

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

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

**Present:** Cllrs D Kelly (as Chair), T Grundy, N Jones, J Belton, A Fisher, G Dillon, W Ollerhead

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Marsh, J Edwards, H Field, A Roberts

Before formally opening the meeting, the Chair expressed his shock and sadness at the sudden recent passing of Councillor Wyn Blaze, knowing that his sentiments would be shared by all present. Wyn had been a dedicated servant of his community, within and beyond his time as a Minera Community Councillor, and would be sadly missed. His and the Council's deepest sympathies were extended to Wyn's family and friends at this sad time.

The Chair also noted that all councillors, together with the Clerk and Community Agent were much in mind of Councillor John Edwards at the present time, wishing him comfort and strength as he faced continued ill health.

All present then observed a short time of silent reflection and contemplation as a mark of respect to the memory of Councillor Wyn Blaze.

The Chair then turned to the business of the evening.

**150/21            Declarations of interest**

**150/21.1**        There were no declarations of interest.

**151/21            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**151.1/21**        The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr A Fisher.

**152/21            Matters arising**

**152.1/21**        The Clerk advised the meeting that the first defibrillator cabinet was due to be installed in Gwynfryn within a week to ten days, after which the free defibrillator would be supplied. A second free unit had been applied for. Progress on the plan to place a defibrillator in each of the 5 communities of the Minera Ward would be reviewed in Project Meetings.

**152.2/21**        The Clerk had sent the requested letter of thanks to Mr Sam Edwards, who had assisted in the installation of the new goals at the Gwynfryn play area.

**152.3/21**        The Clerk had not yet written to WCBC to seek Fields in Trust status for the two play areas, and would attend to this shortly. The Chair noted that the imminent election 'purdah' period would probably postpone any decision until May or beyond.

**153.4/21** Cllr J Belton advised the meeting that speed checks on the Old Road would hopefully be organised during the next few weeks.

**153.5/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that he would liaise with Mega Electrical to ascertain timings and required resources to complete the exercise of numbering Minera Community Council's streetlights, and bring details to the next Projects Meeting.

**153.6/21** The Chair confirmed that he had met with the owner of the Tyn y Capel and briefly discussed the suspension of Meet-up Tuesday sessions on the premises. As the sessions had now been fully re-established on a rota basis at three new local venues, no further action on this issue was considered necessary.

#### **154/21 Police report**

**154.1/21** The Clerk advised Councillors that he had not been able to meet PCSO Lydia Edwards in person ahead of the meeting as planned, due to having to self-isolate ahead of a medical procedure. PCSO Edwards had, however, sent a summary of incidents to the Clerk, which had been distributed to Councillors.

**154.2/21** Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that there had been a further instance of a vehicle in New Brighton being impounded by North Wales Police. The Clerk undertook to contact PCSO Edwards to ascertain any further details which were disclosable.

#### **155/21 Footpath issues**

**155.1/21** Cllr T Grundy reported that the Footpath Committee had met for a second time. Walks were now being systematically planned, rather than being conducted ad hoc. The report content was also now being standardised.

**155.2/21** Most of the issues being encountered related to missing signage and direction markers. Sion Roberts had supplied a quantity of plastic direction discs which could be attached to stiles and posts as required.

The Chair thanked the Footpath Committee for their work to date, noting that active monitoring of the footpaths in the ward would be much appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

#### **156/21 Platinum Jubilee**

**156.1/21** The Clerk updated the meeting on developments since the previous Projects Meeting. Bunting suppliers had been identified and quotations for trees were being sought. Blue Sky Landscapes had visited the New Brighton site, and their quote to prepare the ground for planting was awaited. All details received would be presented to the next Projects Meeting.

**156.2/21** Cllr W Ollerhead noted that Minera School was very grateful for the offer of a donation to help make their Jubilee commemoration more memorable, although plans to

apply the funds had not yet been made. The Clerk undertook to contact the Head Teacher to discuss possibilities and offer any practical assistance he could.

#### **157/21 Minera Community Council Chair's report**

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

#### **158/21 County Borough Councillor's report**

Cllr D Kelly briefly commented:

**158.1/21** Potholes continued to be dealt with on the basis of severity matched to the intervention criteria. Residents aware of major road surface defects should continue to report them to WCBC.

**158.2/21** Recent interruptions in bin collections in Gwynfryn were attributable to the small collection vehicle having broken down. The outstanding collections were being addressed with arrears due to be cleared very soon.

**158.3/21** Discussions had been had with the local AONB officer regarding path widening work on the White Road and other areas of concern such as the collapsed kiln. The number of trees being removed was of potential concern, and the Clerk undertook to establish the current thresholds for the requirement to obtain felling licences.

#### **159/21 School Governor's report**

Cllr W Ollerhead briefly commented:

**159.1/21** Minera School was doing well in spite of high levels of absence in both staff and pupils due to Covid. In particular, the Welsh Government had nominated the school for recognition of good practice, which was a commendable achievement.

**159.2/21** Vacancies remained unfilled on the Board of Governors. Efforts to fill these vacancies would continue.

**159.3/21** The cost of heating oil was posing a significant problem, and for the first time in many years stocks had run out. Smaller quantities of oil would be sourced for the time being until stability was restored to the market. A grant award which would be applied to double-glazing the whole school would help to mitigate the quantities of oil burnt.

#### **160/21 Correspondence – summary of items received**

The Clerk had circulated summaries of correspondence throughout the month. All notable items of correspondence were covered by the business of the meeting.

**160.1/21** Commenting on correspondence with One Voice Wlaes' Local Places for Nature Officer concerning the availability of free trees under the Welsh Government 'Our Forest' scheme, the Chair noted that any planting of trees at the football field would require prior permission from WCBC.

## **161/21 Grants and donations**

**161.1/21** 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 N Jones proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded a donation of £200 in favour of Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr N Jones seconded a donation of £350 in favour of Minera School to fund the engagement of a children's storyteller to assist with efforts to revive reading standards. This donation was to be made from the Exceptional Donations reserve established to address Covid-related issues.

Cllr W Ollerhead proposed and Cllr G Dillon seconded a donation of £100 to Wrexham Sounds.

A request for a donation of £158 received from Coedpoeth United to assist with the cost of renovation of the outside of the fieldside container by the football field was deferred for consideration until April 2022.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

## **162/21 Community Agent's report**

**162.1/21** The numbers of referrals still continued to grow steadily. The Agent service was now well established and well used across the Minera Ward.

**162.2/21** Meet-up Tuesday was now fully re-established in Minera Church, with one meeting a month to be held in the King's Head. Numbers attending were increasing steadily, with a particularly welcome growing number of men now participating. Attendees were making a small contribution to the cost of refreshments, although a new Community Inclusion grant was being sought to provide funding.

**162.3/21** Dementia awareness training was being delivered, and had included a session with Wrexham Bowel Cancer Society. A session with Coedpoeth's Community Councillors and local PCSOs was also planned.

**162.4/21** The Chair noted that he would organise a 'what is this' style table quiz at a future Meet-up Tuesday session involving various unusual and obsolete domestic items he had collected. Susanne confirmed that this would be very well received, and may also be valuable as a dementia awareness event.

Susanne Allcroft now left the meeting.

**163/21 Financial matters**

**163.1/21** 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 A Fisher and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

**163.2/21** The schedule of payments, listed below, was proposed for approval by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr N Jones.

Clerk Salary, March	393.89
Clerk Home Working Allowance/phone	28.50
SSE February account	303.20
Agent salary, February	781.83
Clerk expenses, March	98.09
Clerk overtime, February	56.25
Clerk backpay (from 1/4/21)	98.12
HSBC bank charges	5.00
Donation to Family Friends	200.00
Donation to RWF Comrades' Association	250.00
MEGA	75.23
S Allcroft, February expenses	47.12
WCBC School Crossing Patrol Q3	1,212.50
HMRC	6.19
J Edwards	321.00
Post Office	360.00
One Voice Wales, membership renewal	250.00
Defibrillator cabinet (Welsh Ambulance Service supplied)	519.84
Refund from Safelincs - replacement of non-available defib cabinet with suitable alternative	-84.00
Flowers for Pam Breeze and family	28.80
<b>Total to approve</b>	<b>4,951.56</b>

**163.3/21** The Clerk advised the meeting that, following the death of Cllr W Blaze and the current incapacity through ill health of Cllr J Edwards, there remained only two active signatories to the Minera Community Council bank account, and requested Councillors to consider being added to the bank mandate. Cllrs N Jones and J Belton both offered their names, for which the Clerk expressed thanks and undertook to organise the requisite paperwork.

**164/21 Forthcoming elections, 5 May 2022**

**164.1/21** The Clerk had circulated guidance and statutory papers as received from WCBC to all Councillors. The contents of the guidance were briefly reviewed, and a number of points clarified. The Clerk would be available throughout the remaining time prior to the

deadline for submission of candidates' papers on 4 April either to offer guidance or signpost enquiries to WCBC.

**164.2/21** Cllr A Fisher advised the meeting that, due to additional responsibilities being taken on in other voluntary roles, she would not be seeking election to Minera Community Council in May.

**165/21 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

**165.1/21** Papers had been received in support of planning application P/2022/0229, a request to extend the execution period of planning consent already granted for the redevelopment of the Five Crosses Inn site as a convenience store with customer parking and ATM. This correspondence was briefly discussed, and no observations or objections were raised at the present time. Minera Community council would review its position as and when any development proposals for the site were ultimately submitted.

Meeting adjourned 2100 hrs.