

MAELOR SOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JULY 7TH 2009 AT BETTISFIELD CHAPEL AT 7.30PM.

Present: Cllr Mrs Sime (chairman), Cllr Mrs Wynn, Cllr Owen, Cllr Jones, Cllr Blanchard, Cllr Mrs Allen, Cllr Mrs Moser, Cllr Mrs Wilson Butterworth, Rebecca Gilpin (Rural Youth Project), PCSO Bethan Large, Ms Morris and clerk Miss Morgan

Apologies: Cllr Ms Davies (parents evening at school), Cllr Muir (family bereavement)

- 1) **Minutes.** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2.6.09, copies of which had been previously circulated to members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 2) **Matters arising.**
 - a) Bettisfield drainage. The clerk wrote to Paul Fairclough to enquire whether Wrexham Council had heard from the couple living in Scotland about the blocked ditches. He replied that the lady had contacted his office and had spoken to Kevin Edwards, the Area Engineer. Mr Fairclough explained in his letter that although Wrexham Council does have powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to undertake work and recover the cost from the riparian landowner, it can be complicated, and he therefore offered to attend one of our meetings to discuss the proposals. The clerk has arranged with him that he will attend our September meeting.
 - b) Long grass at road junction in Bettisfield. Following the last meeting, the clerk emailed Wrexham Council about the poor visibility at the junction with the A495 and the grass was cut within two days.
 - c) Planning training. Five or six councillors will be attending the training session at the Guildhall on July 13th.
- 3) **Police report.** PCSO Large introduced herself and said that the policing team based at Overton is now back to full strength with the appointment of a replacement for PCSO Owen. She said that there had been no crimes reported in the area since the last meeting. There had been a cross-border operation that had resulted in two arrests. Cllr Owen raised the issue of cars parking inappropriately outside the Maelor School and this was discussed.
- 4) **Presentation by the Rural Youth Project.** Rebecca Gilpin from the Rural Youth Project first spoke about the new youth club in Bettisfield, which opened on March 24th and meets on Tuesdays in the village hall. About ten children have been attending and they are trying to increase numbers by publicising the club in Bettisfield and the surrounding villages. She said that plans were now in place for a youth club to be started in Penley, using the mobile unit. She asked for suggestions of where it could be parked, and councillors suggested the village hall car park, the Maelor School grounds or the industrial estate.
- 5) **Streetscene.** No issues.

- 6) Planning.**
- a) Applications.
 - i) P/2009/0432. Extensions, alteration works, detached garage and access modification at Cadney View, Cadney Lane, Bettisfield. No objections.
 - ii) P/2009/0469. Single storey rear extension at The Llanerchs, Vicarage Road, Penley. No objections.
 - iii) P/2009/0480. Two storey extension to rear and side and erection of timber conservatory at Elm Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Penley. No objections.
 - iv) P/2009/0524. Extension to operational area, involving change of use of land and erection of new boundary fencing and installation of new access gate at Penley pumping station off A539 at Penley. No objections.
 - v) P/2009/0543. Use of outbuilding as smithy on a permanent basis at Small Farm, Tarts Hill, Hanmer. No objections.
 - b) Decision. P/2009/0317. Static caravan on land adjacent to Unit 33, Penley Industrial Estate. This has been granted.
- 7) Tidy Towns Grant Aided Projects and the planting of trees.** Both villages have been successful in their applications for funding. Bettisfield has been granted £3000 to improve the environmental quality at the junction of Cadney Lane/The Cadney, outside Bettisfield chapel, at the village entrances and at the bus shelter by Canal Bridge. Penley has been granted £500 to provide plants for the recently supplied planters on the main road in Penley. Mike Feely has been in touch and will be arranging meetings with representatives from the community council and Kevin Edwards from Wrexham Council. Cllr Mrs Sime wondered if some of the Penley money could be spent on the planting of trees. She thought that a good location would be on the grassy area by the lay-by opposite the shop. The clerk had make enquiries with Wrexham Council and it would appear that the land has no registered owner. Cllr Mrs Moser will make enquiries to see if the community council could register this piece of land.
- 8) Appointment of new clerk.** The “Shropshire Star”, “Whitchurch Herald” and “Evening Leader” have included the vacancy as a news item. The vacancy has been advertised in the Bettisfield newsletter, but unfortunately half of the advert, including the contact details, was missed out. As the newsletter only came out on July 1st, it was felt that a closing date of mid-August should be set. Cllr Mrs Allen suggested advertising in the Job Centre and on village notice boards in surrounding villages. So far, there has been one applicant and it was agreed that she and any other suitable applicants should be invited to attend the September meeting.
- 9) Internal audit and payment of auditor’s fees.** The internal audit has been completed by JDH Business Services Ltd in Mold. The only problem the auditor found was that the fidelity cover was not high enough. This is always reviewed anyway when we renew our insurance. However, with our new insurance cover with Zurich, the standard fidelity cover is much higher, so this will not be a problem in future. The auditor’s fee was £74.09 plus VAT, the same as last year. Cllr Mrs Moser proposed that this should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Allen.
- 10) Annual Review of the effectiveness of the Council’s system of Internal Controls and completion of the Annual Return.** The system of internal

controls was reviewed and found to be satisfactory. The annual return was completed and signed by the chairman and the clerk.

- 11) **Meetings attended by councillors.** Cllr Jones and Cllr Blanchard attended the Town and Community Council Forum at the Guildhall in June, where their item regarding the drainage problems in Bettisfield was on the agenda. Wrexham Council's view is still that new houses should have sealed tanks.
- 12) **Payment of clerk's salary and expenses.** Over the last six months, the clerk has spent 55 hours and 20 minutes on council business. At £9.60 per hour, this comes to £531.20. Her expenses for the period amounted to £111.07. Cllr Owen proposed that both amounts be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Moser.
- 13) **Payment of invoice for daffodil bulbs.** As previously agreed, the bill was £20. Cllr Mrs Moser proposed that this be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilson Butterworth.
- 14) **Payment of invoice for street light maintenance.** The charge for the period 1.4.09 to 18.5.09 was £45.84. Cllr Mrs Sime proposed that this be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Blanchard.
- 15) **Payment of any other bills.** None.
- 16) **Correspondence.**
 - a) Letter from Wrexham Council about road name signs for Penley Hall Drive and Halghton Lane. Councillors were disappointed that Wrexham Council is insisting on calling Halghton Lane "Dymock Lane". Cllr Mrs Moser suggested that we put up another sign with the alternative name and asked that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - b) Agenda for the next meeting of the Wrexham Police Authority Community Forum meeting on July 16th, together with the minutes of their last meeting.
 - c) Bulb catalogue from J Parker.
 - d) Copy of the Policing plans for Wrexham South area.
 - e) Details of Holiday Play schemes in the area and a National Play Day Celebration on August 5th.
 - f) Thank you letter from the Penley Rainbow Centre for our donation.
 - g) Brochure from Denbighshire County Council about their sign shop.
 - h) Invitation to join the Clwyd Community Chest.
- 17) **Any other business.** Cllr Mrs Allen said that the graveyard at Penley church is very overgrown and untidy. She felt that a letter should be sent to the vicar and to Bert Tennant. Cllr Mrs Sime, as assistant treasurer for the church, said that the church is no longer able to afford to have the grass cut on a regular basis. Also, as part of the Open Church Network, the church is taking part in the Sacred Spaces project and is developing the graveyard into a wild flower area, so the grass will be cut once a year, in September. It was mentioned that the Community Council gives money to the church for the maintenance of the graveyard and it was agreed that this should be reviewed if the money isn't being used for that purpose.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.46.