

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th March 2021

Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by Zoom videoconference

Present: Cllrs: H Field (Vice-Chair), W Blaze, D Kelly, A Roberts, H Eustace, J Belton

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), W Ollerhead, J Marsh

In the absence of Cllr J Edwards, Cllr H Field chaired the meeting.

153/20 Declarations of interest

153.1/20 There were no declarations of interest.

154/20 Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings

154.1/20 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr H Eustace.

155/20 Matters arising

155.1/20 Cllr W Blaze advised the meeting that he had obtained the details of the speed gun check co-ordinator from Bwlchgwyn, and would pass these on to Cllr J Belton.

155.2/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that the carcass of the redundant Gwynfryn play area rocking horse had been dismantled and disposed of before it could be donated to an interested resident. Cllr D Kelly gave the Clerk a website contact for possible disposal of the cast iron horse's head which would be researched.

155.3/20 The Clerk had requested a larger bin from WCBC for installation at the Minera Quarry end of Maesyffnon Road. The request had been accepted and the unit and accompanying invoice were now awaited.

155.4/20 The Clerk had not yet contacted Scottish Power to arrange a meeting at the culvert near Minera School to discuss flooding concerns. This would be organised as soon as possible.

155.5/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that, in response to a question raised at the previous meeting, WCBC had advised him that no Community Council would be obligated to co-opt candidates as Councillors whenever the numbers of candidates and vacancies were equal. If in such circumstances a candidate was not co-opted, however, the grounds for exercising such discretion would need to be clearly stated.

156/20 Co-option of Councillors

156.1/20 Cllr H Field advised the meeting that three candidates had been interviewed for the two advertised vacancies on Minera Community Council. A fourth candidate had not presented for interview. The interview panel recommended Alison Fisher and Tom Grundy as the nominated co-optees, and Cllr H Field duly proposed that they be co-opted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr W Blaze, and unanimously endorsed by all present. At the Clerk's request, it was confirmed that, should either candidate decline to accept co-option, the unsuccessful candidate should be approached as a substitute co-optee.

156.2/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had received the resignation of Cllr I Messiter, and that a further exercise of co-option would now be undertaken to fill the vacancy this created. Cllr Messiter's resignation had been accepted with regret and best wishes for the future.

157/20 Police report

157.1/20 PCSOs Lydia Edwards and Holly Jones joined the meeting, and gave a summary of the 'Target Hardening' initiative whereby safety equipment and other home security products could be installed under North Wales Police supervision for vulnerable residents. Packages of equipment and literature were available for £500 or £1,000, and would need to be funded by the participating Community Council.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that sample inventories of the equipment in question would be provided to the Clerk, who would work with the Community Agent to establish the likely take-up of the offer by residents before any financial commitment was considered.

157.2/20 The latest monthly incident report was also reviewed. Most police activity in the ward had been focussed on Covid-19 enforcement, with one domestic and one inter-neighbour dispute also recorded. Monthly reports would resume from March, and the Clerk would include the PCSOs on the Zoom invitations to Council meetings now that it had been established that police participation via personal devices was possible.

157.3/20 Cllr D Kelly enquired whether the Target Hardening initiative worked in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch, and also requested that the Clerk be sent a police operations map for distribution to Councillors. PCSO Edwards would send a map and a set of literature relating to setting up Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and the Clerk undertook to publish the details on the website.

158/20 Minera Community Council Chair's report

In the Chair's absence, this item was deferred.

159/20 County Borough Councillor's report

159.1/20 Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that WCBC had appointed a Litter Officer, who will be responsible for providing consumables funded by Keep Wales Tidy to groups of

volunteer litter pickers, among other duties. Community Councils may well be asked to assist with this process at some point.

159.2/20 Pothole works have continued throughout the Borough, with around 1,000 potholes requiring attention at any time. Repairs have been of variable quality, and related problems of noise from carriageway ironworks have also been notified to WCBC.

159.3/20 Some currently disused quarries across North Wales may be re-opened in the near future in response to a growing demand for aggregates, principally for road improvements.

159.4/20 The Welsh Government having confirmed that the elections will proceed as planned on 6 May, a political purdah period will begin on 25 March. From this date no election issues arising in any correspondence can be discussed.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting

160/20 Community Agent's report

Susanne's report was taken as read, with emphasis added to a few points:

160.1/20 A sense of 'lockdown fatigue' was evident throughout the community. Opportunities for social interaction and engagement were becoming more and more needed, and would hopefully be available again soon.

160.2/20 The Digital Communities initiative was progressing very well, albeit only Rhos and Minera were taking up the opportunities provided.

160.3/20 The food bank continued to have more goods coming in than going out, and reaching the right people was proving a challenge. Community Facebook pages were doing their bit, and the PTA had been contacted for assistance, either through leaflets at the school or an insert in the school newsletter.

160.4/20 Excellent training and related opportunities were currently on offer from AVOW including free DBS checks, MIDAS minibus training and first aid courses.

160.5/20 Cllr W Blaze asked Susanne to try and establish the level of latent demand for the target hardening materials available from North Wales Police. Details once established would be passed back through the Clerk.

The Chair thanked Susanne once more for her continued and much valued efforts, and she then left the meeting.

161/20 School Governor's report

161.1/20 Cllr W Ollerhead being unavoidably absent, his report was taken as read. The Chair invited any Councillor with any issues arising from the report to contact either Cllr Ollerhead or the Clerk for resolution.

162/20 Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence throughout the month. One item was discussed in further detail within the meeting, as noted below.

162.1/20 As the next deadline to participate in the LEI bid being put together by the AONB was approaching, the status of the quotation for the ecological survey of the Berwig Quarry was reviewed. Cllr D Kelly provided the Clerk with the name of an alternative consultancy to provide a quotation, and it was proposed by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr A Roberts that the Clerk should obtain a further quotation, and if possible a third. The existing quotation from Enfys Ecology would also be interrogated to ensure that it was still valid.

163/20 Grants and donations

163.1/20 The Clerk advised the meeting that requests for donations had been received from Macmillan, Vic Studios and NSPCC, all seeking funds for continuing activities. All were established charities with activities in, or potentially of benefit to the locality.

163.2/20 Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded that a donation of £400 be made to Macmillan.

163.3/20 Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded that a donation of £100 be made to Vic Studios.

163.4/20 Cllr A Roberts proposed and Cllr H Eustace seconded that a donation of £200 be made to NSPCC.

164/20 Financial matters

164.1/20 Following a brief recital by the Clerk of the financial activities since the previous Council meeting, the financial report was proposed for approval by Cllr W Blaze

and seconded by Cllr J Belton. The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr H Eustace.

Clerk Salary, March	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE February account	196.99
Agent salary, February	648.96
Clerk expenses, March	14.39
Royal Mail	360.00
Civic Budget	321.00
Councillor Allowances	450.00
One Voice Wales - training delivered February	60.00

Total to approve **2,473.73**

164.2/20 The Chair asked the Clerk to contact Caroline Bennett of WCBC to establish if any suitable youth outreach activities were planned which might be a useful outlet for the reserve monies held for the benefit of youth projects.

165/20 **Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

165.1/20 No planning correspondence had been received since the date of the previous full Council meeting, and no other planning issues currently required to be discussed.

Meeting adjourned 2105 hrs.