

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5th September at Bettisfield Chapel, 7:30p.m.

Apologies: PCSO's Lynn Maurice and Michael Simister (Rest days.)

Present: Cllr. Mrs. W. Sime (Chairman), Cllr. J. Blanchard (Vice Chair), Cllr. P. Jones, Cllr. Mrs. Y. Lee-Jones, Cllr. Mrs. H. Dunne, Cllr. Mrs. R. Bettis, Cllr. J. Griffiths, Cllr. J. McCusker, Geraint Williams, Caroline Tudor-James (Rainbow Centre), Nigel Davies (AVOW) Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, two members of the public, Mrs. L. Houston (Clerk).

1. Declarations of interest.

There were none

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the last minutes and were signed by the chair.

3. Matters arising.

Repairs to potholes in Red Hall Lane, Penley have been carried out, but not to a satisfactory standard. Clerk has contacted WCBC to request that better repairs are carried out.

Repairs to Bettisfield Bridge will be carried out within the next two weeks. The bridge will need to be closed for 24 hours. No structural damage has been found.

4. Police report.

The report was received by email.

The following questions will be put to the PCSO's:

- Will there be any speed monitoring in Bettisfield?
- Drivers who are obeying the 20mph speed limit through Penley are subject to abuse and have been overtaken by other drivers at dangerous speeds. Can anything be done?
- Could repeater signs be placed along the road?
- Can speed checks be made on Ellesmere Lane also? Speeding vehicles present a danger to parents walking with children and to residents trying to exit their driveways.

5. Community Agents

Caroline Tudor-James from The Rainbow Centre and Nigel Davies from AVOW addressed the meeting about Community Agents.

Their proposal is that the Community Councils from Bronington, Seswick, Overton and Maelor South form a consortium. Funding is provided from the Welsh Government Care Fund. WCBC bid for funding and then allocate it to the Community Councils. Overton Community Council would lead the consortium. A person or persons with local knowledge and understanding of the needs of the communities would be appointed as Community Agents. They will work with vulnerable over-50's, supporting them to live in their own homes, helping with benefits and offering activities to combat depression.

Cllr. P. Jones proposed that Maelor South should sign up to the scheme. Cllr. Griffiths seconded. All were in favour, with the proviso that a council member could be involved in the forum with the other councils.

6. County Council matters.

Cllr. John McCusker reported on the following matters:

- Red Hall Lane – has not been in the budget for repair. Work has been carried out in stages as other jobs have been finished early. Cllr. McCusker will follow this up.
- Cllr. McCusker is pursuing the appropriate departments at WCBC in order to expedite a conclusion to the ongoing problems of the Nag's Head development in Bettisfield and the Dymock Arms in penley.
- There is to be a drop-in from 10a.m.- 1 p.m. on Monday, 10th September at Overton Village Hall at which people can voice their concerns regarding the 146 bus route.

7. Open Forum

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson of Bettisfield attended. They would like to open a shop on the Donkey Field to serve the local community and canal users. Although councillors felt this would be a good idea, they were sure it would contravene clauses in the lease agreement with the Canal and River Trust.

8. Penley Playground

The playground is complete. There is £600 left in the kitty and it is proposed that some of this money can be used as follows:

- Signage – No ball games, No Dogs Allowed, Please use Litter bins
- Gate to be painted in a contrasting colour. Yellow was agreed.
- Spring on the gate to be replaced.
- Yew trees to be planted along the fence which forms a boundary with neighbouring properties to reduce the impact of balls being kicked against the fence.

Cllr. Mrs. Bettis applied for further grant funding, but this was refused due to the council not having charitable status.

9. Hillcrest Green

Clerk has ascertained from the owner's solicitor that the owner does not wish to sell the land at this time. WCBC Planning Department has confirmed that the land has been allocated as Amenity Greenspace.

10. Website.

Minutes of the last four meetings have been translated into Welsh.

Cllr. Mrs. Bettis and clerk will obtain passwords and update the website.

11. Streetscene

a) Penley

It was reported that children have been seen playing on the roof of the swimming pool at The Maelor School. This should be reported to Mr. Simon Ellis, Headteacher.

b) Bettisfield.

Councillors wish to place gateways at the entrances to the village and are seeking quotes.

12. Planning.

a) Applications

P/2017/0679	The Orchard, Burgess Lane. Extensions	No objections
P/2017/0659	15, Ellesmere Lane Change facing material to render	No objections

b) Decisions

P/2017/0553	Cheshire Cheese Two-storey extension	GRANTED
P/2017/0465	The Ashes Farm, Breadon Heath Shower room	GRANTED

13. Village projects.

a) Penley

- Litter bin near to Broken Bridge play space is needed. Clerk to find prices and order.
- Stagnant water at Broken Bridge – Cllr. Mrs. Sime thinks she has found the root cause of the problem. Fairly simple remedial work will be organised. It was suggested the clerk contact Meres and Mosses , as they may organise an educational/activity event for local children and adults. A sign will be ordered for this area – Please Clean Up After Your Dog. Cllr. Mrs. Bettis will update the Community Council Facebook page to let people know that problems in this area are being addressed.
- Red telephone box- it was suggested that the kiosk be adopted for £1. Mr. Gerald Williams will clean and re-paint it. Proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. Blanchard. Decisions regarding re-siting it can be made at a later date. Geraint Williams can arrange to have it moved.
- A request was received for a fenced-off dog area in Penley.

b) Bettisfield

- The lease for the Donkey Field is ready to sign. Cllr. P. Jones proposed that the lease be signed now to avoid further time wasting and Council can approach CART at a later date to discuss the possibility of a shop on the site.
6 councillors voted in favour, the lease was signed and will be returned by the clerk.
- The roof of the bus shelter near to Bettisfield Bridge is leaking. Volunteers are ready to carry out repairs. Councillors were authorised to pay up to £250 for materials. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Lee-Jones, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Dunne.
- Cllr. Mrs. Lee-Jones and Cllr. Mrs. Dunne will work on funding for the playground in Bettisfield. They were advised to organise local fund raising and letters of support from the community, as this helps with grant applications.

14. Meetings attended by councillors

Cllr. Mrs. Bettis met with the committee of Bettisfield Village hall to discuss the development of a playground for Bettisfield.

Cllr. Mrs. Sime attended the ‘Wrexham We Want’ event. She tried to raise the problem of lack of play spaces for children in rural areas. She felt that attendance at the event was very disappointing.

Cllrs. Mrs. Lee-Jones and Mrs. Dunne attended a meeting with Bettisfield Village Hall Committee, who are in favour of developing the playground.

15. Payment of bills

Payee	Amount	Cheque Number	Proposer	Seconder
Ray Parry Playgrounds	42,840.00	000779	RB	JB
Scottish Power – street lights	123.00	000780	WS	HD

Mr. G. Williams - grasscutting	198.00	000781	YL-J	JG
Mrs. L. Houston – clerk’s expenses	59.95	000782	RB	JG
Hire of Bettisfield Chapel	30.00	000783	JG	PJ

A letter of authority was signed by the Chair and Vice Chair, enabling the clerk to transfer funds from the Business Instant access account to the Treasurer’s account in order to pay the bill for the playground.

16. Income and expenditure since last meeting.

Treasurer’s Account				
Date	Credits	Debits	Paid to/from	Balance
06.06.17				13,020.49
04.07.17		156.00	WCBC Half yearly playground insp+maint	12,864.49
04.07.17		100.50	One Voice Wales membership	12,763.99
04.07.17		189.60	JDH Business Services- audit	12,574.39
04.07.17		144.00	G. Williams grasscutting	12,430.39
04.07.17		31.94	F. Simkiss Planter	12,398.45
04.07.17		5.98	A. Hughes Planter	12,392.47
04.07.17		22.00	J. Blanchard Planter	12,370.47
31.07.17	3,621.33		WCBC - Precept	15,991.80
Business Instant Access Account				
29.06.17				34,493.21
10.07.17	1.46		Interest	34,494.67
14.07.17	1,380.35		VAT Refund	35,875.02
04.09.17				35,875.02

Total available funds **51,866.82**

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	<u>12,666.82</u>

17. Draft risk assessment

It was agreed to defer discussion of this document until the next meeting.

18. Correspondence.

From	Reason	Action
Headteacher, Madras School	Attendance by councillors at school Council meetings	Await dates and invitation
One Voice Wales	Notification of area meeting and training courses	Clerk to forward all information to Councillors.
Chirk Town Council	Notification of training dates.	It was decided to pursue other training providers.

19. Co-option of new councillor for Penley.

Geraint Williams accepted the invitation to return as councillor representing Penley.

There are still two vacancies for a councillor in Penley.

20. Any Other Business

- It was reported that a fence has been pulled up and a stile left lying on the ground on The Maelor Way.
This matter should be reported to the Rights of Way department.
- It was pointed out that changes taking place within the Church in Wales may mean that charitable donations made to help maintain the graveyards in Bettisfield and Penley may not go to the intended recipients. Cllr. Mrs. Sime offered to investigate this.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.55p.m.