

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 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, D Kelly

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs W Ollerhead, J Marsh

Not present: Cllr J Belton

71/21 Declarations of interest

71/21.1 There were no declarations of interest.

72/21 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

72.1/21 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr H Field.

73/21 Annual review outcome, Clerk (part 2 item: no public attendance)

The details of this item of business are reserved to Councillors and the Clerk only.

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

74/21 Matters arising

74.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that there had still been no interest shown on eBay for the rocking horse head. The option to reduce the price to offers in the region of £200 remained unexercised, and in the meantime alternative outlets would be reviewed.

74.2/21 The Clerk had had a response from the Police regarding the legal snare set on Esclusham Mountain, and had circulated the response to all Councillors. The question of the Police's service standard for attending Community Council meetings remained open.

74.3/21 WCBC Youth Service had responded to advise that recruitment of supervisory personnel to cover Minera had been successful, and HR processes were now being concluded. An invitation had been extended to the WCBC Co-ordinator to attend the next Projects Meeting to develop the plan further.

74.4/21 The damaged play equipment in Minera would shortly be repaired, mostly paid for by the proceeds of the insurance claim.

74.5/21 Cllr W Blaze confirmed that initial requests to get the mobile Post Office to call at the Tyn y Capel on a Tuesday had been unsuccessful. Post Office management had been asked to review the possibility of using a different day, potentially using the area of the Minera bus stop.

74.6/21 The Clerk had forwarded to Cllr D Kelly the questions arising at the previous meeting relating to the attenuation scheme at Eversley Court as Cllr Kelly had been absent on that occasion. Cllr Kelly's answer had been shared with all Councillors.

74.7/21 The Chair advised the meeting that Hafren Dyrdwy had performed further work in Gwynfryn since the previous meeting, and had on this occasion contacted affected residents and placed signage much more sympathetically than on their previous assignment. The Clerk noted that Minera Community Council had not, however, been given advance notice of the start of works, as had been agreed, and would contact Hafren Dyrdwy to remind them of this promise.

74.8/21 The Clerk had contacted WCBC concerning the issues of boulders being left in the road following the most recent cut of grass on Berwig Hill. The message had been promptly circulated within the cutting teams for review at their next meeting, for which the Clerk passed on his thanks.

74.9/21 The Clerk had contacted WCBC with respect to potential safety issues surrounding play activities at Minera Hall. Responses from the Landscape Officer and Planning Enforcement had been circulated to all Councillors, from which it was concluded that there was no current cause for Minera Community Council to comment or intervene further.

74.10/21 The Clerk had made further enquiries concerning the dog waste bag stations which had been publicised online. Costs of the consumables were reasonable, although it was felt that the stations themselves would be unlikely to alter the actions of repeat offenders. The details would be therefore kept under review for possible future use.

74.11/21 The Clerk had visited Plas Pentwyn and Coedpoeth Parish Hall to ascertain connectivity potential for a virtual connection at future face to face meetings. Findings had been circulated to Councillors and the situation at the Tyn y Capel would be reviewed before the next Council meeting so that an informed decision could be made at that juncture.

75/21 Vacancy for one Councillor

75.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had just received confirmation from WCBC that no election for the open vacancy on Minera Community Council had been demanded. He would therefore proceed to publish a statutory Notice of Co-option on the website, Facebook page and Minera noticeboard forthwith. Applications would be open for four weeks.

76/21 Police report

76.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that no PCSO was available to attend the meeting, but a short summary of recent crime in the Ward had been received and circulated to all Councillors.

76.2/21 Cllr D Kelly commented that the incursion at the former Tomlinson's Dairy had included the theft of two transformers believed to contain a large quantity of copper. It was noted that, per the report received from North Wales Police, no suspects had been identified.

76.3/21 Cllr H Field commented that car parking on the Give Way area opposite Minera Bus Shelter was causing a problem, especially during the morning drop off period for Minera School. Police presence had previously been effective at discouraging this, and the Chair asked the Clerk to make a request of the PCSO to resume a presence between 0830 and 0900 hours to address the problem once more.

76.4/21 The Chair commented that visible disregard of Welsh Government law regarding the wearing of face coverings in shops was widespread in the community and nearby, notably at the Co-op store in Coedpoeth. Store workers had been instructed not to intervene or challenge, which was disappointing when Covid rates were still high enough to cause concern. The Chair therefore asked the Clerk to contact the PCSO and enquire what enforcement of this law was being applied, and with what results, and also to register the concerns of Minera Community Council with respect to the reported status of the incident at the former Tomlinson's Dairy premises.

77/21 Community speed monitoring

77.1/21 Cllr H Field advised the meeting that she had been approached by residents concerned by incidences of speeding on Church Road, Minera. The number of incidents was unknown, but the stretch of road in question had seen similar issues in the past.

77.2/21 Following a short discussion, the Chair asked the Clerk to contact GoSafe to ascertain whether formal speed monitoring could again be carried out on the road. The Chair also asked the Clerk to use the website and Facebook page to ask residents who might be interested in taking part in a community speed monitoring exercise to come forward.

78/21 Footpath issues

78.1/21 Cllr T Grundy had advised Councillors of some issues encountered while walking in the Ward. It was noted that new posts had now been installed to support the fallen gate at the end of the old railway line, with the gate now needing to be re-hung. A path at the top of Ty Brith Lane had been blocked, and it was unclear whether or not this was a right of way on the definitive map. Cllr Grundy and the Clerk would therefore walk the path with a copy of the map and, if a right of way had become obstructed, contact WCBC for resolution.

78.2/21 The Chair asked the Clerk to add a review of footpath issues to future Project Meeting agendas, and asked Cllr Grundy to take the lead on dealing with any issues arising.

78/21 Minera Community Council Chair's report

78.1/21 The Chair had circulated his report ahead of the meeting. Most of the items raised in the report had been or would be covered elsewhere in the meeting. He therefore commented on only one item:

78.2/21 There had been an unfortunate lapse in the school bus service on 7 August when the bus had arrived over half an hour late, causing some children to return home and others to be taken to school by parents. Cllr A Fisher added that the bus company (Straffords) had made similar errors recently, sending buses to the wrong schools.

78.3/21 Cllr Fisher also asked how Minera Community Council went about advising residents of Police incidents. The Chair and Clerk confirmed that the primary route for such communication was directly to all Councillors from the Clerk for onward communication, with details posted on the website and Facebook page where appropriate.

79/21 Community Agent's report

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

79.1/21 Referrals were coming in at a steady rate. Some of the referrals received were quite involved, and probably reflected a continuing shortage of social workers within the care system.

79.2/21 WCBC had appointed a new co-ordinator for the Community Agent service. First impressions were good, with a more supportive tone set at the first meeting with Agents.

79.3/21 The coach trip to Llandudno, jointly organised with the Coedpoeth Community Agent, was set to go ahead the next day. Six people had belatedly dropped out, but had not asked for a refund of their money, so the event remained viable.

79.4/21 Meet up Tuesdays continued to go very well, with excellent support from the Tyn y Capel. North Wales Police had promised to attend on a number of occasions, but as yet had not done so. The Clerk would therefore contact the PCSOs to encourage their support.

Susanne then left the meeting.

80/21 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

80.1/21 An overgrown hedge between Gegin and Bwlchgwyn, which was an issue for Bwlchgwyn residents, had been referred for resolution to WCBC Environment and Highways.

80.2/21 A boundary dispute in Wern had been notified to Minera Community Council and to WCBC. On examination the details had no applicability to planning conditions, and related solely to a difference of views between neighbours.

81/21 School Governor's report

81.1/21 In the absence of Cllr W Ollerhead, and as no Councillor had any issues for the Clerk to pass on, this item was deferred until the October meeting.

82/21 Correspondence – summary of items received

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

82.1/21 Separate requests from an AONB ranger and a representative of Keep Wales Tidy had been received to present on initiatives underway in the Clywedog valley to improve footpaths and wayside furniture (benches etc). Both had been offered 5 minute slots at the next Projects Meeting.

82.2/21 A resident had been keeping the Clerk updated with progress in restoring the head gear at Minera Lead Mines. Notwithstanding the optimism expressed for renovations to be contemplated, Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that a complete and costed programme of work to dismantle and rebuild the decayed components was still far from complete. The Chair asked the Clerk to establish what maintenance work had been carried out at the Lead Mines site in the past year.

83/21 Grants and donations

83.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that no requests for support had been received in the month, other than publicity for a pyjama day in aid of Ronald Macdonald Charities. This had been passed to Cllr W Ollerhead as School Governor in case Minera School might be interested in taking part.

84/21 Possible return to face to face meetings

84.1/21 The Clerk had separately advised Councillors that Plas Pentwyn had not offered a suitable location to resume meetings due to intermittent wifi and a high demand for suitable rooms, and that while Coedpoeth Village Hall was a suitable venue, the lack of a Clerk at the present time, who would sanction any hiring out via approval of a risk assessment, meant that nothing could currently be arranged.

84.2/21 Cllr W Blaze confirmed that Bwlchgwyn Village Hall could provide a suitable venue, which would be available on the necessary evenings for regular Council meetings

84.3/21 The Clerk would check the wifi capability at the Tyn y Capel within the coming week. Cllr H Field suggested that, if some enhancement to the capability was needed, an offer to contribute to any cost might be made by Minera Community Council in recognition of the facilities provided to the Council by the venue over several years.

85/21 Financial matters

85.1/21 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 W Blaze and seconded by Cllr H Field.

85.2/21 The schedule of payments, listed below, was also proposed for approval by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr N Jones.

Clerk Salary, September	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE August account	210.31
Agent salary, August	977.31
Clerk expenses, July	14.39
HMRC, NHI on Agent's salary	68.16
ILCA to CILCA training for Clerk	144.00
Total to approve	1,836.56

86/21 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

86.1/21 Nothing relating to planning having been received from WCBC in the month, there was no business to discuss under this agenda item.

Meeting adjourned 2110 hrs.