

MAELOR SOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9th May 2017 at 7:45p.m.

at Bettisfield Chapel

Present: Cllr. Mrs. Sime (Chair), Cllr. P. Jones, Cllr. Mrs. Bettis, Cllr. Mrs. Lee-Jones, Cllr. Ms. Kettle, Cllr. Mrs. Dunne, Cllr. J. Griffiths, PCSO Simister, Mrs. L. Houston (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. J. Blanchard, holiday

1. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. Mrs. Lee-Jones – Planning Application P/2017/0290 at the former Nag's Head Public House, Bettisfield.

Cllr. J. Griffiths – Planning Application P/2017/0270- Ellesmere Lane, Penley

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

Item 12, Planning - should read "no objections" or "Council supports application", not 'approved'.

Cllr. Jones proposed and Cllr. Mrs. Bettis seconded that the minutes then be signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

- Application to Land Registry – ownership of Land at Hillcrest, Penley.

It was agreed that the clerk would write to the owner stating that the piece of land has been maintained locally for many years. The owner would be asked whether, given that the land cannot be developed due to the underground utility services, she was prepared to gift the land to Maelor South Community Council as a gesture of goodwill to the local community, explaining that ownership would enable the council to apply for grants which would be used to improve the area.

- Hanmer Arms Hotel.

Bronington Community Council has nominated Mrs. Vanessa Brodie to be its representative on a working party looking at the future of the hotel.

Hanmer Community Council has not yet nominated a representative, but is believed to be interested in being a part of the working party.

Clerk to contact CAMRA to ascertain whether it is possible to register the hotel as an Asset of Community Value (AVC) in Wales.

4. Police Report.

The report was received. No crimes reported in Bettisfield.

Patrols being carried out in Penley due to reports of worrying behaviour of youths around the shop and industrial estate.

One case of criminal damage placed on file.

Personal argument between two people. Advice given.

Advisory letter sent to owner of dog which was worrying sheep.

5. County Council Matters.

The County Councillor did not attend.

6. Open Forum

No community members attended.

7. Penley Playground

The sub-committee had considered several providers and visited sites to inspect their work. Two quotes had been received and the order placed with Ray Parry Ltd. Some of the items will be sourced from AE Evans, Lightwood Green, thus supporting local business. The committee are awaiting a date for a further meeting to confirm design.

All of the available funds have been used. An application for a further £5,000 has been made. The lead time is expected to be 3-4 weeks.

8. Website.

Cllr. Mrs. Bettis and clerk are to attend training with Mrs. Rachel Coathupe-Fox on Wednesday, 17th May so that they can update the website.

The Chair reported that the website must list all Councillors with their contact details.

Co-opted councillors must be listed as such.

There must also be a statement of any political allegiance.

All MSCC councillors are independent.

9. Streetscene

a) Bettisfield

It was noted that potholes have been repaired.

No further problems to report.

b) Penley.

- There is a problem with vehicles being driven at high speed along Ellesmere Lane. Clerk to write to Darren Green to request repeater 30mph signs along the lane.
- Sewerage smell at the end of Park Villas at the junction with Ellesmere Lane. Clerk to report to Welsh Water.
- Road surface in front of Park Villas is in a poor state of repair. Clerk to report to Highways.
- Concerns were raised that copse at Llanerch Panna is being used to dump rubbish, spoiling an area of natural beauty and posing a danger to walkers and children playing. Clerk to obtain prices for signs from Signs of the Times in Ellesmere.

10. Planning

a) Applications

P/2017/0270 – 6 dwellings off Ellesmere Lane, Penley

The Community Council objects to this development on the following grounds:-

The application is for outline planning permission only. The Council would like to see exact plans for the number and style of properties proposed.

The Council recognises the need for affordable 2 bedroom houses in the community, but wish to ensure that design is linear and in keeping with the properties already there.

P/2017/0290 – 9 dwellings to rear of former Nags Head, Bettisfield

The Community Council objects to this application on the following grounds:-

The application is contrary to the Wrexham Development Plan.

The reasons given for refusal of an application in 2015 still apply.

This development would be out of keeping with other nearby properties.

Ground conditions are poor, often waterlogged.

Disposal of sewerage is clearly a problem.

A letter of objection from Cllr. Jones will be sent separately.

b) Decisions

P/2017/0210 Agricultural building and new vehicular access, Cheshire Cheese, Penley – REFUSED

P/2017/0209 Two storey extension, Cheshire Cheese, Penley – REFUSED

P/2017/0225 First floor extension, Dymock Cottage, Penley – GRANTED

11. Village Projects

a) Bettisfield

- It was agreed to send a letter to Darren Green at WCBC to enquire about a 30mph speed limit for Bettisfield, as the survey of A and B roads which was previously cited as a reason for this matter not to be considered, was due to be completed by May 2017. Copy also to GoSafe
- Canal and River Trust are still trying to locate relevant information regarding the Donkey Field.
- It is hoped that the possibility of developing the playground can be discussed after the Village Hall AGM which takes place in July.
- It was agreed that information should be sought on gaining Dark Skies accreditation for Bettisfield. This would attract visitors to the area. Cadwyn Clwyd to be contacted.

b) Penley

- A suggestion to develop a Forest School at the Broken Bridge Play Space was well received.
- It was agreed that a wooden sign should be commissioned for the Broken Bridge Play Space to encourage its use. Art students at the Maelor School could be asked to design a logo, with a prize offered for the winning entry. Cllr. Mrs. Bettis to contact Mrs. Audrey Stewart and Head of Art Mrs. Sam Hartigen at the Maelor School.

12. Meetings attended by councillors.

Cllr. Mrs. Sime – Wrexham LAG

Cllr. Mrs. Bettis and Cllr. Griffiths – Finance Committee, Madras VA Primary School.

13. Co-option of councillors for Penley

Two councillors are needed for Penley.

The vacancies will be advertised via notice boards, Facebook page and website from 15th May, with a closing date of 29th May 2017.

14. Payment of bills.

Payee	Amount	Reason	Cheque Number	Proposer	Secunder
WCBC	117.14	Street Light quarterly maintenance	000759	PJ	Y L-J

		01.01.17-31.03.17			
* WCBC	117.14	Street Light quarterly maintenance 01.07.16-30.09.16	000760	DK	HD
WCBC	353.09	Street Light repair Ellesmere Lane, Penley	000761	JG	PJ
Scottish Power	121.72	Street Light Electricity	000762	YL-J	HD
Mr. Gerald Williams	204.00	Grasscutting	000763	JG	DK

*This invoice had not been received previously.

15. Income and expenditure since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Account				
Date	Credits	Debits	Paid to/from	Balance
29.03.17				8936.90
04.04.17	5,000.00		WCBC – Play Sufficiency Grant	13,936.90
05.04.17	3,621.34		WCBC - Precept	17,558.24
12.04.17		117.14	WCBC Street Light Maintenance Chq. No 000757	17,441.10
13.04.17		174.00	Mr. G. Williams – grasscutting Chq. No. 000758	17,267.10
19.04.17		125.00	Donation – Blood Bikes Chq. No. 000756	17,142.10
20.04.17		275.00	Donation, Church Wardens, Bettisfield Chq. No. 000750	16,867.10
Business Instant Access Account				
29.03.17				34,488.87
10.04.17	1.51		Interest	34,490.38
10.04.17				34,490.38

Total available Funds

51,357.48

Committed Funds:

Penley Playground	35,000.00
Funds raised, playground	480.00
Benches	1,000.00
Village Hall donation	220.00

Election Expenses (May 2017)	2,500.00
Unpresented cheque	680.00
TOTAL:	39,880.00

BALANCE: 11,477.48

It was agreed that unpresented cheque Number 000751 , made payable to Penley Village Hall for £680 as a donation should be cancelled and re-issued as it appears to have been lost by the recipient.

16. Correspondence.

From	Reason	Action
Cllr. P. Jones	Request for Ambulance to be stationed at Whitchurch.	Discussed. It was pointed out that the Ambulance Service provides free training for first responders. This to be advertised via Facebook page.
JACS	Village Gateways	There was some interest in these. To be discussed at next meeting.
Channel 4	Village of the year.	No interest.
Friends of Bellevue Park, Wrexham	Request for donations towards a memorial for local people who served and died in WW1.	It was felt that money would be better spent on maintaining local war memorials.

17. Any Other Business.

- Clerk to contact Geraldine Vaughan or Rebecca Cupit at the Rainbow Centre to enquire why our contribution to the quarterly newsletter had not been included. Councillors agreed that it is important to let the community know what the Council does.
- Cllr. Mrs. Sime reported that during a recent brainstorming session on future projects, tourism officers had not heard of Bettisfield Mosses.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22.50.