14/10/2026 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
14/10/2026 point 7a and 9/9/2026 point 12. b) correspondence received vii)	D G Davies Plant Hire	Road Towable Chipper day hire for Betws Park Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£75 VAT £15 **Total £90**

14/10/2026 point 7a and 9/9/2026 point 12. c) iii)	Firstfence	1.8m high mesh fencing, fixings, posts and post kit, touch up paint, screw bit and delivery charge Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£962.10 VAT£192.42 **Total £1,154.52**
14/10/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Maesquarre Park Qtr 2 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£509.60 VAT £101.92 **Total £611.52**
14/10/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Heol Y Felin Park Qtr 2 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£384.80 VAT£ 76.96 **Total £461.76**
14/10/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Betws Park Qtr 2 Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£3,610.36 VAT £ 722.07 **Total £4,332.43**
14/10/2026 point 7a	Reimburse Cllr Waring	Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water application form and site visit to Betws Park fee Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	**£206.47**
14/10/2026 point 7a	Reimburse Cllr Comley	New defibrillator pads for Betws RFC as out of date LGA 1972 s.133	£39.60 Delivery £9.99 VAT £9.92 **Total £59.51**

14/10/2026 point 7a	Betws Park Volunteer Group	Annual Public Liability Insurance Cover Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	**£112**
			Total £7,028.21

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths 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) Angor (emails x2 sent 29/92026) – It was proposed by Cllr Waring and seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present that no donation be made. Clerk to inform requestor.
ii) Wales Air Ambulance – It was proposed by Cllr McMinn-Davies that £100 be donated with no proposed amendments this was seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present. Clerk to inform requestor.
iii) Cefnogi/Ammanford Food Bank – It was proposed by Cllr B Jones that £500 be donated with no proposed amendments this was seconded by Cllr Waring and agreed by all present. Clerk to inform requestor.

c) External Audit 1/4/2025 – 31/3/2026 – no result received to date or response to enquiry emails sent.

d) To agree the Precept Budget Calculations for 2027-2028 – After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present that the Precept Budget Calculations of £72,000 be accepted for 2027 – 2028. The document was signed by the Chair and Clerk.

e) Grant Applications – Betsan Jones – this will be moved to the November meeting.

Cllr Comley left the meeting at 20:20

Cllr McMinn-Davies suggested that the meetings start earlier in the evening as she had to leave at 20:27

8. Planning Applications

The following applications were received:

PL/11344 – Detached two storey building to accommodate 4 short term holiday lets (Class C6) - Plough And Harrow, 52 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE
– Consultation date 10/9/2026 – 1/10/2026

PL/11313 – The installation of an in-line amplifier to support a fibre optic connection. The equipment comprises; 2no. equipment cabins; 2no. emergency back-up power generators, 1no. electricity meter cabinet; improved access track, compound fencing and ancillary development thereto – Land Southwest of Heol Dwr and A474 Junction, Glanaman, Ammanford – Consultation date 30/9/2026 – 21/10/2026

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/11251 – Siting of static caravan within residential curtilage as ancillary residential accommodation - Bleu Stone, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford, SA18 2PB - CLOPUD – Approval 23/9/2026

PL/11227 - Construction and operation of a micro energy storage project Discharge of Condition 9 on PL/10513 (Battery Safety Management Plan BSMP) - Verge at Betws Park, Park Street, Ammanford - Discharge of Condition refused 29/9/2026

PL/11267 - Discharge of Condition 8 on PL/09203 (External Lighting Details) - Plough and Harrow, 52 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE - Discharge of Condition refused 29/9/2026

The above applications were **NOTED** by Council.

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

a) **Ammanford Extravaganza (Ammanford Town Council) (email sent 14/9/2026)**
b) **2030 Review (Democracy and Boundary Commission) (email sent 14/9/2026)**
c) **Biodiversity Packages 2026-2027 (OVW) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
d) **Model Standing Orders 2026 update (OVW) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
e) **Bureau Newsletter (CCC) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
f) **Funding opportunities for Young People (CCC) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
g) **PCC Bulletin (OPCC) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
h) **Amended Practice Development Note Martyn's Law (OVW) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
i) **Clinical Services Plan – Stroke Services: conscientious consideration of feedback (Hywel Dda) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
j) **Summer update (HoWLTA) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
k) **IMPORTANT REQUEST FROM NATIONAL LOTTERY SUPPORTED BY ONE VOI CE WALES. (OVW) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
l) **Funding opportunities for Sport - London Marathon Foundation - The LGBT+ Fund: Get Active Fund (CCC) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
m) **Carmarthenshire Area Committee 5.10.26 (OVW) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
n) **One Voice Wales E Bulletin Issue 30 (OVW) (email sent 18/9/2026)**
o) **Funding Opportunities for Environment (CCC) (email sent 25/9/2026)**
p) **Perthyn Grants for Communities (DPP) (email sent 25/9/2026)**
q) **Free Digital Health Checks (CCC) (emails sent 25/9/2026)**
r) **Carmarthenshire Civil Contingencies Volunteer Seminar Pentre Awel Llanelli 22nd of October (CCC) (email sent 25/9/2026)**
s) **Llais monthly newsletter (email sent 25/9/2026)**
t) **Changes to Governance and National Executive Committee Arrangements (OVW) (email sent 25/9/2026)**
u) **Funding available for schools, sports clubs and community groups across Wales (Codi Trust) (email sent 25/9/2026)**
v) **Town and Community Councils Update (CCC) (email sent 25/9/2026)**
w) **Funding Opportunities (CCC) (email sent 29/9/2026)**
x) **Publication of the Draft Annual Remuneration Report 2026–27 (Democracy and Boundary Commission) (email sent 29/9/2026)**
y) **Thursday 15th October is "Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae Day" (CCC) (email sent 29/9/2026)**

z) **Pentwyn speed issue (email sent 1/10/2026 and 7/10/2026)**
aa) **E BULLETIN (OVW) (email sent 7/10/2026)**
bb) **Welsh Government: Vision for Culture & Sport in Wales – Call for Evidence (email sent 7/10/2026)**
cc) **Ways into Work Events, Autumn 2026 (CCC) (email sent 7/10/2026)**
dd) **Big Belly success in Margam Park - Opportunities for Community & Town Councils (OVW) (email sent 7/10/2026)**
ee) **Nominate your local sporting hero - Actif Sports Awards (CCC) (email sent 13/102026)**
ff) **Temporary road closure: Argoed Road, Ammanford SA18 2PR (Causeway.One: 152976044) (CCC) (email sent 13/10/2026)**
gg) **Community Resilience Assessment Questionnaire - action required (OVW) (email sent 13/10/2026)**
hh) **Civil Contingencies Voluntary Sector Conference (CCC) (email sent 13/10/2026)**

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 26/92025)** –
i) update ref boundary – Clerk – Wrenvale have not installed the boundary fence to date – message received giving apologies.
ii) Betws RFC subletting the upstairs area – emails received from Wildboar regarding an article in the SW Guardian which Cllr Comley informed members that the newspaper had placed an apology due to incorrect information being published. Cllr Griffiths informed members that Wildboar have since found an alternative venue for their business.

b) **Betws RFC – (if any correspondence received)** – Cllr Comley informed members that the battery for the defibrillator at the RFC didn't cost £80 but he found a cheaper one for £59.51 and he will be reimbursed for this. He informed members that the batteries for the other 3 defibrillators run out in 2027 and will need renewing.

The clerk had been contacted by a person from Ammanford Lyons who also contacted Cllr Comley regarding the bleed packs. It seems that Heartbeat Wales are placing them in all defibrillators in the area and the community council no longer need to purchase them. Heartbeat Wales also monitor the expiry dates etc to on their database.

c) **Annual Lease check for 2024/2025 to be completed** – Dave and Emyr completed on Saturday 15 February 2025. **(email sent 24/7/2026).**
i)To Do - Dave - Report required to be sent to the Clerk and Insurance to check **(email sent 24/7/2026).**
ii) Issue lift certificate required for the 6 monthly checks – Cllr Griffiths made a note of this and will contact the chair to see where they are with this requirement.
iii)Annual lease check for 2025/2026 to be completed – Cllr Stacey – (email sent 24/7/2026)
Cllr Stacey was not present at the meeting to update.

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 –

b) Betws Park –

i) Update - Betws Park railings – Cllr Comley if any changes – There are logistical and staffing issues with the Probation Service contact however there is now a new contact so he's hoping things will move forward. He'd been contacted and they were due out but needed paint, which was not in stock, but they were unable to attend on the day they'd arranged.

ii) Review suggestion of a Memorial Stone for BP by Major Ken Burton discussed in June/July meetings - update Cllr Comley – See above at the start of the meeting.

iii) Water for Betws Park, Park St, Betws – Update - Cllr James – Cllr Waring liaised with Dwr Cymru regarding the water connection initial site survey which she found to only be a report that is generated for the fee paid and no actual site visit they look at maps for the relevant area, google maps etc. They had sent an incorrect invoice for Betws Y Coed not Betws which was eventually corrected by them. Cllr Waring to be reimbursed see email 12/10/2026.

iv) Betws Park Volunteer Group – (if any correspondence received) – Mike Millward – none received

v) Chipping of fallen tree by smaller Pentwyn Road Steps – Cllr Comley informed members that this had been actioned.

vi) Quote for new metal bin and installation at front of Betws Park due to someone damaging the on in situ – Cllr Derrick - Quote for the new bin approved this was proposed by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr B Jones and approved by all present.

vii) Quote for bollards and installation on Pentwyn Road main steps to prevent cyclists – Cllr Derrick - Cllr Derrick informed members that the bollards may not work so it was proposed to monitor the situation this was seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present.

<u>Correspondence received</u>

i) Request to plant a tree in memory of late father in Betws Park (phonecall received 21/7/2026) (email sent 21/7/2026, 24/7/2026) – Clerk has had no response from the requestor.

ii) Bins need emptying /tree branches still on side path (email sent 16/9/2026, 17/9/2026, 19/9/2026)

iii)Trees still on slope and paths (emails sent 22/9/2026,23/9/2026) – see 12. b) v) above

iv) Proposal for a statue (email sent 25/9/2026) – Cllr Waring informed members that this was sent as a prank and has spoken to the sender.

v) Betws: a live data page for the council's section 6 reporting (email sent 25/9/2026)

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

c) Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground – update – Cllr Comley updated members regarding the Annual Playground Inspection Reports that had been circulated by the clerk there are 2 items that need attention which are classed as moderate risk the remaining findings are low risk for both playgrounds and Council need to take a view on these. He will also prune the tree branches of a few trees on the Green which are encroaching into the car park along the entrance into the RFC.

i) Some hexagonal bolts have been removed. Cllr Derrick informed members that he may have some to replace them with – still to be actioned
ii)Cllr Comley informed members that the wire rope has snapped and needs replacing. The Council have an account with Kompan.

i) Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick – none received from Cllr Derrick as present online.

ii) Update on Inclusive Roundabout – issues with original installation – Cllr Comley/Cllr M Jones update regarding progress – Cllr Comley informed members that he had spoken to Roy and sent Sutcliffe's a copy of the findings in the Annual Playground Inspection report so that they can resolve the ongoing issues. He also informed members that the same roundabout at Gorslas had been condemned. He was waiting for a response.

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 – Cllr Comely updated members the fencing has been delivered he is waiting for Cllr Derrick to help him replace the fencing.
iv) Annual Playground Inspection Reports received (email sent 8/10/2026)

Correspondence received

d) Finance and Staffing Committee – Cllr James – see above in point 7c and 7d.
e) Community Engagement and Events Committee – Cllr McMinn-Davies – Christmas Lighting Event 4th December 2026 - update
i) Remembrance Services Sunday 8/11/2026 Ammanford Town and Wednesday 11/11/2026 at Betws Park – update –
a) collection of wreaths – Cllr James will collect for the services
b) order of service to confirm – this was confirmed at the start with Major K Burton update.
ii) Erection of Betws Park Christmas Tree – Wrenvale will erect on 16/11/2026 Cllr Waring will have the lights to give to them to place on the tree. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Waring that 4 sets of outdoor lights be purchased as discussed for Betws Park with 2 sets potentially being used at Heol Y Felin on some of the trees. And sets of green lights be purchased for the Christmas Tree that will be planted in Heol Y Felin. This was agreed by all present. Cllr Stacey has a set of unused Christmas lights; Cllr M Jones has one set of functioning Christmas lights that were taken off the tree last year.
ii)to approve the quotation received from Wrenvale for a rooted 12ft Christmas Tree for Heol Y Felin this year's 20ft Christmas Tree – Nordman Fir it was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr M Jones that a 12ft rooted Nordman Fir tree be planted in Heol Y Felin as per the quote received for the purchase of tree. Fees for planting and placing lights on TBC as not on the quote. Clerk to inform the contractor.

Cllr B Jones left the meeting at 21:00.

Next meeting **Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 19:00**.

The meeting Closed at 21:14