

MAELOR SOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held at Bettisfield Chapel

Tuesday 9th April 2024 7:00 pm

Present: Cllr. J. Griffiths (JG) Chair: Cllr. A. Raey (AR); Cllr. Keith Owen (KO); Cllr. J. Blanchard (JB); Cllr. Ian Burdett (IB); Cllr. M. Edge (ME); Cllr. S. Rodenhurst (SR);

In Attendance: John Gallanders Clerk (JOG); Allison Jones (AJ) (prospective Councillor)

Apologies: Cllr. J. Tomkinson (JT); Cllr. Nick Ringrose (NR),

04.01 Declarations of Interest.

No additional declarations of interest

04.02 Welcome: Cllr (JG) welcomed Members to the first face to face meeting of the year and introduced Allison Jones as a potential new Member.

04.03 Public Forum: A member of the public attended to thank MSCC for the letter of support objecting to the planning application at Heartlands Farm which is located 50 metres over the border into Shropshire. Photographs of a proposed flooded site were shown to highlight the very real flood risk and unsuitability of the land for any development. Shropshire CC are the Planning Authority and will discuss the application in the next few weeks.

04.04 Police Update: PCSO Dean Sayer (DS) not present –latest police update circulated in advance of the meeting.

Hi-Viz patrols continuing in both communities.

Members informed the ‘abandoned’ vehicle in the Penley layby has now been removed.

Points raised from the Community meeting will be shared with (DS)

Bettisfield Members highlighted the need for preventative activity in the area and questioned the level of Hi-Viz presence. Clarity requested on the use of ‘Community Volunteer’ speed gun usage and whether private dashcam footage is of value to the Police.

Action: DS to be requested to arrange a community drop in either at Bettisfield Village Hall or the Chapel to give residents the opportunity to highlight any concerns and put forward suggestions.

Action: Cllr (AR) to provide the Clerk with latest speeding data for forwarding to (DS)

04.05 County Council Update: Cllr John McCusker

Arrangements have been made to meet Bettisfield Members with WCBC Area Highways Supervisor to highlight areas of particular concern and to seek remedial action to fill potholes. Cllr JM highlighted that full resurfacing is highly unlikely due to budgetary constraints – although not ideal repeat repairs are more likely to occur rather than a permanent longer lasting solution.

Note, WCBC is having to payout for car repairs due to the inadequate filling of potholes.

The walkabout will be to highlight potholes, gullies and public bins.

Cllrs (KO) and (IB) to meet for a walkabout with the Supervisor in the Penley area-

Issues to note – flooding at phone box with defibrillator, drains, road markings and TMO outside Madras linked with outstanding repairs to zebra crossing.

Action: Cllrs to liaise with Cllr (JM) for both site visits.

04.06 Minutes 5th March 2024

No amendments: Proposed acceptance by Cllr. JB, seconded by Cllr. AR.

04.07 Matters Arising:

Canal and River Trust – it was noted the extensive work being undertaken which has resulted in the Donkey Field being closed whilst it is used as the construction site.

Action: Clerk to request a statement from CRT to share with the community around progress of work.

Big Green Farm: Awaiting response from WCBC re the expected improved lighting. Noted that trees and road marking have now been installed on the site.

04.08 Village Projects

Bettisfield:

Grass cutting: Members proposed all (including the old bus stop) grass cutting should cease until such time as Donkey Field is reinstated.

Action: Clerk to notify the contractor

Planters: It was noted that wood had been taken from one of the planters that (AJ) maintains- it was agreed that wood could be purchased at the cost of which would be reimbursed from the £40 per planter budget.

History Information Boards: It was suggested when Donkey Field is reinstated information board/s could be installed to highlight the history of the area.

Action: Cllr (AR) to locate a history book of the area to identify if something might be feasible.

Penley:

Lay-By: it was highlighted that cars are driving over the grass verge –

Action: To be highlighted during walkabout and possible reflective posts to be installed.

Also noted that the area had been badly grooved during recent grass cutting – contractor has been informed the area needs to be rolled and reinstated.

Action: Cllr (SR) to ask Madras Headteacher to include a note in the school bulletin.

Noticeboard: It was noted that repairs were necessary to the main noticeboard – Cllr KO to look if it is repairable.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quote for a new noticeboard at Tudor Drive (A4 6 x 2 size)

Morris Homes – The Clerk reported that numerous emails and phone calls have taken place with no satisfaction – the matter is to be referred up to Director level within the company.

Morris Homes contact has shared in respect to the adoption of the site has indicated there is still ongoing issues with drainage- some works have been carried out, but it is proving problematic for the next stage which involves potential work to individual property. It is unlikely that the site will be adopted in the near future.

04.09 Correspondence-

Membership: SLCC vs One Voice Wales (OVW) it was decided that (OVW) membership would be the better value as that gives the Wales dimension to the work of MSCC. SLCC membership runs till September but will not be renewed.

WCBC Street Lighting Contract: Noted there will be an increase of £3 per light. The total will be less than £500 a year and was agreed to accept the contract for the next 12 months.

Proposed acceptance: Cllr (KO) Seconded Cllr (SR)

04.10 Finance:

Finance report presented.

Retrospective approval of end of year invoices which were all included in the budget.

April payment previously circulated plus one addition for Audit Fee

Proposed acceptance: Cllr (SR) Seconded Cllr (KO)

Audit 2023/24 – it was noted the Clerk had completed all necessary actions and the internal audit has been completed and signed off. End of year balance brought forward £22616 of which £15000 is still a potential liability to WCBC for the Zebra Crossing installation.

All financial audit and annual return forms will be presented at the AGM/Council meeting in May.

Audit Wales – there has been no response in respect to the disputed invoice for 2021/22 and no invoice at all for the period 2022/23.

A financial contingency should be included in this years accounts for these two invoices for £1000.

05.11 Governance:

Training – Members to review and inform the Clerk if they are interested in attending.

Declarations- all Members reminded they need to complete Member declaration forms on an annual basis.

Nomination for Chair and Vice Chair – forms have been circulated with a return date of end of April.

Chair (Cllr JG) informed Members that he does not intend to stand for Chair for this coming year and emphasised the need for succession planning. He does not intend to step down as a Council Member and would be happy to support anyone who puts themselves forward for the position.

New Council Members: Both Alison Jones (Bettisfield) and Ian Burdett (Penley) have indicated their willingness to be co-opted as Council Members – the appointments will bring MSCC up to its full complement.

Council Members unanimously accepted the two co-optees.

04.12 Planning: 13 Pendas Park – air source heat pump – no objection

04.13 Communications: No report.

04.14 Meetings attended by Members: No reports

04.15 AOB

Picnic bench for Donkey Field - (AJ) offered to donate one in memory of her late husband. Members were very appreciative of the gesture.

Near miss house flooding: It was noted a very near miss occurred in Cadney Lane, Bettisfield and the property only saved due to sandbags.

03.16 Date of Next Meeting – Due to Bank Holiday the date will be moved to Wednesday 8th May 2024 at Penley Village Hall. The AGM will be held at 7.00pm and Full Council will commence at the close of the AGM.

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm.