

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th February 2022

Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by Zoom videoconference

Present: Cllr H Field (Vice-chair), W Blaze, A Roberts, T Grundy, N Jones, J Belton, A Fisher, G Dillon, W Ollerhead, D Kelly

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs J Marsh, J Edwards

Cllr H Field advised the meeting that the Chair, Cllr J Edwards was indisposed, and had asked her to Chair the meeting in his stead. All present expressed their best wishes to Cllr J Edwards.

132/21 Declarations of interest

132/21.1 There were no declarations of interest.

133/21 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

133.1/21 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr A Fisher.

134/21 Matters arising

134.1/21 The Clerk had established by enquiry with other Clerks in North Wales that quarterly attendance in person at Community Council meetings was indeed the service standard stipulated by North Wales Police. This had been fed back to PCSO Lydia Edwards.

134.2/21 Cllr W Blaze advised the meeting that, as before, no response had yet been received to a request for the mobile Post Office to consider a weekly visit to the Minera bus stop.

134.3/21 The Clerk had again 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.

134.4/21 The Clerk had been advised that a free defibrillator had been awarded to Minera Community Council by Welsh Government. Arrangements to site and install the unit and its peripherals were being made and would be monitored via Project Meetings.

134.5/21 Noting that the new goalposts were now in use at Gwynfryn play area, the Chair asked the Clerk to send a formal letter of thanks to the resident who had enabled the posts to be installed.

134.6/21 Cllr D Kelly confirmed that a letter to WCBC to consider recognition of the Minera and Gwynfryn play areas as Fields in Trust would be favourably considered.

Accordingly Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr G Dillon seconded that the Clerk write such a letter, copied to Cllr D Kelly.

134.7/21 The Clerk had received no further updates from either Transport for Wales or Aviva concerning the latest efforts to extend bus routes in the ward. A follow-up request would be made, although the proposal seemed now to have been declined.

134.8/21 The Clerk had obtained the name and contact details of the Community Speed Monitoring liaison officer at GoSafe, and had passed the details to Cllr J Belton. Speed monitoring had not yet been carried out on the Old Road, and would now be organised by Cllr J Belton with the support of the resident who had volunteered to assist.

134.9/21 The Clerk had contacted WCBC concerning path widening and shrubbery clearance on the path known as the 'White Road.' He had received assurances in return that the activities in question were being monitored by WCBC and had shared this information on receipt with Councillors.

134.10/21 The Clerk had contacted NWWT following the collapse of a kiln in Minera quarry, and received assurances as to work in hand to inspect remaining assets for condition, and to prevent public access. NWWT had undertaken to keep Minera Community Council fully updated with developments concerning this issue.

134.11/21 Noting that the work to re-number all of the streetlights on the Minera Community Council inventory would shortly be able to begin, the Chair asked the Clerk to add this project to the agenda of the next Projects Meeting.

135/21 Police report

135.1/21 The Clerk advised Councillors that no PCSO was available to attend the meeting. He had, however, circulated a short list of incidents in the month that had been forwarded by NWP, and had met with PCSO Lydia Edwards in advance of the meeting in order to exchange feedback, and would continue to conduct such meetings each month to maintain the free flow of information between Councillors and PCSOs. The Clerk therefore advised Councillors of the main points discussed at the meeting with PCSO Edwards.

135.2/21 Target hardening funds had been in place for three months but as yet no inventory of goods had been provided. PCSO Edwards undertook to chase this up again, noting that as well as the funds now being available to purchase the equipment as soon as it was to hand, some of the Community Agent's Tuesday morning attendees were now asking for specific items of hardware.

135.3/21 Continuing issues with stray sheep in Bwlchgwyn and Gwynfryn were in the hands of the Rural Crime Team.

135.4/21 Speed checks were being routinely carried out on the Llandegla Road, just beyond the Minera ward boundary, in response to continuous reports of speeding and poor driving behaviour on this road. Cllr D Kelly added that speed monitoring activities in

Bwlchgwyn were also being guided by the same reports of poor driving on the Llandegla Road.

135.5/21 PCSOs have the power to issue fines for dog fouling, but could only do so if an incident was witnessed personally and the owner was observed failing to clean up after their dog. Recent instances of dog fouling reported to or witnessed by members of Minera Community Council were highlighted, and the areas in question would be subject to additional vigilance where possible. Following a short discussion, the Clerk undertook to obtain additional eye-catching anti-fouling signage from Keep Wales Safe for display around the Minera ward.

135.6/21 A series of sports events for the 11-16 age group was being organised by NWP at Brymbo. The Clerk undertook to provide publicity using the Minera CC website and Facebook page once details were provided.

135.7/21 Having read the summary of incidents provided by NWP ahead of the meeting, the Chair asked the Clerk to confirm with PCSO Edwards that such summaries included all incidents arising in the Minera ward.

136/21 Footpath issues

136.1/21 Cllr T Grundy reported that the Footpath Committee had had its first meeting and was now engaged in a programme of checking the paths on the definitive map. Formal reports were being raised after each walk, which were submitted to the Clerk and WCBC.

Following a short discussion, it was decided that the Clerk would forward such reports on receipt to all Councillors and to Sion Roberts at WCBC, including reports received to date.

136.2/21 Cllr N Jones had discovered footpath signs having been removed in the Pentre area. Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr N Jones seconded that the Clerk should forward details of this issue to WCBC as soon as Cllr N Jones had provided a grid reference for the site of the problem.

136.3/21 Following a meeting with former Minera Community Councillor D Fidler, a number of old maps would shortly be passed on to assist in planning walking routes supplementary to those evident on the definitive map.

137/21 Platinum Jubilee

137.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had met with WCBC Tree Officer Jon Brewin, and had summarised the outcomes of the meeting in a document circulated to all Councillors. The document provided a guide for the creation and locations of memorial tree and shrub planting throughout the five communities of the Minera ward in commemoration of the Jubilee.

137.2/21 Following a short discussion it was decided to defer detailed consideration of the plan to the next Projects Meeting. Cllr D Kelly added that there was a green space at the

side of the Talwrn Road which could provide an alternative site for the suggested Five Crosses tree and wildflower installation to the proposed area adjacent to the A525.

137.3/21 The Chair asked the Clerk, in advance of the Projects Meeting, to contact Blue Sky Landscapes to review the proposal for the works proposed for New Brighton, with a view to establishing cost and duration of the project.

138/21 Minera Community Council Chair's report

In the Chair's absence, this item of business was deferred.

139/21 County Borough Councillor's report

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

139.1/21 Concerns about the state of potholed roads were widespread. Although work to fix potholes was carried out according to strict intervention criteria, residents should report their concerns to the WCBC Contact Centre.

139.2/21 Resurfacing works carried out on the road through Wern in the previous month had made a welcome and significant improvement to the highway.

140/21 School Governor's report

Cllr W Ollerhead briefly commented:

140.1/21 The Governors had not met since the previous Council meeting. A number of other meetings had been held, however, and the details would be included in the next Governor's report to Councillors. Cllr Ollerhead was now a member of 6 School committees, which represented an excellent opportunity for Minera CC to add value to the running of the School.

140.2/21 National reading standards had declined during the extended periods of lockdown. This was also evident in Minera, and coupled with out of date reading materials was an area of significant concern for the Governors. The Parents' committee would soon be in touch to request support to help address these emergent issues.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

141/21 Community Agent's report

141.1/21 The numbers of referrals continued to grow steadily. It was good that needs were being identified and met, but the burden on the service was clearly increasing.

141.2/21 More partnership working with the Coedpoeth Agent was being undertaken, for the benefit of both communities.

141.3/21 The Meet up Tuesday sessions would no longer be held at the Tyn y Capel, and would move to Bwlchgwyn Village Hall, at least to begin with, together with some

potential to meet at the King's Head. The support of the Tyn y Capel over 18 months had been greatly appreciated in getting the sessions established.

141.4/21 Cllr D Kelly undertook to discuss the possibility of future use of the Tyn y Capel on Tuesday mornings with the owner. He also suggested that Minera Church should be researched as a venue in order to keep the central focus of the sessions in Minera.

The Chair recorded the now customary thanks of Minera CC to Susanne for her continuing service to the Minera communities.

Susanne Allcroft now left the meeting.

142/21 Correspondence – summary of items received

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

142.1/21 The SLA for the play areas for 2022/23 had been received from WCBC, and was in line with the budgeted cost. Cllr W Blaze proposed and Cllr W Ollerhead seconded that the SLA be passed to the Vice-chair to sign on behalf of Minera CC and returned to WCBC by the requested deadline of 1 March.

142.2/21 Correspondence with SSE had established that the quantum of lights included in the inventory being used to bill Minera CC for electricity was accurate. No refund of prior year charges was therefore due to be received.

142.3/21 Coedpoeth Utd had successfully obtained grant funding to renovate the fieldside shipping container next to the football pitch. This would enable youth activities, once set up by WCBC, to have a base. The story of the restoration of the pitch and container would feature in a forthcoming issue of the SLCC's 'The Clerk' magazine.

143/21 Grants and donations

143.1/21 Requests for donations had been included in the correspondence summaries circulated in the month. Following brief discussion of the items requested the following awards were made:

Cllr W Blaze proposed and Cllr W Ollerhead seconded a donation of £250 in favour of the local branch of the RWF Comrades' Association, in lieu of donating to the fund for a regimental memorial at Hightown.

Cllr D Kelly proposed and Cllr T Grundy seconded a donation of £200 in favour of Family Friends.

144/21 Financial matters

144.1/21 The Chair requested that a vote of thanks be recorded for the services of Cllr J Marsh as internal scrutineer of the financial records for a number of years. Cllr W Blaze duly proposed the vote of thanks which Cllr A Fisher seconded, and all Councillors recorded their agreement and appreciation. The Clerk would communicate the resolution to Cllr Marsh in person with a card bearing a suitable citation.

144.2/21 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.

144.3/21 The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr A Fisher and seconded by Cllr W Ollerhead.

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|--|-----------------|
| Clerk Salary, February | 393.89 |
| Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone | 28.50 |
| SSE January account | 372.54 |
| Agent salary, January | 728.28 |
| Clerk expenses, January (supplementary to prior approved amount) | 120.00 |
| HSBC bank charges, January | 5.80 |
| Donation to Marie Curie | 300.00 |
| Donation to St Mary's Church | 300.00 |
| A Roberts | 120.00 |
| W Blaze | 120.00 |
| J Belton | 120.00 |
| HMRC | 90.00 |
| Clerk expenses, February | 767.87 |
| Total to approve | 3,466.88 |

145/21 Governance and Self-evaluation Toolkit

145.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had completed the first of two parts of a document produced by One Voice Wales and SLCC which was intended to be a single point of reference for prevailing legislation and best practice in the area of Community Council governance. He would circulate the document once completed for critique and feedback, and would also be participating in a focus group session in March to develop the document prior to official launch.

146/21 Training Plan requirement from November 2022

146.1/21 The Clerk reminded Councillors that Minera CC would be legally obliged to publish a Training Plan on an annual basis from November 2022. The Chair asked all Councillors to consider their own training needs and aspirations, and to study One Voice Wales training summaries when circulated each month.

147/21 New Brighton telephone kiosk

147.1/21 Cllr J Belton advised Councillors that the electricity supply to the kiosk had now been isolated and made safe. Notwithstanding the completion of this remedial work, Cllr Belton requested that Councillors reconsider the proposed costs of bringing the telephone kiosk back to a usable condition, and whether the project should proceed.

147.2/21 A brief discussion ensued in which it was noted that the quotation of £3,800 which had been received and accepted was a worst case cost scenario, and included remediation of potential issues with the floor. The decision to proceed had been approved at a quorate meeting of Minera CC in a Projects Meeting, and had taken cognisance of the fund of £2,555.48 set aside for the renovation (yielding a net cost of no more than £1,244.52). The decision to proceed with the restoration project was therefore confirmed.

148/21 Confirmation of dates of future meetings

148.1/21 The Clerk had circulated proposed meeting dates for both main Council Meetings and Projects Meetings for the remainder of 2022. The dates were duly ratified, and the Clerk would proceed to note them on the website.

149/21 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

149.1/21 Planning application P/2022/0058, erection of agricultural building, Hafod Las, Cae Glas Lane, Minera. 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.

149.2/21 Planning Application P/2022/0144, alteration to the roof to provide additional bedroom, Bryn y Wern, New Brighton, Wrexham. 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 2120 hrs.