

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th August 2019

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn Y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), H Field (Vice Chair), W Blaze, S Edwards, J Rosier, J Belton, J Savin, J Barton, J Marsh, D Austin, G Nelmes.

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllr D Kelly

044/19 Declarations of Interest

044.1/19 There were no declarations of interest.

045/19 Ratification of the minutes of the June meeting

045.1/19 The minutes were ratified without amendment as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2019, and were proposed for adoption by Cllr S Edwards, seconded by Cllr J Savin.

046/19 Matters Arising

046.1/19 The Chair noted that payment of membership of AVOW was included under Financial Matters and developments with the Street Lighting contract under Ratification of Street Lighting Proposals within the agenda, and would therefore be addressed later in the meeting.

046.2/19 No councillors had been able to attend the recent Police Forum. The Clerk had circulated the outcomes of the forum to all Councillors on 10 July following receipt from the Wrexham Rural Police Inspector.

046.3/19 The asset register had now been checked. Minor repairs were needed to some benches. The Chair had notified the Clerk that these were within his £500 contingency allowance to permit the work to be commissioned. The Clerk would now write to the insurance company to advise that due Health and Safety reviews had been conducted in accordance with the insurance requirements, and would circulate the updated asset register to the insurance company and all councillors.

046.4/19 Cllr J Barton advised the meeting that work to verify and establish title to Minera Community Council's quarries and related assets was progressing well and an application for title would be enabled in the near future. Once the work was complete the documents which Cllr J Barton had sourced would be given to the Clerk to retain as part of Minera Community Council's records.

046.5/19 It was proposed by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr J Marsh that, once title had been established, the Clerk would write to Minera Wildlife Trust to request that they manage all of the quarry assets on behalf of Minera Community Council.

047/19 Police Report

047.1/19 The Clerk had requested a report but had not received one for a second consecutive month. The Chair asked the Clerk to invite the Police to the next Council Meeting, in particular noting concerns raised following a recent burglary in Church Road, Minera.

048/19 Minera Community Council Chair's Report

048.1/19 The Chair's report having been circulated ahead of the meeting, he provided a verbal summary of the main points within it.

048.2/19 It was proposed by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr J Savin that a sign be erected to identify Min y Grug, as requested by a resident. The Clerk will write to the appropriate department of WCBC to communicate this request.

048.3/19 The Chair advised the meeting that, following the resignation of one Enforcement Officer, WCBC now had only one such officer still on staff, with the number of planning applications significantly increased.

049/19 County Borough Councillor's Report

049.1/19 In Cllr D Kelly's absence and his report having been circulated ahead of the meeting, a brief review of the key points took place. No actions were noted.

049.2/19 Cllr D Kelly having advised the Clerk that prior commitments would mean that he would be unable to attend meetings on the first Tuesday of any month (the revised date proposed for Project Meetings), the Clerk would review with the Tyn y Capel the feasibility of changing to a first Thursday. The Clerk will advise all Councillors of the outcome and confirm future meeting dates.

050/19 School Governor's Report

050.1/19 Cllr J Savin provided a verbal report. There had been no Governors' meeting since the last Council meeting, but the school year had ended with recognised improvements in the school curriculum from GWER, who act as independent assessors of curriculum content. Some level of external inspection was anticipated in the Autumn term, and the Deputy Head was now back full time.

051/19 Correspondence

051.1/19 A summary of correspondence received had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting. The list was reviewed and the following points noted:

051.2/19 A request from WCBC for responses to a questionnaire regarding the Public Spaces Protection Order in Wrexham town centre would be answered by Councillors individually rather than by collating a collective response through the Clerk.

051.3/19 An approach from a rural broadband network provided was briefly discussed. It was concluded that since the provision of broadband to the various parts of the ward was covered by different pieces of infrastructure, the offer was not a workable proposal since it relied on a more unitary or isolated community as a basis for consideration.

051.4/19 The Chair asked the Clerk to facilitate the receipt of periodic advice of roadworks in the Borough. Advice was currently being received for neighbouring Borough Council areas, but not Wrexham. The relevant information is included in the OWL alerts which are circulated to all Councillors.

052/19 Grants and Donations

052.1/19 A request for financial support had been received from the Wrexham and Deeside branch of RSPCA. The request was discussed and declined.

053/19 Financial Matters

053.1/19 Approval of the monthly financial statements, covering both the June and July periods in view of there having been no Council Meeting in July, was proposed by Cllr J Marsh and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

053.2/19 Approval for payment of items received was proposed by Cllr S Edwards and seconded by Cllr J Rosier. This would include all items for which invoices had been received to date, rather than wait until the next Council Meeting on 11 September to raise cheques.

053.3/19 A revised bank mandate was signed by existing signatories. Prior to finalising the mandate for submission to HSBC the Clerk will obtain further signature sheets to enable all Councillors to become 'A' signatories, with the exception of Cllr J Marsh as internal scrutineer. These sheets are to be completed at the next Council Meeting on 11 September.

054/19 Planning Matters

054.1/19 To consider planning applications received from Chief Planning Officer

No planning applications had been received since the previous Council Meeting.

055/19 Adoption of stretch of road close to Min y Grug

055.1/19 This matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting under minute 048.2/19.

056/19 Ratification of Street Lighting proposals presented at the Projects Meeting of 3 July 2019

056.1/19 Cllr W Blaze summarised the details of the proposed change of maintenance contractor and the plan to move to LED lighting. The proposal outlined a 56 month recovery

of costs based on current electricity charges, with the works funded through an interest-free loan. Following a short discussion Cllr Blaze undertook to provide the supporting spreadsheet and the three quotations obtained to the Clerk and Cllr J Marsh for review.

057/19 Projects Meeting Matters

057.1/19 The Clerk summarised the prices contained in the new unmetered electricity supply contract from SSE, and confirmed that the latest bills reflected these prices. Acceptance was required before the end of August or Minera Community Council would move to the higher Standard Variable Rate. The Clerk also confirmed that enquires with neighbouring Community Councils showed that the rates in the contract were competitive, and that the scale of savings which were achievable under a switch to LED lighting broadly aligned with the savings profile claimed by the contractor under minute 056.1/19. The Chair accordingly signed the new contract and instructed the Clerk to return it to SSE.

058/19 Councillor Allowances

058.1/19 The Clerk summarised the position with respect to Councillors' entitlements to an annual taxable allowance of £150 each in recognition of their efforts on behalf of Minera Community Council. Individual Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk whether they wished to waive or claim the allowance. On receipt of a full response the Clerk will present an anonymous summary of the decision at a future Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2055 hrs.

