

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th October 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, J Belton, W Ollerhead

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllr J Marsh

**87/21            Declarations of interest**

**87/21.1**        There were no declarations of interest.

**88/21            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**88.1/21**        The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr A Fisher.

**89/21            Co-option of one Councillor**

**This item of business is deemed ‘Part 2’ in nature. Detailed minutes of this item are reserved for the Clerk and Councillors only.**

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

**90/21            Matters arising**

**90.1/21**        The Clerk advised the meeting that there had still been no interest shown on eBay for the rocking horse head. The Chair suggested that if remaining unsold, the item could be donated to Wisdom of Equus, who may be able to use it at their equine therapy centre. The Clerk would therefore advise Councillors accordingly if no interest had been shown by the time of the next monthly statement from eBay.

**90.2/21**        The Clerk was still waiting for a response from North Wales Police relating to internal attendance standards for Community council meetings. The question would be reiterated until answered.

**90.3/21**        The Clerk’s meeting with WCBC Youth Service had been postponed due to illness. This would be rearranged as soon as feasible, and a presentation slot would be retained for the next Projects Meeting. Cllr W Blaze reported that youth activities in Bwlchgwyn were not yet fully remobilised, and concern was expressed that the take-up in Minera might also be low. The Clerk would seek to obtain a draft SLA for circulation before the Projects Meeting nevertheless.

**90.4/21** The damaged play equipment in Minera was now repaired and the Clerk had checked the work and was satisfied the bill could be paid. Authorisation to pay would be dealt with later in the meeting.

**90.5/21** Cllr W Blaze advised the meeting that, as yet, no response had been received to a request for the mobile Post Office to consider a weekly visit to the Minera bus stop.

**90.6/21** The Clerk had contacted Hafren Dyrdwy to remind them of their promise to advise Minera Community Council in advance of proposed works in the ward. Assurances that this would be done had been reiterated.

**90.7/21** 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.

**90.8/21** Concerning the recent incidence of boulders being left in the road on Berwig Hill following WCBC grass cutting work, the Chair asked the Clerk to obtain a written report of what action would be taken in future. It was noted that the Clerk had been assured that the issue was to be reviewed by the grass cutting teams to inform future plans, but confirmation of improvements was still needed.

**90.9/21** The Clerk had reviewed the wifi facilities at the Tyn y Capel with respect to resuming face to face meetings there. The wifi was adequate to support a 'hear and be heard' scenario, which would satisfy the law as it stood. Cllr D Kelly noted that WCBC was also confronted by issues relating to remote access to face to face meetings.

**90.10/21** The Chair noted that the Police had responded promptly to a request to be present when children were being dropped off at Minera School, so that traffic obstruction problems could be witnessed and addressed.

**90.11/21** The Clerk had as yet not had a response from GoSafe regarding speed monitoring in Church Road, Minera. With respect to mobilising residents to assist with a monitoring exercise in the area, it was confirmed that while Minera Community Council already had a number of trained individuals to call on, further support would be requested by the Clerk using the Facebook page.

**90.12/21** The Clerk and Cllr T Grundy had checked the right of way obstruction at the top of Ty Brith Lane and found that the problem had been resolved. Two other issues had been found on the same walk, namely a blocked path that had caused a fence to be cut to re-establish access, and building work opposite the property known as Lynwood. The latter activity had also been the subject of several reports from residents, notably relating to the dumping of builder's spoil in the river. Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that WCBC planning enforcement and ecologist were involved, together with North Wales Police's

Wildlife Officer. The Clerk would contact Natural Resources Wales to ensure that the matter, which had been reported to them by at least one resident, was followed up.

### **91/21 Police report**

**91.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that no PCSO was available to attend the meeting. A short report had been received, however, the principal item within which was advice that the recent theft from the old Tomlinson's Dairy site was now considered 'undetected' as no individuals or vehicles captured by CCTV could be clearly linked to the theft.

**91.2/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that PCSO Lydia Edwards had visited a recent session of Meet up Tuesday to discuss the concept of Target Hardening, and had been very well received. The session had also established that there was a demand and need for the hardware available to support this initiative.

**91.3/21** Following a short discussion Cllr W Blaze proposed and Cllr H Field seconded that the Clerk continue dialogue with the Police to resolve residual concerns relating to installation of items, and that once resolved a contribution of £250 be made towards the cost of the Target Hardening initiative. The Clerk would also continue efforts to secure a further £250 of funding through the North Wales PACT charity, of which he was a trustee.

### **92/21 Community speed monitoring**

**92.1/21** This item of business had been largely covered under minute 90.11/21 earlier in the meeting. Cllr J Belton added that he would mobilise individuals with the required training, and the Clerk would target the request for volunteers principally at residents of Church Road.

### **93/21 Footpath issues**

**93.1/21** This item of business had been largely covered under minute 90.12/21 earlier in the meeting. Cllr D Kelly added that right of way problems could only be properly resolved by good waymarking. The Clerk would therefore sound out the two organisations who wished to present to the next Projects Meeting about footpath improvements to ensure any relevant potential benefits were highlighted.

### **94/21 Minera Community Council Chair's report**

The Chair drew attention to four issues:

**94.1/21** The LED lights in Maesteg, Gwynfryn did not provide the same level of safe illumination as the previous lights had done, and a further column would be needed to remedy this. Following a brief discussion no action was proposed at present. Streetlighting issues would be considered for the whole ward at the next Projects Meeting.

**94.2/21** At the Chair's request the Clerk had researched the costs of installing a defibrillator in Gwynfryn. Solar-powered units were prohibitively expensive at present, and the Chair was willing to supply power to a conventional unit at his own expense. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that Cllr W Blaze would contact Mega to establish the feasibility of installing a unit close to the bus shelter, powered via a lighting column. Once this had been established as a feasible solution, the defibrillator unit would be ordered.

**94.3/21** The Clerk had researched the availability of a suitable set of replacement goals for the Gwynfryn playing field. A set that could be secured to the ground but moved when needed would cost £745. Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that the goals be ordered.

**94.4/21** The Chair confirmed that the usual ceremony would be held in Minera for Remembrance Day, on Saturday 13 November. He would make the necessary arrangements.

#### **95/21 Community Agent's report**

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

**95.1/21** Referrals were coming in at a steady rate. The impact of a shortage of social workers within the care system was now being steadily felt by Community Agents.

**95.2/21** The Llandudno trip had gone very well. It was hoped to build on the success of the day with further excursions run in conjunction with Coedpoeth.

**95.3/21** A visit to Meet up Tuesday by the Police had gone down very well. Attendance had been high as was the interest shown in the subject matter. The Clerk would discuss with Susanne whether Care and Repair might provide the necessary skills to fit the Target Hardening hardware available from the Police.

**95.4/21** Two individuals had now joined the dementia support group, which was encouraging.

**95.5/21** Groundwork and Wrexham Foodbank had jointly arranged a scheme to give free hot meals and hampers to people referred by Community Agents, and details of how to nominate individuals for Age Connects awards had been placed on Susanne's Facebook page.

**95.6/21** One of the iPads supplied from WCBC had been lent to Coedpoeth ahead of the Coedpoeth Community Agent applying for further devices in his own right.

The Chair thanked Susanne for continuing to deliver a first class service to the communities of the Minera ward.

Susanne then left the meeting.

#### **96/21 County Borough Councillor's report**

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

**96.1/21** A resident had recently asked whether the Minera bus service could be diverted to include Bwlchgwyn. Cllr Kelly would forward the correspondence to the Clerk who would in turn raise the matter with the Transport for Wales Regional Support Manager.

**96.2/21** A new, less extensive planning application was expected to be submitted shortly by Armon. The original application for a chicken processing facility had now finally been dropped.

**96.3/21** All WCBC country parks had been given Fields in Trust protection. This was beneficial to ensure protection from development, although minor changes such as visitor centres might prove hard to install in future.

**96.4/21** WCBC Environmental Services had adjusted the intervention criteria for pothole repairs to encompass defects previously below the depth to warrant action, and a new filling material was now in use. Specific funding had also been allocated to address the problems of potholes.

#### **97/21 School Governor's report**

Cllr W Ollerhead had circulated his report, and he briefly commented:

**97.1/21** The school and its pupils were doing well, with few covid cases, and no disruption to educational activities. Cllr Ollerhead had accepted nomination on to a number of sub-committees as it enabled his role to extend its remit without too much additional burden of time.

**97.2/21** The school remained keen for Cllr Ollerhead to become the Local Authority Governor, which would create a Minor Authority Governor vacancy. This vacancy would be Minera Community Council's to fill, although not necessarily with a further Councillor since anyone suitable could be nominated. Cllr Ollerhead indicated that he would be amenable to take the Local Authority Governorship if requested.

#### **98/21 Correspondence – summary of items received**

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence throughout the month. As all items of relevance to the meeting had been considered elsewhere, no further issues were raised within this item of business.

#### **99/21 Grants and donations**

**99.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that no requests for support had been received in the month. As a number of Councillors had asked for their entitlements to an annual allowance to be added to the budgeted reserve for donations, it would be appropriate to review the possibility of making unsolicited donations to good causes in the coming months.

**99.2/21** Cllr D Kelly proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded a proposal that the Clerk write to the Churchwardens of St Mary's Church to encourage a request for a donation towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

**100/21 Financial matters**

**100.1/21** 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.

**100.2/21** The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr N Jones.

Clerk Salary, October	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE September account	210.31
Agent salary, September	856.46
Clerk expenses, October	35.39
HMRC, NHI on Agent's salary	25.71
Agent expenses, September	105.15
Playquest, play area repair	1,920.00

**Total to approve** **3,575.41**

**101/21 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

**101.1/21** Nothing relating to planning having been received from WCBC in the month, there was no business to discuss under this agenda item.

Meeting adjourned 2130 hrs.