

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2023

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs H Field (Chair), D Kelly (Vice-chair), J Belton, T Grundy, W Brown, A Roberts

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs W Ollerhead, J Wellens, D Gidlow, N Jones, G Dillon

44/23 Declarations of interest

44/23.1 There were no declarations of interest.

45/23 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

45.1/23 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr A Roberts and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

46/23 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

46.1/23 Cllr J Belton advised the meeting that, as yet speed checks had not been conducted on the Old Road. These would be conducted before the next meeting.

46.2/23 Cllr D Kelly commented that 20mph signs had appeared at the 5 Crosses junction, although the numbers were currently taped over pending the new law coming into effect.

46.3/23 The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that the degrading for sale sign at the former Tomlinson's Dairy site on Gwernygaseg Road had been removed following contact with the agent.

46.4/23 The Clerk also confirmed that he had now received a request for a letter of support from Groundwork North Wales with respect to their Heritage Lottery Fund application for funding to develop the Clywedog Valley Trail. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the letter should be written and sent by the Clerk.

47/23 Co-option – to discuss and if deemed fit, to initiate a co-option process to fill the current vacancy for one Community Councillor

47.1/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that notices of co-option had been published and had yielded thus far one expression of interest. The period of notification would close on 31 July, whereafter the details of interested parties would be circulated to Councillors.

47.2/23 Following a brief discussion it was agreed that time would be allocated immediately before the next meeting for the purpose of conducting interviews with candidates, with all details to be organised by the Clerk.

48/23 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

48.1/23 The Clerk had received a brief summary of activity in the previous month from PCSO Lydia Edwards, and this had been circulated to Councillors.

48.2/23 The Clerk, Chair and Cllr J Wellens had met District Sergeant Nathan Harvey to discuss ongoing issues of vandalism and antisocial behaviour. The meeting had been productive, with a request that all future incidents should be reported to the police, however small.

48.3/23 The Clerk had attended a meeting at the football field with Coedpoeth United FC, WCBC Youth Service and North Wales Police. Recent instances of vandalism and their partial remediation through restorative justice had been discussed together with future strategy, which again stressed the need to report all incidents regardless of size.

48.4/23 The meeting noted with regret that the bird hide had been removed from St Mary's churchyard due to recent vandalism, including the setting of a small fire

49/23 Footpath issues – report on activities

49.1/23 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that he had sent a photographic summary of current issues encountered on and close to various paths, and the Clerk undertook to pass the details to the appropriate individuals within WCBC.

49.2/23 The Chair advised the meeting that she had received a call from the applicant of planning application P/2023/0144 to advise that a meeting had been arranged with a WCBC officer to discuss the positioning and other aspects of footpaths potentially affected by the application. The Clerk had already contacted the same WCBC officer to place the reservations of Minera CC on the record, and to advise the details of existing path widths as measured by the Clerk and Chair. The Clerk would follow up this and other correspondence raised in relation to this application.

50/23 Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities

50.1/23 Cllr H Field advised the meeting that she had not circulated a written report as all matters which would have appeared in it were suitably catered for in the agenda for the meeting.

51/23 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities

51.1/23 In the absence of Cllr J Wellens this item of business was deferred.

52/23 School Governor's report – summary of activities

52.1/23 Cllr W Ollerhead, although not present, had provided a report that had been circulated to Councillors, and had indicated a willingness to take any questions arising from it outside the meeting.

52.2/23 The Chair asked that thanks be minuted to Cllr Ollerhead for his full and informative report and was pleased to note that the Governors had recorded their appreciation of the input and support of Minera CC, and that the school had succeeded in setting a budget for the coming year.

53/23 *We Mind the Gap* – charity presentation by Julie Done

53.1/23 Mrs Done had been invited to address the meeting following an initial meeting with Cllr J Wellens. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend so that this item of business was deferred.

54/23 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications.

54.1/23 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the month's correspondence ahead of the meeting. The following points were raised:

54.2/23 The Chair asked that she be circulated with the annual report of WCBC's Director of Social Services, and the One Voice Wales report 'Tackling Climate Chaos.' Details of a genomics drop-in event hosted by Wales Gene Park would be shared via the website and social media.

55/23 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received.

55.1/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that no requests for funding had been received since the previous meeting other than a national request from the Police Alert service seeking contributions towards its support for youth activities. A request had been sent back in turn to clarify whether any benefit from such a donation might be reasonably expected to accrue to the Minera ward, in keeping with Minera CC's donations policy. As no further reply had yet been received no decision could be taken regarding this request.

56/23 Financial matters – to approve the month's financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

56.1/23 The Clerk briefly explained the financial activities for the period, and the details of payments proposed to be made, following which the financial statement for the period was proposed for acceptance by Cllr A Roberts and seconded by Cllr J Belton and the schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr W Brown.

D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, July	438.78
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, July	20.00
HSBC, charges for June	7.16
SSE - electricity charges for June	370.39
S Allcroft, Agent salary for June	766.36
EE - mobile phone bill	13.00
Groundwork, room hire for April (billed late)	100.00
WCBC - half yearly play area inspection contract	703.20
WCBC - Youth Service provision 23/24	3,174.15
D Hinchliffe, Clerk overtime for May & June	125.40
Netwise - renewal of web hosting contract	396.00
Total to approve	6,114.44

57/23 Model Standing Orders – consideration of and, if deemed fit, adoption of the new One Voice Wales model for Welsh Councils, as modified by the Clerk

57.1/23 The Clerk had circulated the document for perusal prior to the meeting, and the Chair noted that with respect to the length of meetings a maximum duration of two hours should be applied wherever practical. Following a short discussion it was agreed that this should be a matter for the Chair of each meeting to determine, with the use of comfort breaks as deemed necessary to ensure efficient transaction of business.

57.2/23 Cllr D Kelly commented that previous Standing Orders had stipulated that the minimum quorum for certain major financial decisions should be 8 Councillors rather than the default number of 4. Following a short discussion, it was agreed to review this principle when One Voice Wales released new standard Financial Regulations for Welsh councils in the near future. Subject to this stipulation being so reviewed, Cllr W Brown proposed and Cllr T Grundy seconded that the Standing Orders be adopted and placed on the website by the Clerk.

58/23 Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer

58.1/23 A letter had been received relating to planning application P/2023/0267, change of use of barn and fields to a doggy day care facility, Tanygraig Issa, Ty Brith Lane, Minera. Following a brief discussion, no objections or observations were raised with respect to this application.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting

59/23 Community Agent's Report – summary of activities

59.1/23 A particularly involved referral in Coedpoeth, taken on following the loss of the neighbouring Community Agent, had been resolved successfully. A gas bill in excess of £2,400 had been ultimately waived by the energy supplier thanks to Susanne's intervention, and a sustainable future billing arrangement put in place.

59.2/23 It had been a generally busy month with good progress being made in working with the Social Prescriber. A presentation on internet fraud at Coffee Companions had been particularly well received.

59.3/23 In an effort to reach out to more male members of the community an opportunity to run a bird box making session with Groundwork North Wales would be taken up.

59.4/23 Bwlchwyn Village Hall was becoming increasingly busy, partly due to displacement of activities previously undertaken in Coedpoeth Parish Hall, which was now out of commission.

59.5/23 All remaining vacancies for Community Agents had been placed with Rainbow Centre. This at least meant that all residents of the County Borough now had an agency service, with two neighbouring wards of Minera now served through this arrangement.

59.6/23 WCBC had indicated a wish to audit referral statistics in the coming months. The Clerk undertook to help clarify the nature and intent of this request to forestall any misunderstanding of the quantity and quality of interventions being conducted by Susanne.

The Chair once again recorded the thanks of Minera CC to Susanne for her continuing good work.

Meeting adjourned 2030 hrs.