

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2020

Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by Zoom videoconference

Present: Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), W Blaze, D Kelly, J Belton, W Ollerhead, A Roberts, I Messiter, H Eustace

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs J Marsh, H Field.

Before proceedings commenced, the Chair asked all present to rise and stand in silence for a minute as a mark of respect to Councillor John Rosier, who had passed away on 1 November.

Once all present had resumed their seats, the Chair gave a short address in praise of Councillor Rosier, a man who had given excellent selfless service to both his community and to Minera Community Council. He would be greatly missed for his diligence, sense of humour, and clarity of thought by all who had been lucky to know and work with him.

109/20 Declarations of interest

109.1/20 There were no declarations of interest.

110/20 Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings

110.1/20 Cllr W Ollerhead requested that minute 108/20 be expanded to include reference to the fact that the environmental impact of planning application P/2020/0629 had been duly considered within the business of the meeting. Subject to this amendment being applied by the Clerk, the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2020 were proposed for adoption by Cllr W Blaze and Seconded by Cllr J Belton.

111/20 Matters arising

111.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that a number of actions from the previous meeting remained open. GoSafe had as yet not responded to a request to provide training in the use of the speed gun, and posters to address dog fouling were still to be drawn up by the Clerk. The new bank mandate had finally been approved, however, and it was expected that the current batch of cheques for signing should be the last ones for some time as payments through the bank were about to be sanctioned thanks to all paperwork having been completed and returned to HSBC.

111.2/20 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that several attempts by him to organise an inspection of the New Brighton kiosk by a sandblasting specialist had been thwarted by the specialist's failure to attend site. It had been hoped also to use this supplier to sandblast

and repaint parts of the Minera playground equipment. A different supplier would now be approached.

111.3/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the meeting with WCBC and a landowner in Minera quarry was awaiting a response from WCBC before it could be finalised. The landowner had provided useful maps showing the area of the problems being encountered concerning rights of way and permissive paths.

111.4/20 Clarifying details to confirm that no bus service extension to Gwynfryn had been provided, and that no extension was planned, had been publicised locally by the Clerk, as requested at the previous meeting.

111.4/20 The first house on the Gower Homes development was due to have the keys handed over imminently. Gower Homes had confirmed that they would donate £3,000 to Minera Community Council to mark this event, as promised in 2019, and a handover photograph would be arranged by the Clerk for the week beginning 23 November, at which all Councillors would be welcome to attend.

Cllr D Kelly noted that the very low level of concerns expressed by residents during the construction of the 9 homes was testament to the high standards set and delivered by Gower Homes. The Clerk confirmed that this would be specifically noted in the letter of thanks that would be sent following the donation.

111.5/20 The Chair advised the meeting that the Ash tree adjoining footpath 6 would now be felled on 26 November, slightly earlier than noted in minute 99.2/20. A separate instance of tree removal at Min y Grug had been performed on WCBC land, and the Chair asked the Clerk to make contact with WCBC's Tree Officers to advise that this event had occurred.

112/20 Condition of hedgerows and obstructed streetlight

112.1/20 Cllr J Belton had expressed concern regarding the state of a hedgerow adjoining Ffordd Uchaf. Additionally, trees were obstructing a streetlight on Ffordd yr Ysgol adjacent to the Old School. The hedgerow would require a letter from WCBC as the problem affected the main highway. The Clerk was therefore asked to notify WCBC accordingly, and also to advise WCBC of the obstruction to the streetlight since the obstruction emanated from a WCBC owned property.

113/20 Gwynfryn Playground Status

113.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that, following a request to establish the position at the previous Council meeting, it had been confirmed that the play area land was the property of Minera Community Council, whereas the fixed equipment belonged to WCBC.

113.2/20 Following a short discussion of the current circumstances whereby the play equipment required replacement, it was decided to defer this item of business to a separate

Projects Meeting. The Chair accordingly asked the Clerk to convene such a meeting as soon as it could be arranged.

114/20 Police report

114.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that North Wales Police had supplied literature in support of a revival of Neighbourhood Watch initiatives, and had asked Minera Community Council to provide publicity. This was agreed in principle by all present, stressing that it would be up to individual residents to organise any individual schemes within the Minera ward. The Clerk would publicise the materials received on this basis, and would seek to invite PCSO Andy Harris to attend a future meeting by whatever mutually effective remote access means were available.

115/20 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:

115.1/20 Cllr J Bassford-Barton had tendered her resignation, which the Clerk had acknowledged by return.

115.2/20 The book stop in the bus shelter in Gwynfryn was showing some signs of damp. It would be useful to install a plastic curtain to mitigate this. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact the insurers to confirm that this would not be seen as a potential hazard.

115.3/20 Rotten wood which had failed on the Gwynfryn bus shelter bench had been replaced.

115.4/20 A new LED light had already failed, which was disappointing. Cllr D Kelly asked Cllr W Blaze to make enquiries to ensure that surge protection had been suitably installed on all the new units, in case this was a potential cause. Separately, a visit to Penycae to check the high-power solar light had been ineffective as the light was not illuminated when visited.

115.5/20 A brief outbreak of problem parking in the vicinity of Minera School had been attributed to supply staff, and the problem had now been resolved.

Susanne Allcroft joined the meeting.

116/20 Community Agent's report

The Agent's report had been circulated in advance, and she briefly commented on a number of points highlighted within it:

116.1/20 Referral numbers were steadily consistent, although there was a trend towards more urgent needs such as filling prescriptions. One intervention in particular had significantly assisted a resident through achieving a large reduction in utility spend and registration for benefits not hitherto claimed. Susanne was now also able to issue food bank

vouchers, and would welcome any referrals for individuals who appeared to be in need of them.

116.2/20 The proposed clothing bank would now be sited at St Tydfil's in Coedpoeth, and would be jointly run with the Coedpoeth Community Agent. Donations from Gwynfryn had been particularly generous.

116.3/20 Three iPads had been obtained through the Digital Communities initiative, and this service would be enhanced by a dedicated leaflet drop once information had been printed.

116.4/20 Meet up Tuesday was continuing to go well, with both established and new attendees supporting the weekly sessions.

Cllr J Belton expressed his and Minera Community Council's thanks to Susanne for an excellent job to date in the role of Community Agent. Susanne then left the meeting.

117/20 Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

117.1/20 The setting of budgets was currently running a couple of months behind, and the Senedd was not expecting to be advised of its funding for the coming year until 22 December. Downstream delays could be expected as things stood.

117.2/20 Data relating to road resurfacing work in the County Borough showed that Minera had received above average levels of work in the previous year. This was partly down to the presence of major highways within the boundaries of the ward. In general highway repairs were being rationed against intervention criteria, which meant that only surface damage beyond a certain level of dilapidation would be attended to.

118/20 School Governor's report

118.1/20 Cllr W Ollerhead briefly advised the meeting that he had now completed all of his induction training, and was duly registered as a Governor. A Covid-19 outbreak at Minera Scholl during the previous week had been confined to support staff. The school was able to remain open, but the Breakfast Club and After School Club had both had to be suspended.

119/20 Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence received during the month. Consequently there was only one item of correspondence which merited discussion:

119.1/20 Cllr D Kelly commented that an invitation from One Voice Wales to participate in a seminar to discuss forthcoming Town and Country Development Plan proposals should be accepted. In doing so, he felt that One Voice Wales should advocate for Town and Community councils in line with their remit, and not simply facilitate a request from Senedd. Cllr Kelly therefore asked the Clerk to make this point firmly to One Voice

Wales alongside accepting the invitation to participate, and to seek clarification as to why the proposed date of the seminar preceded the conclusion of the consultation period for the Development Plan.

120/20 Grants and donations

120.1/20 The Clerk summarised the correspondence received relating to requests for financial assistance, as circulated within the summary of correspondence as a whole. The following amounts were subsequently approved:

120.2/20 £300 to Royal British Legion, to be paid from the funds reserved for exceptional support due to the Covid-19 emergency. Proposed by Cllr D Kelly and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

120.3/20 £100 to Pancreatic Cancer UK in memory of Cllr J Rosier, and £100 to the Wrexham branch of the Parkinson's Disease Society, in memory of Cllr M O'nions. Both donations proposed by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr W Ollerhead.

Councillor D Kelly now gave his apologies and left the meeting to attend a prior engagement.

121/20 Financial matters

121.1/20 The financial report was proposed for approval by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr J Belton. The schedule of payments, listed below, was also proposed for approval by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

			£	£
Pre-approved	Chq no			
Clerk expenses, September/October	101926		14.39	
Total pre-approved items				14.39
For approval to pay				
Clerk salary, November	STO		393.89	
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	STO		28.50	
SSE October account	STO		224.77	
Clerk expenses, October/November			76.60	
Community Agent, October salary	101927		817.82	
D Fidler, bench repairs	101928		334.00	
Total to approve				1,875.58

121.2/20 The Clerk had circulated a first draft of the budget for 2021/22 prior to the meeting. He provided further detail of certain lines of proposed expenditure and received

feedback from those present in order to be able to table a proposed final budget at the next Council meeting. Subject to any notice of variation by WCBC, the final budget would need to be approved by Minera Community Council by 15 January 2021.

122/20 Co-option

122.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that two vacancies now existed on Minera Community Council, and explained the process which would be required to endeavour to fill them. After a brief discussion it was decided, as a mark of respect to the late Cllr J Rosier, that the process of filling the vacancies would not begin until after the Christmas and New Year holiday. The Clerk would therefore post the necessary notices, with copies to WCBC, in January.

123/20 Councillor training/mentoring scheme

123.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that dates were now being sought in the New Year, which would be circulated once received from One Voice Wales.

124/20 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

Correspondence relating to 2 planning applications had been received since the previous Council meeting, namely:

P/2019/0687, Change of use of a dwelling to 3 dwellings (assisted living), 2 Natlais, Minera, and

P/2020/0702, Two storey extension to Maesyffynnon Cottage, Maesyffynnon Road, Gwynfryn.

Following a brief discussion of each proposal, no observations or objections were noted for notification to WCBC.

Meeting adjourned 2115 hrs.