

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2023

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

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

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs W Brown, G Dillon

There were in attendance two members of the public, both residents of the Minera ward.

14/23 Declarations of interest

14/23.1 There were no declarations of interest.

15/23 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

15.1/23 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

16/23 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

16.1/23 The Clerk confirmed that a defibrillator would shortly be received for installation at Minera Lead Mines and that publicity relating to its arrival would be co-ordinated with Groundwork North Wales.

16.2/23 The Clerk confirmed that no interest had been received in response to the latest co-option exercise. He would therefore re-introduce the matter to a meeting agenda later in the Summer.

16.3/23 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that sheep were still straying into footpath MIN13. The Clerk undertook to contact the WCBC Rights of Way team once again to ask for a review of the adjacent fencing.

16.4/23 Cllr Grundy also noted that the Paths to Wellbeing map still contained an error in the marking of one footpath. The Clerk had contacted interested parties following the initial observation of the error.

16.5/23 The Chair thanked Councillors for their input to the draft Annual Report. Having confirmed that there were no further observations or amendments to be made to the document, the Chair asked the Clerk to publish it on the website.

17/23 Minera Hall – discussion of recent events and correspondence received

17.1/23 The Chair invited one of the residents present to speak. The resident advised the meeting that vandalism and disruption from the site of Minera Hall had been a chronic problem for some years and had intensified recently. Children were trespassing on the property most nights and had been seen on the roof this evening. The situation was blighting the quality of life of nearby residents, and although the landlord had been spoken to, concerns that a serious injury or fatality was likely without intervention, no visible actions were being taken. The police were attending the site, but had not been able to quell the problem.

17.2/23 The Clerk added that he had been in dialogue with the police, WCBC Planning Enforcement and the landlord, and while response had been received from them all, no clear co-ordinated actions to address the issues had emerged. WCBC had confirmed that they had no powers to compel demolition of the hall as it was not considered sufficiently hazardous to require such intervention.

17.2/23 Following a detailed discussion, Cllr J Wellens undertook to contact the new regional Rural Police Sergeant to discuss options for more effective policing. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Wellens in this approach and would also renew correspondence with all three contacts to update them of the worsening situation. The resident would provide video evidence of the most recent disturbances to accompany this correspondence.

The Chair thanked the resident for attending the meeting and asked the Clerk to ensure that all appropriate responses were shared as dialogue continued.

18/23 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

18.1/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that a PCSO had intended to attend the meeting. It was understood, however, that the latest outbreak of disorder at Minera Hall on the evening of the meeting, as just discussed, had resulted in a police response, which would probably prevent an appearance in person at the meeting.

18.2/23 The Clerk had circulated the PCSO's monthly written report to Minera CC, which was briefly discussed. No further issues were noted for referral back to North Wales Police. Councillors noted with appreciation, however, that the Youth Club had recently visited Police Headquarters in Llay as part of their activity programme.

19/23 Footpath issues – report on activities

19.1/23 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that the committee was becoming disappointed at a lack of response from WCBC Rights of Way team to issues reported by the committee via the Clerk.

19.2/23 The Clerk had contacted the Team following similar concerns raised at the previous meeting and would make further contact to follow this up. Cllr J Wellens also undertook to make enquiries.

19.3/23 The dog waste bin at the top of Ty Brith Lane had been reported to the Clerk as full and overflowing on two separate occasions in the month. Having previously been missed from the inventory of bins maintained by WCBC this bin was now being regularly serviced, so that similar future issues would hopefully be avoided.

20/23 Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities

20.1/23 Cllr H Field noted a recent outbreak of vandalism at Minera play area with disappointment. WCBC had responded promptly, and minimal loss of use of the assets had been sustained. The problem was reflective of a wider trend and would be carefully monitored. North Wales Police were aware of the issues and had adjusted their patrol activities in response.

20.2/23 A visit to a grant funding presentation at AVOW had yielded no leads for Minera CC but could be useful for non-public bodies. The Clerk would put a signposting note on the Facebook page.

20.3/23 Changes in the administration of the Community Agent service had caused some discussion and engagement with WCBC. Resolution of any potential disturbance to the service delivery in Minera would be sought through further engagement with the WCBC team.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

21/23 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities

21.1/23 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that he had personally attended a meeting of the WCBC Scrutiny Committee following publication on Wrexham.com of a performance table relating to the Community Agent service. The committee had been receptive and complimentary of the service as delivered in Minera, and the record had been largely set straight. He had invited Wrexham.com to visit Minera and see the service delivery first hand for use in a future article, and a response was awaited.

21.2/23 The forthcoming introduction of 20mph rural speed limits was under discussion by WCBC, and a policy draft was expected soon. Cllr Wellens would keep Councillors fully up to date as this was rolled out.

21.3/23 The Clywedog Valley Trail bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund was now fully mobilised, and a close interest in progress would be maintained.

21.4/23 Cllr Wellens had been contacted by several residents in the past week following a flash flooding event in Minera.

21.5/23 The Chair, having noted that a resident who was in attendance had come to the meeting as a person affected by this event, now invited the resident to speak, having firstly noted a personal conflict of interest declared by Cllr N Jones, who had also been affected by the event as a householder.

21.6/23 The resident advised the meeting of the suddenness and violence of the rainfall event of the previous week, and of the threat it posed to her own and neighbouring properties in Eversley Court. There were concerns as to the adequacy of the drains and the immediate dialogues which had been had with both the developer and the insurer of the resident's property had yielded only an entrenchment of positions. The developer had also sold on its residual interest in the development to a management company, which added a further layer of administration to negotiate.

21.7/23 Following a detailed discussion of the particulars of the event, Cllr D Kelly advised the resident that the plans for the development would have been signed off by a Drainage Officer at WCBC, who should thus be the first point of contact to enquire into the sufficiency of the drainage design. Cllr J Wellens added that it would be useful to check the particulars of home insurance arrangements, and that if these included legal cover a solicitor should be engaged to examine what was the basis of a civil issue between the resident and the developer/management company.

21.8/23 The other resident who was present had also experienced flooding following the heavy rainfall, in this case as a result of an overflowing culvert in Minera Hall Road. A Highways Officer had made arrangements to inspect a blocked storm drain on 18 May, and Cllr D Kelly provided advice to the resident as to how to determine whether the culvert in question was also the responsibility of WCBC Highways, or a private asset.

21.9/23 Cllr J Wellens asked both residents to copy him with any correspondence undertaken with WCBC.

22/23 Community Agent's report – summary of activities

22.1/23 Susanne expressed her thanks for the recent support of Cllr J Wellens, the Chair and the Clerk following the recent article in Wrexham.com. The handling of the information in the website article had created disappointment and demotivation among some Community Agents, and meetings were being organised by WCBC to clarify the situation and restore confidence. The Clerk and the Chair both resolved to attend Susanne's meeting to ensure any outstanding actions were identified and dealt with.

22.2/23 The Coronation event, involving both Coffee Companions and Minera School, had been a great success, as had a 90th birthday party. The first coach trip of the Summer was now also imminent and was eagerly anticipated.

The Chair thanked Susanne for her continuing service to the community, and Susanne then left the meeting.

23/23 School Governor's report – summary of activities

23.1/23 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that the recent decision by Estyn to place Minera School in special measures was now subject to appeal. Little detail could therefore be shared at the present time, beyond what was already in the public domain. The

school and all its staff, Governors and employees had been heartened by the kind expressions of support received, notably from Minera CC.

23.2/23 The school now had a full complement of Governors, although no appointee from WCBC was currently in service.

24/23 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications

24.1/23 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the month’s correspondence ahead of the meeting. There were no items requiring further discussion which would not otherwise be covered by the agenda of the meeting.

25/23 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received

25.1/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that a request for support towards the cost of maintaining the Minera football field had been received from Coedpoeth United FC. This facility was now fully in use by both the football club and the Youth Club, and benefitted many children in the Minera communities.

25.2/23 Following a brief discussion Cllr J Wellens proposed and Cllr A Roberts seconded that a donation of £300 be made in favour of Coedpoeth United.

26/23 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

26.1/23 The Clerk briefly explained the financial activities for the period, and the details of payments proposed to be made.

26.2/23 The financial statement for the period was proposed for acceptance by Cllr D Gidlow and seconded by Cllr W Ollerhead.

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

Mega - faults attended to Jan/Mar 2023	292.16
D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, May	438.78
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, May	20.00
HSBC, charges for April	5.00
SSE - electricity charges for April	336.07
D Hinchliffe - Clerk's expenses for March/April	14.87
S Allcroft, Agent salary for April	967.09

Total for approval**2,087.39**

26.3/23 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the costs and cover provided by the two options for renewing the insurance cover for Minera CC for the year commencing 1 June 2023. Following a short discussion Cllr D Gidlow proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded that the contract be placed on a single year basis with Zurich. All Councillors were in agreement.

27/23 *Thanks for 20 speed limit reduction from 17 September 2023 – discussion of plans and implications for the Minera communities*

27.1/23 The Clerk had circulated a WCBC briefing note on the forthcoming speed limit changes, which he had in turn received from Cllr J Wellens. He had also shared emails received from the Welsh Government's publicity agency.

27.2/23 A brief discussion followed in which Cllr J Wellens confirmed that the setting of new speed limits in and around the Minera ward was a matter for WCBC, guided by the new legislation. As WCBC's plans to implement them developed, he would share them with all Councillors.

27.3/23 After a further brief discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to place a link on the website and Facebook page which would guide any interested resident to the Welsh Government's public information pages relating to the changes, with no further commentary on behalf of Minera CC. Any subsequent enquiries from residents would be signposted to the most appropriate recipients.

28/23 **Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer**

28.1/23 Papers had been received in respect of planning application P/2023/0144, erection of detached garage, land adjacent to Lynwood, Maesyffynnon Road, Minera.

28.2/23 The Clerk had contacted WCBC subsequently to receiving the papers to request a revision to the site plan to include clear designation of adjacent public footpaths, and this had been received.

28.3/23 Following a brief discussion, the Chair asked the Clerk to contact the Case Officer to request a site meeting, to include a representative from Rights of Way at which concerns as to the dimensions of the proposed new structure given its proximity to footpaths and access to the adjacent quarry could be better assessed.

Meeting adjourned 2130 hrs.

