

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th February 2021

Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by Zoom videoconference

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

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: None

139/20 Declarations of interest

139.1/20 There were no declarations of interest.

140/20 Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings

140.1/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr J Marsh.

141/20 Matters arising

141.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that GoSafe were still not organising speed monitoring training due to the Covid situation. Cllr D Kelly suggested that a liaison could be formed with Bwlchgwyn CC, as they were continuing to monitor speeds on the A525. Minera Community Council had 4 trained operators already, who could be able to extend the monitoring into the Minera ward.

Cllr W Blaze resolved to get the name of Bwlchgwyn's co-ordinator and Cllr J Belton would organise monitoring exercises with qualified personnel. Once organised, the Clerk would advise GoSafe of the intended times and locations.

It was also noted that WCBC would not fund speed calming or speed awareness signs, but would work with a Community Council prepared to fund such devices to ensure they were suitably located.

141.2/20 The Clerk noted that the redundant rocking horse had been removed from the Gwynfryn play area sooner than expected. A resident had notified a willingness to take the item, and the Clerk would therefore enquire as to whether it might still be recoverable.

141.3/20 The Clerk had raised the point raised in the previous Council meeting regarding services omitted from the play areas Service Level Agreement. A response was awaited.

141.4/20 The Clerk had liaised with the owners of Minera Hall with respect to works being undertaken on site. The owners had confirmed that a lease had been drafted, but not yet finalised, and that the work being performed had been permissioned.

141.5/20 The Clerk had received no further request from North Wales Police for funds to enable ‘target hardening’ in the Minera community. The matter would be left with NWP to raise on a future occasion.

141.6/20 The Clerk had also circulated to Councillors the syllabus details of courses being run by One Voice Wales, as requested at the previous meeting.

142/20 Police report

142.1/20 The Clerk had circulated a short summary of local policing activity received from PCSO Holly Jones. The Clerk would contact her by return to advise that the Police.co.uk link included in the summary was still not providing updated details of police activity in the locality, and to establish whether North Wales Police could yet use Zoom to participate in meetings.

143/20 Minera Community Council Chair’s report

The Chair highlighted the key items of his report:

143.1/20 The litter and dog waste bin on Maesyffynnon Road had been moved to a point nearer the quarry without the permission of Minera Community Council, and it was now becoming full much quicker than in its original location. A discussion ensued as to whether or not the bin should be returned to its original location. Cllr D Kelly confirmed that the bin’s new location was known to WCBC, and that it was being emptied at the new location. On this basis it was agreed on balance to leave the bin where it was, and the Clerk was asked to request a larger bin from WCBC to recognise the increased usage of the unit.

143.2/20 The Chair had circulated video footage of the culvert near Minera School overflowing in the recent heavy rain. Following a brief discussion, it was resolved by Cllr D Kelly and seconded by Cllr H Field that the Clerk should ask Scottish Power to attend site to discuss the condition of the culvert and works required to prevent similar overflows in future.

143.3/20 The Chair had visited the Gower Homes site in Minera following a contact from a resident concerned at the presence of open culverts on the site. A representative of Gower Homes had explained that the features were attenuation points, installed as required by planning regulations as a means of regulating the discharge of drainage water to avoid instances of main drain overflow.

144/20 County Borough Councillor’s report

144.1/20 Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that a planning appeal relating to the development of a chicken processing facility at Five Crosses Industrial Estate had been refused. Some preliminary work was being done ahead of a new application at the same site.

144.2/20 Recent flooding issues experienced in the County Borough had been entirely attributable to exceptional rainfall. The drainage system had simply been overwhelmed in places. Locally, however, the watercourses on Minera mountain had held up.

144.3/20 WCBC Environmental Department had been asked to look at a particularly large overgrown hedge at the back of the football field.

144.4/20 Bus routes were being progressively restored after the closure of the Arriva depot in January. Generally, buses were still running with a fraction of the normal passenger load, creating unsustainable levels of public subsidy.

144.5/20 Minera mountain was again attracting fly tipping activity. Fixed penalties had been introduced, and any information from residents which could be acted upon would be gratefully received by WCBC.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting

145/20 Community Agent's report

Susanne Allcroft recited the main points of her report:

145.1/20 A foodbank was now in place at the Tyn y Capel. Although requests for foodbank vouchers redeemable at the Trussell Trust facility in Wrexham had increased, demand for the facility at the Tyn y Capel was currently minimal. An offer of fresh produce from Morrisons was therefore on hold pending an increase in demand so as to avoid wastage. Publicity through Facebook pages would be increased to try and engage the potential target recipients.

145.2/20 Susanne continued to cover the community and keep in touch with known vulnerable residents, including the regular attendees from the still suspended Meet up Tuesday sessions.

145.3/20 Susanne had completed a Mental Health First Aid course in the month, and was now registered as a Dementia Friend.

The Chair thanked Susanne once more for her continued and much valued efforts, and she then left the meeting.

146/20 School Governor's report

146.1/20 Cllr W Ollerhead briefly reported that there had been no main meeting of the Governors since the previous Council meeting. There had been two sub-committee meetings, but Cllr Ollerhead was not yet a member of either sub-committee, so had nothing further to report at the present time.

147/20 Streetlighting – feedback from Consortium meeting

Cllr W Blaze had attended the recent meeting of the local Streetlight Consortium, and briefly commented on a number of matters discussed:

147.1/20 In answer to a query raised at a previous Council meeting, surge protection on each lamp was confirmed at 10kba.

147.2/20 Use of the Consortium to secure a better energy price for all participants was not a practical proposition at the moment due to a variety of contracts and incumbent suppliers. This would be reviewed periodically.

147.3/20 Mega would raise prices by 1.7% on 1 April and add a £60 callout charge for emergencies. A request had been made for all Consortium members to bring lighting inventories up to date. Having just completed the move to LED lights, Minera's inventory was currently fully updated.

147.4/20 Solar and wind powered lights were both being trialled within the Consortium and the claimed savings of up to 30% on maintenance and 50%+ on energy would be tested. As far as reliability of the new lighting stock was concerned, experience suggested that no significant issues should arise within the first 4 years.

147.5/20 The Consortium had asked for details of any continuing issues attributable to Scottish Power, and renumbering of the lighting columns would proceed after Lockdown in liaison with Mega. Cllr W Blaze would deal with both of these items on behalf of Minera Community Council.

148/20 Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence throughout the month. A few items were discussed in further detail as follows:

148.1/20 A request to participate in a discussion of the future governance arrangements of the Community Agent service had been extended from WCBC to the Clerk and the Chair. Both would participate in the meeting on 19 February together with the Vice-chair.

148.2/20 A review of the Councillors' Code of Conduct was underway with opportunities to comment via One Voice Wales. Details had been circulated.

148.3/20 Cllr D Kelly asked the Clerk to clarify the permissibility of a Community Council making a donation to a church, following correspondence received from SLCC. The Clerk summarised that a donation in support of general expenses such as grounds maintenance would be legal, but donations in furtherance of religious objectives would not be. This would be applied as a condition to any future donations which might be made by Minera Community Council.

149/20 Grants and donations

149.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that requests for donations had been received from the Urdd to support ongoing activities, and from Offa Community Council relating to a memorial garden for the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. With respect to the latter item, the email received would be circulated to all Councillors to provide further information.

150/20 Financial matters

150.1/20 Following a brief recital by the Clerk of the financial activities since the previous Council meeting, 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 J Belton and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

Pre-approved

Clerk salary, January	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE December account	238.57
Clerk expenses, January	14.39
Audit Wales, audit fee for 2020 external audit	496.35
WCBC, half yearly playground inspections per SLA	661.20
Wales Air Ambulance	200.00

Total pre-approved items **2,032.90**

For approval to pay

Clerk Salary, February	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE January account	196.99
Agent salary, January	835.67
NHI on Agent Salary	21.08
Clerk expenses, February	19.49
WCBC, crossing patrol, Q3 20/21	1,192.75
Salix loan - first repayment	1,463.70

Total to approve **4,152.07**

151/20 Co-option of two Councillors

151.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that a notice of Co-option had been published on the noticeboard in Minera and on the website. Candidates had been invited to come forward by 1 March, and so far two residents had done so. Cllr J Belton asked the Clerk to establish definitively whether Minera Community Council would be obliged to co-opt all eligible candidates in a situation where the numbers of vacancies and eligible candidates was equal.

152/20 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

152.1/20 No planning correspondence had been received since the date of the previous full Council meeting, and no other planning issues currently required to be discussed.

Meeting adjourned 2125 hrs.