

## **Minera Community Council**

### **Annual Report 2021-2022**

This report, which will now be produced every year, outlines briefly what Minera Community Council (MCC) did during the twelve months up to 31st March 2022. As you will see the Council tackled a wide range of issues on behalf of the local communities it serves and supports. The aim of MCC is to contribute to the well being of the community, and its residents.

We hope you find it interesting and would welcome your comments and feedback.

#### **Context**

Minera Community Council (MCC) Ward covers five communities; Minera, Five Crosses, Gwynfryn, New Brighton and Wern. MCC always endeavours to include each community in its activities, and ensure inclusiveness and collaboration. MCC has a full complement of twelve Members, all of whom are volunteers, and the contact details of serving Councillors can be found on the council's website: [www.mineracc.co.uk](http://www.mineracc.co.uk).

MCC employs a Clerk, who also supports and supervises the Ward's Community Agent.

MCC's budget (Precept) for the year was £34,360, and was underspent by £2,371, which was carried over to the following year. The accounts for the year have been internally audited, found satisfactory, and are now in the process of being externally audited, as required by Welsh Government. The accounts are available to view on the website.

Principal areas of spending are street lights maintenance and electricity. MCC has responsibility for the crossing patrol at Minera school and the playgrounds in Minera and Gwynfryn, under a Service Level Agreement with Wrexham CBC. This includes inspection, maintenance and repair of the playgrounds.

We also employ a Community Agent, Susanne Allcroft, whose remit is to help to improve and embellish the lives of our older residents (mainly the over 50s), working to reduce social exclusion and isolation. Susanne has made a huge positive impact in this regard during her two years of service to date.

There were no complaints made to MCC in the year.

MCC was very sorry to lose two valued Councillors, who passed away within weeks of each other at the end of the Council year. Cllr Wyn Blaze was a committed Councillor who was primarily involved in the street lighting. He arranged the interest free loan to replace all the lights with LED bulbs, and oversaw the work of the contractor. This has improved MCC's sustainability in terms of energy use, and reduced the maintenance costs of the lights, which were aging and failing regularly. His last project was to produce a single indexed inventory of all our street lights, and the stickers which you now see on our street light columns, to advise residents of their reference number and how to report a fault are the result of Wyn's dedication to this task.

Cllr John Edwards served on MCC for many years, and latterly was our Chair. He was an active Councillor who dealt with many residents' queries, and was a great champion for the community. His contribution to community life, within and beyond the remit of MCC, was immense, energetic, and all-embracing.

## **Activities and Achievements**

MCC has its main meeting monthly to discuss current issues in the Ward, and respond accordingly. In addition, there is an “as and when required” meeting to progress any projects MCC is undertaking. Meetings are open to attend virtually or in person, and arrangements can be made via the Clerk for members of the public to speak

There is representation by a Councillor on the governing body of Minera school, and MCC retains close links with the school and the church.

Regular crime reports for the community are received and any suggested priorities for the police are communicated either at the meeting if police are present, or subsequently by the Clerk.

MCC considers and responds to all planning applications made in the Ward.

### **Activities of note during the year were:**

Formation of a Footpaths committee comprising three Councillors routinely monitor and report on the footpaths in the community;

Securing the provision of mobile speed camera on the Old Rd, and resident training for speed monitoring;

Alerting Scottish Power to the need to clear the culvert by Minera school;

Organising a biodiversity survey in Berwig quarry;

Providing litter picking equipment for volunteers via WCBC, and we continue to be aware of dog fouling continues as a significant concern within the community;

Liaising with the contractor of the new homes in Eversley Court to elicit a suitable response to representations about the attenuation ditches, which have been improved and fenced off;

Reviewing and observing the activities taking place at Minera Hall, providing advice relating to the safety of children at the site;

Liaising with the police about the dangers of livestock wandering onto roads in the community;

Purchasing and installing new posts and nets at the Gwynfryn football field;

Installing a public access defibrillator in Gwynfryn, with training organised for residents. Further defibrillators are planned to be installed around the Minera Ward;

Creating our own Facebook page;

Planning for face to face and virtual meetings post pandemic;

Maintaining contact with WCBC youth work to make provision as soon as the pandemic restrictions were lifted;

Planning to mark the Queen’s Jubilee in all communities and MCC and to support a Jubilee gala day for the school;

Purchasing and installing at the church entrance Christmas lighting, and

Working with Coedpoeth Utd to restore facilities at Minera football field.

**Planned priorities and activities for the forthcoming year:**

Following the election on 5 May, MCC was formally declared elected, and will provide induction training to new Councillors;

Provision of a youth service will be progressed;

Continuation of the support for and provision of the Community Agent service for the Minera ward;

Provision of a defibrillator for New Brighton or Five Crosses, subject to finalising a location, with other locations to be reviewed for further units;

Marking the Queens Jubilee in all communities, with special regard to the children of Minera;

Improving to fabric of the War Memorial bus shelter in Minera;

Restoring the K9 telephone kiosk in new Brighton;

Redeveloping the Gwynfryn playground, and

Establishing planted areas with trees, floral beds and shrubs, including consideration of suitable memorial spaces and artefacts.

All of these activities will be met through the Precept, and the careful use of reserves.

Hazel Field

Chair, Minera Community Council

July 2022