

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera**

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

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Wellens, D Kelly, A Roberts

**75/23            Declarations of interest**

**75/23.1**        There were no declarations of interest.

**76/23            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**76.1/23**        The minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Brown and seconded by Cllr N Jones.

**77/23            Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda**

**77.1/23**        Cllr J Belton advised the meeting that speed checks would commence on the Old Road once liaison with the GoSafe co-ordinator had been completed.

**77.2/23**        The Clerk confirmed that speakers had been secured for the November Projects Meeting to present on We Mind the Gap and the new National Park. Details of the latter presentation were being made public to encourage a wider attendance, with some early interest shown by other community groups.

**77.3/23**        The Clerk confirmed that he was still pursuing a commitment from the owners of Minera Hall for a date by when the promised palisade fencing would be installed.

**77.4/23**        The Clerk also advised the meeting that the broken gate on Ty Brith Lane had been advised to the Rights of Way team, together with details of outstanding maintenance to a nearby pond. Photographs of both issues had been provided by a resident and had been used to advise the issues to the team.

**77.5/23**        The Clerk had had a meeting with WCBC concerning open questions about the direction of the Community Agent service and had also received a file of notes from the recent Task and Finish meeting which had evaluated the service. These notes would be condensed and shared with Councillors.

**77.6/23**        The Clerk noted that a requested modification to future planning application details, to include existing as well as proposed new dimensions of structures, had been favourably received by WCBC.

**78/23 Co-option – the Chair will report on the outcome of the candidate assessment meeting and propose the appointment of one Community Councillor**

**78.1/23** The Chair advised the meeting that, following a meeting with the Clerk and a delegation of Councillors on 29 August, Mrs Kathleen Coventry, a resident of Wern, had confirmed her willingness to serve as a member of Minera Community Council. Cllr T Grundy endorsed the Chair's opinion that Mrs Coventry was an excellent candidate for the role.

**78.2/23** The Chair duly proposed, and Cllr T Grundy seconded that Mrs Coventry be invited to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office to join Minera Community Council. All present were in favour.

**79/23 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team**

**79.1/23** The Clerk had not received a written report on police activities prior to the meeting. PCSO Lydia Edwards had advised him by email that the school holiday period had passed off with no police involvement of note.

**79.2/23** The Chair noted that Coedpoeth United had reported within the previous 24 hours a recurrence of vandalism of the pitch side shelter. The club was now considering installing CCTV as a deterrent.

**79.3/23** Cllr N Jones advised the meeting of instances of misleading and incomplete signage relating to the speed limit changes. The Clerk confirmed that he had also been made aware of one of the issues raised by Cllr Jones and had sought clarification from PCSO Edwards that where two speeds were signed, only the higher speed could be enforced. The reply received had included a reiteration of the intention of North Wales Police to educate and advise alongside active enforcement during the transition period.

**79.4/23** Following a brief discussion Councillors confirmed their wish that the Clerk should maintain a neutral stance and continue to use the website and social media to provide a signposting service to residents relating to issues arising from speed limit changes.

Mrs K Coventry now joined the meeting. She was welcomed by the Chair and Councillors and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Clerk.

Following a short round of introductions Cllr K Coventry took office.

**80/23 Footpath issues – report on activities**

**80.1/23** Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that footpath Minera 12 adjacent to Maesyffynnon Road had benefitted from clearance work which had made the link to the White Road fully passable. Cllr Grundy also noted that the damaged gate on Ty Brith Lane was now in the hands of the Rights of Way team.

**81/23            Minera Community Council Chair’s report – summary of activities**

**81.1/23**            The Chair advised the meeting that she had visited the Youth Service the previous evening. £350 worth of new play equipment had been provided and portable wifi was now just waiting on WCBC’s IT team for mobilisation. She was concerned that participation by girls in youth activities was low, and asked the Clerk to arrange a contract review in the coming weeks at which this topic could be explored.

**81.2/23**            The Clerk had been advised that a clerical error on the part of WCBC had resulted in the contract for the Community Agent service being signed in the wrong place. A revised version of the signature page was therefore placed before the meeting, which the Chair signed, and which the Clerk would submit to WCBC for ratification.

**81.3/23**            The Remembrance event was briefly discussed. The date was confirmed as Saturday 11 November, and the Clerk undertook to liaise with all relevant parties, and to obtain, if possible, biodegradable wreaths. Depending on the availability of local clergy to conduct the service, Cllr N Jones advised the meeting that his daughter would be willing to officiate again if required. The Chair accepted this offer with thanks, noting again the excellent way Ellen Jones had performed the service in 2022.

**82/23            Borough Councillor’s report – summary of activities**

**82.1/23**            In the absence of Cllr J Wellens this item of business was deferred.

**83/23            School Governor’s report – summary of activities**

**83.1/23**            Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that minutes of a recent Governors’ meeting were in the course of preparation and would form the basis of his next report to Councillors. This report would be passed to the Clerk on completion for onward transmission.

**83.2/23**            Cllr Ollerhead also advised the meeting that he had been confirmed as Deputy Chair of the Governors, and that Enrichment Technologies had matched a donation of £300 from the Friends of Minera School to fund a STEM event in the near future.

The Chair thanked Cllr Ollerhead for his work as a school Governor, and for his representation of Minera CC within his role.

**84/23            Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications.**

**84.1/23**            An email had been received from Caia Park Community Council attaching the text of a resolution opposing proposals to make cuts to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service in the Wrexham area. Following a brief discussion of the wording of the resolution The Chair proposed and Cllr N Jones seconded that an identical resolution, adjusted to support the residents of the Minera ward, be passed by Minera Community Council and forwarded by the Clerk to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The proposal was agreed by all present, and the text of the resolution is recorded below:

*North Wales Fire Authority is proposing 3 options for reducing costs, 2 involving cutting the 2nd fire appliance in Wrexham and reducing the numbers of firefighters from 52 to 28. Minera Community Council believes this would put the safety of its citizens in jeopardy, not just in the Minera communities but the whole of Wrexham.*

*This is totally unacceptable given Wrexham has a population of around 136,000 with possibly the largest Industrial Estate in Europe, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, a University and Coleg Cambria in the town as well as the manufacturing training college on Bersham Road, together with one of the largest prisons in the UK.*

*Minera Community Council takes the safety of its residents in Minera and Wrexham very seriously and maintains that proposals to cut services in Wrexham are unacceptable, and calls on the Fire Authority to look at other options of cost saving, possibly from the top of the Authority, to achieve financial economies.'*

*It was unanimously resolved that the Council agrees:*

- 1. that the current proposals by the North Wales Fire Authority are unacceptable due to the potential effects on the safety of Wrexham County Borough citizens and the Council totally opposes the proposals.*
- 2. that the Council's opposition to the proposals is communicated to the Fire Authority.*
- 3. that it calls on the Fire Authority to look at other options of cost saving.*

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

## **85/23            Community Agent's report – summary of activities**

**85.1/23**            A study into preventive social care, led by Swansea University and funded by WCBC, had included a visit to Coffee Companions to gather data and source materials for further research. The visit had been a great success and had been positively received by both researchers and respondents and would inform further work throughout North Wales. Auspiciously the visit had coincided with the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the formation of the group.

**85.2/23**            Following the successful intergenerational project work undertaken with Minera School around the time of the Coronation outline plans were being discussed for a similar event around Christmas.

**85.3.23**            No leads had yet been forthcoming from WCBC following the Task and Finish workshop other than a large file of notes-style outcomes from the day. The Clerk noted that he had received the same document and had committed earlier in the meeting to summarise the text for Councillors. He and Susanne would jointly seek clarification of next steps from WCBC.

**85.4/23**            The Rainbow Centre's Agent for Brymbo, Bwlchgwyn and Broughton had resigned after less than a week in post. It was unclear when the provision would be restored. Any potential referrals from the bordering wards would, as previously, be discussed with the Clerk before any action was agreed. A new Agent was now in place in Coedpoeth, and a brief initial meeting had been held.

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

**86/23 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received.**

**86.1/23** The Clerk advised the meeting that no new requests for funding had been received since the previous meeting.

**87/23 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments**

**87.1/23** 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 J Belton and seconded by Cllr G Dillon and the schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr D Gidlow.

D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, September	496.93
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, September	20.00
HSBC, charges for August	5.00
SSE - electricity charges for August	358.84
S Allcroft, Agent salary for August	1,074.15
EE - mobile phone bill	13.00
Groundwork, room hire for August	100.00
D Hinchliffe, Clerk overtime for August	50.16
S Allcroft, Agent salary for August	15.48
Salix, loan repayment instalment	1,463.70
A Bridger, Coffee Companions speaker fee	67.50
S Allcroft, expenses for Art Group (nest box kits)	141.00
Blue Sky, balance of New Brighton installation work	1,240.00
<b>Total to approve</b>	<b>5,045.76</b>

**87.2/23** Noting the completion of the work at New Brighton by Blue Sky Landscapes, Cllr W Ollerhead raised the idea of installing a picnic bench on the now gravelled area as a means of securing the ground from incursion by parking vehicles and improving the amenity of the site. Following a brief discussion the Clerk undertook to research costs and advise Councillors of possible options.

**88/23 Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer**

**88.1/23** A letter had been received relating to planning application P/2023/0549, installation of two field gates at Cae Mynydd, Pentre, Minera. Following a brief discussion, no objections or observations were raised with respect to this application.

Meeting adjourned 2020 hrs.