

MAELOR SOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Bettisfield Chapel

on Tuesday, 4th July 2017 at 7:30p.m.

Apologies. Cllr. Mrs. Bettis (family commitments), Mr. G. Williams (work commitments)

PCSO Lynne Maurice (workload)

Present: Cllr. Mrs. Sime, Cllr. J. Blanchard, Cllr. P. Jones, Cllr. J. Griffiths, Cllr. Mrs. Dunne, Cllr. Mrs.

Lee-Jones, Cllr. J. McCusker, Mrs. L. Houston (Clerk) Mr. Andrew Burrell.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair, Cllr. Mrs. Sime, drew the Attention of the meeting to the following points from Standing Orders:

- Councillors should familiarise themselves with agenda items prior to the meeting.
- Open Forum – members of the community will be given up to five minutes to outline their concerns, at the discretion of the Chair. Complaints must be made in writing.
- Councillors will be allowed up to three minutes to speak to an agenda item.
- New topics should not be introduced under Any Other Business. Amendments to the agenda can be made within three working days of the meeting by contacting the clerk.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

Correction: Names of the two members of the public who attended the last meeting should be included. Attendees for the Open Forum were Mr. Mark Sadowski and Mr. Georg Mellitzer.

The Chair then signed the minutes as a true record. There were no objections.

3. Matters arising.

Item 3 Point 2: The Clerk had received a report that the Hanmer Arms Hotel would be re-opening for business as a local person had taken over the lease. Opening was confirmed as 1st September.

Item 6: Land at Hillcrest – Council has received complaints from local residents concerned about the removal of a footpath connecting Oak Avenue and Hillcrest. Complaints also about the placement of sign prohibiting organised games on the green at Hillcrest and the construction of a summer house. Community council will establish ownership of the land and whether these changes have been carried out legally.

4. Police report.

This was received by email. Councillors expressed their concern at children in Penley being approached by males in a white van.

Bettisfield councillors reported that hare coursers had been seen in the village. Vehicle registration numbers had been noted and reported to the police.

5. County Council matters.

Cllr. McCusker updated the Council on the following matters:

- 30mph speed limit in Bettisfield – work should commence in late 2017 or early 2018. WCBC see this as a concern common to all rural villages.
- 146 bus route – changes to the timetable mean that the last bus leaving Wrexham for Whitchurch is 16:45. The operator states that running additional buses is not financially feasible as one additional bus would cost £70,000 per annum. WCBC cannot afford to subsidise underused routes. A study into passenger numbers at different times of the day is to be carried out.
- Nag's Head development, Bettisfield – this has not been brought to the planning committee as yet. Applicant must address the issues identified, particularly with reference to the risk of flooding.
- Dymock Arms – Ownership of the site has not been established. Cllr. McCusker to meet with Penley residents on 5th July to discuss this and other developments.

6. Open Forum.

No members of the community attended.

7. Penley Playground.

Work started on the playground on Monday, 3rd July and is expected to take three weeks.

8. Website.

No developments to report.

9. Streetscene

a) Bettisfield.

Pothole on the canal bridge has been reported. Councillors wished to record their disappointment at the quality of the repair work being carried out. A repair on the bridge completed last Wednesday only lasted until Friday. Unless the quality of work improves, this is a complete waste of taxpayer's money. Councillors pointed out that the bridge is Grade 11 listed structure and the pothole is deep enough to expose the original brickwork.

b) Penley

The bridge at the lowest point of Ellesmere Lane is in poor condition, due mainly to HGV's and buses wearing away the surface.

Clerk to send a reminder about Red Hall lane. The surface of the whole lane is very poor, but particularly bad at the Penley end.

10. Planning

a) Applications

P/2017/0465 – The Ashes Farm, Breadon Heath

There were no objections.

P/2017/0270 – amended plan. Councillors felt that the plan was much improved and had no objections, provided that the recommendations made by the Service Manager for the Environment were adhered to. Recommendations referred to street lighting, visibility splay and footpaths. Councillors would prefer individual driveways for each house, but appreciated that lack of space prevented this.

b) Decisions

P/2017/0389 – The Orchard, Burgess Lane, Penley WITHDRAWN

P/2017/0270 – Five houses at Ellesmere Lane, Penley - PENDING

p/2017/0290 – Nine houses, Nag's Head, Bettisfield – PENDING

11. Village projects

a) Bettisfield

- Donkey field
Councillors agreed that the lease agreement was good, although they must ensure that the provision of a gate is specified in the agreement. Awaiting a reply from CART on this.
- Village Gateways
Councillors to consider suppliers and obtain quotes.

b) Penley

- Hillcrest Green
Discussed under Item 3.
- Telephone kiosk adoption
Councillors were in favour of moving the kiosk to the lay-by. Adoption of the kiosk would have to take place before a site visit can be arranged to obtain a quote. Discussion took place on what the kiosk could be used for if adopted. One suggestion was to house a mobile phone charging station and wi-fi hotspot which could be solar or wind powered. Cllr. Griffiths was concerned that this could be a waste of money if not used. It was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting. In the meantime, councillors would familiarise themselves with terms and conditions of adoption.

12. Meetings attended by Councillors.

Cllr. Mrs. Sime had attended the Wrexham LAG project scoring meeting and reported that there were some excellent major projects coming up. However, cross-county co-operation between Wrexham and Shropshire regarding The Mosses was impossible due to the Welsh and English approaches being completely opposite.

13. Internal audit recommendations.

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
1. A comparison needs to be made between the budget set and actual spending.	The council should monitor actual spending against the budget and when decisions are made to exceed a budget heading, the minutes should record whether this is financed by a virement from another budget heading or funding from reserves.	A quarterly budget comparison should be prepared by the clerk.
2. Budget calculation shows an expenditure of £7,680 with a precept request of £10,864.	The Council's precept calculation should show the effect upon reserves. If the precept exceeds the budget for the year, the minutes should explain why they are intending to add to their reserves.	Council to consider this when next budget calculation is made in December 2017.
3. Reclaim of VAT	VAT has not been reclaimed since 2014. May be lost after three years.	VAT reclaims for the past three years were submitted on 15/06/17
4. Fidelity cover	The fidelity cover at £25,000 does not cover the maximum projected	Zurich Municipal have increased Fidelity

	cash balances as at 31/03/17 (approx. £46,000)	Cover to £50,000 at no extra cost from 29/06/17.
5. Risk assessment	Council needs to state the risks the council faces and how these risks are addressed.	Agree a date for the review of risk assessment.
6. Financial regulations	The Council's financial regulations do not detail procurement procedures for contracts of less than £20,000.	Agree a date to update financial regulations.

Points 5 and 6 – Cllr. Mrs. Sime proposed and Cllr. Blanchard seconded that an extraordinary meeting should be held in the Autumn to discuss these points. Clerk to prepare paperwork. All were in favour of subscribing to One Voice Wales, which might provide formats for these areas.

14. Payment of bills.

To	Amount	Cheque No.	Proposer	Seconder
WCBC – Inspectioun and Maintenance of play area	156.00	000772	WS	PJ
One Voice Wales Membership	100.50	000773	JG	YL-J
JDH Business Services (Audit)	189.60	000774	WS	JB
G. Williams Grasscutting	144.00	000775	WS	JG
Mr. F. Simkiss Planter	31.95	000776	HD	Y-LJ
Mrs. A. Hughes Planter	5.98	000777	HD	YL-J
Cllr. J. Blanchard Planters	22.00	000778	YL-J	HD

15. Income and Expenditure since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Account				
Date	Credits	Debits	Paid to/from	Balance

16.05.17				16,777.08
06.06.17		676.11	Zurich Municipal Insurance Chq. No. 000764	16,100.97
06.06.17		204.70	Mrs. L. Houston Clerk's expenses Chq. No. 000765	15,896.27
06.06.17		996.00	Mrs. L. Houston Clerk's salary Dec.16-June 17 Chq. No 000766	14,900.27
06.06.17		680.00	Penley Village Hall donation Replacement cheque No. 000767	14,220.27
06.06.17		968.40	Marmax Recycled Products Benches Chq. No. 000768	13,251.87
06.06.17		11.38	Madras School Planter Chq. No 000769	13,240.49
06.06.17		10.00	Ms. D. Kettle Planter Chq. No. 000770	13,240.49
06.06.17		210.00	Mr. G. Williams Grasscutting Chq. No. 000771	13,020.49
Business Instant Access Account				
09.05.17				34,491.75
			Interest (EST.)	1.38
				34,493.13

Total available funds

47,513.62

Committed Funds

Penley Playground	35,000.00
Funds raised	480.00
Benches	1,000.00
Penley Village Hall	220.00
Election expenses May 2017	2,500.00
TOTAL	<u>39,200.00</u>

BALANCE

8,313.62

16. Correspondence.

From	Subject	Action
Caroline Tudor-James	Community Agent for Penley	It was agreed to invite Ms. Tudor-James to the next meeting.
Cllr. Mrs. Bettis	Provision of repeater signs to enforce 20mph speed limit through Penley.	Agreed to contact Highways at WCBC to request signs. Clerk to contact Henry Harding to request permission to place 20mph signs at the exit from Penley shop to serve as a reminder.
Cllr. Mrs. Bettis	Attendance at School Council meetings at Madras and Maelor schools.	All agreed that this was a good idea. Clerk to contact Madras School to obtain dates of meetings and an invitation. Cllr. J. Griffiths volunteered to make a presentation to explain the work of the Council.
Luke Neal.	Request to distribute information on septic tanks.	Bettisfield councillors would distribute leaflets with newsletter. 150 required.
Play Inspection Company	Inspection Report.	Largely irrelevant, but gate into playground should be brightly coloured to help those who are visually challenged.
Mr. Simon Hill	Support to Council.	Noted

17. Co-option of new councillors for Penley.

Mr. Geraint Williams will be formally co-opted at the next meeting.

Councillors heard a supporting statement from Mrs. Sheila Rodenhurst, who was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed that she should be invited to the next meeting.

Mr. Andrew Burrell wished to support the work of the Community Council, but work commitments would prevent him from attending meetings regularly.

One vacancy will remain.

18. Any Other Business.

Length of meetings – It was pointed out that Standing Orders state that meetings should last no longer than two hours without a break.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10p.m.