

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th October 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 Ollerhead, N Jones, J Wellens, A Roberts, K Coventry

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs D Gidlow, G Dillon, W Brown

89/23 Declarations of interest

89/23.1 There were no declarations of interest.

90/23 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

90.1/23 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr J Belton.

91/23 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

91.1/23 Cllr J Belton advised the meeting that speed checks had not been carried out following a request from GoSafe that community involvement in speed monitoring be suspended temporarily following the introduction of the new 20mph speed limits. Cllr Belton would return the speed gun to the Clerk, who would liaise with GoSafe to ascertain when it would be opportune to canvass residents for volunteers to engage in speed monitoring activities.

91.2/23 The Clerk confirmed that publicity for the public meeting on 2 November had been issued and would be further promoted prior to the event.

91.3/23 The Chair noted that the gate on Ty Brith Lane had now been repaired, but that the nearby pond was still in need of maintenance. The Clerk would therefore reiterate the request for intervention.

91.4/23 The Clerk confirmed that he had not been able to source a potentially surplus picnic bench free of charge for the New Brighton site but had received email details of an attractively priced option built from waste plastic. Details would be circulated together with establishing the full price, including delivery and installation.

92/23 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

92.1/23 The Clerk had not received a written report on police activities prior to the meeting but had had a chance meeting along with the Chair with PCSO Steve Howsom on the day of the meeting. PCSO Howsom had confirmed that there were no issues of concern to

pass on at the present time. The Clerk had passed on details of an egg throwing incident in Eversley Court, noting that the resident was being encouraged to report the matter to North Wales Police for further investigation.

93/23 Footpath issues – report on activities

93.1/23 Cllr N Jones advised the meeting that he had discovered apparent vandalism at the weighbridge site in the quarry and had alerted North Wales Wildlife Trust to the matter. Cllr J Wellens undertook to pass the details additionally to Minera Quarry Trust.

94/23 Minera Community Council Chair’s report – summary of activities

94.1/23 The Chair advised the meeting that she had been approached by a resident concerned that a planning application by Wisdom of Equus could interfere with her water supply, and had made no progress with WCBC in resolving the issue. The application had now been modified, but it was still unclear if the resident’s concerns had been addressed, and the Clerk was seeking further clarification.

94.2/23 A resident of Maesyffynnon Road had been in touch with concerns relating to obstruction of footpaths. The Chair had been to the affected area and found no issues and would now contact the resident to discuss the matter.

94.3/23 Fencing work at Minera Hall had been carried out but was completely inadequate to create the intended deterrent barrier. The Clerk had submitted photographs to the landlord and dialogue continued, although it appeared most unlikely that an effective barrier against trespassers would be created in the foreseeable future. The Clerk would contact North Wales Police to ascertain whether enforcement via a Community Safety Order was a potential remedy.

94.4/23 A mid-contract review of the Youth Service provision had been attended by the Chair and Clerk and the report was circulated around the meeting table. Activities were being supported, but higher numbers, including participation by girls, would be the focus in coming weeks. Cllr W Ollerhead undertook to facilitate a leaflet drop at Minera School to further this initiative.

94.5/23 The Remembrance service had been publicised and all participants contacted by the Clerk. Diversion of the bus on the morning of the service was the only outstanding matter and relied on Arriva responding to the formal request which had been made.

93/23 Borough Councillor’s report – summary of activities

Cllr J Wellens summarised a number of recent issues which were of interest to Councillors.

93.1/23 Resurfacing works at the Five Crosses junction on Ruthin Road had been publicised with signage which implied extensive closure of adjacent roads. Further details were being sought and would be shared to Councillors via the Clerk.

93.2/23 A recent number of extensions to local bus services had included extra buses on the number 11 service in the evening at weekends, but disappointingly had not addressed the long-standing issue of the 11a service – or effective absence of it – to Gwynfryn. A letter setting forth Cllr Wellens’ disappointment had been sent to the lead member at WCBC.

93.3/23 Following numerous complaints of speeding around the junction at the former Moors pub and on the Old Road, efforts to install a camera had met with no success with either WCBC or North Wales Police. Privately installed cameras were now being researched but would not proceed until a funding source had been secured.

93.4/23 On-plot parking had been provided for two residents during the previous month, which had been gratefully received. Completion of the fencing repairs opposite Minera School continued to drag on, however. Industrial action was now constraining resources and preventing the job from being expedited. The matter would nevertheless continue to be pursued.

93.5/23 Discussions had been held with Litegreen in an effort to identify a suitable carbon reduction pilot project in the ward. Following a brief discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to invite Litegreen to make a short presentation to the next Council meeting.

93.6/23 As had been separately circulated by WCBC, it had been confirmed that collection of green bins would be suspended until February 2024, when the contract year for the service would be re-set. Ongoing industrial action meant it was unlikely that any service could be re-started before this date.

94/23 School Governor’s report – summary of activities

94.1/23 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that minutes of the September Governors’ meeting had still not been issued. He would therefore pass them to the Clerk for wider circulation of the relevant details once he had received them.

94.2/23 Cllr Ollerhead also advised the meeting that there had been a further meeting to progress the response to the Estyn report. Cllr Ollerhead was now writing a five year leadership plan for the school, and all governors were sharing weekly walk arounds on the premises in order to raise visibility. Some early signs of encouragement were emerging, albeit it was acknowledged that special measures would be in place for a further two years. In particular it was pleasing to see an increase in the numbers of parents coming forward to support the school.

95/23 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications.

95.1/23 An email had been received from Zero Hour seeking support for the Climate and Ecology Bill. The Clerk would undertake research into the organisation and particulars of the bill so as to be able to advise Councillors of the suitability of such a resolution.

95.2/23 An email attaching details of Community Transport Week had been received too late to be of any practical use as the event was already underway. In view of Cllr J Wellens' report of the disappointing outcome of the latest attempt to improve the 11a bus service, however, the email would be copied to Cllr Wellens to ascertain whether any of the initiatives attaching to the week's activities could provide impetus for further engagement.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

96/23 Community Agent's report – summary of activities

96.1/23 An elderly resident of Gwynfryn who was otherwise very happy in the community had advised Susanne that he would now be leaving the village due to the lack of public transport.

96.2/23 A device had now been acquired which would provide a panic alarm in case of need in lone working situations. Two other Community Agents were already using these devices.

96.3.23 Dementia support activities in the month had gone extremely well. Two events had been held in Coedpoeth and Wrexham, the latter providing a lot of leads to resources. Additionally, the new co-ordinator at Cherry Tree care home was very keen to establish a reminisce group. It had been established that 11 of the 21 Dementia Champions in Wales worked in Wrexham County Borough, 3 of them as Community Agents.

96.4/23 The Rainbow Centre has recruited an excellent Social Prescriber who has come out to the ward to provide support.

96.5/23 Further discussion of the future of the Community Agent service will take place on 8 November in front of the WCBC Scrutiny Committee. Cllr J Wellens undertook to attend the meeting and to feed back what he was able to, noting that public attendance was not permitted at the meeting. Cllr Wellens also confirmed that the meeting had received input from an all-Councillor workshop held in September.

96.6/23 A Digital Community Ambassador had been contacted and invited to address Coffee Companions about various aspects of online safety and protection. The Fire Service, North Wales Police and Citizens Advice were also on the list to visit the group during Autumn and Winter.

96.7/23 Monitoring and statistical returns to WCBC were now firmly established as monthly requirements, with the return dates moving closer to the beginning of the month. For October this had necessitated weekend work, and the Clerk undertook to discuss this trend with WCBC as a matter of urgency.

The Chair added her thanks to Susanne once again for her continuing valued and professional service to the Minera communities.

Susanne now left the meeting.

97/23 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received.

97.1/23 A donation request had been received from Wales Air Ambulance as part of its annual appeal to all Welsh public bodies. Following a brief discussion Cllr W Ollerhead proposed and Cllr N Jones seconded that a donation of £250 be made in response to the appeal. Cllr J Belton asked that the Clerk, when making the donation, should ask for a brief update on developments relating to organisation and deployment of the air ambulance service.

98/23 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

98.1/23 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 K Coventry and seconded by Cllr N Jones and the schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr J Belton and seconded by Cllr J Wellens. It was noted that the sum approved for SSE was an estimated value pending receipt of the invoice for September supply.

D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, October	496.93
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, October	20.00
HSBC, charges for September	5.00
SSE - electricity charges for September	370.00
S Allcroft, Agent salary for September	991.34
EE - mobile phone bill	13.19
Groundwork, room hire for September	50.00
D Hinchliffe, Clerk expenses for September/October	8.25
S Allcroft, Agent expenses for October	53.20
Door catch for Coffee Companions	8.99
Coffee Companions presenter fee	75.00
Mega	359.03
Total to approve	2,450.93

98.2/23 The Clerk gave a short presentation of the budget against actual expenditure position of Minera CC as at 30 September, the half way point of the year. Based on the current forecast a small saving against the precept was cautiously anticipated for the full year, although the exact value of as yet uninvoiced sums for external audits and the school crossing patrol were unknown and included in the forecast only as best estimates. Councillors would continue to receive this summary on a monthly basis, and the Clerk would formally present outcomes and trends to Councillors in meetings each quarter end.

99/23 Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer

99.1/23 A letter had been received relating to planning application P/2023/0525, advising modifications to the previous plans circulated. Other than to pursue resolution of issues noted in minute 94.1/23 above, no observations or objections were noted with respect to this application.

99.2/23 A letter had been received relating to planning application P/2023/0600, seeking retrospective modification of a provision imposed by planning application P/2013/0651, erection of retaining wall at Lynwood, Maesyffynnon Road, Minera.

Following a discussion, the Chair asked the Clerk to advise WCBC that objections made by Minera CC to the original planning application remained, and that therefore retrospective consent to the positioning of the retaining wall was opposed.

99.3/23 Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that he was aware of potential modifications being undertaken to the former Tomlinson's Dairy premises on Pen y Palmant Road, Minera, which may amount to preparation for a change of use which had not yet been subject to a planning request. The Clerk undertook to make due enquiry with WCBC Planning Enforcement.

Meeting adjourned 2020 hrs.