

MINERA COMMUNITIES NEWS FEBRUARY 2021

GoSafe were still not organising speed monitoring training due to the Covid situation. It was 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 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.

It was 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.

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.

A liaison had taken place 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.

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.

Police

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](https://www.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.

MCC Chair's report

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. It was 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.

The Chair had circulated video footage of the culvert near Minera School overflowing in the recent heavy rain. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that the Clerk should ask Scottish Power to attend the site to discuss the condition of the culvert and works required to prevent similar overflows in future.

He visited the Gower Homes site at Eversley Court following concerns expressed by some residents and his personal view, in relation to the exposed ditches holding water. The site manager explained that they are attenuation points required by planning as part of their surface water control. The water that collects there will be slowly released thus not overloading the normal drain system and avoiding problems lower down. For safety reasons, maybe some form of grid over the culvert would be acceptable to concerned parents.

County Borough Councillor's report

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Community Agent's report

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.

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.

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

The Chair, on behalf of Minera Community Council, is very grateful to Susanne for her continued and much valued efforts.

School Governor's report

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.

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:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Co-option of two Councillors

The Clerk advised the meeting that a notice of Co-option had been published on the noticeboards 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.