

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 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 Barton, D Kelly, J Marsh, D Austin

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs: H Field (Vice Chair), J Savin

073/19 Declarations of interest

073.1/19 There were no declarations of interest.

074/19 Ratification of the minutes of the September meeting

074.1/19 Cllr D Kelly clarified minute 63.4/19 to explain that requests for speed monitoring from residents and Community Councils would not now be funded by WCBC. GoSafe, however, was still fully funded by North Wales Police. Subject to this clarification the minutes were ratified as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 September 2019, and were proposed for adoption by Cllr W Blaze, seconded by Cllr S Edwards.

075/19 Matters arising

075.1/19 The loan of £16k from Salix to facilitate the street light changeover project had been approved. Works were scheduled to run from 8 November to 6 December.

075.2/19 Cllr D Kelly enquired whether formal title deeds existed for the Berwig quarry. Cllr J Barton explained that maps had been obtained whose co-ordinates formed the basis of delineation of the area in question. The Clerk will be using these maps to progress formal registration of the land.

075.3/19 North Wales Police had confirmed that officers could not be made available for the Remembrance Day parade. The bus company had been advised of the timing of the event in the vicinity of the bus stop.

075.4/19 The Chair formally thanked Cllr J Rosier for organising efforts to facilitate the administration of obtaining new bus passes for elderly residents. Concerns previously expressed about the pressure on the system had not come to pass, nevertheless Cllr J Rosier had taken practical steps to help with any issues had they arisen.

076/19 Audit outcome

076.1/19 The Clerk advised the meeting that a clean audit report had been obtained, with two minor observations recorded relating to the notice period for elector's rights and the formal constitution of sub-committees. The Clerk will ensure compliance is observed in

future and will also ensure budget data is published in line with the previous year's audit finding.

076.2/19 Cllr J Belton proposed that the Clerk write to his predecessor as Clerk Mrs Emma Topham to thank her for her hard work in arriving at the satisfactory audit outcome. Cllr W Blaze seconded the proposal.

077/19 Police report

077.1/19 The Clerk summarised the brief report received from PCSO Andrew Harris. A rash of recent burglaries in Wrexham had not affected Minera, but communities were asked to maintain vigilance during the darker months. Two posters summarising practical crime prevention tips had been received alongside the report which the Clerk had appended to the noticeboards.

078/19 Minera Community Council Chair's report

The Chair's report having been circulated in advance, he drew attention to the following points:

078.1/19 The demise of Tomlinson's Dairy had been a sudden and severe blow to the community, and his thoughts were with all who had been affected in the immediate aftermath of the business's abrupt cessation of trade. These sentiments were endorsed by all present, both individually and as Minera Community Council.

078.2/19 The Remembrance event had been discussed with the vicar, and it had been decided not to include a church service on the Saturday.

078.3/19 Surface water drainage and road surface condition were frequent issues arising in conversation with residents. The Chair noted that these issues were tabled for discussion later in the agenda for the meeting.

079/19 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly gave a verbal report, highlighting the following issues:

079.1/19 Ffordd yr Ysgol resurfacing works had been included in the programme for November, and Cllr Kelly would enquire as to whether this would extend to the Berwig Hill.

079.2/19 A hedge adjacent to the bus stop in Hall Road is blocking signage, and residents have raised concerns about the potential problems arising.

079.3/19 A hedge adjacent to the old football field is also encroaching neighbouring gardens.

079.4/19 Blocked culverts around the ward continue to cause issues with drainage and will be particularly hazardous in freezing weather.

080/19 School Governor's report

080.1/19 In the absence of Cllr J Savin the Clerk would contact him to obtain any pertinent issues relating to the school, and circulate them to all Councillors by way of update.

081/19 Correspondence

A summary of correspondence since the previous meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. The Clerk drew attention to the following issues within this summary:

081.1/19 Correspondence received requiring re-registration of a domain name had been reviewed and the conclusion reached that the domain was obsolete and not needed, if indeed it had ever been actively used.

081.2/19 Advice had been received that all planning applications would now need to include sustainable drainage schemes, which in turn would need sign-off by the floods officer at WCBC.

081.3/19 The response from WCBC relating to issues notified concerning disturbance to the surface water culvert near Bryn Cliff was deemed unsatisfactory by Councillors present, and the Chair asked the Clerk to resume the correspondence with a view to obtaining a more proactive response.

081.4/19 Following a short discussion of the effectiveness of the OWL crimewatch service, the Chair asked the Clerk to put notices on the boards to advise residents how they could join the OWL scheme on an individual basis.

082/19 Works needed in the community

082.1/19 A number of infrastructure issues had been discussed in the meeting to date, notably within the Chair's report and the County Borough Councillor's report. The Chair asked the Clerk to summarise all issues requiring WCBC attention within a collective communication using the MyAccount facility on the WCBC website, and to keep Councillors apprised of responses received.

083/19 Grants and donations

083.1/19 No requests for donations had been received since the previous meeting. Coedpoeth Befrienders had asked for an opportunity to make a presentation to Minera Community Council at a future meeting, however. The Chair asked the Clerk to respond and seek a mutually convenient date, and to follow up on the proposal of sharing a Community Agent with neighbouring wards as there appeared to be clear synergies between that initiative and the work of Coedpoeth Befrienders.

084/19 Financial matters

084.1/19 The Clerk presented the financial statement for the period since the previous meeting. Bills from SSE had initially been incorrect, resulting in a large refund which

depressed the apparent cost of electricity in the month. Cllr J Marsh asked that in the event of similar issues in future, the gross and net positions should be shown to clarify understanding.

084.2/19 The financial statements for the month were proposed for acceptance by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr S Edwards.

084.3/19 The schedule of payments for the month were proposed for acceptance by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

084.4/19 The Clerk advised the meeting that the initial budget for 2020/2021 would be tabled at the next meeting, and that any specific requirements should be notified to him in good time to be included in the proposed schedule of expenditure. Items duly noted to be taken forward into the budgeting exercise were an upgrade to Gwynfryn playground, consultancy for website accessibility standards required by law, and the review of available grant funding for infrastructure and youth support.

085/19 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

085.1/19 Planning application number P/2019/0780 relating to proposed tree management works in St Mary's churchyard, Minera was discussed. No objections or observations were noted, and the Chair asked the Clerk to notify the nominated case officer accordingly on behalf of Minera Community Council.

086/19 Co-option of a Councillor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor G Nelmes

086.1/19 The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr Nelmes's resignation had been received on 1 October, and had been promptly acknowledged with regret, and thanks for his years of service to the community.

086.2/19 The Clerk would now advise WCBC of the casual vacancy which had arisen, and follow any subsequent guidance received. The Chair would also pass to the Clerk his copy of the regulations relating to co-option.

087/19 Update on progress of the street light upgrade work

087.1/19 The salient points of this agenda item having been covered within minute 075.1/19, no further discussion of the project was undertaken.

088/19 Councillor allowances

088.1/19 The Clerk advised the meeting that as no Councillor who wished to receive the statutory allowance had yet provided details of tax codes and NHI numbers, no arrangements to pay allowances had yet been made. He asked therefore that the details be provided as soon as possible.

088.2/19 Notification had been received to make statutory disclosure of allowances paid in the year to 31 March 2019, and to place the details on noticeboards and the website. The Clerk would therefore confirm the details with the Chair as the Chair's purse was the only apparent eligible payment for disclosure. Subsequent to confirmation the necessary disclosures would be made.

Meeting adjourned 2055 hrs.