

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th December 2019

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn Y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), H Field (Vice-Chair), W Blaze, J Rosier, D Kelly, J Marsh, D Austin, J Savin

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs: J Belton, J Barton, S Edwards

089/19 Declarations of interest

089.1/19 There were no declarations of interest.

090/19 Ratification of the minutes of the October meeting

090.1/19 The minutes were ratified as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 23 October 2019, and were proposed for adoption by Cllr J Marsh, seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

091/19 Matters arising

091.1/19 Commenting on the progress of the project to replace Minera Community Council's streetlight inventory with new LED units, the Chair noted that some lights required intervention from Scottish Power, although Mega have been able to complete some work instead of Scottish Power, thereby reducing costs. Some evidence of missed maintenance was apparent.

091.2/19 Cllr H Field asked the Clerk to ensure that future public disclosures of allowances claimed by Councillors also noted the number of Councillors who had waived their rights to receive such monies.

091.3/19 It was noted that Cae Haidd Lane had been tarmacked. Cllr W Blaze would monitor the culvert for signs of malfunction or flooding.

092/19 Presentation by Coedpoeth Befrienders

092.1/19 Three members of Coedpoeth Befrienders gave a short presentation about the nature and management of their voluntary service within the local community, including the Minera ward. It was explained how the service interacts with medical practices, the hospice and the work of the Community Agent, and Councillors were encouraged to consider referring any candidate for support from the Befrienders' service via the local medical practice.

The Chair thanked the three presenters for their time and for a most informative summary of their work.

093/19 Police report

093.1/19 PCSO Lydia Edwards joined the meeting, and was welcomed by the Chair to her first meeting since being assigned to the area.

093.2/19 PCSO Edwards outlined the immediate priorities within the Minera community, namely speeding (with respect to which any specific areas of concern from Councillors would be noted), Anti-social behaviour and dog fouling. Speeding on Hall Road, Minera was duly noted as a current concern, as was dog fouling in the playground and on the football pitch.

093.3/19 Cllr J Rosier raised a concern that sheep worrying incidents may not all be getting recorded. The Clerk would follow this up with PCSO Edwards, including data from adjacent wards, and present the data to a subsequent Council meeting.

PCSO Edwards left the meeting, and was thanked by the Chair for her attendance.

094/19 Community works and environmental issues

Two residents arrived to observe the meeting.

094.1/19 A discussion took place relating to the current status of a residential renovation project in New Brighton. Concern had been expressed both to the Clerk and to Cllr D Kelly (as WCBC Councillor for the ward) that the project posed an environmental threat, as well as blighting the neighbouring area with builders' refuse.

The Chair reminded the meeting that Minera Community Council could intervene only where footpaths, land stability or ground contamination were threatened, any remaining issues being the concern of residents.

Cllr J Marsh proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded that the Clerk should therefore write an 'advise and warn' letter to WCBC, requesting a formal reply, to notify local concerns that works may be initiated which would potentially affect ground stability and possible historical contaminants therein, as well as impinging on established footpaths. The Chair also asked the Clerk to obtain from WCBC an up to date map of all footpaths in the Minera ward.

The two residents now left the meeting.

094.2/19 The Chair advised the meeting that he was in conversation with WCBC to try and source suitable materials, preferably concrete end pieces, to enable repairs to benches.

094.3/19 Following a brief discussion about the feasibility of improving hard standing at the bottom of the Old Road to enable siting of a GoSafe van, Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded a proposal that the Clerk liaise with GoSafe to establish requirements and identify interested parties.

095/19 Minera Community Council Chair's report

The Chair's report already having been circulated, he highlighted the following points:

095.1/19 Efforts to keep residents informed as the lighting project rolled out were proving a demanding job due to the progress of the work and some unexpected outages of new equipment.

095.2/19 Bus timetables had been put on the noticeboards as a temporary measure. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact the bus company to get official timetables posted at the bus stops.

095.3/19 The Chair also asked the Clerk to contact WCBC (Streetscene) to address overgrown trees on the path at the rear of Eversley Court as these were preventing access by anyone with restricted mobility.

096/19 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

096.1/19 A culvert close to Minera School had recently been dug out and a grid installed further up the road to help prevent silting up in future.

096.2/19 Pothole works would begin in coming days from the garage in Coedpoeth, moving progressively up the main road towards Minera.

097/19 School Governor's report

Cllr J Savin gave a verbal summary:

097.1/19 An Estyn inspection had been expected, but would be in the new year, although it could be as early as January.

097.2/19 GWER had recently visited the school and scored it amber, which was considered harsh in the light of progress made in the last year.

097.3/19 Evening classes were being considered, but were proving hard to staff due to variable numbers of pupils participating. The head teacher will be contacting parents in an effort to find ways of raising extra funds for the initiative.

098/19 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:

098.1/19 A biodiversity report was required to be filed with the Welsh Government by 31 December. The Clerk had requested a postponement until 31 March, in line with Minera Community Council's fiscal year, as permitted by the legislation.

098.2/19 Following advice received from Welsh Government, the Chair's Purse would in future be classed as Civic Budget and would not require public disclosure as an allowance.

098.3/19 A request by powerforthepeople.org for a resolution to be passed in favour of parliamentary legislation to enable small energy schemes would be circulated to all

Councillors. A view would then be taken at a future meeting as to whether a presentation to a Projects Meeting would be appropriate.

098.4/19 A request from WCBC for forthcoming Community Council budgets to consider a funding contribution to local library services had been received. After a short discussion it was decided to make no such commitment at the current time.

099/19 Grants and donations

099.1/19 No requests had been received since the previous Council meeting.

100/19 Financial matters, including budget for 2020/21

100.1/19 The Clerk gave a brief summary of the financial position, noting that two payments for the school crossing patrol had been made since the last meeting due to tardiness on the part of WCBC in invoicing the charge for the first quarter.

100.2/19 The financial report was proposed for approval by Cllr J Savin, seconded by Cllr W Blaze. The schedule of payments for the month was proposed for approval by Cllr H Field, seconded by Cllr J Marsh.

100.3/19 The first draft budget for the forthcoming year was discussed and a number of amendments proposed. The Clerk would issue a revised draft in good time to be finalised and approved at the next Council meeting on 15 January 2020. The Clerk would also seek a short extension beyond the WCBC submission deadline of 10 January to enable due scrutiny to be applied within Minera Community Council's meeting timetable.

101/19 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

101.1/19 Planning application P/2019/0793 had been received since the last meeting, and had been circulated for comment to all Councillors. Concerns raised relating to parking and access had been submitted. No other planning correspondence had been received since the previous meeting.

102/19 Co-option of a Councillor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor G Nelmes

102.1/19 The Clerk advised the meeting that WCBC had confirmed that, as no valid petition to hold an election had been received within the stipulated time, Minera Community Council could now proceed to co-opt a Councillor to fill the casual vacancy. Guidelines had also been received for the procedure to be followed, and the Clerk would accordingly publish the vacancy and application process in the required form on both noticeboards and website forthwith, so that any identified eligible candidates could be interviewed at the next Council meeting on 15 January 2020.

103/19 Project updates

103.1/19 Playground works had commenced following a brief site visit by the contractor, attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk. Progress would be regularly monitored.

103.2/19 The lighting project was proceeding, and would need some co-ordinating input between Mega and Scottish Power. Cllr W Blaze would seek to obtain a revised completion date in view of the delays caused by the contractor being drawn away to install Christmas lights.

103.3/19 Cllr J Savin resolved to chase up the outstanding quotations relating to the refurbishment of the New Brighton kiosk.

104/19 Councillor allowances

104.1/19 The Clerk advised the meeting that those Councillors who had provided the requisite statutory information would be added to the payroll and their allowances put through in order that sums could be paid by cheque at the next Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2110 hrs.

