

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th October 2022

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs H Field (Chair), A Roberts, W Brown, J Wellens, N Jones, W Ollerhead, G Dillon, J Belton, D Kelly, T Grundy, D Gidlow

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: None, full Council in attendance

61/22 Declarations of interest

61/22.1 There were no declarations of interest.

62/22 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

62.1/22 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr d Gidlow.

63/22 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

63.1/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had contacted WCBC to enquire whether any Code of Conduct or new Councillor induction training aids were available, and was awaiting a response.

63.2/22 The Clerk confirmed that the works to upgrade Gwynfryn play area had commenced on 18 October.

63.3/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that discussions relating to ownership of and beneficial interests in the football field were continuing. The interests of Minera School had been included in the discussions.

63.4/22 Cllr J Wellens also advised the meeting that the Clywedog Valley Partnership lottery bid was continuing, and would be the subject of further meetings of interested parties, details of which would be advised to Councillors.

63.5/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that he had continued to pursue repairs to the broken fence opposite Minera School. Acceptance of departmental ownership of the issue was key to enabling a swift resolution.

63.6/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that the SLA for youth services provision by WCBC had been signed and returned, and that activities were now in place each Tuesday evening between 6pm and 8pm.

63.7/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that he understood that his application to become a School Governor was now being considered within the governing body.

64/22 **Pay award, Community Agent (Part 2 item, no public attendance permitted)**

65/22 **Co-option of one Councillor – update on the co-option in progress**

65.1/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that, as yet, no-one had expressed an interest to be considered for co-option. The deadline for expressions of interest was 24 October.

65.2/22 The Chair urged Councillors to contact anyone they may be aware of who had previously expressed an interest in serving on Minera Community Council, and to refer them to the Clerk. Should no interested parties emerge prior to the deadline a renewed request could be considered in the new year. The Clerk confirmed that, since the vacancy had arisen following a full election and was not a casual vacancy, no requirement firstly to offer a call for an election would apply should a further call for candidates be made.

66/22 **Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team**

66.1/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had not met the PCSOs in person since the previous meeting, and had had no formal report from them. He would endeavour to have a face to face meeting before the next Council meeting, and would continue to encourage the PCSO's to attend a Council meeting if shift patterns were sympathetic to the time and date.

66.2/22 Following a short discussion, the Chair asked the Clerk to urge the PCSOs to produce a monthly report to Minera CC at the least, so that matters of interest could be discussed and views expressed. Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that he and WCBC representatives from Coedpoeth would shortly be meeting North Wales Police, and would reiterate this request at that meeting.

67/22 **Footpath issues – report on activities**

67.1/22 Cllr T Grundy provided a summary of activities since the previous meeting. The committee had met the previous week, and was now collating known issues in a single database as well as indexing against the definitive map a wealth of historic information received from the personal archive of the late Cllr John Edwards.

68/22 **Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities**

68.1/22 The Chair had circulated a summary of her activities ahead of the meeting. This was taken as read, with the Chair noting only gratitude to Cllr J Wellens for continuing to engage with residents relating to areas of immediate concern in their neighbourhoods, in particular potholed roads and the overdue repair to the fence opposite the school.

69/22 **Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities**

69.1/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that WCBC had been catching up after the Summer break with two executive meetings in September. There were no specific issues arising from these meetings relating to Minera.

69.2/22 Walks around the ward accompanied by representatives from WCBC Housing were continuing, and Assembly Member Ken Skates had expressed an interest in joining a future walk.

69.3/22 The bias of residents' queries received was currently showing a weighting towards Bwlchgwyn. It was hoped that forthcoming constituency surgeries would even this out.

69.4/22 WCBC had formed a cross-party sub-committee specifically to address cost of living issues. Cllr G Dillon asked whether this included security against the cost of heating. Cllr Wellens confirmed that warm spaces were being sought throughout the County Borough, albeit that such spaces would need to be staffed.

69.5/22 A meeting with transport for Wales had elicited sympathy for the cause of improving bus services to the ward, but no improvements would be possible without funding. Cllr Wellens confirmed that discussions would continue, but that ultimately a campaign was likely to be needed to change the situation.

70/22 School Governor's report – summary of activities

70.1/22 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that no Governors' meeting had been held in the previous month, but support had been provided on a number of issues, including upgrading written procedures.

70.2/22 The Welsh Government's decision to offer free school dinners had presented the school with an unexpected budgetary challenge. The food cost was being met by government, and the assistance was welcomed, but the costs of storage and cooking were adding pressure to budgets.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting

71/22 Community Agent's report – summary of activities

71.1/22 Coffee Companions were now meeting at the Lead Mines, which was a comfortably warm environment. A combination of donations and grant funding should be enough to meet the costs of hire.

71.2/22 Tai chi classes were now running in the evening as well as during the day. These had gone down well and were now being left to run themselves in the interests of not over-committing the Agent's time.

71.3/22 Susanne had represented both the Minerra communities and the Community Agent service as a whole at a cost of living conference in Cefn Mawr. A number of good

ideas, initiatives and potential sources of support had been circulated and shared, and would be pursued where possible.

71.4/22 Liaison was being maintained with the Coedpoeth Agent to enable funding held by Coedpoeth CC for food support to be liquidated. Plans were also being made in liaison with the Coedpoeth Agent for a more effective means of distributing surplus supermarket food at Christmas following misuse of the facility in 2021.

71.5/22 Following the continuing success of the day trips, the next one would be arranged for early Spring and would visit Portmeirion.

72/22 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications

72.1/22 The Clerk had circulated a summary of correspondence received since the previous Council meeting. No items were discussed further that were not otherwise dealt with in the agenda.

73/22 Grants and donations

73.1/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that no new requests for funding had been received in time to be circulated beforehand. A request for support from the Urdd had been received just before the meeting, and would be included for consideration in November, noting that the venue of the 2023 event would be Llandovery.

74/22 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

74.1/22 The Clerk briefly explained the financial activities for the period, and the details of payments proposed to be made. Items listed included estimates relating to the Remembrance service in Minera, the costs for which would be met from the Civic Budget.

74.2/22 The financial statement for the period was proposed for acceptance by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr J Wellens. The schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr G Dillon.

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| Agent salary for September | 734.37 |
| Clerk salary, October | 401.06 |
| Clerk HWA, October | 20.00 |
| HSBC - bank charges for September | 5.00 |
| SSE - electricity bill for September | 370.39 |
| Clerk overtime and expenses, September/October | 165.20 |
| Mega - streetlight stickers | 204.00 |
| WCBC - election costs | 161.04 |
| One Voice Wales - training costs | 70.00 |
| Cefn CC - training costs for Code of Conduct session with OVW (2 spare places offered and taken up) | 70.00 |
| Royal British Legion - wreath donation | 100.00 |

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| Groundwork - room hire for Coffee Companions | 90.00 |
| Postal costs - mailing youth services contract and letter concerning book of condolence | 2.45 |
| A Roberts - Councillor allowance 22/23 | 120.00 |
| G Dillon - Councillor allowance 22/23 | 120.00 |
| J Belton - Councillor allowance 22/23 | 120.00 |
| H Field - Councillor allowance 22/23 | 520.00 |
| HMRC - income tax on Councillor allowance (£220) less £26 balancing credit on HMRC account | 194.00 |
| WCBC - repair costs for swing | 123.67 |
| Bugler for remembrance event | 10.00 |
| Total to approve | 3,601.18 |

75/22 Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer

75.1/22 Papers had been received in support of planning application P/2022/0783, works to trees at Grey Gables, Pentre, Minera. No objections or observations were noted in respect of this application.

Meeting adjourned 2040 hrs.