

MAELOR SOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7.00pm Online

Present:

Cllr John Griffiths (Chair), Cllr Keith Owen, Cllr Jackie Tomlinson, Cllr Jan Thompson, Cllr Rebecca Bettis, Cllr John Blanchard.

Apologies:

Cllr Alwyn Reay. Cllr Nick Ringrose Cllr Ian Burdett

Also present:

John Gallanders (Clerk) and County Cllr John McCusker (WCBC).

1.12 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.10pm and welcomed everyone to the first winter online meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Alwyn Reay, who is currently ill.

The Chair reminded Members of the sad occasion twelve months ago when Cllr Alison Jones attended her last meeting before sadly passing away. Her contributions are greatly missed.

2.12 Police Report

An updated report had been circulated by the PCSO in advance of the meeting. The following incidents were noted, and no further action was required from MSCC.

Incidents of Note		
Crime Reference Number	Date	Brief Circumstances
C170627	03/11/2025	Common Assault - Suspect assaulted WCBC worker - Overton
C179204	18/11/2025	Threats – Threats over access to property - Penley
C180370	20/11/2025	Theft – Theft of parcel from doorstep – Penley
C183076	25/11/2025	Theft – Theft of wheels – Overton
C184732	28/11/2025	Common Assault – Pupil assaulted by another pupil - Penley
C172392	06/11/2025	ASB – Pupil spreading malicious rumors about another pupil - Penley

Members expressed concern at the continuing lack of attendance by Police representatives at evening meetings and agreed the Clerk would escalate this to senior levels to seek a commitment for periodic attendance (at least twice annually).

Action: Clerk to write to North Wales Police requesting regular representation at Council meetings and feedback on local activity.

3.12 County Councillor Update

Cllr McCusker provided an update on the proposed resurfacing work around Penley Bank. The original date of 11th December has now been moved to the April school holidays due to transport considerations.

The condition of the road is dangerous, and temporary works are needed to reduce the hazard. Members also raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of the road from Bettisfield to Northwood.

Action: Cllr McCusker to raise points with WCBC Highways.

WCBC will be bidding for the 2029 City of Culture. If successful, this could significantly boost the local economy.

4.12 Minutes of meeting 4th November 2025

Proposed acceptance: Cllr JB. Seconded: Cllr KO.

5.12 Matters arising

Bettisfield Flooding – WCBC have undertaken some works, but blocked drains remain an issue. Members and residents will continue monitoring.

Street Lighting – The WCBC Lighting Officer confirmed that lights 4 and 8 will be repaired in the next week. Engineers were reported to have been on-site today at lamp 8.

Bettisfield ScottishPower – Roadwork signs remain on the verge.

Planning Issue – An uncompleted property on Cadney Lane has led to a rat infestation.

Action: Clerk to notify WCBC Environmental Health and Planning Enforcement.

10.11 Defibrillator Relocation

The last service in the Chapel will be 18th January, but power will remain on temporarily. The defibrillator will stay in place for now.

Action: Cllr JG to liaise with an electrician about solar options. Clerk to source a replacement cabinet.

6.12 Village Projects

Bettisfield:

Replacement trees for Office Field – Budget allocated. Members to purchase at commencement of planting season in 2026.

Humpback bridge signage – Members to check whether signs remain or are obstructed as shown on Google Streetview.

Action: Clerk to contact WCBC if signage is missing or obscured.

Penley:

A Member has reinstalled barrier posts on the grass verge by the school.

Penley Hospital Update:

A summary of the meeting with BCUHB on 25th November was circulated before the meeting.

Three future options are being developed. Community-wide consultation is expected in early 2026.

Correspondence has been received from the Rainbow Foundation regarding a proposal.

It was agreed to invite the Rainbow Foundation to the January Council meeting. Members to share questions with Clerk in advance.

7.12 Correspondence

The Rainbow Foundation proposal was noted.

8.12 Finance

Invoices totalling £809.69 were approved.

Account balance: £37,059.89, less £15,000 designated for potential WCBC payment.

Budget/Precept:

A balanced budget was proposed with a precept of £26,315 (£35.09 per household), representing a 3.5% increase.

Proposed: Cllr KO. Seconded: Cllr RB.

Street Lighting Electricity Contract:

Scottish Power will no longer supply unmetered energy, moving the Council to a higher out-of-contract rate.

Action: Members authorised the Clerk to secure the best available market rate.

9.12 Governance and Membership

Cllr JT to submit Member form. A vacancy for Bettisfield remains open for co-option.

WCBC monitoring matrix will be updated.

A revised three-year grass cutting contract will be advertised early January with a 31st January deadline.

10.12 Planning

No applications or updates.

11.12 Meetings Attended

Cllrs JB and JT attended OVW Member Induction Training.

The Community Carol Service requires readers. Cllrs JT and JB volunteered.

12.12 Any Other Business

A resident contacted the Clerk about hedge cutting on Cadney Lane and possible CCTV after recent burglaries.

Discussion covered burglary issues in Bettisfield and local prevention measures.

Action: Invite a senior Police Officer to the January meeting.

Members wished each other a Merry Christmas.

12.13 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 6th January 2026, 7.00pm online.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.