

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2019

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn Y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), W Blaze, S Edwards, J Rosier, J Belton, J Savin, J Barton, J Marsh. Also from 7.55pm, Cllr D Kelly

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs: H Field (Vice Chair), D Austin

Not present: Cllr G Nelmes

027/19 Declarations of Interest

027.1/19 There were no declarations of interest. The Clerk's register of interests was circulated around those present for amendment and alignment to the declarations published on the website.

028/19 Ratification of the minutes of the May meeting

028.1/19 The minutes were ratified without amendment as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2019, and were proposed for adoption by Cllr J Rosier, seconded by Cllr J Savin. The Chair then signed a copy as the official record.

029/19 Matters Arising

029.1/19 Cllr W Blaze advised the meeting that dialogue regarding the street lighting contract was in train with Jones Brothers and other potential suppliers. A Street Light Committee meeting would be convened once all required details were available for consideration.

029.2/19 The letter of support to Coedpoeth Falcons was still outstanding. The outgoing Clerk would provide her successor with the original letter of request to facilitate the response as soon as possible.

029.3/19 Contact had been made regarding the contractor's proposed plans for dealing with Japanese Knotweed, and regarding background details of the electricity unit costs incurred by neighbouring Community Councils. Neither had yet responded and the Clerk would chase up replies ahead of the next meeting.

030/19 Report on the 2018/19 Audit

030.1/19 Emma Topham joined the meeting to advise the outcomes of the audit process to date.

030.2/19 3 comments had been made in the audit report: 1) The minutes should itemise the individual payments approved, rather than leaving the detail solely in the Financial

Statement accompanying the monthly Councillors' papers; 2) Receipts should be itemised in a receipts book and 3) Audited accounts were not published on the website (a statutory requirement).

The comments were discussed and considered for implementation.

030.3/19 The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 were signed by Cllr J Edwards and Emma Topham (as RFO for the year in question). Cllr J Edwards thanked Mrs Topham for her continued hard work in seeing through the audit process during the transitional period between outgoing and incoming Clerks.

031/19 Police Report

031.1/19 No report had been received. The Clerk had requested an update and would do so again ahead of the July meeting.

031.2/19 An invitation had been extended for up to 2 Councillors to attend the Neighbourhood Policing Forum on 4 July. Cllrs J Edwards, J Savin and J Belton expressed an interest in attending and the Clerk would seek to confirm three places on behalf of Minera Community Council.

032/19 Minera Community Council Chair's Report

032.1/19 The Chair's report having been circulated ahead of the meeting, he provided a verbal summary of the key points:

032.2/19 Loose livestock continued to pose problems around the top of the Old Road. Cllr J Barton advised that she would provide a witness statement alongside one which the Chair would provide, which meant that one more statement was needed to secure Police action.

032.3/19 At the Chair's request the Clerk advised and clarified that the recently created Minera Community Facebook page was independent of any association with Minera Community Council.

032.4/19 The Chair advised that he would continue to pursue and discuss ongoing drainage issues within the ward with WCBC and Wales and West Utilities as appropriate.

033/19 County Borough Councillor's Report

033.1/19 Cllr D Kelly's report having been circulated ahead of the meeting, a discussion of the key points took place:

033.2/19 Repairs to Berwig Hill were becoming urgent due to the declining condition of the surface. Budgetary issues meant that the likeliest time for intervention would be the end of the year. Potholes in general were becoming more prevalent and extensive, and it was noted that any individual pothole could be reported for WCBC attention once 100mm deep.

033.3/19 Current planning applications were discussed. The chicken processing facility proposal had received a visit from WCBC to assess the issues relating to vehicles and parking. Lighting at Tomlinson's Dairy was a retrospective application to cover installation of downlights. The application relating to Bryn Cliffe was a request to renew existing permission.

033.4/19 The application for 9 homes to be built adjacent to Eversley Court was discussed. Cllr J Savin advised that the school had full rolls for the coming year and he would therefore discuss with the Head Teacher an approach to WCBC to require the developer to make a contribution to the school, in recognition of the additional pressures from the development.

033.5/19 Drainage issues were endemic across the WCBC estate. Many gullies required attention, and any new issues should be advised to Cllr D Kelly to forward to the appropriate officers.

033.6/19 The relatively high number of streetlight outages was discussed. Cllr W Blaze will provide the Clerk with a summary of the various potential contractors and service provisions in time to circulate to all Councillors ahead of the next Projects Meeting.

034/19 School Governor's Report

034.1/19 Cllr J Savin provided a verbal report. The school's previously reported measured improvement in standards has led to a reduction in the level of external supervision. An inspection was now therefore likely in the Autumn term, rather than the Summer term. The congratulatory letter sent by Minera Community Council had been well received.

035/19 Correspondence

035.1/19 A summary of correspondence received had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting. The list was reviewed and the following points noted:

035.2/19 Cllr J Edwards would represent Minera Community Council at the Civic Service at St Giles' Church on 7 July.

035.3/19 Minera's Conservation Area status meant that all trees within the area were covered by preservation orders, and as such correspondence received relating to grants to protect notable trees was not relevant.

035.4/19 At the request of the Vice Chair, Cllr H Field, the Clerk had researched the cost of Minera Community Council becoming a member of AVOW, and whether membership conferred access to grant application expertise, particularly relating to playgrounds. Enquiries established that membership would cost £10 and would enable access to grant funding expertise.

036/19 Grants and Donations

036.1/19 No requests for financial assistance had been received since the previous meeting.

037/19 Financial Matters

037.1/19 Approval of the monthly financial statement was proposed by Cllr J Savin and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

037.2/19 Approval for payment of items received was proposed by Cllr S Edwards and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

037.3/19 A letter giving the Clerk authority to discuss the Bank Mandate with HSBC in order to be able to propose any appropriate changes, together with authority to draw down £750 additional working capital for the month of June 2019 only, was approved by Cllr J Rosier and seconded by Cllr J Marsh. Cllr J Edwards and Cllr J Belton duly signed the letter and an extracted minute of the meeting, as required by HSBC, was also signed by Cllr J Edwards.

038/19 Planning Matters

038.1/19 To consider planning applications received from Chief Planning Officer

Planning applications received in the month, together with others currently under review by Minera Community Council, had been discussed under minutes 033.3/19 and 033.4/19 above.

038.2/19 The attendance of a representative of Gower Homes at the Projects Meeting on 3 July was noted, and issues for the developer's attention would be raised at that meeting.

038.3/19 Following discussion, three issues in respect of planning applications P/2019/0355 and P/2019/0367 were raised and passed to the Clerk to notify to WCBC prior to the deadline of 20 June 2019. Proposed by Cllr J Belton (2 items) and Cllr J Marsh and seconded by Cllr W Blaze, Cllr J Barton and Cllr J Savin.

039/19 To review matters arising from the Projects Meeting

039.1/19 Cllr D Kelly advised that Brymbo had indicated they would be content to support a joint Community Agent arrangement with Minera.

039.2/19 The Clerk would pass to all Councillors a copy of the current asset register for review and correction ahead of a physical review of assets accompanied by Cllr J Edwards.

039.3/19 Following a discussion of the ownership and trusteeship status of the quarries within the ward, it was decided that the Clerk would research the outcomes of previous efforts to establish ownership and title, and report back to a future meeting to enable decisions to be made with respect to possible land registration.

039.4/19 The new contract for supply of unmetered electricity was reviewed. It was decided not to sign the contract pending discussion at the next Street Light Committee meeting. The Clerk would advise all councillors of any notable increase in monthly charges

apparent on bills received from the beginning of July, as this was when the new contract rates would be applied by SSE.

040/19 School crossing patrol

040.1/19 The status and effectiveness of the current arrangements with WCBC for the school crossing patrol were briefly discussed.

041/19 SLCC membership

041.1/19 The Clerk reported that Minera Community Council appeared to have ceased to be a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks and that a cheque to renew membership drawn in January 2019 had not been cashed. The Clerk would therefore make further enquiries with a view to Minera Community Council renewing its participation in SLCC.

042/19 Play Areas Service Level Agreement

042.1/19 The Clerk reported that the SLA for the current year had been included in the papers received from the outgoing Clerk. The SLA had been previously duly signed, but not dated. The Chair accordingly asked the Clerk to add the date of the current meeting to the document and return it to WCBC.

043/19 RAFA material for use on the website

043.1/19 Materials received for publicising the activities of the RAFA by Minera Community Council were too extensive to take up limited available space on the noticeboards. It was therefore agreed to confine their use to the website.

Meeting adjourned 2155 hrs.

