

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2020

Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by Zoom videoconference

Present: Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), H Field (Vice-chair), W Blaze, D Kelly, J Belton, J Marsh, W Ollerhead, A Roberts

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs J Barton, J Rosier, H Eustace, I Messiter.

60/20 Declarations of interest

60.1/20 Cllrs J Belton and W Blaze declared prejudicial interests in the matter of planning application P/2020/0298. The Clerk noted the same and also advised the meeting that the applicant for this planning application had requested permission to join the meeting at the appropriate time to observe discussion of the case.

61/20 Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings

61.1/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2020 were proposed for adoption by Cllr W Ollerhead and Seconded by Cllr J Marsh.

62/20 Matters arising

62.1/20 The Clerk had not yet managed to find an appropriate contact at Hafren Dyfrdwy to received a letter relating to the leak on Berwig Hill, but would continue to pursue the matter as requested by the Chair.

62.2/20 No further contact had been received from GoSafe regarding speed monitoring on the Old Road close to The Spinney, although the camera van had been in operation lower down the road. After a short discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to organise with Cllr J Belton a formal, procedurally compliant speed monitoring session and to send the results to GoSafe.

62.3/20 The potentially hazardous condition of a structure within the Lead Mines visitor attraction would now be reviewed by a structural engineer appointed by WCBC. The Chair and Clerk would attend the meeting as observers on 20 August.

63/20 Dog fouling, footpath number 6 (cinder path)

63.1/20 The Chair gave a brief recital of the CCTV options he had obtained to monitor the path, and which had been circulated for review. The Clerk also updated the meeting with brief details of the equipment he had reviewed from a different supplier, and the attendance to date at site at the times suggested by the Clerk of the PCSO. WCBC had also not yet responded to an enquiry as to whether their dog warden service could be contracted at Minera

Community Council's expense to undertake random patrols of the affected area. Cllr W Ollerhead had also found some online resources relating to eye-catching notices and the use of brightly coloured educational materials to discourage dog fouling.

63.2/20 Following a brief discussion Cllr J Marsh proposed, and Cllr W Blaze seconded a proposal that the Clerk acquire materials, and secure any required permissions for an initial campaign to demonstrate the Community Council's intention to tackle the dog fouling problem. The exercise should include other known problem areas in the ward, and would be escalated at a future date to include the deployment of CCTV if deemed necessary.

64/20 Coronavirus

64.1/20 The Clerk gave a brief update. Official briefings were still being received from higher echelons of government, and from the police, and were being circulated on receipt. In response to the end of shielding in Wales on 16 August, leaflets were being distributed to all households in the five communities, and notices had been put on the noticeboards, website and social media pages to encourage anyone in need to come forward. The food bank service in Coedpoeth Parish Hall was also being publicised again to ensure that both donations received and requests for issues continued as required.

64.2/20 The Community Agent service for the whole of WCBC had won a Covid-19 award, which was well-deserved.

64.3/20 Following a specific enquiry, the Clerk confirmed that he had obtained advice from the SLCC local branch to advise that face to face meetings would still not be possible for the foreseeable future. This was governed by the continuing Senedd stipulation which limited indoor gatherings to representatives of no more than 4 different households.

65/20 Police report

65.1/20 The Clerk had circulated briefing materials received from North Wales Police on receipt throughout the month. There was still no new information being posted on Police.co.uk, and the site had not been reachable for a number of days.

65.2/20 The Chair asked the Clerk to contact the police to establish what efforts were being taken to enforce social distancing. Cllr D Kelly commented that North Wales Police had received 11,000 notifications relating to social distancing and other low level Covid-19 protocol breaches in a single week. It was also noted that in the case of licensed premises, the initial responsibility was with the licensee, and that the police would only attend in the event of a complaint having been made.

66/20 Minera Community Council Chair's report

The Chair had circulated his report, and gave a brief recital of matters to which he wished to draw attention:

66.1/20 A resident had assisted the Chair with strimming work in Gwynfryn, and he would pass on the gentleman's details so that the Clerk could send a formal letter of thanks.

66.2/20 An outbreak of what had appeared to be activity thought to be related to illegal substances in Minera playground had been successfully addressed through a combination of police attendance and public vigilance. The problem appeared to have gone away, but would be monitored.

66.3/20 Two young motorcyclists whose machines had caused a degree of noise nuisance had been found space to ride their machines on local farmland thanks to the Chair agreeing an arrangement with the landowner. The motorcyclists were very grateful, and a satisfactory solution was achieved for all concerned.

67/20 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

67.1/20 WCBC services continued to come back on stream slowly, although buildings were still very underpopulated. The best way to contact staff was email.

67.2/20 There was also an accumulation of annual leave among WCBC staff which had carried over from lockdown. This would also pose an issue at times with contacting various departments.

67.3/20 Costings for off-road parking schemes and environmental schemes in Minera were proceeding now, but had been delayed due to needing to assess the cost impacts of Covid-19 risk assessments.

68/20 School Governor's report

68.1/20 Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that he would shortly step down as Chair of the Governors, while remaining on the board. Consultations between the head teacher and the Chair of Governors now had to be pre-arranged; informal visits to the school were no longer possible.

69/20 Community Agent's report

69.1/20 Susanne Allcroft joined the meeting. The Community Agent's report had been circulated previously and was taken as read. Cllr H Field passed on the thanks and appreciation of Minera Community Council for an excellent start to the provision of the Community Agent service in Minera.

69.2/20 The first face to face visits were now being arranged, and food parcels were being distributed. Following the end of shielding, the Coedpoeth Community Agent had received some funding from Coedpoeth CC to sustain supplies, and appeals to the community to keep contributing had been posted on social media.

69.3/20 The children's shielding scheme is still in place, and will run to 31 August, whereupon free school meals will resume. Cllr D Kelly added that under the 'Grab and Go' scheme, the children of key workers should be entitled to a weekly allowance of £19.50 per week to provide meals.

69.4/20 The leaflet drop was close to completion, and had brought to light some cases of need, which were now being addressed. The Tyn y Capel had also been very supportive to enable 'Meet up Tuesdays' to begin from 22 September as a resource to bring potentially lonely and isolated individuals into a supportive environment.

69.5/20 Conversations with residents had revealed an ongoing need for either voluntary or competitively-priced odd-job labour around the community to conduct minor repairs and gardening work. It would be appreciated if this could be published and circulated by both Minera Community Council and individual Councillors to bring interested parties forward.

Susanne then left the meeting.

70/20 Correspondence

70.1/20 The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence received throughout the month, and had answered individual Councillors' queries as they had arisen. A number of items were discussed further:

70.1/20 WCBC had asked whether the Community Agent could add 4 hours per week to her duties to cover a basic service provision to Brymbo and Broughton wards. Broughton had expressed interest, but as yet Brymbo had not. After a brief discussion The Chair asked the Clerk to advise WCBC that Brymbo would need to indicate a willingness to participate in the initiative before an extension could be considered. This was because Broughton was geographically detached from Minera, such that much of the additional time could be lost in travel, whereas extending the service to the neighbouring ward of Brymbo would be more straightforward. Cllr J Marsh additionally requested that Cllr D Kelly advise the two wards of the basis of the decision.

70.2/20 The recently-submitted new bank mandate had lapsed due to Cllr J Rosier having withdrawn as an additional signatory. A new mandate would be drawn up and Cllr W Blaze indicated his willingness to be added as a signatory.

70.3/20 Cllr H Field noted that she was disappointed with the initial impressions created by the new wildlife garden in St Mary's churchyard. This view was echoed by other Councillors, and the Clerk undertook to feed back to Keep Wales Tidy. It was noted that the trellis still had to be installed, which would enhance the feature, notably the climbing plants.

70.4/20 Concerns had been raised by a resident in New Brighton relating to the planned removal of a number of trees. This issue had been a matter of ongoing concern in the area for a while. Cllr W Ollerhead provided some additional background to the matter and undertook to meet the concerned parties on behalf of Minera Community council in an effort to explore a mutually-acceptable outcome.

71/20 Grants and donations

71.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the only request for support received since the previous meeting had been from Coedpoeth United FC, who were in the process of bringing the Minera football field back into a playable condition. Following a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr J Marsh and seconded by Cllr J Belton that a donation of up to £1,000 be made towards the cost of harrowing, re-seeding and rolling the pitch, the money to be ring-fenced solely for use on the Minera facility. It was further proposed by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr J Marsh that the Clerk be empowered to work with the recipient to establish the required level of financial contribution, and to organise payment prior to the next Council meeting if appropriate for the timescale of the project.

72/20 Financial matters

72.1/20 The financial report was proposed for approval by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr J Marsh. The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

		£	£
Pre-approved	Chq no		
Clerk expenses, June	101905	43.73	
Clerk overtime, June	101906	97.40	
Total pre-approved items			141.13
For approval to pay			
Clerk salary, August	STO	383.32	
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	STO	28.50	
SSE July account	STO	231.57	
Clerk expenses, July		26.45	
Cllr W Blaze, telephone charges relating to conference calls	101907	35.44	
Agent salary for July	101908	714.72	
Agent expenses for July	101909	41.97	
Parish Council Websites	101910	899.00	
Total to approve			2,360.97

72.4/20 Cllr H Field enquired whether the scale of electricity costs currently being experienced was in line with predictions from prior to the initiation of the project to convert to LED streetlights. The Clerk confirmed that proposed savings were not yet apparent, and that he would make due enquiries.

73/20 Lighting Project – status and work required to complete

73.1/20 Cllr W Blaze advised the meeting that one unit remained to be changed out. The Chair noted that a second unit on Ffordd Newydd also awaited attention. Cllr Blaze would therefore make contact with Salix during the week beginning 24 August to establish whether the finance for the project could be released. The Clerk confirmed that no application for payment from the lighting contractor had yet been received.

73.2/20 Once changeover work was completed, a single inventory of numbers needed to be applied to all of the lights under Minera Community Council's remit, including an 'MCC' or similar prefix for ease of identification. This work would be undertaken as soon as practicable.

74/20 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

74.1/20 Planning application P/2020/0305 (conversion of garage to annex, The Old Barn, Minera road, Minera) was considered to be a case for Brymbo Community Council to review as it was outside the Minera ward boundary. The Clerk would advise WCBC accordingly.

74.2/20 P/2020/0382 (front and rear extensions and demolition of porches at Berwig Cottage, Church Road, Minera) and P/2020/0406 (two storey extension, single storey extension, porch and detached double garage at Ty Gwyn, Pentre, Minera) were considered, and no observations or objections noted on behalf of Minera Community Council.

74.2/20 The resident who was the applicant for planning application P/2020/0298 (siting of residential caravan within the boundary of Bryn Onnen, Old Road, Bwlchgwyn) joined the meeting. Cllrs J Belton and W Blaze explained the nature of their prejudicial interests in the application and then left the meeting. The Chair invited the applicant to speak, and having done so she also left the meeting. Following a short discussion, it was proposed by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr J Marsh that Minera Community Council record no objection to the planning application, but would expect that any consent given was time-limited in keeping with the details of the application.

Meeting adjourned 2145 hrs.