

Minera Community Council

Annual Report 2022-2023

This annual report outlines briefly what Minera Community Council (MCC) did during the twelve months up to 31st March 2023. 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.

Context

Minera Community Council (MCC) Ward covers five communities: Minera, Five Crosses, Gwynfryn, New Brighton, Wern. MCC always endeavours to include each community in its activities, and ensure inclusiveness and collaboration. MCC has twelve Members, all of whom are volunteers, and their contact details can be found on the council's website: www.mineracc.co.uk. There was an election for Members in May 2022, and at the end of the period of this report there was one vacancy on the Community Council.

MCC employs a Clerk, who also supports and supervises the Ward's Community Agent. She has a discrete Minera Community Agent Facebook page on which she posts the activities she is involved in, and it also has her contact details.

MCC's budget (Precept) for the year was £37,744, and was supplemented with £12,369 of money held in reserves. This enabled a number of projects under way to be completed. The accounts for the year will be internally and externally audited as required by Welsh Government. The accounts are available to view on the website. Accounts for 2021-2022 have been fully audited, and approved without qualification.

MCC has responsibility for the crossing patrol at Minera school, the playgrounds in Minera and Gwynfryn, and the newly established youth service, under Service Level Agreements with Wrexham CBC. This includes inspection, maintenance and repair of the playgrounds, and provision of youth service staff. MCC maintains most of the streetlights within the community. LED replacements, maintenance of the lights, and electricity take up 12% of the overall budget for the year. A sinking fund will be established next year to provide for future replacements.

There were no complaints made to MCC in the year.

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" meeting to progress any projects MCC is undertaking. Meetings are open for members of the public to attend virtually or in person, and arrangements can be made via the Clerk to speak at the meeting. There were ten main meetings this year; no meetings were held in August, and February.

A Member is also the Ward Borough councillor, and another Member is on the governing body of Minera school. MCC retains close links with the school, the church, and the Borough Council.

The Community Agent provides a report to each meeting, and MCC endeavours to support her in her activities, which are of considerable benefit to the community.

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:

Meetings returned to face to face, with an option for virtual attendance for those councillors and members of the public who wish it.

The late Queen's Platinum jubilee was marked by tree planting in each community, bunting throughout, and provision of a party for the children at Minera School.

The late Queen's death was marked with a book of condolence at Minera church. This was signed by numerous members of the community, and the local MP.

A new playground, and a commemorative bench to remember Cllr John Edwards, were commissioned and installed in Gwynfryn.

A defibrillator was installed in the New Brighton kiosk, and two more have been secured from a scheme sponsored by Welsh Government. One of these will soon be in place at the Lead Mines. Training in how to use the devices has been provided for the community.

The kiosk in New Brighton has been replaced with a renovated one of the same vintage.

The Community Remembrance Service took place in November.

Regular monitoring and reporting by the footpaths sub committee is summarised at each Council meeting.

Activities taking place at Minera Hall continue to be monitored, and MCC liaises with the landowner and leaseholder at the site.

The website and Facebook page are kept updated by the Clerk.

MCC worked with Coedpoeth Utd and WCBC to provide a Youth service in the portacabin on the football field. The project to improve the facilities at the football field won a National Crimebeat award in March.

Christmas lights have become an annual feature at the approach to Minera church.

Planned priorities and activities for the forthcoming year:

To co-opt a Cllr to fill the current vacancy.

Monitor the youth service and consider maintaining it permanently.

Provide an activity for Minera schoolchildren to promote the pleasure of reading, following the effects of the pandemic.

Install a defibrillator for the Wern at the Lead Mines and provide one at Five Crosses.

Mark the King's coronation within the community.

Improvements to the War Memorial bus shelter in Minera.

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

Hazel Field

Chair, Minera Community Council

May 2023