

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2008 AT THE MADRAS SCHOOL, PENLEY AT 7.30PM.

Present: Chairman Mrs W Sime, Councillors Mr K Muir, Mrs H Allen, Mr J Blanchard, Mr P Jones, Ms V Davies, Mr K Owen, Mrs B Wynn, Mrs G Wilson Butterworth and Mrs A Moser, PCSO Jenna Owen, Ms V Morris and clerk Miss H Morgan.

- 1) **Apologies:** none.
- 2) **The minutes of the last meeting** were signed as a true and correct record.
- 3) **Matters arising.**
 - a) The old minute book from Penley Parish Hall has been received. It was passed to Mrs Moser on behalf of the village hall committee for safe-keeping. The clerk is to write to Miss Preston.
 - b) Land at Bettisfield. The clerk has contacted the Land Registry regarding the ownership of the piece of land in Bettisfield with drainage issues. For a fee of £6, they will give us the current owner's name and address. Mr Muir proposed that this be done and this was seconded by Mrs Wilson Butterworth.
- 4) **Police report.** PCSO Owen reported that there had been 5 incidents since our last meeting, including the theft of some money from a pupil at the Maelor School. There have been problems with people parking on the T-junction in Bettisfield and she has spoken to some of the residents and has put up a bollard.
- 5) **Streetscene.** The clerk has spoken to Mike Feely about the dropped kerb in Penley and he is going to put in a request. The pot holes in Bettisfield have been filled in. Mrs Sime said that part of Back Lane/Grange Road has fallen away – the clerk is to contact Mike Feely, although it may be on the English side of the border. She is also to mention the state of the lay-by in Penley, which is in a mess because of the school buses.
- 6) **Planning.**
 - a) Applications.
 - i) P/2008/1165. Erection of double garage at The Hollies, Ellesmere Lane, Penley. No objections.
 - ii) P/2008/1183. Extension to dwelling, Pear Tree Cottage, Higher Penley. No objections.
 - iii) P/2008/1206. Removal of existing porch and erection of single storey front porch at 8 Cambrian View, Bettisfield. No objections.
 - b) Granted.
 - i) P/2008/0987. First floor extension at 19 Tudor Drive, Penley.
 - c) Planning committee report. P/2008/1106. Removal of condition restricting development to one dwelling at Cadney View, Bettisfield.
- 7) **Planters scheme for Penley.** Wrexham Council has written to say that it has no objection to the planter scheme, subject to the following conditions: a) residents should consider maintaining the grass as part of the planter maintenance regime and b) the railway sleepers must not be treated with creosote but a proprietary inert child and animal friendly preservative. It was agreed that nothing can be done until we hear whether we have been successful with the grant. However, Ms Davies said that her neighbour is able to provide us with sleepers at a reduced price and Mrs Moser has some topsoil that can be used.

- 8) **Budget and precept 2009-10.** Using the figures for 2007-8 and 2008-9, the budget was set for 2009-10. This included a pay rise for the clerk to £9.60 per hour. Allowing for a reserve of £800, it was agreed that the precept be set at £5960, which equates to £10 for a Band D property, the same as 2008-9. This was proposed by Mrs Moser, seconded by Mr Blanchard and agreed unanimously.
- 9) **Clerk's contract of employment.** The clerk has obtained a model contract of employment from the SLCC. She said that she felt unable to complete the contract herself, as the employee, and asked one of the councillors to look at it. Mrs Allen offered for her daughter, a trainee solicitor, to look at the contract and this was gratefully accepted.
- 10) **Freedom of Information Act.** Mrs Moser proposed that the new model publication scheme be adopted and this was seconded by Mr Blanchard. A schedule of information has been completed and will be made available to the public.
- 11) **Meetings attended by councillors.** Mrs Sime reported that she had attended a Northern Marches Cymru meeting. 28 projects have been approved and £3.1 million will be distributed.
- 12) **Payment of invoice for uncontested election recharges.** Mrs Sime proposed that the bill for £340 be paid and this was seconded by Mr Owen.
- 13) **Meeting dates 2009.** It was agreed that meetings should continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month. The clerk distributed a list of meeting dates.
- 14) **Correspondence.**
 - a) A copy of the Gating Order Policy and Procedure from Wrexham County Borough Council.
 - b) Letter from the National Assembly for Wales about members' pay and allowances.
 - c) Invitation from AVOW to attend their Christmas reception on December 19th, and an application form to join AVOW. Ms Morris said that she would like to attend the reception and Mrs Moser will accompany her if she is available.
 - d) Letter from Wrexham Council about its scrutiny arrangements.
 - e) November/December 2008 newsletter from AVOW.
 - f) Annual Report 2007-8 from the Adjudication Panel for Wales.
- 15) **Any other business.** Mr Owen said that, now that Mr Tennant is no longer on the council and able to unlock the school, the Madras School is having to pay the caretaker for an hour's work each time we use the school for a meeting. It was agreed that Mr Owen and Ms Davies, who are both governors at the school, ask if they can have keys and alarm codes so that there is no need for the caretaker to come out. If this isn't possible, the clerk is to enquire whether the Maelor School would be available free of charge.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.58.