

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 2021**

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

**Present:** Cllrs: J Edwards (Chair), W Blaze, A Roberts, T Grundy, N Jones, D Kelly, J Belton, W Ollerhead

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Marsh, H Field (Vice-chair), A Fisher

**102/21            Declarations of interest**

**102/21.1**        There were no declarations of interest.

**103/21            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**103.1/21**        The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

**104/21            Co-option of one Councillor**

**This item is deemed ‘part 2’ in nature, and therefore details of proceedings under this item of business are restricted to Councillors and Clerk only.**

**105/21            Matters arising**

**105.1/21**        The Clerk advised the meeting that there had still been no interest shown on eBay for the rocking horse head. Following a short discussion it was decided that the item would remain on sale, and then offered to the Wisdom of Equus riding facility if the facility was constructed before sale had been accomplished.

**105.2/21**        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.

**105.3/21**        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.

**105.4/21**        The Clerk had contacted WCBC for written confirmation of future action in relation to preventing boulders being left in the road when strimming activities were carried out on Berwig Hill. A response was awaited.

**105.5/21**        It was noted that North Wales Police had encouraged better parking discipline at Minera School during the morning school run whenever they had been present. The problem was persisting when they were not visible, however. Following a short discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to contact WCBC to establish who was now responsible for managing and introducing double yellow lines following the departure of Darren Green.

**105.6/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that, as yet, no payment had been made towards the provision of Target Hardening hardware as North Wales Police were still seeking the match funding from the Police and Community Trust. This was expected to be resolved within the next two weeks. The Clerk would separately liaise with the Community Agent to establish the suitability of Care and Repair as installer of the hardware once available.

**105.7/21** Following a short resume of footpath initiatives presented to the recent Projects Meeting, The Chair asked Cllr T Grundy formally to revive the Minera Community Council Footpaths Committee and to chair its meetings. Cllr Grundy accepted the invitation and Cllrs N Jones and A Roberts indicated their willingness to serve on the committee. The Clerk confirmed that he would provide administrative support as required to enable committee business to run smoothly. A standing agenda item relating to footpaths was now in place at the main monthly Council meeting, and this would be the route for the committee to report its proceedings to Minera Community Council as a whole.

**105.8/21** Cllr W Blaze advised the meeting that he had received a quotation from Mega for supply and installation of a defibrillator and cabinet, including the electrical connection work to an adjacent Gwynfryn streetlight column. Following a short discussion Cllr Blaze undertook to negotiate the price down where possible while the Clerk processed the Welsh Government paperwork for the recently-launched national defibrillator grant scheme.

**105.9/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that goals and nets for the Gwynfryn playing field were now on order, with delivery scheduled for early December.

**105.10/21** The Clerk had received via Cllr D Kelly a resident's suggestion that the Minera bus route be diverted via Bwlchwyn to extend the bus service within the ward. The request had been placed before the Transport for Wales Regional Support Manager for support, and a response was awaited.

**105.11/21** The Chair asked Cllr D Kelly whether the recent initiative by WCBC to grant Fields in Trust status to all its country parks could extend to the two play areas in the care of Minera Community Council. Cllr Kelly advised that such an extension would need a modification of the eligibility criteria, but that if so modified, protection as Fields in Trust could be sought.

**105.12/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that he had, as requested, begun a dialogue with the Churchwardens of St Mary's Church with a view to identifying the basis of a possible eligible donation towards Church costs.

## **106/21 Police report**

**106.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that no PCSO was available to attend the meeting. A communication had been received, however, which had been shared with Councillors relating to concerns about parking difficulties and the presence of unlicensed vehicles on the public highway in New Brighton. It was understood that three unlicensed vehicles had had their details passed to DVLA, who would formally impound any of these vehicles should they be present on the highway when officers made a visit.

**106.2/21** The Chair asked the Clerk to maintain dialogue with North Wales Police, particularly in relation to encouraging additional presence during the school run.

**107/21 Community speed monitoring**

**107.1/21** Cllr J Belton advised the meeting that a speed checking exercise was being organised on the Old Road. The Clerk would therefore return the speed gun, and pass on details of the individual who volunteered to participate in speed checks.

**107.2/21** Cllr W Blaze advised the meeting that Rhos Community Council had installed mobile CCTV units, which would be of high enough clarity potentially to provide evidence of speeding and bad driving. The Clerk undertook to discuss the sourcing and cost of the CCTV units deployed by Rhos and report back to the next meeting.

**108/21 Footpath issues**

**108.1/21** Cllr T Grundy gave a brief recital of issues which were apparent from recent walks around Minera's rights of way and permissive paths. Fencing and gates along the path from Ty Brith Lane to the quarry had been interfered with and damaged. This was a recurring issue, and cattle had currently passed through the gaps in the fence.

**108.2/21** Development activity in the area below Lynwood had currently ceased and the fence by the river restored. The Clerk added that Natural Resources Wales had been made aware of issues in this area, but were unable to act until any removed spoil material ended up in the river. Cllr D Kelly added that enforcement could not be applied unless or until rights of way were demonstrably breached or contaminating activities could be attributed to unpermitted activities. Recent work on the 'White Road' were a case in point, where the removal of vegetation between Ty Brith and the Limeworks tip had merely restored the width of the path without infringement of the right of way.

**109/21 Community Agent's report**

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting:

**109.1/21** Susanne had just left the Age Connect awards ceremony hosted by Eddie Butler. Two nominees from Minera had won their categories for North East Wales, one of whom had been also recognised as the All Wales winner for Best Neighbour. A ceremony in person to present the awards would be held in early December.

**109.2/21** With the assistance of AVOW, Susanne was looking into the feasibility of a community transport scheme for the ward. This followed on from a number of residents raising the question with Susanne of whether such a scheme could be put in place. Cllr D Kelly commented that a previous scheme in West Wrexham had run for a while, but had proven uneconomic to sustain.

**109.3/21** Meet-up Tuesday continued to be very well supported. A succession of speakers and presenters had been organised for the coming weeks, and a Christmas lunch had

been arranged with 18 places taken. The Tyn y Capel continued to provide excellent support to the group.

The Chair reiterated his and the Community Council's thanks to Susanne for her continued, excellent work in the community. Susanne then left the meeting.

### **110/21           Minera Community Council Chair's report**

The Chair briefly commented:

**110.1/21**       The Gwynfryn Book Stop had sadly been vandalised with books strewn all over the floor. It had quickly been restored, and this was hopefully an isolated incident. The Clerk undertook to raise the matter with PCSO Lydia Edwards and request periodic patrols of the area during hours of darkness.

**110.2/21**       The Act of Remembrance had gone very well. It was good to see the Police in attendance and Lewis Hughes of Minera did a commendable job as bugler. The Chair asked the Clerk to send letters of thanks to Lewis, to the Tyn y Capel for the refreshments provided after the event, and to Andy Hughes of WCBC, whose team had tidied the centre of the village prior to the service of Remembrance.

**110.3/21**       Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr N Jones seconded a proposal to pay £10 to Lewis Hughes as a token of appreciation for his contribution to the ceremony.

**111.4/21**       Cllr D Kelly proposed and CllrW Ollerhead seconded a proposal to make a donation of £250 to the Royal British Legion as was Minera Community Council's established custom at this time of year.

### **111/21           County Borough Councillor's report**

Cllr D Kelly had no matters to bring before the meeting other than items already discussed, or scheduled for discussion later in the agenda.

### **112/21           School Governor's report**

Cllr W Ollerhead noted that, as the Governors had not met since the previous meeting of Minera Community Council, he had nothing to place before the meeting on this occasion.

### **113/21           Correspondence – summary of items received**

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence throughout the month. He drew further attention to one item of note not included in the business of the meeting:

**113.1/21**       A letter had been received from SSE inviting Minera Community Council to request a new electricity contract offer, the previous contract having expired. This had been duly requested, and Councillors would be advised of the offer once received.

**113.2/21** Cllr W Blaze added to the Clerk's comments to add that he had recently attended the latest Lighting Consortium meeting. At the meeting it had been noted that an annual submission to the energy supplier of the number of lights within the contract must be made. This had been done as part of the previous year's work to overhaul the lighting inventory, and would be visited before the end of the fiscal year. To facilitate this, he would also detail on a spreadsheet a unit by unit record of replacement equipment supplied to enable assessment of the effectiveness and utility of the new lighting hardware.

**113.3/21** Cllr Blaze also advised the meeting that Mega would raise charges in line with the RPI, and that he would pass a copy of the Mega contract to the Clerk. In the meantime he had also authorised Mega to renew the seal of any lamp-post whose seal against the pavement was noted to need the work, for a fixed price of £10 per application.

**113.4/21** Cllr Blaze concluded by noting that any Christmas lights attached to lamp standards now required a structural survey of the post prior to installation, and that he would ask Mega to ensure details of work carried out were sent in promptly at the end of the month so that the Clerk could make suitable provision for unbilled costs in the accounts.

#### **114/21 Grants and donations**

**114.1/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that Offa Community Council had written to Minera CC requesting a donation towards their Royal Welch Fusiliers' memorial at Hightown Barracks. A Short discussion followed, in which it was established that there was no objection in principle to a donation being made. The Chair asked the Clerk firstly to obtain feedback to a number of points raised concerning the proposed location of the memorial, however, given that Hightown Barracks was now all but decommissioned as a military facility.

**114.2/21** Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr D Kelly seconded a proposal that a donation of £500 be made to Wales Air Ambulance in response to an appeal sent out to all Community Councils in North Wales.

#### **115/21 Financial matters**

**115.1/21** 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 J Belton.

**115.2/21** The schedule of payments, listed below, was also proposed for approval by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

Clerk Salary, November	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE October account	217.28
Agent salary, October	849.62
Clerk expenses, November	65.37

HMRC, NHI on Agent's salary	25.71
Agent expenses, October	41.98
Civic Budget - tranche 2, 2021/22	321.00
WCBC, Crossing Patrol, Q1	1,212.50
WCBC, Crossing Patrol, Q2	1,212.50
MEGA	44.86
Netwise	72.00
<b>Total to approve</b>	<b>4,485.21</b>

**115.3/21** The Clerk had circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting a summary proposed budget for 2022/23. This had been discussed in detail with Cllr H Field prior to circulation, and would be the basis from which a precept would be raised in January.

**115.4/21** The Clerk took questions and provided clarification on certain items within the budget. Chief among these were the cost of the election scheduled for 5 May 2022, which was currently included at the guideline cost of £3,000 as provided by WCBC, and an increase of just over 20% in electricity costs to £3,200. This was an estimate intended to reflect prevailing pressures in the energy supply market, and would be further reviewed when SSE's new contract offer was received.

**116/21 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

**116.1/21** Planning application P/2021/1032, First floor side extension, Bryn Tirion, Ffordd Bryn Madoc, Gwynfryn had been received from WCBC. Following a short discussion, no observations or objections were recorded in respect of this application, and the Clerk would advise the relevant planning officer accordingly.

Meeting adjourned 2135 hrs.