

MINERA COMMUNITIES' NEWS AUGUST 2021

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had conducted the annual review of the Community Agent's performance with her, and reported the outcomes and his recommendations to the Chair and Vice-chair. In short, Susanne Allcroft had performed exceptionally well, and set a very high standard as Minera's first Community Agent. She had consistently gone above and beyond the role, and had quickly become highly respected throughout the Minera ward.

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.

No response 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.

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

The Clerk had followed up the play inspector's report of deliberate damage to part of the multi-play 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.

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. 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 at Bwlchgwyn about adding an extra stop at the Tyn y Capel on Tuesday mornings.

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.

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. The Clerk added that the letter of complaint had been answered by Hafren Dyfrdwy 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 Dyfrdwy be asked to advise Minera Community Council whenever dates for future works were agreed with WCBC.

Following the resignation of Cllr H Eustace due to work commitments, 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.

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

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 trimmers 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. He had removed a number of boulders due to the dangers and contacted street-scene to remove those that were too heavy for him to lift.

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.

Following further discussion of the visit and issues arising from it, it was proposed 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.

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. He 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

A coach trip had been jointly organised by the Minera and Coedpoeth Community Agents, and would visit Llandudno on 16 September.

Meet up Tuesday at the Tyn y Capel where free refreshments are provided where people can get together with others and make new friends, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 with respect to this application, 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 letter had been received, detailing the basis of the objections that were raised.

A projects meeting will be held by Zoom on Thursday September 2nd to discuss, among other items of business, the provision of new goals and nets in Gwynfryn playing field.

A renovation grant is being sought to restore the Minera bus shelter and we are engaging North Wales Wildlife Trust regarding the future of the Berwig quarry. The official opening of the replaced equipment following arson damage at Minera play area has taken place. Cllrs and school pupils attended with two children cutting the ribbon.