

MAELOR SOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held at Bettisfield Chapel
Tuesday 2nd July 2024 7:00 pm

Present: Cllr. A. Reay (AR) (Chair); Cllr. Keith Owen (KO); Cllr. J. Blanchard (JB); Alison Jones (AJ); Cllr. Nick Ringrose (NR), Cllr Ian Burdett (IB); Cllr. J. Tomkinson (JT).

In Attendance: John Gallanders Clerk (JOG). Cllr. J McCusker

Apologies: Cllr. J. Griffiths (JG); Cllr. M. Edge (ME).

07.01 Declarations of Interest.

No additional declarations of interest

07.02 Welcome: Cllr (AR) welcomed everyone.

07.03 Public Forum: Two representatives of the public in attendance to discuss their Planning Application P/2024/1077 – their various points were noted by Members of matters associated with the proposal.

07.04 Police Update – No PCSO present – pre meeting information shared. HiViz patrols across MSCC area. One ASB in Penley involving an off-road bike.

Cllr (AR) shared latest speed data for Bettisfield – overall a reduction in speed. Noted that cyclists may distort figures.

07.05 County Council Update: Cllr J. McCusker

WCBC have been awarded £20 million development funding only for use in the city centre.

The Youth Club has proved to be very successful. Ongoing funding has been secured to ensure professional leaders are provided by WCBC for 2024/25 for 39 weeks of the year. It is hoped the development will be linked to the Maelor School as part of the outcome from a Play and Youth sufficiency report being produced by Gloucester University.

Funds have also been identified within WCBC under Section 106 linked to the Morris Homes development. Funding was previously earmarked for the development of land on the front of the estate as an amenity and play area.

WCBC have now started a new schedule of grass cutting the Penley area has been earmarked for week commencing 2nd of July. Grass cutting will only be for safety reasons.

It was noted that there is a lot of youth activity in Penley, but Bettisfield currently has no provision. Council members linked to the youth club will identify if there are opportunities for transport to be provided between the two communities.

07.06 Minutes 4th June 2024

No amendments: Proposed acceptance by Cllr. (KO), seconded by Cllr. (JB).

07.07 Matters Arising:

Canal and River Trust – CRT will be back on site installing the posts for a new sign shortly. Once in place the size and design of the notice can be calculated, this should include historical details of the village. Thanks, expressed to Councillor Allison Jones for the donation of a picnic bench in memory of her husband.

Residents had raised the issue over the lack of open access use of the car park at all times. CRT are not in favour of an open car park- preference is only to use it on special occasions for community activities or if a family is holding a special event such as a wedding or anniversary.

It was noted that the current contractor for grass cutting, and maintenance has not responded two requests to re commence work.

Action: Clerk to draft an update for the Bettisfield Facebook to explain the details of the use of the car park.

Action: the Clark to contact the grass cutting contractor again to identify if they wish to carry on with maintenance on Donkey Field. If current contractor is not going to carry on the job will be advertised.

08.07 Village Projects

Bettisfield:

Bus stop: councillor JB has oiled the seat to help preserve for the future. Counsellors JB and AR to replace plants in the planters with small shrubs that requires limited maintenance.

Penley

Defibrillator- (NR) reported out of date pads at the Rainbow Centre have now been replaced – provided by WAST.

It was noted that Cllr. (NR) regularly reviews the defibrillators to ensure they are working. Notification of this action comes from the Circuit to the Clerk.

Grass cutting and litter: Cllr. (KO) highlighted an increase in litter in the village and the council grass cutting team had not been clearing up after their work. Noted and to monitor.

Morris Homes fence: Last communication from Morris homes was 24th June with an assurance the work was to commence very shortly. Members noted no action has taken place.

Action. Clark to contact Morris Homes again to seek assurance on progress.

Footpaths across fields: Cllr. (JT) noted that a number of paths in the area across fields were partly blocked. It was noted that WCBC had been notified and in one location will be installing a kissing gate. Landowners must reinstate footpaths across land within 14 days of it being ploughed.

Roadside street bins and seat - It was noted that bin by the shop has not been relocated. This will be retained as an action point for the next walkabout with WW

from WCBC. Cllr (KO) noted a damaged seat that needs removing. WW has been informed and is due to action the removal shortly.

Annual Play Inspection: The annual play inspection report has been provided to the Councils Play Contractor to identify areas that need work undertaken. Quotations have been received for various works which are not deemed to be urgent but will require to be carried out in the next couple of years. Work includes replacement of zip wire, and one child's bouncy toy is not repairable.

The report has not indicated any red issues- Members concerned that items marked as non-compliant with BS standards not marked either amber or red.

The grounds maintenance contractor has been requested to cut hedges and low-lying branches this work is scheduled to take place in September.

Action: The financial cost of these to be discussed between the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk takes place to review quotes and potential timeline.

Pendas Park: Cllr. (JT) raised the issue over parking in Pendas Park. Cars are parking on the pavement causing an obstruction and a potential problem in an emergency. A bollard has been removed on the pavement which was to prevent this occurring.

Action. The replacement of the bollard will be discussed with WW at the next walkabout to identify ways in which parking on pavements can be eliminated. Clerk will inform the PCSO re pavement obstruction to see if the Police can take any action.

7.08 Correspondence- Correspondence. No new correspondence.

The Clerk distributes correspondence every couple of weeks to all Members.

07.09 Finance:

Finance report presented. Invoices for payment to the value of £2179.84. The final balance of accounts after payments £25390.10.

Proposed acceptance: Cllr (JB) Seconded Cllr (AR)

Audit Wales – It was noted that. Audit Wales. Have still not invoiced for the period. 21/22.

07.10 Penley vacancy; the advert for the vacancy for Penley has been promoted on the website.

07.11 Planning:

1077 - Noted. There are a number of points raised in relation to this application. which will be submitted to WCBC highlighting the comments of Members including:

Potential conversion from residential to business use

Splay of roadside entrance

Potential pollution from commercial vehicles

Safety issue to the embankment cutting.

1137. Members notes issues in respect to the height of the poles on the development. Removal of trees. Road splay access.

1022. Noted the site is being developed to store a motor home. Planning Officer due to conduct a site visit.

Clerk is in communication with Planning Officers re recent applications.

07.12 Communications: No report.

07.13 Meetings attended by Members: Cllr. (JG) attended a Wrexham Council play sufficiency meeting to discuss. Penley and other locations that have limited play facilities. Research will be conducted by Gloucester University.

Cllr. JG. Attended a meeting with AVOW outlining the future of the Community Agents scheme in the Maelor South area. Due to recruitment issues the new contract is unlikely to commence until September. In the meantime, members if they identify people needing support, should contact the Single Point of Access (SPOA) at Wrexham County. Council.

06.16 AOB –

Notice Board - Tudor Drive. It was noted the cost for a new noticeboard is approximately £1000. Agreed the purchase will be delayed until clarity from the Rainbow Foundation regarding their proposals for village signage/information boards. It was noted that if a noticeboard was to be put up the dog bin bags need to be relocated.

06.17 Date of Next Meeting – 3rd September 7.00pm Penley Village Hall (TBC)

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm.