

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 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, H Eustace, I Messiter

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs J Barton, J Rosier.

75/20 Declarations of interest

75.1/20 There were no declarations of interest.

76/20 Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings

76.1/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2020 were proposed for adoption by Cllr J Marsh and Seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

77/20 Matters arising

77.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the water leak on the Berwig Hill had now been addressed by Hafren Dyfrdwy. The manner in which such issues should now be reported was apparently by use of WhatsApp.

77.2/20 No further contact had been received from GoSafe regarding speed monitoring, although it was acknowledged that GoSafe's own plans to monitor speeding on the Old Road were being frustrated by the Covid-19 situation. In the meantime, the Clerk would collect the speed gun from Cllr J Belton and liaise with GoSafe with a view to organising training in the use of the equipment under the supervision of GoSafe.

77.3/20 The Clerk had researched various options to tackle the dog fouling issues in the ward as discussed at the previous meeting. The packaged campaign options were all relatively expensive and scaled to accommodate larger councils than Minera Community Council. The Clerk therefore undertook to organise production of suitable posters and warnings using more affordable materials and in appropriate quantities.

77.4/20 No response had been received from WCBC regarding the possible participation of Brymbo Community Council in the Community Agent service, and so at present the possibility of broadening the role of the Minera Community Agent into the neighbouring ward was not being progressed.

77.5/20 A revised bank mandate had been prepared and submitted containing Cllr W Blaze as an additional signatory. HSBC's confirmation that the mandate was in force was now awaited.

77.6/20 The Clerk had fed back to Keep Wales Tidy that the wildflower garden in the churchyard had only a low level impact. A trellis had recently been added to the garden to complete the installation, which it was hoped would raise the profile of the facility.

77.7/20 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that discussions had been initiated in New Brighton concerning the preservation and maintenance of part of the village's tree cover. The dialogue was ensuring that various parties were aware of each others' views, and would continue.

77.8/20 Coedpoeth United had begun to work on the Minera field, and had sent a progress report which had been circulated to all Councillors. Drawdown of some of the money pledged in support of the project by Minera Community Council was expected in the coming month.

78/20 Appointment of School Governor

78.1/20 The Clerk reminded the meeting that the appointment of a Community Council Governor to Minera School had been held open since the AGM in May. Cllr W Ollerhead had now indicated a willingness to serve in this position, and Cllr Ollerhead briefly spoke to confirm this. Cllr D Kelly also commented that the Governors would be very pleased to welcome him into their midst. Cllr W Blaze therefore proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that Cllr W Ollerhead be duly appointed, and by visible show of hands the Clerk noted that the appointment was unanimously approved. The Clerk would send the necessary details to WCBC to update their records.

79/20 Potential resumption of face to face Council meetings

79.1/20 The Clerk gave a brief update of the action he had taken at the previous meeting to research the possibility of re-starting meetings of Minera Community Council in person. Whilst it was apparent that some other bodies had held face to face meetings, and some building managers were striving to make their premises safe for such purposes, the current climate of official advice was generally against a wholesale resumption of meetings in person. Cllr D Kelly also commented that risk assessments for public buildings, which should be the yardstick adopted, were considerably more stringent than for private facilities. Cllr H Field added that insurance considerations would also need to be addressed, and that in any event the spirit of official guidance continued to discourage, not encourage face to face gatherings.

The Clerk therefore undertook to keep the situation under review and to be mindful of changes in official guidance on behalf of Minera Community Council.

80/20 Police report

80.1/20 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 is effectively dormant.

80.2/20 Cllr D Kelly commented that he felt there had been a subtle shift in Police actions to move problems concerning civil disputes on to Community Councils.

81/20 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:

81.1/20 A meeting had taken place at the Lead Mines to review the unsafe condition of one of the structures. WCBC engineers had also attended and would take charge of costing and reviewing the various options to make the asset safe.

81.2/20 Streetscene had advised that in due time repairs would be performed to the surface of the Old Road. Around half the surface material currently in place would need to be replaced.

81.3/20 The Chair thanked Cllr I Messiter for his assistance in removing a potential hazardous boulder from the road surface.

81.4/20 Following a brief discussion relating to ongoing issues with rights of way and permissive paths on land adjacent to Minera quarry Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that the Clerk should seek to arrange a tripartite meeting between the Rights of Way officers at WCBC, the landowner and Minera Community Council.

81.5/20 A request to move a dog fouling bin on Maesyffynnon Road had been received. The bin was not on private land, contrary to what had been claimed, so the Clerk was asked to confirm with WCBC that the bin should not be relocated.

81.6/20 The Chair asked the Clerk to research grant funding for playground improvements in Gwynfryn, notably from AVOW and the WREN fund.

82/20 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

82.1/20 Planning enforcement by WCBC was under particular strain at present as activities continued to get back up to normal. The Conservation Officer had recently resigned.

82.2/20 Green bins without stickers were an issue at present. The system for issuing the stickers was catching up. Residents affected by the problem should try and speak to the relevant department where possible.

83/20 School Governor's report

83.1/20 Cllr D Kelly briefly noted that there was nothing new to report, and that the next Governors' meeting would be on 24 September.

84/20 Community Agent's report

84.1/20 Susanne Allcroft joined the meeting. The Community Agent's report had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

84.2/20 There had been a change of co-ordinating officer for the Community Agent service at WCBC. Following the leaflet drop the level of referrals was increasing, along with more work from the Social Prescriber. The first quarterly report of Agent activity had been sent to WCBC.

84.3/20 The first Meet up Tuesday session had been very successful. Publicity was being sought with the Leader. This is the first such service to be launched outside England.

84.4/20 Dementia awareness training had gone really well, and it was hoped that Susanne would shortly be the dementia care expert for the Agent service throughout the borough.

84.5/20 The Coedpoeth Parish Hall foodbank had now closed. The closest facilities were now in Rhostyllen, with a central resource still being maintained by AVOW.

Susanne then left the meeting.

85/20 Correspondence

85.1/20 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:

85.2/20 The Police had advised that policing for Remembrance Day parades would be severely limited this year. This combined with the need to put in place risk assessments meant that it was very unlikely that there would be a formal event this year. The Chair undertook to give an update to the next Council meeting to this effect, having first liaised with Coedpoeth.

85.3/20 Following a short discussion relating to the possible re-introduction of a bus service to Gwynfryn (over and above the existing daily 0625hrs service), the Chair advised the meeting that he had made outline enquiries about the situation with Arriva. A bus seen touring the route recently had been carrying out an annual health and safety check, and was not an in-service vehicle. Arriva had no plans to re-introduce the service at present, contrary to understandings in circulation in the community. Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded that, in view of the contradictory background, the Clerk contact Arriva to obtain a definitive statement and timetable.

Minera Community Council will in any event continue to pursue all official channels to restore and extend bus services throughout the Minera communities.

86/20 Grants and donations

86.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the only request for support received since the previous meeting had been from Welsh Hearts. This was a follow-up from a previous

request in July. Cllr J Marsh proposed and Cllr H Field seconded that a donation be made on behalf of Minera Community Council in the sum of £100.

86.2/20 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that the use of the New Brighton kiosk was part of the agenda now under discussion among local residents, and that installing a defibrillator had been one option discussed. Cllr J Marsh stated that any such facility, if installed, should be from general funds and not the funds set aside specifically under the New Brighton Community Fund.

86.3/20 The Chair encouraged Cllr W Blaze to forward an appropriate expense claim for mileage incurred in collecting the new horse's head for Gwynfryn playground.

87/20 Financial matters

87.1/20 The financial report was proposed for approval by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr H Field. The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

Clerk expenses, July	26.45	
Total pre-approved items		26.45
For approval to pay		
Clerk salary, September	383.32	
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50	
SSE August account	203.98	
Clerk expenses, August/September	290.24	
Blue Sky, knotweed treatment, July	84.00	
Snapfast, lighting project, principal costs	16,950.00	
MEGA, lighting project, additional costs (1)	3,949.20	
MEGA, lighting project, additional costs (2)	2,520.00	
Community Agent, August salary	817.82	
Community Agent, August/September expenses	373.69	
Backpay for Clerk following pay award and revised national rates	162.00	
Total to approve		25,762.75

88/20 Councillor training

88.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that One Voice Wales had not yet responded to Minera Community Council's proposal to take from them a bespoke package of new Councillor induction training, and to seek other Community Councils who may be interested in joining the session. He would continue to pursue the idea.

Cllr D Kelly commented that he would be happy to act as a mentor to new members, as had been done in the past. The Clerk undertook to research availability for an open training meeting using videoconferencing.

89/20 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

Correspondence relating to 6 planning applications had been received since the previous Council meeting, namely:

P/2020/0437 conversion of existing outbuilding to hair salon, Beech Cottage, Gegin Lane, Minera.

P/2020/0499, first floor extension over existing garage, Bryn Awelon, Ruthin Road Coedpoeth.

P/2020/0479 proposed removal of Hemlock tree, Aelwyd, Pentre, Minera.

P/2020/0501 Erection of single storey dwelling with improvements to car parking and associated works, land adjacent to Vicarage Hill Court, Vicarage Hill, Minera.

P/2020/0536 detached garage at September Cottage, Allt y Pentref, Gwynfryn.

P/2020/0493 extensions to dwelling and erection of double garage and space above, Pant Teg, Ffordd Isaf, Gwynfryn.

Other than a request from Cllr J Marsh, in support of a neighbouring resident, than windows relating to P/2020/0499 should not overlook the adjacent property, no observations or objections were noted.

Meeting adjourned 2120 hrs.