

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2020

Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by telephone conference

Present: Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), H Field (Vice-Chair), W Blaze, J Rosier, D Kelly, J Belton

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs J Barton, J Marsh

15/20 Declarations of interest

15.1/20 There were no declarations of interest.

16/20 Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings

16.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that, in seeking ratification of the minutes of the Council meeting of 15 April, it should also be noted that this meeting and the previous Council meeting of 25 March were held via telephone conference prior to legislative changes which recognised such meetings as fully legally compliant. Accordingly, and for the sake of good order, this minute of ratification should therefore record retrospective confirmation that both meetings were deemed to be properly constituted and to have been conducted in good faith, and that decisions made at and recorded in the minutes of those meetings were of good standing. This understanding was accepted by all present, and the minutes of the two meetings were proposed for adoption by Cllr H Field and Seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

17/20 Matters arising

17.1/20 The Clerk was asked to clarify with WCBC Electoral Services whether a notice of Co-option could be advertised as soon as the current notice inviting a petition for an election had expired.

17.2/20 The Chair asked the Clerk to convey the thanks of Minera Community Council to Coedpoeth Community Council for all the support received by the communities of the Minera ward from the volunteering and donation services established at Coedpoeth Parish Hall since the beginning of the current national emergency.

17.3/20 The Chair also asked the Clerk to convey the thanks of Minera Community Council to WCBC Environmental Services for the exemplary refuse collection efforts seen in the Minera communities during the lockdown, acknowledging the demands being placed on the staff in delivering and maintaining the service.

17.4/20 The Clerk undertook to pass to Cllr D Kelly detail of the Local Places for Nature grant award which had been received so that discussion of how to exercise it for the

benefit of the School could take place at the next Governors' meeting. It was also noted that the project might be suitable to offer to North Wales Wildlife Trust in the event that the School could not take it up.

17.5/20 Cllr J Rosier advised the meeting that activity on the website continued to outstrip comparable data from the previous year. 1000 individual visits to the website by 666 different individuals had been recorded since the lockdown had begun.

18/20 **Coronavirus**

18.1/20 The Clerk summarised the current situation across the local area. Routines were now well established with respect to the volunteering services, both locally based in Coedpoeth, and throughout the County Borough, as reported on by WCBC and AVOW. Updates from these quarters as well as from North Wales Police were being regularly received and promptly shared. The Clerk also complimented the Chair for his personal efforts to turn Gwynfryn bus stop into a book and DVD exchange for the benefit of the community.

18.2/20 The Chair added that the Gwynfryn bus stop had taken off very well, and a smaller facility had been created in the Minera telephone kiosk. Both were good examples of community endeavour, albeit requiring a need for users to exercise caution and proper hygiene in handling the facilities and contents.

18.3/20 Cllr D Kelly added that WCBC's library service was examining how to apply hygiene controls to the issue and return of books and materials.

19/20 **Police report**

19.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the police.co.uk crime recording facility was still suspended due to personnel being diverted to other support duties. The website would be checked periodically for updates, and the weekly police community bulletins would continue to be forwarded to Councillors on receipt.

20/20 **Minera Community Council Chair's report**

The Chair gave a brief recital of matters which he had attended to:

20.1/20 The SLA had been checked. The inclusion of litter picking and bin emptying would add £710 per playground per year to the cost of the SLA. Cllr D Kelly undertook to review the matter with Darren Williams of WCBC.

20.2/20 Following notification of the existence of a cycle track on land behind the Smelt, the Clerk had inspected it and notified Streetscene, who confirmed that it was under observation.

20.3/20 Councillor Dawn Austin's resignation had been received with regret, and the Clerk had formally acknowledged receipt, thanking her for her service to Minera Community Council.

20.4/20 The solar light near the Penynant flats was not particularly bright. A more powerful version would cost £500. Cllr W Blaze undertook to speak to his contacts at Penycae to establish if a more cost-effective solution might be available.

20.5/20 Incidents of alleged threatening behaviour on the Eisteddfod field had been reported to the PCSO. The area in question was covered by and affected by various pieces of legislation relating to the AONB, SSI and CROW act. The Clerk would therefore review correspondence forwarded by Cllr D Kelly and seek suitable guidance relating to potential signposting and waymarking in the area.

21/20 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

21.1/20 WCBC had now been placed in charge of contact tracing for the area of its remit. This would be a huge logistical exercise.

21.2/20 Statutory committees of WCBC would return to session in June, and plans were being drafted for the recovery phase after lockdown ended. The Chair asked the Clerk to make enquiries around the local SLCC branch to establish what other Town and Community Councils were preparing by way of recovery plans which might guide Minera Community Council.

21.3/20 Deaths continued to be registered, but not births or marriages. There were also around 100 planning applications currently in arrears.

21.4/20 Environmental Services staff shortages were continuing, and arrears of grass cutting would persist for some time.

22/20 School Governor's report

22.1/20 Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that the Governors had had their first virtual meeting, and that efforts to teach pupils via virtual means were succeeding in reaching about 60% of the pupils on the school roll.

23/20 Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence received throughout the month, which were taken as read. Concerns relating to a development close to a right of way at Maesyffynnon Road had been passed to WCBC, who were managing the issue and would determine the appropriate outcome.

24/20 Grants and donations

24.1/20 The Clerk advised Councillors that a number of donation requests had been received, and that the effect of the current national emergency on the ability of charities to generate income was being consistently cited. After a brief discussion, Cllr D Kelly proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded the creation from existing reserves of a £5,000 fund for allocation

to such requests, this sum to be in addition to the £1,000 already donated to AVOW, with all donations being subject to approval at a full Council meeting, and targeting local charitable interests.

24.2.20 Cllr J Rosier added that he felt a formal charitable giving strategy should be applied to ensure that the fund was not exhausted too quickly, and would present a proposal for consideration.

24.2/20 Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that a donation of £500 be made to Hope House.

24.3/20 Cllr D Kelly proposed and Cllr H Field seconded that a donation of £100 be made to the local branch of British Red Cross.

25/20 Financial matters

25.1/20 The financial report was proposed for approval by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr W Blaze. The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

			£	£
Pre-approved	Chq no			
Clerk overtime	101880		253.24	
Clerk expenses	101881		77.42	
SSE March account	DDR		211.26	
Total pre-approved items				541.92
For approval to pay				
Clerk salary, May	STO		314.98	
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	STO		28.50	
WCBC, School Crossing patrol Q4			1,141.50	
SSE April account	DDR		210.79	
JP Engraving - playground plaque			210.00	
Clerk expenses, April			218.25	
Clerk overtime, April			438.30	
Insurance - BHIB			1,972.70	
Total to approve				4,535.02

26/20 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

26.1/20 No planning-related correspondence had been received since the previous Council meeting.

27/20 Community Agent

27.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that 11 candidates had come forward in response to the advertisement for a Community Agent prior to the deadline of 7 May. A shortlist of 4 or 5 would be prepared and interviews arranged with the Chair, Vice-chair and

Clerk. Interviews would be held around the end of May, in person with suitable social distancing and hygiene precautions if possible. Videoconferencing would be used as an alternative, ensuring no candidate was unfairly disadvantaged by this approach.

28/20 Co-option of up to 4 new Councillors

28.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the statutory notice inviting residents to petition for an election would expire on 25 May. He would accordingly advise WCBC Electoral Services of the position on that date, and take their further instructions relating to giving notice of intended co-option from that date.

Meeting adjourned 2145 hrs.