

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022

Commencing at 7.15 pm and conducted by Zoom videoconference

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

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs J Marsh, W Ollerhead, D Kelly

117/21 Declarations of interest

117/21.1 Cllr H Field notified an interest in Planning Application P/2021/1191, which would be the final item of business to be discussed in the meeting.

118/21 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

118.1/21 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr H Field and seconded by Cllr W Blaze.

119/21 Matters arising

119.1/21 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, and would also be shared around other North Wales Clerks for comparison and comment.

119.2/21 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. This was perhaps unsurprising given the Christmas holiday.

119.3/21 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 to this item was also still awaited, and was also probably delayed partly due to the holiday season.

119.4/21 The Clerk had received acknowledgement of Minera CC's application for a free defibrillator under the recently-promoted Welsh Government scheme. No date for a decision had, however, been yet advised, and Cllr W Blaze had at this stage not received updated cost quotations from Mega relating to using lighting columns to provide power for the defibrillator cabinets.

119.5/21 The new goals had been delivered for installation at Gwynfryn play area. The Chair advised the meeting that he would need to hire a machine to complete their installation due to the presence of French Drains below the ground surface.

119.6/21 In the absence of Cllr D Kelly, Cllr H Field asked the Clerk to consult Cllr Kelly as to whether WCBC would be modifying the eligibility criteria of Fields in Trust status so that the two play areas in the Minera ward could be included within the designation.

119.7/21 The Clerk had received an initial response from Transport for Wales concerning the request to modify bus routes so as to improve services to Bwlchgwyn. The request had in effect only been re-directed within Transport for Wales at this stage, but at least the request was receiving attention, unlike a previous approach for support in 2020.

119.8/21 Speed monitoring had not yet been carried out on the Old Road. This would now be organised by Cllr J Belton and the Chair asked the Clerk to establish who was the current Community Speed Monitoring liaison officer at GoSafe.

120/21 Police report

120.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that no PCSO was available to attend the meeting. An email had been received, however, detailing a number of incidents in the Minera ward during December. It was particularly displeasing to note a substantial theft of equine equipment from a property in Wern in this list.

120.2/21 Cllr H Field asked the Clerk to raise the issue of Police attendance at Community Council meetings at the next Town and Community Council Forum hosted by WCBC in order to get an objective assessment of attendance performance.

121/21 Footpath issues

121.1/21 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that the first formal meeting of the Footpath Committee had been organised for 26 January.

121.2/21 Concerns continued to be expressed by residents – principally in writing – about activities being conducted by the landowner on the ‘White Road’ off Ty Brith Lane. It was understood that the activities were being monitored by WCBC, and the Chair asked the Clerk to contact the relevant officers to obtain an update on behalf of Minera CC.

121.3/21 A historic kiln structure in Minera quarry had collapsed during the Christmas holiday period following heavy rain. Fortunately it was not close to any paths, and it was understood that North Wales Wildlife Trust were consulting with Minera Quarry Trust and Cadw to determine next steps. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact NWWT on behalf of Minera CC to ascertain what steps were being planned to ensure public safety with respect to the remaining historic assets in their custody.

121.4/21 Following a brief discussion relating to established paths in the New Brighton area, the Chair undertook to provide further details to the Clerk to enable enquiries to be made as to their current accessibility, use and if necessary, renovation.

122/21 Platinum Jubilee

122.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that several items of correspondence had been received in relation to a co-ordinated set of public events being arranged to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the coronation of HM the Queen.

122.2/21 Following a short discussion to establish a suitable contribution to the event by Minera CC, the Chair asked the Clerk to contact WCBC's Tree Officer for advice on suitable species of tree and shrub to be planted in each

of the five communities of the Minera ward as a permanent memorial of the Platinum Jubilee.

122.3/21 The Clerk also recorded under this agenda item that a Book of Condolence had now been acquired, with permission obtained to place it for public access in St Mary's Church, as and when it proved to be needed under the provisions of Operation London Bridge.

123/21 Minera Community Council Chair's report

The Chair briefly commented:

123.1/21 Hafren Dyfrdwy was involved in extensive renovation work to the main water main serving Gwynfryn. This would continue through January. What had originally been a small job had become a large one due to the parlous state of the main discovered once excavations had begun. Both the Chair and the Clerk had had several conversations with Hafren Dyfrdwy in order to try and keep residents updated.

123.2/21 The Chair would shortly install some nylon mesh at the Gwynfryn football field to keep footballs on the field of play and out of the play area, so as to safeguard younger children.

123.3/21 A spare noticeboard which had been in the Chair's custody for a while would be passed to Del Fidler to renovate so as to be used to display an aerial photograph of Gwynfryn by the Book Stop. Copies of the photograph would be offered to support Cancer Research.

123.4/21 Repair work to the broken and uneven paving was now finally proceeding at Min y Grug.

123.5/21 The Chair asked if the re-numbering of the streetlight inventory could now proceed. Cllr W Blaze confirmed that this could begin imminently once Mega Electrical had completed their current office move.

124/21 County Borough Councillor's report

In the absence of Cllr D Kelly this item was deferred.

125/21 School Governor's report

In the absence of Cllr W Ollerhead this item was deferred.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

126/21 Community Agent's report

126.1/21 There had been a further change of management at the Tyn y Capel, but Meet-up Tuesday sessions had resumed as normal, and a good mix of speakers had been secured for the future, with some dates being kept just for socialising and conversation.

126.2/21 The Christmas lunch and Christmas Eve food distribution campaign had both gone really well. None of the donated surplus food from supermarkets had gone to waste.

126.3/21 A steady number of referrals were being received from Occupational Health. A Pension Credit referral had resulted in a significant success, with the beneficiary receiving eligible benefits backdated to August.

126.4/21 Dementia Champion training had been completed, and would now be followed by a session to train the Councillors of Coedpoeth CC in basic dementia awareness. This was an important step in the process to establish Coedpoeth and Minera as a Dementia Village. Cllr H Field requested details of the dates so that this could be potentially extended to include Minera CC Councillors.

126.5/21 A lot of new initiatives and lines of support were appearing targeted at heating costs, including specific sectoral support. Details would be shared on Facebook.

126.6/21 Cllr W Blaze had been made aware of grants being provided for elderly persons by Screwfix, and would obtain details to pass on to Susanne.

The Chair thanked Susanne for her continuing service to the Minera communities, which was providing immense benefits and improvement to the quality of life of numerous residents.

Susanne Allcroft left the meeting.

127/21 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:

127.1/21 Three quotations had now been received for a replacement seesaw, and circulated to Councillors. A decision on the replacement item could now be made at the February Projects Meeting

127.2/21 The Auditor General had issued the audit opinion for 2020/21, which was unqualified, and a signed Annual Return had been received. All required documents had been placed on the website and the Five Crosses noticeboard. The Chair thanked the Clerk for his diligence in administering the audit process and recorded his appreciation of the result, which he felt was well deserved.

127.3/21 a new SLA for the play areas had been received and would be tabled at the next Council Meeting for ratification. Terms were unchanged and the price had increased for

inflation, as had been notified in advance, with the new value included in the budgeted precept request.

127.4/21 The new electricity contract had been signed and agreed, and the near doubling of cost included in the budgeted precept request. Correspondence was in progress to ascertain whether Minera CC had been charged for more lighting units than were actually in use since the changeover to LEDs, and the outcome of this exercise would be summarised at a future meeting. The proposed budget for the coming year assumed no refund would arise. Should anything be ultimately paid back, therefore, this would benefit the overall energy cost in the year of receipt.

128/21 Grants and donations

128.1/21 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 H Field proposed and Cllr W Blaze seconded a donation of £300 in favour of St Mary's Church, Minera, for application to non-religious expenditures.

Cllr H field proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded a donation of £300 in favour of Marie Curie Cancer Care, requesting the Clerk to seek confirmation that the sum donated would be applied locally.

128.2/21 Following discussion of a response from Offa Community Council clarifying certain particulars of their proposed memorial to the Royal Welch Fusiliers it was decided that no donation towards the cost of the memorial; would be made. The Chair asked the Clerk to advise Off CC of this decision. Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr W blaze seconded a request that the Clerk seek contact details from Offa CC of a suitable local Old Comrades' Association of the Royal Welsh Regiment, in favour of which a donation might be considered at a future meeting, as a more suitable gesture of support for the town's armed service veterans.

129/21 Financial matters

129.1/21 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.

129.2/21 The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr W Blaze and seconded by Cllr A Fisher.

Clerk Salary, December	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE November account	210.31
Agent salary, November	728.28
Clerk expenses, December	128.37
HMRC, NHI on Agent's salary for November	23.71

Christmas lights	389.89
Bugler at Act of Remembrance	10.00
Agent expenses, December	32.97
Meet-up Tuesday speakers	52.00
Clerk salary, January	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
Clerk expenses, January	14.39
Agent salary, December	728.28
Knotweed treatment (Blue Sky)	84.00
SSE December account	238.03
WCBC, repair to Gwynfryn roundabout	225.60

Total to approve **3,710.61**

129.3/21 The Clerk had circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting a revised summary budget for 2022/23. This had been updated to incorporate direction received at the previous Council meeting, and to include a budget for energy costs in line with the contract now in place with SSE. Following further discussion and clarification, Cllr H Field proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that the budget be accepted, and that the Clerk should write to WCBC and request a precept for 2022/23 of £37,744, inclusive of £3,000 estimated costs of holding an election in May 2022.

129.4/21 In noting as part of the budget discussion that sums had been spent to acquire Christmas lights in 2021 which would not be repeated in 2022, the Chair recorded his thanks to Cllr J Belton for providing his time and equipment to erect the lights at St Mary's Church, observing that he had also made himself available to help take them down. The Chair also thanked the Clerk and Cllrs T Grundy and N Jones for assisting in the installation of the lights.

130/21 Internal audit arrangements

130.1/21 The Clerk advised the meeting that internal checks of his execution, stewardship and custody of the financial interests of Minera CC had not been formally carried out during the indisposition of Cllr J Marsh, the Councillor appointed to carry out these checks. Cllr Marsh had been consulted, and agreed that the duty, which was required as part of Minera CC's Financial Regulations, should be reassigned.

130.2/21 Cllr T Grundy volunteered to take on the necessary work, and was accordingly thanked by the Chair. The Clerk would contact Cllr Grundy in due course to arrange for a review to be performed prior to the end of the fiscal year.

131/21 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

131.1/21 Planning application P/2021/1054, erection of timber horse shelter and feed store, Cae Madog, Ffordd yr Ysgol, Gwynfryn (retrospective permission sought). 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.

131.2/21 Planning application P/2021/1136, internal remodel to improve layout and include for an annexe; alterations to elevations of buildings including rendering and additional windows. Construction of single storey porch to side elevation. Pen y Nant Cottage, 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.

Cllr H Field now left the meeting.

131.3/21 Planning Application P/2021/1196, demolition of existing timber and glass porch and erection of new open-sided oak porch with new oak front door at The Stables, Plas Gwyn, Church Road, 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.

Meeting adjourned 2125 hrs.