

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th April 2023

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

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

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs W Ollerhead, J Wellens, D Kelly, A Roberts

1/23 Declarations of interest

1/23.1 There were no declarations of interest.

2/23 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

2.1/23 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr G Dillon.

3/23 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

3.1/23 The Clerk confirmed that, following the intervention of Cllr J Wellens, arrangements were now progressing for the installation of a defibrillator at Minera Lead Mines. WCBC had granted use of the facility, and publicity for the unit once in situ would be co-ordinated with Groundwork North Wales, for whom the unit would provide a valuable facility in support of the Clywedog Valley Trail.

3.2/23 The Clerk confirmed that a new co-option exercise had been initiated, and that the outcome would be discussed at the next meeting under a dedicated agenda item.

3.3/23 The Clerk also advised the meeting that he had contacted the PCSO regarding a recent burglary in Gwynfryn. He had been assured that investigations were proceeding, but that due to this being a live incident, further details could not be shared by the police at this stage.

4/23 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

4.1/23 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.

4.2/23 The report included a note of an outbreak of vandalism and antisocial behaviour at Minera Hall. The Clerk had copied the Chair and Vice-chair into correspondence he had had with a concerned resident and the landlord regarding these latest problems at the site.

4.3/23 Following a short discussion of the situation, the Chair asked the Clerk to contact WCBC to establish what enforcement powers for remediation or demolition against the landlord might be available, and how they might be initiated. He would also continue to liaise with the resident and the PCSO.

4.4/23 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that he was aware of repeated incidents of young people using electric scooters on the roads and pavements of Eversley Court, including incidents involving two youths riding the same scooter. The Clerk would pass the details to the PCSO for review and possible action.

5/23 Footpath issues – report on activities

5.1/23 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that sheep were once again straying into footpath MIN13. The Clerk would pass this intelligence to the Rights of Way team.

5.2/23 Cllr Grundy also advised the meeting that he had been in conversation with North Wales Wildlife Trust about a large tree by the steps next to the kilns in the quarry which had been brought down in recent heavy snowfall. NWWT were undertaking to remove the fallen stem in the near future with the aid of specialist contractors.

5.3/23 Cllr Grundy also noted that publicity issued for Paths to Wellbeing contained an error relating to the site of this fallen tree, marking the steps as part of a footpath. The error had been advised to NWWT and the Clerk would advise other interested parties of the issue.

6/23 Minera Community Council Chair’s report – summary of activities and requested items for discussion

6.1/23 Cllr H Field advised the meeting that the only item of interest that had been notified to her, and which was not otherwise covered by the agenda of the meeting, was an approach from an intending visitor from the USA who wished to research her family history in the area. Contact details had been passed on.

7/23 Borough Councillor’s report – summary of activities

7.1/23 In the absence of Cllr J Wellens this item was deferred.

8/23 School Governor’s report – summary of activities

8.1/23 In the absence of Cllr W Ollerhead the Clerk updated the meeting with a few details provided by Cllr Ollerhead, notably that the school was running to its budget and awaiting the outcome of a recent Estyn inspection.

9/23 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications

9.1/23 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the month’s correspondence ahead of the meeting. Four items were discussed at greater length:

9.2/23 The Chair asked that her thanks to the Clerk for a successful audit outcome be recorded, noting that the process had required a lot of diligent work over an unusually extended period with respect to the year to March 2022.

9.3/23 The Chair noted that One Voice Wales intended to publish revised model Standing Orders inclusive of Welsh legislative requirements, and hoped that these would be available in time to be considered for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May.

9.4/23 The Clerk had received two quotations for insurance cover for the year ahead and would now carefully review them to ensure that the schedule of cover was adequate before presenting a summary of the two offers to the May meeting for a decision.

9.5/23 The Chair enquired as to the status of preparation for Coronation events which Minera CC had agreed to support. Cllr G Dillon summarised the various initiatives being undertaken by the Coffee Companions group, which were centred on the Lead Mines and which included some input from local schoolchildren. The Clerk added that the school had warmly welcomed the offer of a donation to support their own commemorative plans, and the money would therefore be paid over in the near future.

9.6/23 The Chair asked the Clerk to include in the agenda at the November meeting a review of the outcome of the funds made available for the Coronation, so that the planting of a further tree could be considered if affordable.

10/23 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received

10.1/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that two requests for support had been received since the previous meeting, from Wrexham Sounds and Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod (LIME).

10.2/23 Following a brief discussion Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that a donation of £200 be made in favour of LIME and Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr T Grundy seconded that a donation of £100 be made in favour of Wrexham Sounds.

10.3/23 The Clerk also advised the meeting that Wrexham Sounds had offered to host a visit to their facilities for any Councillors interested in seeing the work undertaken by the charity. This offer was warmly received and the Chair asked the Clerk to obtain possible times and dates for this to take place.

11/23 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

11.1/23 The Clerk briefly explained the financial activities for the period, and the details of payments proposed to be made.

11.2/23 The financial statement for the period was proposed for acceptance by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr D Gidlow.

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

AVOW, subscription 2022/23	15.00
D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, April	438.78
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, April	20.00
HSBC, charges for March	5.00
SSE - electricity charges for March	381.61
D Hinchliffe, Clerk's overtime for March	100.32
D Hinchliffe - Clerk's expenses for March/April	128.74
S Allcroft, Agent salary for March	773.36
WCBC, play area maintenance contract, tranche 2	685.20
S Allcroft, Agent expenses for March	28.99
WCBC, school crossing patrol, Q3 & Q4 2022/23	2,748.00
Mega - estimate to install defibrillator cabinet at Lead Mines	420.00
JP Engraving - commemorative plaques for railings and new bench in Gwynfryn play area	396.00
Total for approval	6,141.00

11.3/23 The Clerk presented a summary of the free reserve monies on hand and the potential uses to which some of this funding might be applied in the year ahead.

11.4/23 Following a short discussion, it was agreed to defer a decision on the final element of the landscaping at New Brighton, noting the various options presented by Blue Sky.

11.5/23 Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr G Dillon seconded that funding be allocated to ensuring that the Youth Services contract with WCBC would run through to the end of the 2023/24 financial year, at an estimated cost to reserves of £3,500 beyond the amount precepted for the year.

11.6/23 The Chair advised the meeting that she had begun to draft the Annual Report, including some helpful graphics, and would circulate the proposed final version for approval at the Annual Meeting with a view to publishing the report immediately thereafter.

12/23 Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer

12.1/23 Papers had been received in respect of planning application P/2023/0111, single storey side extension at 4 Gwernygaseg Road, Coedpoeth. No observations or objections were raised in respect of this application.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

13/23 Community Agent's report – summary of activities

13.1/23 Good progress had been made towards arranging activities to mark the coronation, and the school would be contacted shortly to finalise the input that the schoolchildren would provide.

13.2/23 The forthcoming Dementia Week at Ty Pawb would feature the RITA device in action. Separately Susanne was working with Wrexham Maelor Hospital to enable better and wider use of RITA devices in its custody.

The Chair thanked Susanne for her continuing valuable work in the community.

Meeting adjourned 2025 hrs.