

MINERA COMMUNITIES NEWS JULY 2021

No interest had yet been shown in the rocking horse head advertised on Ebay. If by the time of the next Council meeting there was still no interest arising, a price reduction could be considered

As noted at the previous meeting, the Clerk had still had no notice of installation of a new bin at the quarry, although pressure on the smaller bin had apparently lessened in recent weeks due to lower visitor numbers.

The MCC Clerk had requested a Police Report ahead of Council meetings, and had enquired if attendance once per quarter was the North Wales Police standard for Community Council meeting attendance. A brief report had been received for the current meeting, while the specific question regarding attendance was still being addressed within NWP.

WCBC housing had been contacted concerning the state of pathways at Min y Grug. They had responded by sending an inspection team to the site by return.

The Clerk had liaised with the WCBC Youth Service to pursue the establishment of a programme for the Minera Ward. A proposal had now been received, and would be mobilised subject to recruitment of the necessary individuals.

The monthly play area inspection reports were now being received from WCBC, and where pertinent, would be shared on receipt with Councillors. The Chair asked the Clerk to take up the issue of damage to the multi-play unit, as detailed on the most recent report received, with the supplier to effect a prompt resolution, and then notify WCBC when the work was completed.

Cllr D Kelly had continued to engage in dialogue with the relevant WCBC officers on the issue of the attenuation ditches at Eversley Court. He summarised the latest position for the benefit of the meeting. Work had now been done to address the initial construction faults. The facility should now be left to settle, and performance in future wet conditions noted. It was also reiterated that residents ought to contact the management company who would be responsible for the maintenance of the attenuation scheme should further issues arise. He was aware that the chief residual concern of residents was the nature of the fencing which had been installed, but as fencing had not been a planning condition, enforcement was not possible.

The Chair invited the attending residents to add any comments of their own. Cllr Kelly's point concerning the fencing was acknowledged, but concerns as to the potential dangers to young children were still valid.

Police report

The Clerk advised the meeting that no PCSO was available to attend the meeting, but a short report had been submitted, which had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. Cllr W Blaze asked the Clerk to contact PCSO Holly Jones, who had submitted the report, to clarify a reference to a legal snare on open land, since his understanding was that snares could not legally be set on open land.

Chairman's Report

An ewe and two lambs which had been wandering around Gwynfryn had been moved to the play area football pitch to reduce the chance of an accident being caused. Attempts to contact the police and animal welfare to deal with the issue had proven very long-winded. The lambs had entangled themselves several times in the goal nets and needed releasing. The nets were in a poor state in any event, and the Chair asked the Clerk to research a price to replace the goals which could be tabled at the next Projects Meeting.

It was evident that there was little maintenance currently being done in Minera churchyard, and the Chair asked what level of historic support had been provided for upkeep of the churchyard by Minera Community Council. The Clerk advised the meeting that assistance of £500 had been provided in 2020/21, but nothing as yet in the current year.

School Governor's report

In the absence of Cllr W Ollerhead, and no further meeting of Governors having taken place since he circulated his last report, the only issue of concern related to the possible appointment by Minera Community Council of a second Governor. The report noted that candidates had been identified for vacant positions, and were being approached, implying that no availability for a second nominee by Minera Community Council currently existed.

Community Agent's report

Susanne was not present, but her report had been circulated and was taken as read. The Clerk advised the meeting on Susanne's behalf that a Dementia Steering Group had been set up for the Minera Ward, chaired by Rev James Harris. The participation of one or more Councillors in the Steering Group would be greatly helpful, and would involve a short meeting around four times a year. Councillors were therefore asked to contact Susanne if interested.

The Chair asked the Clerk to pass back to Susanne that he would be interested in attending a dementia support course if a suitable event or resource was available locally.

Correspondence

In response to one item of correspondence received, the Clerk gave a short summary of the proposals in recent legislation to allow Town and Community Councils to exercise a 'General Power of Competence,' or GPoC. One potential benefit from GPoC could be the ability to run a Post Office for the community. This would be difficult given the lack of owned premises. Cllr W Blaze undertook to enquire whether the mobile Post Office which currently served Bwlchgwyn could add an extra stop at the Tyn y Capel during the Meet up Tuesday sessions.

The Clerk had been contacted by warmemorialsonline.org to be advised that Minera war memorial was now listed on a public register, and may be eligible for a grant to renovate it. The Chair asked the Clerk to research this further and advise a future meeting of the details.

The Clerk advised the meeting that correspondence had been received just before the beginning of the meeting confirming the resignation of Cllr H Eustace.

Grants and donations

The Clerk advised the meeting that the only request for a donation received since the previous meeting had been from AVOW, who had set up a memorial donation fund for community defibrillators following the death of AVOW Chair John Leece-Jones. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed that Minera Community Council should contribute £100 to this fund.

County Borough Councillor's report

A number of environment officers had recently left WCBC, and a number of new planning officers were also in post. Some aspects of WCBC services were therefore going through something of a re-learning curve, which would be apparent to residents seeking to use the affected services. Additionally, the taking up of a great deal of annual leave accumulated during Covid was diminishing the level of personnel cover in some areas. Cllr D Kelly would assist any resident where he was able in the event of difficulty in trying to access WCBC services.

The Welsh Government was trialling 20mph zones in residential areas across Wales. Some would inevitably be installed in Wrexham County Borough. In broad terms the Transport Minister's policy objective would be to try and lower all residential 30mph limits to 20mph.

Social media strategy

The Clerk requested that Councillors allow the creation of a Facebook page in the name of 'Minera CC Clerk' which would be used to complement the communication channels in addition of the notice-boards and website. He was aware that there had been reluctance in the past to such an idea, largely due to the adverse experiences of individual Councillors with abusive and derogatory material posted to pages which they had administered. The success of the Community Agent's Facebook page, however, had been achieved without such activity, and the Clerk felt the time was now right to build on this and widen the reach of Minera Community Council's message.

Cllr T Grundy added that Facebook provided a much more immediate news channel than the website, and would encourage dialogue with residents. The Clerk also gave assurances that the page would be taken down in the unlikely event that it attracted persistent adverse attention.

It was proposed that the Clerk create a Facebook page as described, reviewable in 6 months as to both public reaction, and the pressure of time it placed on the Clerk to maintain it.

Financial matters

Following a brief recital by the Clerk of the financial activities since the previous Council meeting, the financial report and the schedule of payments, listed below, were proposed for approval by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr A Fisher

Clerk Salary, July	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE June account	210.31

Agent salary, June	80501
Clerk expenses, July	16.48
HMRC, NHI on Agent's salary	10.62
SLCC, annual subscription	112.00
Agent expenses, June/July	83.80
Agent's donation to Paws off Duty (therapy dogs who visited Meet up Tuesday)	50.00

Total to approve

1,710.61

Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

Planning application number P/2021/0624, Conversion of agricultural buildings at Cae Madog, Gwynfryn to 2 holiday accommodation units had been received from WCBC. Following a brief discussion, no objections or observations were recorded by Minera Community Council.

Planning application number P/2021/0682, Felling of one tree at St Jude's, Pentre, Minera had been received from WCBC. Following a brief discussion, no objections or observations were recorded by Minera Community Council.

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 on the day of the meeting. The Clerk had briefly reviewed the application and, given the level of detail contained in it and the short time between receipt and the Council Meeting, augmented by the absence of New Brighton resident Cllr W Ollerhead, suggested that he apply for an extension of time to respond to WCBC so that a considered response could be prepared at the next Council Meeting on 18 August. This was endorsed by all present.