

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera**

**Present:** Cllrs D Kelly (Chair of the meeting), A Roberts, N Jones, J Belton, T Grundy, G Dillon, W Brown

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllrs W Ollerhead, H Field, J Wellens, D Gidlow

Noting that all expected attendees were present, the Chair called the meeting to order and requested that all stand in silence for a short period to acknowledge the recent passing of former Councillor John Marsh, in recognition of his excellent and dedicated service to Minera Community Council over many years. Silence was duly observed and respect given to departed merit.

**105/22            Declarations of interest**

**105/22.1**        There were no declarations of interest.

**106/22            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**106.1/22**        The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr G Dillon.

**107/22            Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda**

**107.1/22**        The Chair advised the meeting that recent closures of the footpath on the old Berwig railway line were temporary and related to environmental management work. No permanent closure was being arranged.

**107.2/22**        The Clerk had collected the signature of the Vice-chair (in lieu of that of the Chair who was absent through illness) on the Play Area SLA prior to the meeting, and would submit the document to WCBC.

**107.3/22**        The Clerk had furthered the efforts of Cllr J Wellens to obtain approval for a defibrillator to be sited at the Lead Mines Visitor Centre and would be arranging installation particulars in the coming weeks.

**107.4/22**        The Chair advised the meeting that he had represented Minera Community Council at the recent meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. Both he and Cllr H Field were now AONB Champions.

**107.5/22** 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.

**107.6/22** The Chair advised the meeting that, after due enquiry, works being undertaken at the property known as Aelwyd in Pentre amounted to permitted development without requirement of planning permission.

**108/22 Outcome of co-option**

**108.1/22** The Clerk advised the meeting that no interest had been received with respect to the co-option exercise undertaken since the previous meeting.

**108.2/22** Following a short discussion, Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that the Clerk be instructed to initiate a further process of co-option in an attempt to close the vacancy.

**109/22 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team**

**109.1/22** 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. He report covered the period to the end of February, and there were no issues in it which any Councillor wished the Clerk to take up with the PCSO.

**109.2/22** Following a brief discussion, in which Councillors noted with appreciation the promptness with which North Wales Police had responded to a more recent incident of burglary and vandalism in Gwynfryn, the Chair asked the Clerk to contact the PCSO to ascertain whether any details of the incident or subsequent investigation could be shared with Councillors.

**110/22 Footpath issues – report on activities**

**110.1/22** Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that North Wales Wildlife Trust had dealt with two dangerous trees promptly following reports that they had become hazardous. Recent snowfall had also brought down a number of branches as well as entire young trees, with much of the debris already dealt with. Some fence damage remained, however.

**110.2/22** Cllr Grundy also noted that maintenance along the old Berwig line was continuing, as had been acknowledged earlier in the meeting by the Chair.

**111/22 Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities and requested items for discussion**

**111.1/22** Cllr H Field was unavoidably absent through illness, but had circulated a short report and had noted items for discussion.

**111.2/22** Following a short discussion relating to the official opening of the newly renovated Gwynfryn play area, the Chair asked the Clerk to establish a Friday date in April

other than Good Friday which would be convenient to Mrs Pat Edwards, and then to invite both Minera and Bwlchgwyn schools to attend with delegations of pupils. The Chair also asked the Clerk to finalise arrangements for the installation of the memorial bench for Cllr John Edwards, and to source a suitable plaque to be unveiled on the day.

**111.3/22** The protocols relating to the declaration of a climate emergency were discussed, following which Cllr W Brown proposed and Cllr G Dillon seconded that the Clerk should issue a suitable notice that Minera Community Council acknowledged the existence of a climate emergency and allied itself to the principles set out by Welsh Government in its own declaration. The Clerk would also ensure that the S6 Biodiversity Report made due reference to the climate emergency in all future updated versions.

**111.4/22** Commemoration of the forthcoming coronation was discussed, following which the Chair asked the Clerk to ascertain from Minera School what arrangements might already be planned or in place.

**111.4/22** The Clerk reminded the meeting that a precepted sum of £1,000 had been set aside for the event. Following a further brief discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to liaise with the Community Agent along with the approach to the school to ascertain what practical options might exist to apply the reserved funds to benefit senior members of the community as well as local children.

**112/22 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities**

**112.1/22** In the absence of Cllr J Wellens this item was deferred.

**113/22 School Governor's report – summary of activities**

**113.1/22** In the absence of Cllr W Ollerhead this item was deferred.

**114/22 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications**

**114.1/22** The Clerk had circulated a summary of the month's correspondence ahead of the meeting. Three items were discussed at greater length:

**114.2/22** The Clerk advised the meeting that he had contacted Ken Skates to expedite issues being experienced by Clerks across North Wales with poor service levels from Audit Wales. The matter was now receiving attention within Welsh Government.

**114.3/22** The Clerk had liaised with WCBC regarding a potentially dangerous wall in Wern, notified by Cllr W Brown. He would contact WCBC Highways again in order to confirm recognition of the problem.

**114.4/22** The Clerk had attended the recent Town and Community Council Forum. Due to administrative issues, most Clerks who tried to attend, including himself, were left out of the virtual environment until the meeting was almost completed. A general commitment to

run the meeting better, and for Clerks to attend in greater numbers at the next meeting in July, had been made to restore the value of this forum going forwards.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

### **115/22 Community Agent's report – summary of activities**

**115.1/22** The RITA device had now been received, and training in its use was underway. The suppliers had honoured the discounted price, in return for which Susanne would present a case study in its deployment in due time. Encouragingly WCBC had now appointed an officer to oversee deployment of other RITA devices currently issued to but not yet in use in various care home environments.

**115.2/22** The Chair enquired whether the iPads previously sourced from WCBC were in use, and whether others were needed. Susanne confirmed that all 6 were in use, and that this number was proving sufficient for the community's requirements.

**115.3/22** Coffee Companions had met with two organisations involved in alternative heating systems, and had intimated that they would be interested in funding community initiatives in their area of operation in association with Minera Community Council. The Clerk asked Susanne to pass on his contact details so that a dialogue could be established.

**115.4/22** The WCBC Ageing Well Officer had now moved to work for Re-engage, and would shortly be organising activities for the over 75s, which would be accessed as appropriate and required.

The Chair thanked Susanne for her continued work in the community, and she then left the meeting.

### **116/22 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received**

**116.1/22** The Clerk advised the meeting that the only request for support received since the previous meeting had been from Macmillan, a charity last supported three years previously.

**116.2/22** Following a brief discussion Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr A Roberts seconded that a donation of £220 be made in favour of Macmillan.

### **117/22 Financial matters – to approve the month's financial statement and schedule of proposed payments**

**117.1/22** The Clerk briefly explained the financial activities for the period, and the details of payments proposed to be made.

**117.2/22** The financial statement for the period was proposed for acceptance by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr G Dillon.

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

Information Commissioner's Office - Data Protection Registration	40.00
D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, February	438.78
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, February	20.00
HSBC, charges for January	5.00
SSE - electricity charges for January	336.07
D Hinchliffe - Clerk's expenses for January	13.00
Play and Leisure - Gwynfryn play area renovation	30,845.40
S Allcroft, Agent salary for January	818.51
D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, March	438.78
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, March	20.00
HSBC, charges for February	5.00
SSE - electricity charges for February	324.52
S Allcroft, replacement phone	119.19
Groundwork, room hire for Coffee Companions (January)	75.00
OVW - training costs, H Field	35.00
WCBC - room hire costs for meeting with Youth Service	40.00
Salix - loan repayment instalment	1,463.70
S Allcroft - Agent salary for February	800.37
D Hinchliffe - Clerk's expenses for February	31.00
Mega - fault rectifications and call-outs, quarter to December 2022	1,360.44
MY Improvement Network - RITA device for Agent	840.00
Royal Mail - renewal of PO Box licence	378.00
One Voice Wales - membership renewal 23/24	276.00
Defib Store - defibrillator cabinet	594.00
Groundwork, room hire for Coffee Companions (February)	100.00
<b>Total for approval</b>	<b>39,417.76</b>

**117.3/22** The Clerk advised the meeting that the external audit had still not been completed. Evidence suggested that it had not actually begun in earnest until early February, after the extended deadline for completion. Minera Community Council was not alone in receiving this level of service from Audit Wales, indeed many Town and Community Councils were in even worse arrears. The issue was scheduled for discussion at the next SLCC branch meeting on 23 March.

**117.4/22** The Clerk had circulated ahead of the meeting a summary of reserve funds currently on hand and the anticipated balance which would be in place in early 2024, together with a summary of potential applications for available funds. The details were duly noted, in particular the potential cost of continued support to the Youth Service activities and would be kept up to date and circulated as part of the financial summary to be reviewed at each Council meeting.

**118/22            Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer**

**118.1/22**        Details had been received of planning application P/2023/0047, work to trees at The Vicarage, Church Road, Minera. No observations or objections were recorded in respect of this application.

Meeting adjourned 2040 hrs.