

**Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

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

**Present:** Cllrs D Kelly (Chair), T Grundy, A Roberts, G Dillon, D Gidlow, K Coventry

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllrs W Ollerhead, J Belton, J Wellens

**132/23            Declarations of interest**

**132.1/23**        There were no declarations of interest.

**133/23            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**133.1/23**        The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr D Gidlow and seconded by Cllr K Coventry.

**134/23            Election of a Chair who shall preside until the next Annual Meeting**

**134.1/23**        Cllr D Kelly advised the meeting that he would be prepared to hold the office of Chair until the Annual Meeting if that was the wish of Councillors. Cllr A Roberts duly proposed and Cllr G Dillon seconded that Cllr Kelly be elected Chair for the referenced period. All present were in agreement.

**135/23            Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda**

**135.1/23**        Cllr J Belton had not yet returned the speed gun to the Clerk. This would be pursued following Cllr Belton's return from holiday.

**135.2/23**        The Clerk advised the meeting that North Wales Police had still not yet responded to the request to consider a Community Safety Order to compel security improvements at Minera Hall. As a meeting with the PCSOs had been arranged for 8 March the matter would be discussed at that time.

**135.3/23**        The Clerk advised the meeting that the damaged bench in Ffordd Bryn Madoc had still not been repaired, and that he would be seeking resolution of the matter before the next meeting.

**135.4/23**        The Clerk advised the meeting that he would seek to obtain from Cllr W Ollerhead the costs should the Youth Service seek to use the school for the remaining Winter and early Spring sessions of youth activities.

**136/23            Co-option – update on the process to fill 3 vacancies for Community Councillors**

**136.1/23** The Clerk advised the meeting that a notice of vacancy had been published offering residents the right to call for an election to fill the two vacancies which arose in January 2024. WCBC would advise whether an election would be required by the beginning of March.

**136.2/23** The Clerk also advised the meeting that a notice of intended co-option had also been published concerning the vacancy which arose in November 2023. This was open to receive responses until 7 March, and as yet no interest had been shown by residents.

**137/23 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team**

**137.1/23** The Clerk had not received a formal report from the PCSOs during February, and so would ask for any pertinent details when he met with PCSO Lydia Edwards on 8 March.

**137.2/23** The Clerk also advised the meeting that he had received a report of damage to the zipwire seat in Minera play area caused by using the seat as a toy for a dog to chase, causing bite damage and resultant sharp edges. This would be added to the list of issues to discuss with PCSO Edwards.

**137.3/23** Cllrs also noted that thefts of heating oil and cars had been experienced in Bwlchgwyn in recent weeks.

**138/23 Footpath issues – report on activities**

**138.1/23** Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that he was pleased to see that the thankfully low level of damage from recent storms had all been promptly dealt with by North Wales Wildlife Trust and WCBC.

**138.2/23** Cllr Grundy also noted that a sign at the Lead Mines pointing the way to Minera Quarry was still missing after a year. The Clerk undertook to follow up the request to replace this sign which had been lodged shortly after the issue had first been raised.

**138.3/23** Cllr Grundy had also advised the Clerk about cables being fouled by tree branches at the junction of Maesyffynnon Road and Church Road. This had initially been reported to Scottish Power, but it was now evident that the cables belonged to BT. The Clerk would therefore re-direct the notice to the appropriate provider.

**138/23 Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities**

**138.1/23** The Chair had nothing to report that would not be covered in the business of the meeting. He had been, however, pleased to see an excellent turnout for the funeral of Cllr Nigel Jones, who had clearly been well liked and respected by many colleagues and members of his community.

**139/23 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities**

In the absence of Cllr J Wellens this item was deferred.

**140/23 School Governor’s report – summary of activities**

**140.1/23** In the absence of Cllr W Ollerhead this item was deferred.

**141/23 Correspondence – summary of items received; the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications**

**141.1/23** The Clerk advised the meeting that a new paper-based bank mandate would be needed as the type of mandate applicable to Minera CC could not be amended to accommodate deleted and additional signatories via the online portal. This task was in hand.

**141.2/23** A younger member of the community had enquired about having white lines applied to the Gwynfryn football field. Councillors were happy to consent to this and the Chair asked the Clerk to establish when the grass would be next cut, and once that date was known to liaise with Coedpoeth United or another football club as necessary to have suitable lines duly applied to the cut surface.

**141.3/23** Following a request from the local organisers of the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations the Clerk had sought to establish whether any individuals commemorated on the Minera War Memorial were Normandy veterans. He had not found any evidence of service in Normandy relating to the memorial, and the Chair suggested that the website and Facebook page be used to ask the community whether any such details were known, and if forthcoming to pass them on.

**142/23 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received.**

**142.1/23** Donation requests had been received from Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, Marie Curie Cancer Care and Family Friends. Following a brief discussion Cllr K Coventry proposed, and Cllr G Dillon seconded that each applicant be awarded £100. All present were in agreement.

**143/23 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments**

**143.1/23** 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 D Gidlow and seconded by Cllr T Grundy and the schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr D Gidlow and seconded by Cllr T Grundy.

S Allcroft, Agent salary for January	811.44
D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, February	544.59
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, February	20.00
HSBC, charges for December	5.80
H Field, card and flowers for Carol Jones	12.75
WCBC, crossing patrol Q1 23/24	1,499.75
WCBC, crossing patrol Q2 23/24	1,499.75

Microsoft 365 annual renewal	59.99
HMRC, quarterly NHI remittance	61.83
EE, mobile phone bill for January	13.00
Mega, repairs invoice, Oct-Jan	76.99
HSBC, charges for January	5.00
SSE, electricity bill for December	304.19
<b>Total to approve</b>	<b>4,915.08</b>

**143.2/23** The Clerk advised the meeting that a new bank mandate had been drawn up but could not be completed as planned as part of the business of the meeting since Cllr J Wellens, a new signatory, was not present. The Clerk therefore proposed to obtain Cllr Wellens' signature at the earliest opportunity following the meeting and report submission of the document to the bank for endorsement at the next meeting.

**143.2/23** The Clerk also advised the meeting that, following the death of one signatory, the resignation of a second and the temporary absence on holiday of a third, he was now the only operating signatory of the account currently available. As such he proposed that on this one occasion, the stipulation of the Financial Regulations of Minera CC that all payments approved in Council meetings be endorsed via email by two signatories prior to payments being made be relaxed. He would instead send a request for endorsement to all attending Councillors with a request for endorsement by return. He would then action payments provided two or more such endorsements were received. All present were in agreement with this proposal.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

#### **144/23 Community Agent's report – summary of activities**

**144.1/23** A couple of issues had been referred relating to housing problems. One on the Old Road related to mobility issues combined with a lack of public transport, which was being discussed with the Borough Councillor.

**144.2/23** A meeting with the Brymbo Community Agent to look for collaborative opportunities had led to plans being made to have a joint meeting in Bwlchgwyn attended by North Wales Police.

**144.3/23** A new agent had been appointed in Coedpoeth, and approaches would be made to look for synergies with her service alongside Minera's.

**144.4/23** A meeting of Community Agents called by WCBC had been very poorly attended with no representation from the Rainbow Centre. A meeting of Clerks had been better attended, and the Clerk and the Agent would meet in the near future to discuss varying impressions at the two meetings concerning the new paperwork being introduced to support the service.

**144.5/23** The numbers attending Coffee Companions were rising once again, prompting Cllr K Coventry to ask if the room would continue to be large enough to support comfortable meetings. Following a brief discussion it was noted that the room would be adequate, although being able to use the space heaters would help. The Clerk undertook to discuss the need for PAT tests on the heaters prior to use with Groundwork North Wales to try and effect a solution.

The Chair thanked Susanne for her continued good work, and Susanne then left the meeting.

**145/23 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

**145.1/23** The Chair noted that observations relating to highway safety submitted in respect of planning application P/2023/0840 had been rebutted by WCBC in arriving at a decision to approve the application with conditions. Following a brief discussion it was decided that no further response should be made.

**145.2/23** Papers had been received relating to planning application P/2024/0049, two storey front and side extension at Bryn Awel, Ffordd Uchaf, Gwynfryn. Following a brief discussion, no observations or objections were recorded with respect to this application.

Meeting adjourned 2035 hrs.