

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by telephone conference**

**Present:** Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), H Field (Vice-Chair), W Blaze, J Rosier, D Kelly, J Belton

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Barton, D Austin, J Marsh

**In attendance:** Two residents of the Minera ward

**133/19            Declarations of interest**

**133.1/19**        There were no declarations of interest.

**134/19            Ratification of the minutes of the February meeting**

**134.1/19**        The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2020 were confirmed as a true record, and were proposed for adoption by Cllr H Field, seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

**135/19            Matters arising**

**135.1/19**        The Chair advised the meeting that both Councillor S Edwards and Councillor J Savin had resigned from Minera Community Council on 18 March. Both would be greatly missed for the knowledge and commitment they had given to the Council throughout their years of service. The Clerk had acknowledged both letters of resignation with regret, and with thanks for the respective exemplary contributions of the two Councillors, and would now proceed to finalise with WCBC Electoral Services the process of publishing notices of co-option, so that the three casual vacancies now open could be filled as promptly as possible.

**135.2/19**        Following a meeting with Play and Leisure, remedial action to address the continued adverse ground conditions in Minera Playground had been agreed, and payment of 90% of the sums outstanding for the work would be released, the retained 10% to be paid on final completion. The Clerk would send the safety inspection report to WCBC.

**135.3/19**        Cllr W Blaze updated the meeting with the current status of the project to change out streetlights to LED units. 12 units were still outstanding to complete the project, and MEGA and SSE were currently shut down. The Clerk confirmed that the latest inventory had been sent to SSE and that he was monitoring monthly bills to ensure that energy charges were reducing in line with expectations.

**135.4/19**        The Clerk had aired the recent decision by the trustees of the OWL neighbourhood watch charity to cease operations at a recent regional meeting of SLCC. While the decision had generally taken all affected Town and Community Councils by

surprise in its suddenness, it was not entirely unexpected given the appeal for funds made by OWL at the most recent Town and Community Council Forum.

**135.5/19** The Clerk had registered Minera Community Council in the Local Places for Nature scheme. A large planting kit of spring and summer plants should have been receivable by the end of April, but it was now not clear if this would happen, or be delayed for anything up to a year due to the scheme being overtaken by the Coronavirus emergency.

**135.6/19** The Clerk had also used attendance at the recent regional SLCC meeting to enquire as to how other Community Councils handled charitable donations in comparison to Minera Community Council's established approach. It was evident that Minera was not alone in considering applications, where appropriate, from charities not domiciled within the geographical boundaries of its jurisdiction. Other Community Councils generally conducted greater enquiries to ensure all charities were duly registered and legally constituted, however, and the Clerk undertook to apply this standard in respect of Minera Community Council forthwith.

**135.7/19** The Clerk confirmed that no progress had been made with respect to advancing the case for extending bus service provision further into the Minera ward. Cllr D Kelly added that this was due to the designated WCBC officer assigned to support Simon Baynes MP on this matter having been reassigned under WCBC's response to the Coronavirus emergency.

## **136/19 Coronavirus**

**136.1/19** The Chair summarised the status of Minera Community Council's response to the crisis, thanking as he did so the Clerk and Cllr J Rosier for their efforts to ensure all necessary information was circulated among Councillors and throughout the communities of Minera. The website in particular had become a valuable source of information to all residents and the overall community response to date was outstanding.

**136.2/19** Posters had been put up all around the communities of Minera to advise how to contact Minera Community Council during the current emergency. Following a detailed discussion of further steps to be taken it was agreed that the support networks which had arisen around Facebook pages for Coedpoeth, Minera, Gwynfryn and Bwlchgwyn should be reinforced and complemented. Coedpoeth Community Council was using its building resources as a focal point for donations of food and supplies, and as a base to receive and despatch volunteers. The Clerk had established an early understanding with the Clerk to Coedpoeth to ensure that these facilities served Minera also, and this message was being repeatedly communicated through social media and the website to ensure that Minera residents did not feel neglected.

**136.3/19** It was proposed by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr W Blaze that the Clerk use the electoral roll for Minera as a basis for a mailshot to ensure that no Minera resident miss out on available help by dint of geography or lack of social media access. The Clerk

would ensure this was a permitted use of the electoral roll and then advise Councillors of their respective shares of the mailshot.

**136.4/19** Cllr J Rosier clarified that the Minera Community Council website had been redesigned to separate a page of up to date official advice from discussion and community interaction. This would hopefully enable easy signposting of help available.

**136.5/19** The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that WCBC had now closed parks and play spaces. The Chair added that cable ties had been applied to deter access to play equipment, and that North Wales Police would be checking to ensure the enforced conditions were being respected.

**136.6/19** Cllr D Kelly added that WCBC had closed Ty Mawr and Alyn Waters country parks in response to the level of usage during the recent warm weather and the risk that this could pose to the need for social distancing. Minera Lead Mines would not be closed, however, in anticipation of the extra traffic and parking it could create in New Brighton as dog walkers in particular sought alternative access. There was also a need to avoid causing dog walkers to move on to Minera Mountain in lambing season.

#### **137/19 Review of Standing Orders and Policies**

**137.1/19** The Clerk briefly advised the meeting that he and Cllr H Field intended to review all Standing Orders and Policies and bring them up to date ahead of the AGM in May, and that accordingly draft documents would be circulated ahead of the April Council meeting. Cllr D Kelly added that the review should consider the inclusion of delegated powers to cover periods of civil contingency, such as the country was currently experiencing.

#### **138/19 Police report**

**138.1/19** The Clerk briefly explained that North Wales Police would no longer provide a written report, but that all pertinent details formerly contained in it could now be found under the [Police.co.uk](http://Police.co.uk) link. The Clerk had circulated details to all Councillors.

#### **139/19 Minera Community Council Chair's report**

Then chair having previously circulated his report, he gave a brief summary:

**139.1/19** The problem hedge in Ffordd Uchaf would soon be dealt with following a request in person to the property owner.

**139.2/19** The playground plaque would shortly be ready for installation, although the urgency for this was now no longer present.

**139.3/19** Sheep escaping into the road near the former Moors pub were becoming a habitual problem. The Police and the Welfare Officer had been informed, but the problem was persisting and presenting a serious danger to traffic.

#### **140/19 County Borough Councillor's report**

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

**140.1/19** WCBC was paring back its service provision to the most essential elements and applying delegated powers in order to continue to function during the Coronavirus crisis. New legislation was in train and being monitored on a daily basis to ensure the most efficient methods of working during unprecedented times.

**140.2/19** WCBC had taken the decision to suspend all pay and display machines in its car parks to avoid potential virus transfer from use of the keypads.

**141/19 School Governor's report**

**141.1/19** Cllr D Kelly, in his capacity as a Governor of Minera School, advised the meeting that Cllr D Austin's willingness to replace Cllr J Savin as Minera Community Council's appointed Governor had been raised at the last meeting of Governors, and had been very well received.

**142/19 Correspondence**

**142.1/19** The correspondence log had been shared with all Councillors by the Clerk throughout the month, and questions taken as they arose. There was therefore nothing further to note that was not otherwise covered in the business of the meeting.

**143/19 Grants and donations**

**143.1/19** A request had been received from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod for support towards the 2020 event. It was expected that the event was all but certain to be cancelled, and so any decision regarding a financial donation was deferred to the next Council meeting when the position would be clear.

**144/19 Financial matters**

**144.1/19** The financial report was proposed for approval by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr J Rosier. The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

<b>Pre-approved</b>	<b>Chq no</b>	
D Hinchliffe February expenses	101865	20.50
Welsh Government - audit fee 2019/20	101866	351.75
Play and Leisure - playground works less 10% retention	Transfer	27,094.26
Play and Leisure - additional mats	101867	64.80
Cllr W Blaze - Councillor allowance	101868	120.00
One Voice Wales membership 2020/21	101869	236.00
Alan Dymond - safety certification of play area	101870	210.00
WCBC - installation of column for solar light	101871	320.40

**For approval to pay**

Clerk salary, March	STO	314.98
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	STO	28.50
SSE February account	DDR	255.40
Royal Mail - renewal of PO Box	101872	352.50
WCBC - School Crossing patrol Q3		1,141.50
Cllr D Austin - Councillor Allowance		120.00
Cllr J Barton - Councillor Allowance		120.00
HMRC - tax on 2 Councillor allowances		60.00
Chair's purse - balance of 2019/2020 allowance		220.00

**144.2/19** Cllr D Kelly added that he would encourage the Clerk to submit an overtime claim at the next Council meeting, recognising that the workload required to administer the activities of Minera Community Council was extraordinarily higher than normal at present, and likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

**145/19 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

**145.1/19** Planning application number P/2020/0133, *Extension to existing garage and car port to include increasing the roof height by 1 metre and use of the loft space to form home office with 3 roof lights and glazed door to Juliet balcony and use of ground floor as garage, workshop space and utility room. Newbridge Cottage, Pentre, Minera* had been received during the month and circulated to all Councillors. No objections or observations were recorded so that the Chair asked the Clerk to advise WCBC accordingly on behalf of Minera Community Council.

**146/19 Project updates**

**146.1/19** All pertinent issues relating to projects currently in flight had been discussed elsewhere in the business of the meeting, with the exception of the New Brighton kiosk. In view of Cllr J Savin's resignation, this matter was therefore adjourned for discussion at a future Projects meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2050 hrs.

