



Meeting Minutes

Date: 6th May 2025

Location: Bettisfield Chapel

Time: 19.43 Following on from AGM meeting

5.01 Present:

Cllr Alwyn Reay (Chair) Cllr John Griffiths Cllr Jackie Tomkinson
Cllr Nick Ringrose Cllr Keith Owen Cllr John Blanchard
Cllr Michelle Edge (left early) Cllr Ian Burdett (left early)

5.02 Apologies:

Cllr Simon Huxley

PCSO Lisa Davies

Cllr John McCusker (County Council)

5.03 Police Matters

No Police representative – information circulated prior to the meeting indicated only one issue in the MSCC area – domestic incident in Penley.

Members expressed concern that parking issues around Madras School have not improved. PCSO/ Police Schools Officer visit to school not yet been arranged to meet with School Council pupil.

Speeding related issues still ongoing.

Nothing has been received yet re action plan to address the three key priorities of Parking, Speeding and Youth.

Clerk reported that a request for information from Go Safe had not yet been provided – a follow up request had to be submitted as an FOI.

Action: Follow up re Madras school visit, continue to pursue Go Safe data. Contact Inspector Stefan Lederle re the three-priorities action plan.

Dates to be sought for PCSO to have a community walkabout with Members.

5.04 County Council Report

Apology received- no report

Members raised the significant issues regarding the condition of the roads through Bettisfield and the hazard level due to drivers trying to avoid by veering to the other side of the highway and the deterioration in verges.

Members referred to the correspondence to WCBC Tree Officer regarding potentially unsafe trees on Morris Homes site and the main road by the Maelor School.

Action:

Clerk to identify suitable dates for walkabout. Seek clarification from the Tree Officer on what action will be carried out.

5.05 Open Forum

The following minute is from the Forum discussion at the AGM and included as a note for the Council Meeting to ensure continuity agreed actions.

(Matters raised by local resident) - Cadney Lane Drainage: Members supported enforcement action and proposed earlier reminders to WCBC and landowners.

- Additional Issues: Stagnant water, culvert blockages, and lack of clarity on land ownership/responsibility.

-Information was shared re land drainage plans to assist in understanding the various water flow levels.

-WCBC have been on site with machinery but were removed by a supervisor before work could be carried out.

- The water levels are still sitting above the drain levels indication that despite the dry weather there is no drainage taking place.

-It was highlighted that the problems are not just in the immediate area of Cadney Lane but other locations in the vicinity.

- Escalation Proposal: Clerk to contact WCBC prior to 28th May for timeline and commitment to next steps now they have served an Enforcement Notice on the landowner.

- Acknowledgements: Thanks, expressed to Cllr John McCusker for continued support and liaison. Thanks to Peter Grayburn (local resident) for his continuing efforts in raising the substantial issue of flooding and associated risks and the sharing of his information.

Actions:

- Clerk to write to WCBC before 28th May seeing clarification as to whether the enforcement action meant completion of works or only acceptance of liability by the landowner

- Clerk to coordinate GoSafe request and Penley parking review.

- Drainage to be a standing Community Council agenda item.

5.06 Approval of Minutes 1st April 2025

Minutes were agreed with no amendments.

Proposed. Cllr (JB) Seconded Cllr (IB)

5.07 Matters arising

- **Betsi Cadwaladr UHB (Penley Hospital):** There has still not been any response received to letters direct to BCU or Ken Skates MS (other than receipt acknowledgement). Cllrs. discussed escalating publicity by including in annual report.
The Clerk had circulated an FOI from a Third Party prior to the meeting- it was identified that the content of the response contained several contradictory statements both in the letter, media coverage and local knowledge.

Action: Clerk to respond to current information. Members to determine at June meeting if the matter is to be reported to the Public Service Ombudsman.

Donkey Field – despite numerous attempts to arrange for Canal and River Trust (CRT) to meet their obligation to reinstate the field works have still not been carried out. Clerk to pursue.

Hedge- due to the level of growth a specialist hedge cutter will be required – estimate for the work is £650 + V AT but works cannot be carried out until September due to nesting period.

Members discussed the actual level of work that is required- whether it needs a cut back to fence height or whether the fence could be 'laid' instead to ease the maintenance and allow the bottom of the hedge to thicken and provide a future better nesting habitat.

Action: Clerk to seek a price for hedge laying and clarity from CRT of their intentions re the car park hedge.

5.08 Village Updates

Penley Youth Engagement and Facilities

Members discussed upcoming community engagement activities in Penley. Plans are in place for a community information event on the Madras School field, involving Active Wrexham and highlighting ongoing local initiatives. The event will not be a traditional fete but a way to inform residents about youth work, funding outcomes (including £20,000 to support the Youth Club for two years), and general village developments.

Members emphasised the need to involve parents and community members in volunteering opportunities across initiatives like the Youth Club and Community Council.

Action: It was agreed that information boards and printed newsletters should be prepared for the event to increase awareness of the work of MSCC

Teen Provision & Community Field Space

Discussions are ongoing with Maelor School, which has agreed in principle to allocate a portion of its field for older children (ages 12–17). Funding will be sought to support small-scale amenities such as a shelter and activity equipment. The initiative will complement the playground and enhance community engagement for the teenage cohort.

Vicarage Lane litter bin

A request was made to install a small waste bin on Vicarage Lane to address ongoing litter and dog mess issues.

Noticeboard repairs

Members commended a local resident, Mr Colin Davies, who restored the Penley notice board free of charge. It was agreed a letter of thanks should be sent, and a photo along with recognition would be posted on the Community Council's Facebook page and website

Action: New litter bin to be raised during Community Walkabout. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Colin Davies.

Defibrillators

It was noted that the location details for the defibrillator in the red phone box had been updated on the national system. Members discussed clearer signage for both local defibrillators, including the one at Tudor Drive. Photos will be taken of current signage and new labels designed accordingly.

Action: Cllr NR/JG to provide the Clerk with photos of relevant wording for Tudor Drive and a price to be obtained from ASAP signs.

Cllr (NR) to provide dates for community defibrillator awareness training.

Street Lighting – Follow-Up

Unresolved street lighting on Ellesmere Lane was raised again. Members noted ongoing correspondence with WCBC and their failure to enforce previous lighting improvement commitments on Ellesmere Lane linked to nearby housing developments.

Action: Clerk to draft letter re failure of WCBC to have ensured the street lighting as set out in the original planning application are complied with. Also noted light 4 is still not operational.

5.09 Finance

Payments Approved:

- Scottish Power (retrospective emergency payment): £443.65
- Accounting Software (annual): £108.00
- John Williams – Penley Grass Cutting and Bin Emptying (March–April): £294.00
- Website/E-mail Emergency Recovery Payment (to Clerk): £110.00
- Internal Audit – JAK Audit Services: £150.00
- Community Grounds Maintenance – Donkey Field: £260.00

Financial Position:

- £8,000 transferred to deposit account.
- General funds balance approx. £37,300 (after correcting duplicate entry).
- Of this, £22,300 is available for allocation this financial year.

Members were advised to consider community project proposals to allocate surplus reserves before Audit Wales begins scrutiny of balances exceeding 50% of annual precept.

Audit Update:

The Internal Audit has been completed with no issues raised. Members approved the early public inspection period to commence 12th May 2025 for 20 days.

Action: Chair to sign the relevant Audit Wales document to confirm Members acceptance.

Councillor Allowances:

Members unanimously agreed **not** to claim the £156 annual member payment or the £52 communications allowance. Declaration to be submitted to Audit Wales.

5.10 Governance and Co-option

A vacancy remains for the Bettisfield Ward. Members were asked to make informal approaches to any suitable person from the community.

5.11 Planning Applications**Application: Diversion and Removal of Track (Penley Mill House)**

No objections were raised. The track change is understood to be agreed by all affected property owners and provides a clearer boundary between residential and commercial activities.

Classic Cars Site (Oswestry Classic Cars)

Concerns remain over potential expansion on the site due to potential encroachment. Although the above application is separate, members requested the Clerk highlight possible planning breaches and creeping development beyond approved use to WCBC.

5.12 Meetings Attended

Cllr (IB) to attend the VE celebrations in Wrexham on behalf of MSCC.

5.13 Any Other Business

- Members approved a small allocation for refreshments at the upcoming Penley Youth Club event.
- A proposal was made to print and distribute hard copies of community updates at the event, including on display boards.
- Clerk will investigate loan of portable display stands from AVOW. Cllr JG to explore display boards from Madras School.

Meeting Closed: 9:19 PM

Date of Next Meeting: 3rd June 2025