

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 September 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), Paul Griffiths, Betsan Jones, Dave Stacey, Mike Jones, Peter Comley, Karen McMinn-Davies with James Derrick attending online and Louise Waring arrived at 19:28.

Harjinder and Harmeet Singh, Julie Hughes and Sally Darrell.

County Councillor: Betsan Jones

Clerk: Miss Angela Brown

PCSO: Not present – apologies given.

The meeting started at 19:10

Cllr James welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting.

1. Public Questions/Representations

None received

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

None

b) Vacancies

3 vacancies remain within this Community Council

3. Declaration by Members of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Griffiths at point 11. a) ii) as he is a member of Betws RFC.

The Chair informed members that he would be bringing forward two points from later in the agenda so that the members of the public present could give their representations regarding point:

12. b) v) request for a memorial bench in Betws Park – discussion regarding the desired location and reasons were given and questions regarding type of bench and installation were answered.

The chair gave his sincere condolences and informed them that the Clerk would inform them of the decision when it is made later in the meeting.

Julie Hughes and Sally Darrell left the meeting at 19:24

11. a) ii) representations from the company “Wildboar” enquiring about subletting the upstairs of Betws RFC who explained their business plan to members – discussion and suggestions were given however, the decision on subletting is ultimately up to the Betws RFC Committee to agree to subletting the upstairs of the club to Harjinder and Harmeet of Wildboar. The Community Council only need to allow under the terms of the lease 3.11.1 and 3.11.2 that they may sublet which will be discussed later in the meeting. The Chair told them that they will be informed by the clerk of the decision regarding permission being granted to Betws RFC for subletting the upstairs of the RFC, the decision will be made later in the meeting.

Harjinder and Harmeet Singh left the meeting at 19:48

4. County Councillor Report

1. The varnishing of the information boards in Betws Park has been done by the contractor.
2. The 2 benches for the footpath viewing area which is above Ffordd Y Glowyr which will be purchased by Betws Community Council as previously agreed with TRJ installing them sometime in the future as the area needs clearing prior and the company will let the County Councillor know when this will be on their schedule of work.
3. The speed measuring equipment has been broken on Pentwyn Road.
4. In September there will be speed monitoring equipment on Maesquarre Road as 3 different homes have complained to her regarding the speeding. The County Councillor informed members that the course of action is to report any speeding to the police and go.safe.org. Carmarthenshire County Council place speed monitoring equipment at locations once they have sufficient reports from the police and go safe.
5. Update regarding the Mynydd Y Betws Grants they had £92,000 and £126,941.00 in applications last year and Betws village had 2. The next round of grant application will not begin until the end of September 2027.

It was proposed by Cllr Waring that Councillors bring a wish list to the next meeting with ideas for projects so that a decision can be made on planning and prioritising the suggestions. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed by all present.

A second proposal was made by Cllr B Jones about having a working group to action grants and Cllrs Waring, McMinn-Davies, B Jones and M Jones will be on this group. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed by all present.

5. To confirm and Sign the Minutes Monthly Meeting held on 8th July 2026

Discussion regarding a complaint received regarding the July minutes and subsequent advice from OVW.

Cllr Stacey proposed to amend the wording of the minutes on page 2 to statement of fact. This was seconded by Cllr McMinn-Davies and agreed by all present unanimously.

It was proposed by Cllr McMinn-Davies that a letter of response be drafted in the meeting which would be forwarded to the Chair to send to the complainant. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed unanimously by members.

Councillor Stacey proposed, and Councillor Griffiths seconded and resolved that the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting held on 8th July 2026 be accepted as a true record and approved by all present.

6. Dyfed Powys Police Monthly Crime Figures for Betws

Crimes for June 2026 = 14

Violence and Sexual Offences = 8, Other Theft = 3, Criminal Damage and Arson = 2, ASB = 1

The link for Betws ward below.

[Betws | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://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 August 2026			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
9/9/2026 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)
9/9/2026 point 7a	HMRC	Payroll payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
9/9/2026 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
9/9/2026 point 7a and 8/7/2026 at point 12.c) i)	JJ's Property Maintenance and Improvements	Maesquarre Playground equipment maintenance as per inspections. Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£2,038.78

It was proposed by Councillor Stacey and seconded by Councillor M Jones and agreed by all present that the above payments are authorised, and it was **RESOLVED** that the above be paid.

Payments Made in September 2026			
MEETING/BACS REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
9/9/2026 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)
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9/9/2026 point 7a	Pension	Payroll Pension payments. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Clerk Salary and Payroll schedule)
9/9/2026 point 7a	JJ's Property Maintenance and Improvements	Health and Safety emergency issue Large steps leading from Pentwyn Road damaged edges and copings removed. Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£445
9/9/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Plant village planters with Summer Plants Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	£75 VAT £15 Total £90

9/9/2026 point 7a	Wrenvale	Paint for notice boards and 2 men 2 hours each painting	£ 60 £120 VAT £ 36 Total £216
		Public Health Act 1875, s.164 – Power to provide and manage recreation grounds.	

It was proposed by Councillor Waring and seconded by Councillor B 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) **Cerebral Palsy Cymru's Annual Council Appeal 2026-2027 (email sent 24/7/2026)** – after a short discussion it was agreed that no donation would be made on this occasion. Clerk to inform requestor.

c) External Audit 1/4/2025 – 31/3/2026 – query from Wales Audit received however, it was for a different community council named Betws.

d) Clerk Salary and Contract – Local Government Services Pay Agreement agreed for 2026/27 – after a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Griffiths that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement was agreed for the clerk as per her contract which was updated to reflect the recent changes.

e) Grant Applications – Betsan Jones – this was discussed above in Point 4 under No 5 and will be discussed further in the October meeting.

8. Planning Applications

The following applications were received:

PL/11124 – Tattoo and skin blemish removal conducted in a small purpose-built building within the garden – 2 Ffordd Y Glowyr, Betws SA18 2FG – Consultation date 15/7/2026 – 5/8/2026

PL/11227 - Discharge of Condition 9 on PL/10513 (Battery Safety Management Plan BSMP) - Verge at Betws Park, Park Street, Ammanford – under consultation previous application PL/10513 granted 24/4/2026

PL/11251 - Siting of static caravan within residential curtilage as ancillary residential accommodation - Bleu Stone, Maesquarre Road, Ammanford, SA18 2PB – in review

PL/11267 - Discharge of Condition 8 on PL/09203 (External Lighting Details) - Plough and Harrow, 52 Betws Road, Ammanford, SA18 2HE – in review

The following applications were granted/refused/withdrawn:

PL/10879 – Retrospective planning for conversion of an agricultural barn into a residential – Ysgubor Fawr, Bodist Uchaf, Betws SA18 2JH – Full Granted 23/6/2026

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

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

- a) **OPCC Youth Ambassadors Launch New Survey for Young People (OPCC)**
(email sent 17/7/2026)
- b) **Better points - Contacts at local business and local charities** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- c) **Questionnaire from Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (OVW)**
(email sent 17/7/2026)
- d) **Joining Link - Code of Conduct Training – CCC** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- e) **The National Lottery Heritage Fund is delighted to be back at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- f) **REMINDER - NEW TRAINING DATES - JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026 (OVW)** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- g) **Carmarthen Area Committee 14.7.26 (OVW)** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- h) **Latest news from Planning Aid Wales** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- i) **FREE & LOW-COST Activities & Events THIS SUMMER (OVW)** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- j) **ONE VOICE WALES E BULLETIN ISSUE 28** (email sent 17/7/2026)
- k) **Temporary Obstruction Notice - U4341 from Ammanford - One.Network ID 151522604 (CCC)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- l) **SRtRC Summer Roadshows: How to Talk About... (CCC)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- m) **£5m boost to upgrade community spaces across Wales (CCC)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- n) **Assessment of Local Well-being (CCC)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- o) **Innovative Practice Conference – Wednesday 30 September 2026 (OVW)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- p) **One week left to have your say on the future of stroke services across Hywel Dda** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- q) **Civil Contingencies Voluntary Sector Conference (CCC)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- r) **NEW TRAINING MODULE - INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL CHANGE - MODULE 31 (OVW)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- s) **Carmarthenshire Civil Contingencies Volunteer Seminar Pentre Awel Llanelli 22nd of October (CCC)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- t) **Help Welsh Government - Travel for All Research (OVW)** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- u) **Democracy and Boundary Commission Survey – Research** (email sent 24/7/2026)
- v) **IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter** (email sent 30/7/2026)
- w) **Quarterly newsletter: May – June (OVW)** (email sent 30/7/2026)
- x) **Information Update – Free Places Scheme (OVW)** (email sent 30/7/2026)
- y) **CWPS events at the National Eisteddfod 2026** (email sent 30/7/2026)
- z) **Funding Opportunities (CCC)** (email sent 30/7/2026)
- aa) **Town and Community Councils update (CCC)** (email sent 3/8/2026)
- bb) **The latest advertisements for public appointments in Wales (OVW)** (email sent 3/8/2026)
- cc) **Temporary Road Closure 4/9/2026 - A4069, Llangadog to Gwynfe - One.Network ID 151533401 (CCC)** (email sent 2/9/2026)
- dd) **Revised Start Date Resurfacing Works - Cau Ffordd Dros Dro - A4069 Llangadog - Temporary Road Closure A4069 Llangadog - 17.09.2026 - One.Network ID 151441355 (CCC)** (email sent 2/9/2026)
- ee) **Help Us Spread the Word About Public Appointments in Wales (OVW)** (email sent 2/9/2026)
- ff) **DPSC-246 Code of Conduct Training - FAO Clerks to Town and Community Councils (CCC)** (email sent 2/9/2026)
- gg) **Views sought on upcoming changes for Hywel Dda residents who choose to give birth at Singleton Hospital (Hywel Dda)** (email sent 2/9/2026)
- hh) **IMPACT - Llais monthly newsletter** (email sent 2/9/2026)

- ii) The Role of the Chair During Meetings - Practice Development Note 29 (OVW) (email sent 2/9/2026)
- jj) TRAINING DATES - AUGUST - DECEMBER 2026 (OVW) (email sent 2/9/2026)
- kk) INVITATION: Free Wales Cyber Resilience Centre Roadshow (OPCC) (email sent 2/9/2026)
- ll) ASB Hate Crime All Wales FREE Training Sessions September to December 2026 (CCC) (email sent 2/9/2026)
- mm) Keep Wales Tidy - Dynamic Purchasing System - delivery partners wanted (OVW) (email sent 2/9/2026)
- nn) Motions for 2027 Annual General Meeting (OVW) (email sent 3/9/2026)
- oo) Issue 4 of 'Y Llais - The Voice' (OVW)(email sent 3/9/2026)
- pp) ONE VOICE WALES E BULLETIN ISSUE 29 (email sent 3/9/2026)
- qq) Share your view on the adult mental health place of safety (Hywel Dda) (email sent 3/9/2026)
- rr) Innovative Practice Conference – Wednesday 30 September 2026 (OVW) (email sent 3/9/2026)
- ss) Community Cooking & Shared Meal Sessions (email sent 3/9/2026)
- tt) Notification of Wales Audit Office participation in the National Fraud Initiative (Audit Wales) (email sent 3/9/2026)
- mm)

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 26/9/2025) –**
 - i) update ref boundary – Clerk - Cllr M Jones has been to site with Wrenvale and checked the boundary. I have been informed that the work will be completed before the next meeting
 - ii) Betws RFC subletting the upstairs area (see emails regarding the request and advice from the solicitor) (emails sent 2/9/2026 and 3/9/2026) – with reference to the representations given by Wildboar at the beginning of this meeting it was proposed by Cllr Waring that as per the lease (page 9 points 3.11.1 and 3.11.2) and taking the advice from the solicitor into consideration that the club is allowed to sublet to Wildboar as they satisfy the obligations of benefitting the community in accordance with the Betws Community Council's trust and charitable obligations as well as to the constituents of Betws who are also the beneficiaries of the trust. Any other assignee (new tenant) must satisfy the lease obligations. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and unanimously agreed by all present with one abstention from Cllr Griffiths.
- b) **Betws RFC – (if any correspondence received) –** Cllr Comley informed members that the battery for the defibrillator at the RFC was out of date and needed replacement at a cost of £80. He also requested that he purchased 3x bleed packs for the other defibrillator units across the village which also cost £80 each. Once all bleed packs are fitted Cllr Comley will organise training to take place at Betws RFC for those from the Community who wish to receive this valuable training.

It was proposed by Cllr Waring that the new battery and bleed packs for the defibrillator be purchased at a cost of £320 and the invoice to be sent to the clerk for payment. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed unanimously by all present.

- 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) Issues lift certificate required for the 6 monthly checks and emergency exit stairs need repair 2/3rds of the way up – Cllr Comley
 - iii) **Annual lease check for 2025/2026 to be completed – Cllr Stacey – (email sent 24/7/2026)**Cllr Stacey informed members that the above had not been done and he would check what's outstanding and chase. The proposed previous date for the 2025/26 annual lease check was not actioned due to availability. This will be re-organised.

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.
 - ii) **Review suggestion of a Memorial Stone for BP by Major Ken Burton discussed in June/July meetings - update Cllr Comley** – a site meeting was completed and the area has deteriorated with some of the wood rotting the plaques have been removed and will be replaced along with the new plaques prior to the Remembrance Service on Wednesday 11 November 2026. The new names will be placed on granite, a new plinth will be placed too and the old and the new memorial signs will be re-mounted. This is being done for free by the specialist contractor. Cllr Comley has also spoken with Major Ken Burton about the names required and that it would be in English and Welsh.

Cllr B Jones informed members that the project is coming along nicely with ex Cllr M Williams and the school children. Heno and Prynawn Da will hopefully go to the school to do an item on this in due course.

Cllr Waring informed members that ex Cllr Williams had called at her home regarding placing some of the wreaths in her garden to represent the homes of those who lost their lives along with placing a trail map there for people to see and follow around the village.

The Chair informed members that he will attend the Ammanford Town Council Remembrance Service on behalf of Betws Community Council and place the wreath. He thanked Cllr Comley.

- iii) **Water for Betws Park, Park St, Betws – Update - Cllr James** – Cllr McMinn-Davies will continue with completing the form and ask Dwr Cymru to raise a purchase order for payment of the fee via bank transfer so that they can carry out the site survey at Betws Park.

Councillor Derrick left the meeting at 21:28.

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

Correspondence received

i) Access to drinking water at Betws Park (OVW) (email sent 17/7/2026)

ii) Betws park activities – Pilates classes outdoors enquiry (email received 18/7/2026)(email sent 21/7/2026, 24/7/2026)

iii) 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) – There is currently no planting plan for trees within the park. Although there are places where trees could be planted along the avenue and either side of the path leading from the larger steps coming down from Pentwyn Road along to the main avenue. The type of tree depends on the location within the park as it has a more formal feel at the front of the park and a more naturalistic feel from the new nature area down to the far end by the bridge. Clerk to contact requestor regarding location and type of tree and bring back the information to the next meeting.

iv) Betws Park request for 10th October 2026 (email sent 30/7/2026)(Handfasting Ceremony) – permission granted Clerk to inform requestor.

v) Betws Park request for a bench – 2 emails (email sent 3/8/2026) – with regards to the request made by the resident at the beginning of this meeting it was proposed by Cllr B Jones that the request for the bench in the location by the river facing the meadow be granted. This was seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed by all present.

The bench plan to be updated to reflect this new bench. Clerk to inform requestor of the decision and give details of contractor for installation and give contact details for the local company for purchase of the recycled plastic bench.

vi) Step damage – Betws Park Volunteer Group (email received 10/8/2026) – this was repaired as a H&S emergency however after it was done youths broke through the barriers and broke some of the newly cemented edging which had to be re-done.

vii) Path blocked park below Pentwyn road near small steps – Betws Park Volunteer Group (email received 11/8/2026) - Cllr Comley informed members that he had cleared branches that had fallen onto the paths below the smaller steps coming down from Pentwyn Road. He needs to hire a chipper from a local contractor to chip the branches and also to cut 2 further branches that have grown out into the road near the top of the steps. He will get the contractor to forward the invoice to the clerk for payment in due course. This was agreed by members as it was done as a H&S emergency at the time.

viii) Bin full front of park and damaged - Betws Park Volunteer Group (email received 11/8/2026) – It was proposed by Cllr Waring that a new double metal bin be purchased and installed by Cllr Derrick the other bins are manufactured by Glasdon. The cost including installation will be approximately £1,000. This was seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all present. Clerk to contact Cllr Derrick who had left the meeting.

ix) Criminal damage - Betws Park Volunteer Group (email received 12/8/2026)

x) Cyclist using the Parc. (email received 23/8/2028) – Discussion ensued and it was suggested by Cllr Griffiths that 2 bollards be placed at the top of the steps to stop cyclists. Clerk to contact Cllr Derrick regarding this to quote for bollards and installation.

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

- c) **Maesquarre and Heol Y Felin Playground** – update – Cllr Comley updated members regarding damage found at Heol Y Felin playground
- i) Some hexagonal bolts have been removed. Cllr Derrick informed members that he may have some to replace them with.
 - ii) Cllr Comley informed members that the wire rope has snapped and needs replacing. Kompan is the company and he will find out the costs and an account will need to be opened. Previously Parks and Play had the account with Kompan as he was the contractor for the 2 playgrounds and ordered directly with them when parts were needed.

i) **Playground Inspection Reports – Cllrs Comely and Derrick** – Clerk received paper copies of playground reports from Cllr Comley at the meeting.

ii) **Update on Inclusive Roundabout – issues with original installation**

– **Cllr Comley/Cllr M Jones update regarding progress** – Cllr Comley had another site meeting with the company, and they have agreed that the bearing is faulty. No soakaway was installed with the originally and there needs to be one. He has given the company a final opportunity for getting all this done as the next step will be returning to trading standards and Cllr Comley meeting with the Council's Solicitor to move things forward otherwise and explain the train of events and meetings.

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 youths are now jumping from the seat and onto the fence and damaging it. He informed members that he has costed up fitting new strong boundary metal fencing not chain link as its not fit for purpose from the corner to the kiosk at 1.6m high and would cost approximately £600 -£700.

It was proposed by Cllr Waring that Cllr Comley purchases and fits the new stronger fencing asap to prevent further damage. This was seconded by Cllr B Jones and agreed by all present unanimously.

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 –
 - i) **to approve the clerk to order the usual 2 Wreaths for the Remembrance Services Sunday 8/11/2026 Ammanford Town and Wednesday 11/11/2026 at Betws Park** – see point 12. b) ii) above and it was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr M Jones that the clerk order the wreaths. This was agreed by all present.
 - ii) **to approve the quotation received from Wrenvale for this year's 20ft Christmas Tree** – It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr M Jones and agreed by all present that the quote for this year's Christmas tree be accepted. Clerk to inform the contractor.

Cllr McMinn-Davies left the meeting at 21:49

Discussion ensued regarding planting a living Christmas tree at Heol Y Felin up towards the centre top boundary of approximately 12ft tall. Clerk to liaise with the contractor regarding this to see which type of tree would be suitable for the site and conditions. This was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr B Jones and agreed by all present.

Next meeting **Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 19:00.**

The meeting Closed at 21:55

DRAFT