

Minera Community Council

Annual Report 2023-2024

We are legally required to produce an annual report, both for the residents and the communities which we represent, and as a formal public record a summary of our activities each year. This is our second such summary since Annual Reports were introduced for Town and Community Councils, and we hope you find it interesting. Please contact us with any observations or comments.

Context

Minera Community Council (MCC) Ward covers five communities: Minera, Five Crosses, Gwynfryn, New Brighton, Wern. MCC always endeavours to include each community in its activities and ensure inclusiveness and collaboration. When at full strength MCC has twelve Members, all of whom are volunteers, and their contact details can be found on the council's website: www.mineracc.co.uk.

We currently have 3 vacancies for Councillors, and we are in the process of canvassing for volunteers to fill these vacancies.

MCC employs a Clerk, who also supports and supervises the Ward's Community Agent. He has a discrete Minera Community Agent Facebook page on which she posts the activities he is involved in, and it also has his contact details.

MCC's budget (Precept) for the 2023/24 year was £42,228. This sum is raised directly from Council Tax payers, and represented a 14% increase over the previous year, caused by inflationary pressures on expenditures which we cannot control, such as insurance and Borough Council services. We therefore also committed £7,560 from our reserves so that we could continue to maintain project and infrastructure work in our communities.

MCC has responsibility for the crossing patrol at Minera school, the playgrounds in Minera and Gwynfryn, and the youth service, under Service Level Agreements with Wrexham CBC. This includes inspection, maintenance and repair of the playgrounds, and provision of youth service staff. MCC maintains most of the streetlights within the community and LED replacements, maintenance of the lights, and electricity take a large of the overall budget for the year.

We expect that the majority of our streetlighting will need to be replaced in around 10 years' time, and so in 2023/34 we set up a sinking fund which will spread the cost of this anticipated investment over the next decade and avoid a spike in costs in the future.

There were no complaints made to MCC in the year.

Activities and Achievements

MCC has its main meeting monthly to discuss current issues in the Ward and respond accordingly. In addition, there is an "as and when" meeting to progress any projects MCC is undertaking. Meetings are open for members of the public to attend virtually or in person, and arrangements can be made via the Clerk to speak at the meeting. There were eleven main meetings this year; no meeting was held in December.

A Member is also the Ward Borough councillor, and another Member is on the governing body of Minera school. MCC retains close links with the school, the church, and the Borough Council.

The Community Agent provides a report to each meeting, and MCC endeavours to support her in her activities, which are of considerable benefit to the community.

Regular crime reports for the community are received and any suggested priorities for the police are communicated either at the meeting if police are present, or subsequently by the Clerk.

MCC considers and responds to all planning applications made in the Ward.

Activities of note during the year were:

All Council meetings were held at the Tyn y Capel, which is now once more our fixed meeting venue. We are grateful to the management and staff at 'The Tyn' for their support.

The Coronation was marked by providing funds to Minera School to organise their own celebrations, which extended to an inter-generational garden planting and crown making day at the Lead Mines accompanying the members of the Coffee Companions over 50s group. This was an excellent example of different generations coming together for their mutual enjoyment and for the benefit of the community, and we will be looking for similar opportunities in the future.

A defibrillator was installed at the Tyn y Capel, bringing our inventory of devices to 4. We have one further device reserved for installation in the Five Crosses area and will install it once we have the location finalised.

The landscaping project in New Brighton was completed in the year and topped off with a picnic bench, which is proving popular with walker and residents alike.

The Community Remembrance Service took place in November. The new Curate of Minera, Rev Emma Dale, performed the service.

Regular monitoring and reporting by the footpaths sub committee is summarised at each Council meeting.

Activities taking place at Minera Hall continue to be monitored, and MCC liaises with the landowner and leaseholder at the site.

The website and Facebook page are kept updated by the Clerk.

MCC worked with Coedpoeth Utd and WCBC to provide a Youth service in the portacabin on the football field.

Christmas lights have become an annual feature at the approach to Minera church.

Planned priorities and activities for the forthcoming year:

To co-opt 3 Councillors and return the Council to full strength.

Monitor the youth service and look at ways of raising participation and with it, value for money.

Work with Minera School to explore practical ways of supporting the delivery of education and related opportunities at a time of severe funding pressure for the school.

Install a defibrillator at Five Crosses.

Improvements to the War Memorial bus shelter in Minera.

Support for the activities of the Community Agent.

These activities will be met through the Precept, and the careful use of reserves.

David Kelly

Chair, Minera Community Council

May 2024