

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND
SEPTEMBER 2008 AT BETTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM.

Present: Chairman Mrs W Sime, Councillors Mrs H Allen, Mrs G Wilson Butterworth, Ms V Davies, Mr K Muir, Mr P Jones, Mr J Blanchard, Mr K Owen, Mrs B Wynn and Mrs A Moser, PC Luke Hughes, PCSO Emily Williams, Ms V Morris and Clerk Miss H Morgan. (2 Bettisfield residents also attended the meeting.)

- 1) Apologies: None.
- 2) The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and correct record.
- 3) Matters arising.
 - a) The advert in the "Whitchurch Herald" for the new code of conduct cost £30.93, and a cheque for this amount has been paid to Michael Arnold.
 - b) The old Penley notice board has now been removed.
 - c) Following on from the letter received from Wrexham Council about the street lighting contract, the clerk contacted Mrs Edwards, the previous clerk, to ask if she remembered anything about the electricity supply for the street lights. The clerk is to write to Wrexham Council to clarify who is paying for the electricity.
- 4) Police report. PC Hughes reported that there had been 22 incidents in Penley in the last two months, including 6 crimes. In Bettisfield, there had been no crimes but 4 incidents. Operation Vardon, which is tackling rural thefts, is continuing. Following a number of incidents at MFD Capacitors factory, they installed CCTV on the advice of the police and the offenders have been caught and are now in prison. Penley shop has been fined following a test purchase by trading standards. PC Hughes said that PCSO Williams will be moving to the Ruabon area but she will be replaced later in the year. The school visits will continue. Mr Muir said that the 2 Bettisfield residents had come to the meeting because they were concerned about the speed of traffic in the village. PC Hughes said that he was sympathetic but at the moment the speed limit is 60mph and so he can't charge people with speeding. However, he said that every road in Wales has been reviewed and hopefully the speed limit will be reduced. The clerk is to write to the Highways department about this. Mr Muir also said that he sees people using their mobile phones while driving. PC Hughes said that he will try to come down more often to catch people on phone.
- 5) Planning.
 - a) Applications.
 - i) P/2008/0840. Infilling works at Trench Bridge, Red Hall Lane, Penley. No objections.
 - ii) P/2008/0847. Erection of building for use as fodder and cattle shelter on land at Burgess Lane, Penley. Object because unable to substantiate applicant's claim that he rents land nearby and so there is no essential agricultural need.
 - iii) P/2008/0863. Erection of sports complex and bus/coach facility at the Maelor Comprehensive School, Penley. Comments: not clear if new access is just for new sports complex or for buses bringing children to school; would like cars dropping children off to be able to use new access; plans don't show entrance to industrial estate, which is almost directly opposite, nor do they show the nearby bus

stop; more landscaping is needed around the sports complex; nothing is mentioned in the plans about external lighting; would prefer something other than concrete blocks for construction of ground floor.

- iv) P/2008/0883. Extend garage to form workshop at Plot 2 (The Oaks), Meredith Close, Cadney Lane, Bettisfield. No objections.
 - b) Granted.
 - i) P/2008/0458. Outline application for erection of dwelling on land adjacent to Oakwood House, Cadney Lane, Bettisfield.
 - ii) P/2008/0481. Demolition of 2 farm buildings and erection of hay and implement store and hardstanding at Blackhurst Farm, Northwood.
 - c) Refused. P/2008/0579. First floor extension at the Hollies, Moss Lane, Bettisfield.
- 6) Youth work and representation on board. Mrs Sime reported that she had attended a meeting about the youth work in the South Maelor area. The Youth Service has got £80K from the European Union and the Welsh Assembly to spend on 11-26 year olds in area. This will be mainly spent on youth workers. There will be a governing board to oversee the spending of the money. Councillors are to let the clerk know if they think of anyone suitable to be on the board.
 - 7) Penley playground and skate park. The clerk has had an email from Wrexham Council to say that they are waiting for the schools to go back and then they will begin the consultation with the children.
 - 8) Provision of planters. Mrs Wynn reported that she had spoken to some residents and they are willing to help maintain planters. It was therefore agreed that the Penley councillors should meet up to discuss what is needed so that a plan can be drawn up to show Mike Feely.
 - 9) Meetings attended by councillors. Mrs Allen reported that she had attended a meeting at the Rainbow Centre. They have received five tenders to build the new centre, all are a similar price. They are currently short of £40K but plan to start building in 6 weeks. It will take 8-9 months to complete. Mrs Sime attended the community council forum, where training on the new code of conduct was discussed, together with on-line planning applications. We will continue to receive paper copies of planning applications. There will be a link from Penley website to the planning portal and Mrs Sime suggested that one also be set up from the Bettisfield website.
 - 10) Training sessions for the new code of conduct. Sessions have been arranged on Thursday 18th September and Monday 22nd September at the Guildhall in Wrexham.
 - 11) Membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks. The clerk asked whether the Community Council would consider paying for her to become a member of the SLCC. The Society provides help and information on all aspects of a clerk's duties and it would be helpful for her to have an organisation to contact for assistance and advice. There is a joining fee of £5 and an annual subscription of £59. Mrs Moser proposed that the council pay this and it was seconded by Mrs Allen.
 - 12) External audit and payment of auditor's fees. Nothing had been received from the auditor.
 - 13) Payment of street lighting bill. The charge for the quarterly maintenance to 30.6.08 is £81.96. Mrs Moser proposed that this be paid and it was seconded by Mr Muir.

14) Correspondence.

- a) Copies of the Supporting Social Enterprise Newsletter from Northern Marches Cymru.
- b) Letter from Wrexham Council regarding the temporary closure of Household Recycling Centres.
- c) Letter from the Secretary to the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committees regarding a recruitment event for potential magistrates in the Wrexham Magistrates Court building on October 22nd.
- d) Letter from Wrexham Council regarding the Mayor's Charity Ball on October 31st.
- e) Letter from Karen Sinclair AM regarding the Wrexham County Borough Local Development Plan – Housing Potential Capacity Study.
- f) Letter from Groundwork Wrexham and Flintshire regarding the Landfill Community Fund.
- g) Letter and posters from Nightingale House Hospice regarding their new second-hand furniture distribution centre, and a copy of their annual report.
- h) Minutes of the Wrexham South Community Safety Group meeting held on July 4th.
- i) Latest work programmes for Wrexham Council's five scrutiny committees.
- j) AVOW's July/August 2008 newsletter.
- k) Letter from Keep Wales Tidy about the Tidy Wales Awards 2008.
- l) Play for Wales Summer 2008 newsletter.

15) Any other business.

- a) Mr Muir reported that some Bettisfield residents are still dumping grass cuttings on the verge, which is blocking up the ditches. It was agreed that something should be put in the village newsletter and fliers will be distributed.
- b) Mrs Sime said that the house being built by Montec in Penley has been boarded up and looks dreadful. Mrs Allen said that it was because some things had been stolen, including a saw and a mixer. The clerk was asked to write to Montec.
- c) Mrs Sime also said that the land in front of the hospital is a mess, full of ragwort, nettles and thistles. It belongs to builders Morris Homes and the clerk was asked to write to them.
- d) There are still no letter boxes in Bettisfield
- e) Mr Jones said that pot holes in Avenue Lane had been repaired but the contractors have done a very poor job. Mike Feely has been contacted and he said that the new procedure is not working and the contractors have been sacked.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.13.