

Maelor South Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Bettisfield Chapel on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.00pm

4.1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Cllr. Alwyn Reay (Chair), Cllr. John Griffiths, Cllr. Keith Owen, Cllr. Ian Burdett, Cllr. John Blanchard

In attendance: Clerk – John Gallanders

Apologies: Cllrs. Nick Ringrose, Cllr Jackie Tomkinson, Cllr Simon Huxley, Cllr Michelle Edge
Cllr John McCusker

4.2. Welcome- Chair welcomed all members. No Chair announcements.

None.

4.3. Police Matters

No PCSO present Police report circulated in advance. Incidents included:

- **Domestic disputes in Penley (x3)** – 1st, 2nd, and 7th March.
- **Theft from shed in Bronington and unauthorised motorbike use in Hanmer**, although the latter had landowner permission.
- Speed concerns around Penley and presence of GoSafe van discussed. Further data requested on detection and enforcement outcomes.

Actions:

- Await confirmation from PCSO Lisa regarding youth liaison support.
- Seek data from GoSafe on enforcement statistics and outcomes.

4.4. County Councillor's Report

Cllr. John McCusker not present. Member relayed:

Not in MSCC area but impacts on local residents –

- Highways survey to be undertaken on Overton–Ellesmere Road due to accidents.
- Wrexham Council position is that existing 40mph limit is adequate, but Overton Community Council pursuing a reduction to 30mph.
- Discussion held on enforcement responsibility for runoff from land causing road damage on Northwood Road.
- Significant concern raised regarding ongoing road degradation and potholes.
- No update has been provided by WCBC Flood Officer

Actions:

- Request site visit by highways officers from Wrexham CBC and Cllr. McCusker regarding state of Northwood Road.

- Members requested to take photos to support complaint to be submitted by Clerk.

4.5. Open Forum

No public present.

4.6. Approval of Minutes – 28 February 2025

The minutes were approved, with amendment:

- **Clarification from residents:** Replace references to "septic tanks" with "sealed tanks" and residents' comments accepted as an amendment- noted as footer to March minutes

Proposed: Cllr. JG **Seconded:** Cllr. JB

4.7. Matters Arising

- **Youth Club PCSO presence:** Awaiting response of contact for Youth Liaison Officer as PCSO unable to attend
- **Speed awareness:** PSCO Lisa to liaise with GoSafe.
- **Betsi Cadwaladr UHB (Penley Hospital):** No response received to letters direct to BCU or Ken Skates MS (other than receipt acknowledgement). Cllrs. discussed escalating publicity by including in annual report.
- **Canal & River Trust:** Volunteer work carried out to replant a hedge, but reseeding remains unresolved. Area now heavily weedy. Additional planting supplies received but may not be suitable for soil conditions.

Actions:

- Include Penley Hospital correspondence in annual report.
- Organise a follow-up with CRT regarding reseeding strategy.

4.8. Village Project Updates

Bettisfield:

- **Donkey Field:** New Keep Wales Tidy benches installed; planter filled with soil and awaiting planting of additional heathers.
- Gate latch missing on canal access; to be repaired. Cllr JB offered to put a replacement lock
- **Signage** for the field discussed. Cllr AR to provide draft wording

Penley:

- **Madras School Community Room-** on track for mid-May handover.
- **Noticeboard** being removed to have repairs undertaken by original maker.
- **Streetlights:** Invoices received- outstanding faults remain (e.g., light no.4 Pendas Park and main road by Rainbow Foundation).

- **Playground:** Section 106 procurement ongoing, possible installation by early May. Madras pupils and developer to be invited to reopening.

General:

- **Defibrillator Training:** Cllr Nick Ringrose to provide training/awareness – agreed reimbursed for training material costs. Two community sessions proposed, one in each village.
- **Defibrillator location sign:** details to be check re Tudor Drive site.

Actions:

- Cllr NR to organise defibrillator session dates and check circuit registration.
- Raise tree safety concerns on Morris Homes land with Wrexham CBC.
- Request full safety check on trees along highway near new developments.

4.9. Correspondence

- Clerk to reissue link matrix as PDF due to some councillors' device restrictions.

4.10. Finance

Payments Approved (Retrospective):

- WCBC – Penley Streetlight Maintenance: £943.20 large amount as back dated to 2023
- Reimbursement (Cllr JD) – Penley speed sign battery: £45.00

Financial Summary:

- **Current Account:** £1,393.21
- **Deposit Account:** £29,210.19
- **Total Reserves:** £30,603.40
- **Free Reserves (after potential liabilities):** £15,603.40

Clerk presented a detailed financial comparison and budget variance report for year-end 2024-25, noting an underspend against various budget headings due to lower spending particularly on maintenance items. Emphasised need to designate reserves to avoid future audit issues of holding excess reserves.

4.11. Governance

- Annual Report – draft was presented and approved for the Annual Meeting in May- additional amendment to include Penley Hospital.
- Bettisfield vacancy- despite the vacancy being promoted no one has come forward – highlight again on social media.
- Biodiversity Report: a draft triennial report was presented and Members agreed to adopt the report and recommendations for the next three years.

4.12. Planning Applications

None

4.13. Meetings attended by Councillors:

Cllr JG attended two Madras Governor meetings and one with Dame Dorothy Trust

Cllr Ian Burdett has a place booked for attending the VE Day commemoration on behalf of MSCC.

No applications

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 6th May commencing at 6.30pm for AGM followed by main MSCC meeting to be held at Bettisfield Chapel.