

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th August 2021**

**Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by Zoom videoconference**

**Present:** Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), H Field (Vice-Chair), W Blaze, A Roberts, T Grundy, A Fisher, N Jones, W Ollerhead,

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Due to connectivity issues being experienced by Cllr J Edwards, Cllr H Field took the chair and opened the meeting.

Cllr J Belton joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

**Apologies:** Cllrs D Kelly, J Marsh

**55/21            Declarations of interest**

**55/21.1**        There were no declarations of interest.

**56/21            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**56.1/21**        The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr A Fisher.

**57/21            Annual review outcome, Community Agent (part 2 item: no public attendance)**

Issues discussed under this item of business are for the consideration of Councillors and the Clerk only, and therefore do not appear in this public record of proceedings.

A resident now joined the meeting, and was welcomed by the Chair and thanked for her interest in Council activities.

**58/21            Matters arising**

**58.1/21**        The Clerk advised the meeting that no interest had yet been shown in the rocking horse head advertised on Ebay. The price had been reduced to £235 and was being watched by a number of individuals. Following a short discussion it was decided that if no interest was forthcoming when the next sales cycle ended, offers of £200 and above should be considered.

**58.2/21**        The Clerk had not yet had responses from the Police regarding questions relating to the snare set on Minera Mountain and the attendance frequency standards for Police personnel at Community Council meetings. These would continue to be followed up.

**58.3/21** No further contact had been received from WCBC Youth Service, implying that personnel had still not been recruited.

**58.4/21** The Clerk had followed up the play inspector's report of deliberate damage to part of the multiplay unit in Minera play area. This had resulted in an insurance claim which was now on the point of being paid out. Repairs had been ordered and would be effected in the near future.

**58.5/21** The Clerk had found a price for suitable goals and nets for Gwynfryn play area and passed the details to the Chair. The matter would be discussed further at the next Projects Meeting.

**58.6/21** The Clerk had summarised the principal potential impacts of the legislative changes surrounding the General Power of Competence and circulated them to Councillors. These would now be kept under review for applicability to Minera Community Council. Cllr W Blaze had in the meantime begun to approach the mobile post office about adding an extra stop at the Tyn y Capel on Tuesday mornings.

**58.7/21** Following a short discussion concerning the attenuation scheme at Eversley Court, the Chair asked the Clerk to contact Cllr D Kelly to confirm what next steps should be taken by any resident who still had concerns about the condition of the ditches.

Cllr J Belton now joined the meeting, and Cllr J Edwards, having overcome the connectivity issues apparent at the beginning of the meeting, took the Chair, thanking Cllr H Field for stepping in for him in the meantime.

### **59/21 Road closure by Hafren Dyfrdwy**

**59.1/21** The Chair summarised the problems experienced in Minera and Gwynfryn within the previous two weeks due to poor management of a minor utility upgrade by Hafren Dyfrdwy. He had advised the Clerk of the problems caused, including potential loss of business to the Tyn y Capel and difficulties for delivery drivers in Gwynfryn, and the Clerk had sent a letter of complaint detailing the issues.

**59.2/21** The Clerk added that the letter of complaint had been answered by Hafren Dyfrdwy earlier on the day of the meeting, accepting responsibility for shortcomings in the placing and messaging of road closure notices, which had been at the root of the problems caused. A job reference number and designated email address had been obtained to pass on to the Tyn y Capel to claim for compensation, which had been done just before the meeting began.

The Chair added his thanks for the Clerk's prompt attention to the problem, and requested that Hafren Dyrdwy be asked to advise Minera Community Council whenever dates for future works were agreed with WCBC.

### **60/21 Vacancy for one Councillor**

**60.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that, following the resignation of Cllr H Eustace, WCBC Electoral Services had been advised of a casual vacancy. Papers had been received by return and the process of finding candidates to fill the vacant seat would now begin, and would run for around 6 weeks.

**61/21 Police report**

**61.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that no PCSO was available to attend the meeting, and no report had been submitted. Open questions for the PCSO had already been noted under item 58.2/21.

**62/21 Minera Community Council Chair's report**

The Chair had sent out a report brief ahead of the meeting, and drew attention to a number of points:

**62.1/21** Grass cutting activities by WCBC on Berwig Hill and Ffordd yr Ysgol had not been done to a satisfactory standard, and had used a tractor rather than strimmers for the first pass cut, resulting in boulders falling into the highway. The Chair had telephoned WCBC to record his disappointment at what were repeat problems from prior years, and asked the Clerk to write formally to WCBC to set out Minera Community Council's expectations for future cuts in this area of the ward, especially as only one cut per annum was now scheduled.

**62.2/21** The Chair had visited Minera Hall together with three other Councillors, and had circulated photographs via the Clerk. In addition, Cllr H Field had written up her notes of the visit, which had also been circulated to Councillors.

**62.3/21** Following further discussion of the visit and issues arising from it, Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded that the Clerk should write to WCBC summarising the concerns of Minera Community Council with particular regard to the safeguarding of young people on the site.

**63/21 County Borough Councillor's report**

**63.1/21** In the absence of Cllr D Kelly this item of business was deferred. The Clerk would forward to Cllr D Kelly any issues arising from the meeting which required his comment or clarification.

**64/21 School Governor's report**

**64.1/21** Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that the Governors had not met since the previous Council meeting, and as the School was closed for the Summer holidays, there was nothing to report.

Cllr W Ollerhead had nevertheless assisted in the interview process for the new School Secretary, and had been pleased to be able to add some value to the School in this way on the Council's behalf.

## **65/21 Correspondence – summary of items received**

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence throughout the month. A number of items were discussed at greater length:

**65.1/21** The Minera ward was set to be re-named Mwynglawdd for electoral and administrative purposes. Cllr J Marsh had communicated his disappointment to the Clerk concerning this decision, which ignored the fact that the name Minera was Roman in origin, and pre-dated both the Welsh and English names of the area.

**65.2/21** Documentation had been received to enable recording of data to support Welsh Government's 'Carbon net Zero by 2030' commitment. The documentation was extensive and would need to be mobilised in the Autumn, although how much administrative time it would require was as yet not clear.

**65.3/21** A freedom of information request had been received concerning print and copier contracts. Similar requests had been sent across North Wales, and had been generally seen as a misuse of the FOI system in the eyes of the recipient Clerks and Community Councils.

**65.4/21** An email received relating to a new design of dog waste bag station would be followed up in greater detail in the event that it offered a potential asset to combat dog fouling issues.

**65.4/21** Cllr H Field commented that a summary of observations on the Councillor's Code of Conduct which the Clerk had circulated, while ironically longer than the code itself, contained very useful summaries of how to interpret and declare conflicts of interest.

## **66/21 Community Agent's report**

Susanne report had been circulated and was taken as read.

**66.1/21** A coach trip had been jointly organised with the Coedpoeth Community Agent, and would visit Llandudno on 16 September.

**66.2/21** Meet up Tuesday had continued to be well supported. A sign language tutor had been arranged to address a future meeting and IT support would be available each week from now onwards.

**66.3/21** Lynda Rowe of the Wrexham Dementia Friendly Steering Group joined the meeting and gave a presentation on how their dementia support had been established and grown in Wrexham and the surrounding area. The next stage of development would be local committees in villages and communities around the town, overseen from the centre, Holt and Chirk having set up committees in response to this move. A committee in Minera would receive full support to become established.

The Chair thanked Lynda for her presentation, and offered his personal support for a Minera committee.

Susanne and Lynda then left the meeting.

**67/21 Grants and donations**

**67.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that no requests for support had been received in the month and therefore there was no business under this agenda item.

**68/21 Meeting protocols required by LGE (Wales) Act 2021**

**68.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that face to face meetings were once again legal and possible in Wales. Compliance with legislation required, however, that remote attendees should be able to access proceedings. He would accordingly visit the Tyn y Capel and Plas Pentwyn before the next meeting to establish the adequacy of supporting technology prior to any decision to resume face to face meetings was taken.

**69/21 Financial matters**

**69.1/21** 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 H Field and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

**69.2/21** The schedule of payments, listed below, was also proposed for approval by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr A Fisher.

Clerk Salary, August	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE July account	224.26
Agent salary, July	970.09
Clerk expenses, July	14.39
HMRC, NHI on Agent's salary	59.02
Netwise, web hosting 2021/22	360.00
C Futchter, IT support to Meet up Tuesday	20.00
Agent expenses, August	86.49
Civic Budget, tranche 2 21/22	321.00

**Total to approve**

**2,477.64**

**70/21 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

**70.1/21** Planning application number P/2021/0724, Conversion of existing garage to annexe with extension to rear and dormer to the side, Clith House, Old Road, Bwlchgwyn had been received from WCBC. Following a brief discussion, no objections or observations were recorded by Minera Community Council.

**70.2/21** Planning application number P/2021/0703, Two storey side extension, balcony in front of first floor bathroom extension and installation of fence to rear of property, Arfryn, New Brighton had been notified by letter from WCBC. A copy of an objection from the Top

Road New Brighton Residents' Association had also been received with respect to this application.

Following a brief discussion, the Chair asked the Clerk to write to WCBC to advise that Minera Community Council reiterated its previous observations (listed against application P/2021/0421) with respect to alterations to the property in question, namely that the Council had no objections provided that the proposed structural alterations were deemed satisfactory and permissible by the appropriate WCBC planning and building control officers. In addition, he asked the Clerk to advise WCBC that a copy of the Residents' Association's views had been received, detailing the basis of the objections raised.

Meeting adjourned 2105 hrs.