

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST
APRIL 2008 AT BETTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM.

Present: Chairman Mrs W Sime, Councillors Mr A Tennant, Mr K Owen, Mrs H Allen and Mrs A Moser, PCSO Jenna Owen and clerk Miss H Morgan.

- 1) Apologies: Mr J Blanchard (on holiday), Mr K Muir (on holiday), Mrs C Gregory (unwell) and Ms V Davies (unwell).
- 2) The minutes of the last meeting. Item 7 (Penley Rainbow/Community Centre) was amended to include "Four councillors attended the Rainbow AGM on 18th Feb at the invitation of the Rainbow Trustees". The minutes were then signed as a true and correct record.
- 3) Matters arising.
 - a) Bettisfield letter boxes. The clerk had contacted Royal Mail for a progress report. Royal Mail is waiting for a report from the utility company.
 - b) 30mph traffic markings in Penley. Paul Fairclough, the operational manager for Streetscene and highways at Wrexham Council, has written to say that "the use of 30mph road markings would not be a requirement through the residential area on the A539 Penley due to the existence of street lighting". Mrs Sime asked the clerk to write back to Mr Fairclough, as Steve Jones had told us that we could have the road markings. Mr Owen said that one of the 30mph signs in Penley is broken. The clerk is to contact Wrexham council.
 - c) Natural England. Dr Joan Daniels will be coming to our July meeting to give a talk on the Mosses.
 - d) Declarations of interest. Mrs Moser raised the issue of declarations of interest, in respect of the village hall and Community/Rainbow centre, as she felt that anyone living in Penley could be considered to have an interest. The clerk explained that one of the reasons for the regulations is to protect councillors from claims against them from other parties, and that being an interested villager is different to being on the committee.
- 4) Police report. PCSO Owen reported that there had been nine incidents in Penley, 2 of which were crimes, and one incident in Bettisfield. She told councillors about the Neighbourhood Policing Annual Review being held on April 3rd.
- 5) Planning.
 - a) Applications.
 - 1) P/2008/0229. Extension to rear of property to provide kitchen/breakfast area at 5 Oakwood Park, Penley. No objections.
 - b) Granted.
 - 1) P/2006/0737. Outline application for residential development and re-siting of car park on land adjoining Cadney Lane, Bettisfield.
 - 2) P/2008/0029. Outline application for demolition of Penley village hall and erection of single dwelling.
 - c) Refused.
 - 1) P/2008/0021. Conversion of swimming pool to dwelling at Wood Farm, Breadon Heath.
 - d) Other. The clerk was asked to contact planning to find out what is happening with application P/2007/1408 "outline application for residential

development on land at Ellesmere Lane, Penley”, as it is not on Wrexham Council’s website and we have not heard of a decision on it.

- 6) May elections and date of AGM. Mr Tennant and Mrs Gregory have announced that they will not be putting their names forward for the elections. The AGM will be held on May 6th, but councillors will have to sign forms of acceptance of office before the AGM, so the clerk asked for everyone to attend at 7.20pm, so that the AGM can begin at 7.30 as planned.
- 7) Penley Rainbow/Community centre. Mr Tennant, Mrs Moser and Mrs Allen each declared an interest, but as this was a discussion for information only, and no decision was to be made, it was agreed that they should stay in the meeting. Mrs Allen reported that she had attended a meeting at the Rainbow Centre on March 31st. Emphasis had been placed on the fact that much of the funding for the project had been awarded “for the elderly” rather than for the community. Also, the land for the building is being leased from North East Wales NHS Trust and the permitted use is “community health centre and activity day centre for the elderly”, with no mention of community/village use. This, in particular, is of great concern and would need to be changed if it is to go ahead as a community centre. Mr Tennant said that the planning permission for the site of the existing village hall has a condition that it “must not be demolished until a suitable alternative is available and open for use.” This will make it very difficult to sell the village hall to provide funds for the new building, and as the lottery grant is match-funded, the loss of the village hall money would mean a reduction in the lottery grant receivable. Mr Tennant had investigated whether any funds would be available solely for the construction of a new village hall, but was told that it would be unlikely, as the two schools in Penley have rooms that can be used by the community. However, it may be that the existing village hall could be refurbished. Mrs Allen also reported that, despite previously indicating that the plans for the internal layout would be amended, the Rainbow Centre’s intention is now to use the original plans that were objected to by the Community Council. However, it was agreed that if there were concertina doors between the multifunction room and the meeting room, with folding doors into the dining room, the plans would be acceptable.
- 8) Penley playground and skate park. The clerk has received a letter from Piers Sutton and Josh Griffiths, both aged 9 and pupils at the Madras School, requesting a skate board park. The suggested sites are the children’s play area in Pendas Park or a corner of the Maelor School playing field. Councillors felt that it would be an excellent addition to the play area, and the clerk is to write to Wrexham Council. She is to write to the boys to ask if they would be able to raise some money towards the cost.
- 9) Penley notice board. Mr Tennant has spoken to Ken Smith from Hanmer Community Council to offer the old notice board to Horseman’s Green.
- 10) Local Government Member Code of Conduct. The clerk explained that there is to be a revised code of conduct for members, and although we have a few months in which to adopt it, Wrexham Council has recommended adopting it before the May elections. Mrs Moser proposed that it should be adopted and this was seconded by Mrs Allen. The new code will come into effect on May 5th 2008.
- 11) Meetings attended by councillors.

- a) Mrs Sime had attended the play consultation in Penley. She was not impressed by the attitude of the people running the consultation and is going to write to complain.
 - b) Mrs Sime and Mr Owen had attended the footpaths workshop run by the Ramblers Association in Llandudno, and had found it useful. There will be a follow up in July.
- 12) Payment of bills. None.
- 13) Correspondence.
- a) Thank you letters from Nightingale House, Bettisfield Church, Bettisfield Village Hall, Penley Church, Penley Village Hall, the Rainbow Centre and Wales Air Ambulance for the donations.
 - b) Letter from North Wales Police re: the Neighbourhood Policing Annual Review to be held on April 3rd.
 - c) Forward Work Programmes from Wrexham Council's overview and scrutiny committees.
 - d) Draft Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for Wales for Consultation.
 - e) One Wrexham Draft Community Cohesion Strategy.
 - f) Local Vision – Statutory Guidance on developing and delivering Community Strategies, from the Welsh Assembly.
 - g) Agenda from North Wales Police Authority Wrexham PACF for their meeting on April 17th, and minutes of the meeting held on January 17th.
 - h) Details of a Play consultation being held on April 9th in Maesgwyn Hall, in Wrexham.
 - i) Letter from Clwyd Community Health Council regarding the need for new members.
 - j) Copies of “Principles of Good Administration” and “Principles for Remedy” from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
 - k) Brochure from Wicksteed Playscapes.
 - l) Spring 2008 issue of “Play for Wales”.
 - m) Spring 2008 newsletter from AVOW.
- 14) Any other business. A member of the public has made contact through the Penley website to ask whether it would be possible to have containers of flowers along the road to make the village look nicer. Councillors felt that maintenance could be a problem and they could be damaged by children from the school. It was suggested, instead, that we could have some flowering trees, such as mountain ash or cherry. The clerk is to write to Wrexham Council. She is also to ask for the dead cherry tree near the new notice board to be replaced.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.43.