

DRAFT

Minutes of a meeting of Betws Communtiy Council, held at Betws Rugby Club and online on 28th Sept 2022

Present: Dave Stacey (Chair), Mike Jones, Maureen Williams, Jose Picouto, Carwyn James, Karen McMinn-Davis (arrived 19.10) , Andrew Williams

Attending: Betsan Jones

Apologies: Angela Brown (Clerk), Lynwen Phillips,

1. Public Questions/Representations - None received.

2. Apologies (to be given to the Clerk prior to the meeting).

Angela Brown (Clerk), Lynwen Phillips,

3. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws for July and August 2022

These were noted by members.

4. To receive disclosures of of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

None received

5. Confirm and sign the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th July 2022.

Minutes were reviewed and one point of clarification was noted:

Clarify 7f - Agreement was to pay for the assessment of the costs required to make s decision over the pension NOT to pay for any changes to pension scheme. That decision will come to a future council meeting.

6. County Councillor Report.

-The bin has been placed at the end of footpath 68/11 Maes y Betws. Cllr C James informed Cllr B Jones that the dog fouling signs had not been replaced on the signposts, and that the top part of the footpath gets very muddy. Cllr B Jones said that she would chase these issues up with County Council.

-The plaque has been put on the new bench at Maesquarre Park donated by ex County Councillor John Dorian Evans in memory of the miners that lost their lives.

The new equipment and benches are now in place at the play park in Maesquarre, and it is lovely seeing the Park being used by the children.

-The bench and plaque has been placed in Betws flower park in memory of ex Community Councillor Mrs June Gunter.

Cllr Jones attended the PACT meeting on Monday 26 th of September, She raised concerns regarding an incident in August where a Community Councillor was assaulted by youths on their bikes in the flower Park. The police have not been able to identify the youths involved as yet.

-During the full County Council meeting there was a lot of discussion about the cost of living crisis. The council will set up a scheme 'claim what's yours' so that Carmarthenshire residents know what benefits they can claim.

7. Payments/Invoices Received/Donation Requests/Received

a) VAT/Invoices/receipts for Betws Park Project
Noted and approved

b) Betws RFC rent payment due 25 September 2022
As Peter Comley was not present, this was referred to the next meeting

c) Quotes for tree felling as per Tree Survey Reports
Two quotes had been received, but it was unclear as to why such different amounts had been proposed. It was agreed to refer to the next meeting when the Clerk would be able to provide additional qualification

8. Finance Update

In the absence of the Clerk, it was agreed to move this item to the October meeting.

9. Planning Applications – PL/04361 (Parc Nant Y Felin S106), PL/04371 (Ty Coch S106), PL/04365 (Ty Coch discharge of conditions), PL/03959 (Old Pit Head Baths outline planning refused). Street naming/numbering for 64 dwellings linked to planning application PL/04361 (email sent 8/9/22)

It was noted that PL/04361 was listed twice and was NOT Parc Nant Y Felin, but Maes Melin. Council had no objections.
Other planning updates were noted.

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

a) Covid 19 Survey from Welsh Government What impact did the pandemic have on you? | CHC Wales (engagementhq.com) (sent 5/9/2022)

b) A Fairer Council Tax Consultation, As you will know the Welsh Government has published the consultation, 'A Fairer Council Tax'. This consultation closes on 4 October 2022. One Voice Wales is preparing a response to this consultation.

Both were noted. The Chair commented that he felt unable to respond on behalf of the council, and that we did not currently have the capacity to discuss and respond to such surveys as a matter of course. This was agreed by council.

11. Councillors McMinn-Davies and Phillips to agree a date in September/October 2022 with Betws RFC to check documentation and building inspection as per lease as agreed in the annual meeting in May and report back their findings in the October meeting.

This was noted, and the named councillors will discuss a date with colleagues from the RFC at their earliest convenience.

12. Councillor specific email addresses - update

It was noted that the web interface was now working. Councillors requested additional training, perhaps in person ahead of a future meeting. The chair will discuss with the Clerk.

13. To consider Clerk request for new edition of Arnold Baker reference book due to changes

in legislation £137 required as part of her work and for CiLCA training.

This was approved.

14. Defibrillator Project – update Cllr Comley/Cllr Picouto

15. The following policies need changes and to be agreed/updated/ratified (see policies on the website):

a) Sec 6 Biodiversity Report needs to be reviewed in 2022 and updated version published on the website –

b) Standing Orders

c) Terms of Reference

d) Financial Regulations

a) A draft would be updated by Cllr T Williams - A paper copy was requested to help facilitate this.

b) It was noted that b and d had been updated over the summer by the Chair. Copies will be provided to councillors to consider ahead of the November meeting

c) To be referred for comment to the individual committees

d) See b

16. Heol Y Felin Incident 29/7/2022 – Reports as per email dated 2/9/2022

This was noted by councilors.

It was noted that a request for a report explaining how the incident happened had not yet been received by council. This is to be chased by the Clerk.

17. Playgrounds Annual Inspection reports – as per email dated 22/8/2022

To be considered in the October meeting when the Clerk is present

18. Repairs and Maintenance budgets for Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre swing repairs required in both areas and contractor quotes for repairs to discuss.

To be considered in the October meeting when the Clerk is present

19. Feedback from Committees (all minutes of the Committee Meetings can be viewed on the Community Council Website where the Full Council Meeting minutes are also available):

1. Recreation Ground Committee –

a) Betws Park Project – update Cllr M Jones

An updated on the progress of the park was received. Thanks were noted to Cllrs M Jones and A Williams for their continued work on the project.

The poor state of repair of the concrete steps on the Pentwyn Road entrance was noted by members.

Cllr Picouto will contact someone he knows for a quote for repairs.

b) To consider a request by Ysgol Dyffryn Amman behavioural/well being team to use one of the raised vegetable beds in new Betws Park project area to promote community spirit and enterprise amongst the pupils. (see email 8/9/2022)

This was agreed unanimously

c) Advice from Tree Survey Company re Poplar Tree in Betws Park

This was noted.

d) Maesquarre Playground Project and Grant claim requested – Cllr L Phillips/Clerk
To be considered in the next meeting.

2. Community & Events Committee –

a) Update meeting 6th September 2022.

b) Christmas Lighting project /to discuss the dead Christmas Tree issue – update Cllr M Jones

Quotes for a number of options have been received by Cllr Jones.

It was agreed that these would be referred to the Recreation Committee who would consider the various options and make proposals to the next meeting of the full Council.

20. To continue with discussions/ideas for setting up and content for a Community Newsletter

This item was moved to the October meeting.