

Maelor South Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 4th March 2025

Time: 7.00 PM

Location: Online

Present:

- Cllr Alwyn Reay (Chair)
- Cllr John Griffiths
- Cllr Nick Ringrose
- Cllr Jackie Tomkinson
- Cllr Simon Huxley
- Cllr Keith Owen

Apologies:

- Cllr John Blanchard
- Cllr Michelle Edge
- County Councillor John McCusker

In attendance: John Gallanders Clerk

1.03 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted apologies as stated above.

2.03 Police Report

- The PCSO was unable to attend, but crime statistics had been circulated previously.
- A significant accident occurred near Smithy Cottage, Bettisfield on a sharp bend. Reports indicate that a car exiting a driveway was struck by an oncoming car. The accident resulted in severe damage, requiring Police, fire crews, and the Air Ambulance to attend. Fortunately, despite the severity, there were no serious injuries.
- Concerns were raised about speeding in the area, and members suggested requesting a GoSafe speed enforcement van to monitor traffic.
- The new Inspector (Stefan Lederle (72334) Stefan.Lederle@northwales.police.uk) for rural policing has tasked local PCSO's with identifying three key policing priorities over the next three months. The following areas were proposed:
 - **Parking issues** around Madras School and Maelor School, which are becoming increasingly hazardous.
 - **Speeding concerns**, particularly in residential areas and near schools.
 - **Penley Youth Club:** Establishing a Police liaison, continuing a past initiative where officers engaged with young residents.

Additionally, concerns were raised over the ongoing issue of nitrous oxide canisters being found discarded in parks and other public areas. This remains a persistent problem and is believed to be linked to youth gatherings.

Actions:

- The Clerk will liaise with the PCSO regarding the accident investigation and follow up on the GoSafe van request.
- The PCSO will be asked to provide data on past speed enforcement measures from Go Safe activity and the effectiveness of fines or warning letters issued.
- Councillors will gather photographic evidence of potential traffic violations, particularly problematic parking at Madras and Maelor Schools, to be shared with the Police.

3.03 County Council Update (email correspondence)

- **Flooding Issues:**

- Bettisfield potholes have been filled following the drop in floodwaters, but the work appears to be a temporary fix, with long-term solutions still needed.
- **Penley Hall road entrance flooding** remains a serious concern. A key drainage point is blocked, leading to water collecting on the road, particularly after heavy rain.
- **Bettisfield drainage issues** continue to cause concern. Wrexham Council is in the process of serving a ditch notice to the responsible landowner to enforce proper maintenance. Clarity has been provided by WCBC in respect what areas of drains are their responsibility and what elements are the landowners.

- **Septic Tanks & Watercourse Responsibility:**

- ~~Concerns were raised regarding septic tanks overflowing in Bettisfield, with some residents forced to empty their tanks two to three times per month due to poor drainage.~~

- Minute amended following updated information from residents-

It is noted that there has been no overflow from a cesspit (no septic tank installed) into any water course. Due to installation damage there is standing water ingress.

“Information from resident- We independently contacted the Environmental Agency and Hafren Dyfrdwy, who sent a specialist to assess the water ingress. Their findings confirmed:

- a) The ingress was not caused by a mains water leak.
- b) The ingress consisted of rainwater, free from contaminants.

The source of the water ingress has been identified as blocked culverts on land situated to the rear of the Property. We have yet to receive a response from the landowner and are currently seeking legal advice.

Remedial works are ongoing.”

- Clarification was provided on ownership responsibility for culverts and drainage ditches.
- A vacant property in Bettisfield has seen particularly high levels of waste accumulation due to the malfunctioning septic system.

Actions:

- The Clerk will follow up with Wrexham Council regarding continued drainage maintenance efforts.
- **Cllr John McCusker** will escalate concerns about flooding and septic tank overflow to the relevant departments.

4.03 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

5.03 Matters Arising (minutes 4th February 2025)

- **Penley Hospital:** No response has been received from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) regarding the future of Penley Hospital.
 - This marks the third attempt to obtain an update.
 - It was suggested that the Ken Skates Welsh Senedd representatives be copied into future correspondence to escalate the issue.
- **Street Lighting Issues:**
 - Multiple streetlights remain non-functional in Penley since last October, particularly on key pedestrian routes.
 - The 20mph matrix sign is still out of order and is now being considered for removal if it is not repairable.
 - A streetlight near Pendas Park in Penley, which lights a frequently used cut-through, is reportedly non-functional and potentially unsafe.

Actions:

- The Clerk will escalate Penley Hospital concerns to Ken Skates the Senedd Member.
- Councillor will inspect the Pendas Park light and provide additional information to the Clerk.
- If the 20mph matrix sign cannot be repaired, a request will be submitted to remove or replace it with a more functional alternative.

6.03 Village Projects and Updates

Bettisfield

- A volunteer (8 present) session resulted in the successful planting of 15 fruit trees and 700 bulbs in Donkey Field.
- The Canal & River Trust (CART) is due to reseed work in the centre of Donkey Field, which has yet to be completed.
- The boundary fence at the top of Donkey Field remains unrepaired, despite previous commitments.
- A memorial plaque for Alison Jones will be installed on a bench in Donkey Field with a small event for friends in June.

Actions:

- The Clerk will chase CART to confirm when reseed work will take place.
- Cllr Alwyn Reay will draft wording for historical interpretation signage for Bettisfield.

Penley

- **Fly-tipping incident** have been reported in the Penley Primary School public car park.
 - Some of the dumped items contained identifiable personal information, suggesting local residents are responsible.
 - A formal complaint has been lodged with Wrexham Council.
 - After numerous pieces of correspondence all items have now been removed but no clarity on who undertook the work.

Highways Issues

- **School Parking & Safety Concerns:**
 - A Madras School Year 6 student has submitted a letter detailing safety concerns, including speeding near crossings, dangerous parking, and children being splashed by passing vehicles.
 - Issues were raised regarding coaches not stopping at zebra crossings, speeding vehicles, inconsiderate parking and splashing from roadside flooding.

Actions:

- A joint letter from the Community Council and Police will, subject to approval of both schools be sent to parents regarding parking concerns.
- Cllr Keith Owen will liaise with Pat's Coaches to address safety issues with coach drivers.
- The PCSO will be invited to monitor drop-off and pick-up times.
- Feedback to the young person will be undertaken by Cllr John Griffiths ideally with a representative of the Police.

7.03 Finance

The following payments were approved:

- Clerk Salary plus expenses
- WCBC Street lighting Maintenance
- CloudNext – MSCC email domain
- Community Grants:
 - Penley Youth Club - £1000
 - St Mary's Church, Penley – Church Yard - £500
- Bettisfield Church was invited to apply for funding but declined to apply.

Proposed by: Cllr JG

Seconded by: Cllr KO

- Audit Wales – no response

8.03 Governance

- **Vacancy** – the vacancy has been promoted locally as a Co-option – Bettisfield Members to pursue a replacement for Cllr Allison Jones.
- **WCBC/WG Community Council review** – Members agreed not to seek any boundary review or extension of the number of Councillors
- **WCBC SLA**- Members agreed to continue with WCBC lighting maintenance SLA

9.03 Planning Applications

- **Ashdale House (Penley) – Extension & Garage:** No objections raised.
- **Classic Cars Garage Complaint:** Ongoing concerns over **potential pollution, noise, and non-compliant business activity.**

Action:

- Clerk to highlight issues to Wrexham Planning Department.

10.03 Meetings attended by councillors.

Cllr JG has attended two Madras School Governors meeting

11.03 Any Other Business – No items

Meeting Closed: 8.58

Date of Next Meeting: 1st April 2025, 7 PM at Bettisfield Chapel