

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2023

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs H Field (Chair), D Kelly (Vice-chair), A Roberts, J Wellens, N Jones, J Belton, T Grundy, D Gidlow, G Dillon

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs W Ollerhead, W Brown

90/22 Declarations of interest

90/22.1 There were no declarations of interest.

91/22 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

91.1/22 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr T Grundy.

91.2/22 The minutes of the Projects Meeting held on 1 December 2022 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr D Gidlow.

92/22 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

92.1/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that issues with mobile phone provision to the PCSO were persisting.

92.2/22 The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that details of vandalism suffered by way markers and other footpath signage had been passed to the PCSO.

92.3/22 The Chair noted that computers still had not been provided at Coedpoeth library. Cllr J Wellens would follow this up again.

92.4/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that the broken fence opposite Minera School would finally be repaired on 20 January.

92.5/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that he had shared concerns expressed to him about highway issues in New Brighton with the Environment Department at WCBC, who would review and address the issues raised so far as feasible within their remit.

92.6/22 The Chair noted that there were no matters arising with respect to the Project Meeting minutes from the 1 December meeting.

93/22 Vacancy for one Community Councillor – to consider whether to undertake co-option to fill the vacancy

93.1/22 The Clerk reminded the meeting that the current vacancy had arisen at the full election held on 5 May 2022. Consequently, even though a previous co-option exercise had failed to produce a candidate, this was not a casual vacancy, and therefore a new co-option process could be initiated without the need firstly to invite residents to consider demanding an election.

93.2/22 Following a short discussion, Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr A Roberts seconded that the Clerk be instructed to initiate a new process of co-option in an attempt to close the vacancy.

94/22 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

94.1/22 The Clerk had received a report of incidents and other salient information covering police activity in the Minera ward from the outgoing PCSO, and had circulated it for review. There were no issues in the report which prompted further discussion, and the Chair noted that no Councillor had any matters to refer back to the PCSO via the Clerk.

95/22 Footpath issues – report on activities

95.1/22 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that ownership of the Berwig railway track by North Wales Wildlife Trust had been confirmed. A notice had been placed on the website in support of NWWT with respect to biodiversity and coppicing works being undertaken in order to promote wider understanding of the method and purpose of such work.

95.2/22 Cllr N Jones added that he was in dialogue with Minera Quarry Trust to source old mapping data which might enhance the current inventory of footpath mapping at the committee's disposal.

96/22 Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities

96.1/22 The Chair advised the meeting that she had nothing to report which would not otherwise be dealt with within the business listed in the agenda.

97/22 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities

97.1/22 Cllr J Wellens advised Councillors that there had been a full meeting of WCBC since the last Minera CC meeting, at which freedom of the city had been granted to Wrexham AFC's American benefactors.

97.2/22 WCBC was also finalising its budget. The settlement received from Welsh Government that would be included within the overall budget was one of the best in Wales.

97.3/22 A public transport grant that was available from Welsh Government would be researched with a view to assessing its potential to facilitate public transport improvements in

the Minera ward. Separately, a transport facilitators course had been attended, which had provided some useful material.

97.4/22 Enquiries within WCBC had suggested that the Lead Mines buildings ought to be usable as a site for a defibrillator. The Clerk noted this and would seek to further the discussion now that an award of two further free devices had been confirmed by Welsh Government.

98/22 School Governor's report – summary of activities

98.1/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr W Ollerhead had confirmed to him that no meeting of the Governors had taken place since the last meeting of Minera CC, and that consequently there was no business to report under this agenda heading.

99/22 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications

99.1/22 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the month's correspondence ahead of the meeting. Two items were discussed at greater length:

99.2/22 The Clerk confirmed that the terms of the play area maintenance SLA as received from WCBC were consistent with prior years, with a modest inflationary cost increase applied. Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that the Chair be duly authorised to sign the SLA, the Chair additionally asking that WCBC be instructed not to cut the grass in the Gwynfryn play area until areas newly laid with seed and turf had become properly established.

99.3/22 A request from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to provide an additional Community Council champion was discussed. Cllr D Kelly indicated that he would be happy to join Cllr H Field in this capacity, and the Clerk undertook to pass his contact details to the secretary of the AONB committee.

100/22 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received

100.1/22 The Clerk had circulated requests for funding which had been received, confirming that no potential beneficiary had received financial support from Minera CC within the previous 12 months.

100.2/22 Following a brief discussion the following decisions were taken:

Cllr D Kelly proposed and Cllr G Dillon seconded that a donation of £300 be made in favour of Wales Air Ambulance.

Cllr D Kelly proposed and Cllr J Wellens seconded that a donation of £200 be made in favour of Family Friends.

The meeting decided not to support a request for funding from Yes Cymru as it was felt that to provide support would run counter to the non-political stance of Minera Community Council.

101/22 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

101.1/22 The Clerk briefly explained the financial activities for the period, and the details of payments proposed to be made.

101.2/22 The financial statement for the period was proposed for acceptance by Cllr J Wellens and seconded by Cllr N Jones.

The schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr J Wellens and seconded by Cllr G Dillon.

Groundwork - room hire for Coffee Companions	50.00
D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, January	438.78
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, January	20.00
HSBC, charges for December	5.00
SSE - electricity charges for December	381.62
D Hinchliffe - Clerk's expenses for October	13.00
D Gidlow/G Dillon OVW training	35.00
Currys - print consumables for Clerk	47.98
Total to approve	991.38

101.3/22 The Clerk had circulated a revised draft budget to all Councillors, incorporating adjustments proposed at the previous review and including exact costs for the now known play area SLA contract.

Following a brief discussion Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr A Roberts seconded that the Clerk be authorised to seek a precept of £42,228 for the 2023/2024 financial year from WCBC.

102/22 Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer

102.1/22 Detail had been received of planning application P/2022/1046, single storey side extension, Rhosdir Farm, New Brighton. No observations or objections were noted in respect of this application.

102.2/22 Cllr D Kelly asked the Clerk to ascertain whether works at the property known as Aelwyd in Pentre were subject to a planning application, and if so, to circulate the details.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

103/22 Community Agent’s report – summary of activities

103.1/22 The Alzheimers Society had requested that all Dementia Champions re-train to be Dementia Ambassadors. In reality, this was not a burdensome request, and Susanne had completed the requirement so as to be able to recruit individuals as Dementia Friends.

Following a brief discussion in which several Councillors expressed an interest in receiving the training, Susanne undertook to circulate possible dates for a 45 minute Zoom presentation to deliver the necessary instruction.

103.2/22 The next step in creating a local Dementia Village community would be to approach businesses for support. Plas Pentwyn now had a Reminisce Box in the library, which was a very good resource, and obtaining one for Minera, together with a location for it, would be researched.

The Chair reiterated the Council's thanks for Susanne's continuing service to the Minera communities. Susanne then left the meeting.

104/22 February meeting date

104.1/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that, subsequent to publication of the agenda for the meeting, he had been advised of a revision to the dates of his jury service, which would curtail his ability to prepare for a Council meeting in February on the scheduled date of the 15th.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to forego the February Council meeting and Projects meeting, with the proviso that the Clerk would work with the Chair and Vice-chair to ensure all statutory obligations were met and payments made when they fell due, ahead of the scheduled date of 15 March, when the next Council meeting would now take place .

104.2/22 A quotation from Blue Sky Landscapes in the sum of £4,275 for various landscaping and planting works had been received, which had been provisionally scheduled for review at the February Projects meeting.

Following a brief discussion, Cllr D Kelly proposed and Cllr N Jones seconded that the Clerk be authorised to accept the quotation and liaise with both Blue Sky landscapes and potential grant funders to procure the delivery of the works at best cost to Minera Community Council.

Meeting adjourned 2040 hrs.