

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st October 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, I Messiter

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

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

90/20 Declarations of interest

90.1/20 Cllr J Belton declared an interest in planning application P/2020/0298. Cllr D Kelly suggested that this application therefore be placed as the last item to be considered within the business of the meeting.

91/20 Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings

91.1/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020 were proposed for adoption by Cllr J Marsh and Seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

92/20 Matters arising

92.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had collected the speed gun from Cllr J Belton, and was in the process of contacting GoSafe to arrange any necessary instruction in how to use it to obtain valid data for submission to GoSafe, particularly relating to driver behaviour on the Old Road.

92.2/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had not yet created the dog fouling posters for use in affected areas of the ward, but that this would be attended to in the coming month.

92.3/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the new bank mandate had not been implemented as HSBC had advised that the wrong paperwork had been issued. The process would need to be repeated on the correct mandate form a copy of which was now awaited from the branch.

92.4/20 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that a meeting with a sandblasting specialist to look at stripping paint from both the New Brighton phone box and various items of play equipment had been rescheduled twice, but would hopefully soon take place.

92.5/20 The Clerk had contacted relevant parties to arrange the proposed meeting with WCBC, Minera Community Council and the landowner at Minera Quarry to review issues surrounding rights of way and permissive paths. Once WCBC confirmed times convenient for their representative to attend the meeting would be arranged.

95.6/20 The Clerk had contacted AVOW to ascertain what grant funding might be available for playground improvements, and had been given two initial leads which would be pursued forthwith.

95.7/20 As requested at the previous Council meeting, the Clerk had researched the status of the reintroduction of extended bus services to Gwynfryn beyond the existing daily 0625 service on route 11A. Arriva and WCBC had jointly confirmed that no service extension had been arranged, nor applied for since the previous unsuccessful efforts of Minera Community Council to lobby for extended services in early 2019.

Cllr J Belton asked the Clerk to ensure that this information was published on the Gwynfryn noticeboard and passed to the Gwynfryn village Facebook page to inform the local community of the definitive position.

96/20 Creation of a Facebook page for the Clerk

96.1/20 The Clerk explained to the meeting that he had included this item in the agenda as the Minera Community Council website was currently not being maintained during Cllr J Rosier's absence. A Facebook page was a possible interim remedy as a resource for the main public documents such as minutes, agendas, and contact details. The Clerk added, however, that the builders of the new website had been in touch just before the meeting to advise that the template for the website was now available to be populated. The need for a Facebook page had therefore effectively gone away and no further discussion was needed.

97/20 Gwynfryn Playground Status

97.1/20 The Chair advised the meeting that at a recent meeting with WCBC the equipment in Gwynfryn playground had been in effect condemned. Repairs to the equipment would only be recognised by WCBC if carried out by the original equipment manufacturers, who had declined in favour of supplying new equipment only. Planned repairs by reputable local engineering personnel would therefore not go ahead. As part of the process of identifying replacement equipment, the Chair had begun to consult the local community for suggestions.

A short discussion ensued, at the end of which Cllr J Marsh proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded that the Clerk prepare a specification, including adequate land drainage, against which suppliers could prepare quotations, while simultaneously researching possible sources of grant funding.

Cllr H Field reminded the meeting that Gower Homes had promised a sum of money to fund play area improvements when presenting their case to Minera Community Council for the current ongoing development at Eversley Court. This sum would be collectible on the first house completion, and the Clerk would chase this up.

Cllr J Belton additionally asked the Clerk to confirm the ownership of the existing equipment with WCBC, clarifying whether it was the property of WCBC or Minera Community Council.

98/20 Police report

98.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that PCSO Andy Harris had been in touch to enquire whether he or his colleagues could join a future Council meeting on the Microsoft Teams platform. North Wales Police did not use Zoom, but the Clerk had held open the possibility of attendance via a teleconference link, which PCSO Harris would bear in mind.

PCSO Harris had also undertaken to arrange some speed checks on Church Road in Minera following concerns expressed to the Clerk by a resident.

99/20 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:

99.1/20 The nature of Minera's Remembrance Day commemoration was discussed. Coedpoeth was organising a small event within the latest guidelines, and the British Legion was advocating support for individual doorstep commemorations. North Wales Police were unable to be present.

Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr J Marsh seconded that Minera confine the event to a small commemoration involving the Chair, the Vicar, bugler and veterans.

99.2/20 A resident of Vicarage Hill has arranged to have a large Ash tree removed on 27 November, and with the Chair's help has informed neighbours of the plans. Footpath 6 (Cinder Path) will be closed while the work is carried out, but there is an alternative footpath through the adjacent housing estate.

100/20 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

100.1/20 The renewed lockdown will close non-essential retail, and will close the WCBC Planning department for the duration of the measure.

100.2/20 The Memorial Hall had been set up as the local centre for Track and Trace and was expecting to process 300 tests a day when fully operational, the current level being around 200 per day. Wrexham was recording around 50 cases a day more than Flintshire, but was carrying out more tests, making the comparison inconclusive.

101/20 School Governor's report

101.1/20 Cllr W Ollerhead briefly noted that there was nothing to report as yet, with the first Governors' meeting since taking office due to be held on 4 December. In the meantime he was completing a number of introductory training modules.

102/20 Correspondence – summary of items received

102.1/20 The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence received on a weekly basis, and taken Councillors' questions as they had arisen. Consequently there was nothing to draw attention to under this agenda point that would not be dealt with elsewhere in the business of the meeting.

103/20 Grants and donations

103.1/20 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:

103.2/20 £500 to St Mary's Church, recognising, inter alia, the increased costs to the Church of green bin collections and grounds maintenance. Proposed by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

103.2/20 £500 to Minera Kidz Club, with the proviso that £200 of the award be set aside to enable children to attend whose personal circumstances would otherwise prevent their participation. Proposed by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr W Ollerhead.

103.3/20 £100 to Family Friends, proposed by Cllr J Marsh and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

104/20 Community Agent's report

104.1/20 Susanne Allcroft joined the meeting. The Community Agent's report had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

104.2/20 Referrals were coming in at a steady rate, including a few from both the Facebook page and Meet up Tuesday. The attendance on Tuesdays was settling in the 8 to 10 range, and a number of regulars were very much appreciating the facility. Lockdown rules would mean a two week suspension before the next session, however.

104.3/20 AVOW had recognised the Community Agent service with a Covid Award. WCBC now had a network of 21 Community Agents.

104.4/20 In conjunction with the Coedpoeth Community Agent it was hoped to begin food bank services one day a week in each of the two churches in the parish. Publicity would be put out once arrangements were in place. Councillors urged Susanne to clarify the lockdown rules regarding the residual permitted uses for places of worship before making any concrete plans to support the proposed service.

Susanne then left the meeting.

105/20 Financial matters

105.1/20 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.

Clerk expenses, August/September	101918	290.24	
Snapfast, streetlight upgrade costs	101919	16,950.00	
Mega, streetlight upgrade costs	101920	6,469.20	
Welsh Hearts, donation	101921	100.00	
Total pre-approved items			23,809.44
For approval to pay			
Clerk salary, September	STO	393.89	
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	STO	28.50	
SSE September account	STO	210.79	
Clerk expenses, October		14.39	
Community Agent, September salary	101922	669.24	
Coedpoeth United, work on field to date	101917	581.41	
Total to approve			1,898.22

105.3/20 The Clerk confirmed that loan finance from Salix had now been received in the sum of £23,419.20 to cover the full cost of the streetlight upgrade project. The loan was interest free, and would be repayable by 16 equal six-monthly instalments of £1,463.70 beginning on 1 March 2021 and ending on 1 September 2028.

The loan having been previously sanctioned by minute 070.1/19, documents to accept the loan had been signed by the Chair and the Clerk. Minera Community Council was thus bound by the loan terms and the Clerk would create an appropriate reserve to ensure that funds for repayment of the loan were set aside.

106/20 Utility Aid proposal

106.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that Utility Aid had made an approach offering to research the current electricity tariff for possible savings by market testing. A letter of consent was needed to enable this. Enquiries had shown the company to have a long track record of assisting bodies such as Minera Community Council to obtain savings in this way. Subject to further enquiries to establish the means of reward for Utility Aid in the arrangement and the constitutional status of Utility Aid itself, Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr W Ollerhead seconded that the Clerk proceed to engage Utility Aid to perform an appropriate market study and present recommendations.

107/20 Councillor training/mentoring scheme

107.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that One Voice Wales had agreed to provide a bespoke training session for up to 20 individuals focussing on what a new Councillor needed to be aware of. Spare places would be offered to neighbouring Community Councils once the date was confirmed with One Voice Wales and all interested parties from Minera Community

Council. The total cost of £299 would be split between all participating bodies on a per candidate basis.

107.2/20 The Clerk's efforts to copy the map of the ward for the benefit of Councillors had been thwarted by its size and the lack of a large enough copier. He would continue to try and locate a suitable machine and distribute the document once a copy had been made.

108/20 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

Correspondence relating to 3 planning applications had been received since the previous Council meeting, namely:

P/2019/0793, proposed chicken processing facility, Five Crosses Industrial Estate. This application had previously been refused by WCBC but was now proceeding to the Planning Inspectorate in Cardiff on appeal. The Clerk would reiterate Minera Community Council's previous objections to the application in a letter to the Planning Inspectorate.

P/2020/0629, construction of a passing place at Pleasant View, New Brighton. Environmental considerations and the impact on adjacent biodiversity of this proposal were discussed. Following this discussion, no observations or objections were recorded relating to this application.

P/2020/0298, siting of residential caravan at Bryn Onnen, Old Road, Bwlchgwyn. This application had been the subject of a variation in the positioning of the caravan in question. Following a short discussion, no new observations or objections were raised, but the Clerk would write to the relevant Planning Officer to reiterate Minera Community Council's previous observation that the stipulated condition that the caravan be removed once its stated purpose had expired be duly enforced.

Meeting adjourned 2115 hrs.