

## **Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

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

**Present:** Cllrs, D Kelly (Chair), A Roberts, D Gidlow, J Wellens, W Ollerhead, B Heard

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Belton, T Grundy, K Coventry, G Dillon

#### **1/24            Declarations of interest**

**1.1/24**            Cllr B Heard declared a personal interest in the requested donation from Wrexham Litter Pickers and would therefore refrain from discussion of the item other than to provide answers to any questions arising.

#### **2/24            Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting**

**2.1/24**            The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2024 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr D Gidlow and seconded by Cllr A Roberts.

#### **3/24            Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda**

**3.1/24**            The Clerk advised the meeting that the matter of the missing footpath sign at the Lead Mines was now in the hands of the Rights of Way team to effect a resolution.

**3.2/24**            The Clerk advised the meeting that the grass had now been cut on the Gwynfryn football pitch, and Coedpoeth United had been asked if they could now apply white lines as discussed earlier in the year.

**3.3/24**            No further progress had yet been made with registering title to ‘The Nurse.’ The Clerk would continue to pursue this.

**3.4/24**            The Clerk had still had no response to objections and observations raised concerning the change of use of Pen y Palmant farm. Letting notices had now appeared on the buildings.

**3.6/24**            Heating issues at the Lead Mines had been further addressed by Groundwork North Wales, hopefully now arriving at an acceptable solution.

**3.7/24**            In response to Councillors’ requests The Clerk had obtained details from North Wales Police of proceedings taken against individuals detained in connection with disturbances at Minera Hall. These details had been shared with Councillors.

**3.8/24**            The Chair advised the meeting that he had not yet met with the proprietor of Jordan’s Commercials to ascertain whether the Five Crosses noticeboard would need to move.

**3.9/24** The Clerk confirmed that he had obtained a quotation of £90 plus VAT for the larger no smoking, no vaping and no dogs sign for Minera play area. The Clerk was duly authorised to proceed to obtain and fit the sign as soon as available.

**3.10/24** The Clerk confirmed that the contract for the Community Agent service for the year to 31 March 2025 had been signed and returned. Funds were now expected to be received imminently.

#### **4/24 Co-option – update on the process to fill 2 vacancies for Community Councillors**

**4.1/24** The Clerk advised the meeting that one expression of interest had been received. He would now invite the interested party to meet Councillors ahead of the next Council meeting with a view to enabling a possible co-option to be undertaken that evening. At the conclusion of this process a decision could be taken as to the timing of a further attempt to co-opt interested parties to fill remaining vacancies.

#### **5/24 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team**

**5.1/24** The Clerk had circulated a summary of incidents which had been provided by North Wales Police relating to May. Although this recorded patrols by North Wales Police at Minera School to observe parking and traffic flow issues at the start and end of the school day, such patrols had not been witnessed by Councillors. The Clerk undertook to confirm the frequency of such checks.

**5.2/24** The Clerk advised the meeting that he had been made aware of a number of incidents in Minera during the past month involving vandalism and antisocial and threatening behaviour. These issues had been discussed with North Wales Police, notably an instance of a threat with a bladed weapon which had led to no further action due to the incident involving children below the age of criminal responsibility. The Clerk undertook to maintain liaison with the PCSOs and to share details of pertinent issues with Councillors as they arose.

#### **6/24 Footpath issues – report on activities**

**6.1/24** In the absence of Cllr T Grundy the Clerk advised the meeting that he had not been made aware of any emergent issues with any local paths.

**6.1/24** Cllr A Roberts commented that the bridleway running from Minera Hall to the HK Motors site was now so badly overgrown that use as a bridleway was not currently possible. The Clerk undertook to ascertain whether this could be addressed by the Rights of Way team at WCBC.

#### **7/24 Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities**

**7.1/24** The Chair had nothing to report that would not be covered by the business of the meeting, other to note that Minera Church would be holding a flower festival to raise funds for the church roof at the end of June. He therefore asked the Clerk to make enquiries

of the Church Wardens as to whether a donation from the Civic Budget could be made to help cover the costs of staging the event.

#### **8/24 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities**

**8.1/24** Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that the calling of a general election had caused some Borough Council activities and commentary surrounding them to be curtailed under the auspices of electoral regulations.

**8.2/24** Survey work had commenced on the drains in the middle of Minera following receipt of grant funding to enable the work. The outcome and findings of the survey were as yet not known but would be shared with Councillors once available.

**8.3/24** Efforts to support residents of New Brighton affected by the environmental blight of abandoned vehicles had continued and were slowly proceeding towards an enforcement situation. The efforts of the residents to research the resources available under the Gov.UK website had been particularly helpful in furthering these efforts.

**8.4/24** Cllr Wellens had attended a Community Transport webinar hosted by One Voice Wales. Some useful ideas and contacts had emerged from the discussions and would be followed up.

#### **9/24 School Governor's report – summary of activities**

**9.1/24** Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that improvement work in response to the Estyn report was continuing and would now focus on issues raised by the latest follow-up report, which had identified weaknesses in certain age groups.

**9.2/24** An advertisement to fill a teaching vacancy had produced 26 responses. These would be screened, and interviews arranged. An additional Teaching Assistant had also been recruited in response to identified needs, which had created additional budget pressures.

**9.3/24** Pupil numbers going forwards were expected to decline slightly. The school as a whole remained positive, however, and the Governors and staff acknowledged that the Estyn process had facilitated closer scrutiny of pupils' progress.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

#### **10/24 Community Agent's report – summary of activities**

**10.1/24** Although attempts to get Minera School included in a Digital Champions project with WCBC had not proven successful, inclusion in an intergenerational falls project had been confirmed instead. Susanne asked Cllr Ollerhead to ascertain that this was now up and running at the school as efforts to make contact and confirm initiation had not been successful.

**10.2/24** Several members of Coffee Companions had made themselves available as potential volunteer readers to support the school.

**10.3/24** The Operation Cinnamon event for older residents jointly organised with North Wales Police and Brymbo/Bwlchgwyn CC had taken place. Footfall was low, but the quality of contacts made was high, notably with WCBC Housing Support Services.

**10.4/24** AVOW had visited Coffee Companions and had been very impressed. A good exchange of information followed which provided some potential funding stream opportunities and details of useful courses.

**10.5/24** The generally overstretched state of local Social Services was such that no support was currently available to Community Agents from this resource. This would be managed case by case where needs were evident.

**10.6/24** Following a meeting with 3 Counties Connected research would be done into possibly creating a memory book about local railways. Grant funding was available.

**10.7/24** Support would be given to the church flower festival by Coffee Companions. Money had been raised, some of which would be used to create a floral display for use as a raffle prize.

**10.8/24** The Agent's laptop had broken down and would now be replaced using the new Agent grant once received. It was important to keep all Agent related files on a dedicated device.

The chair once again thanked Susanne for her sterling work in the community, and she left the meeting.

**11/24 Correspondence – summary of items received; the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications**

**11.1/24** The Clerk had circulated details of correspondence received in the month and drew attention to two items.

**11.2/24** A gov.wales web domain had been acquired and it was proposed to migrate Minera CC's website to this domain, a process which would include issuing dedicated email addresses to Councillors and thereby lessening the reach of Freedom of Information requests into personal email addresses. The Chair asked the Clerk to complete the process with the unanimous approval of all present.

**11.3/24** A request to provide the Senedd's Minister for Transport with signposting to web-based resources set up to gather public feedback relating to the review of the 20mph national speed limit was reviewed. Following a short discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to ensure that, before enacting the consent of Minera CC to the request, there was no restriction to be considered relating to the regulations surrounding political activities during a general election campaign.

**12/24 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received.**

**12.1/24** Donation requests had been received from Ronald MacDonald House Charities (RHMC) and Wrexham Litter Pickers.

**12.2/24** The Clerk advised the meeting that two requests had been made to RHMC to confirm that there was a potential local benefit from a donation to the charity, but no reply had been received and therefore he did not recommend that Councillors should consider the request at the present time.

**12.3/24** Following a brief discussion in which Cllr B Heard provided clarifying details relating to the service provided to the Minera communities, The Chair proposed and Cllr W Ollerhead seconded that a donation of £100 be made in favour of Wrexham Litter Pickers from the Civic Budget.

**12.4/24** The Chair noted that he was aware that a number of the litter bins in the community were in need of repair and potential replacement, and he asked the Clerk to review the condition of these assets as he went round the Minera ward in the coming weeks.

### **13.24 Financial matters – to approve the month’s financial statement and schedule of proposed payments**

**13.1/24** 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 Wellens and seconded by Cllr W Ollerhead and the schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr D Gidlow and seconded by Cllr B Heard.

S Allcroft, Agent salary for May	815.39
D Hinchliffe, Clerk salary for June	544.59
D Hinchliffe, Clerk HWA for June	20.00
EE, mobile phone bill for May	13.20
SSE, electricity bill for May	380.00
HSBC, bank charges for May	5.00
Groundwork, room hire charges for May	120.00
Netwise, domain name and setup costs for mineracc.gov.wales address	132.00
SLCC, renewal of membership	140.00
<b>Total to approve</b>	<b>2,170.18</b>

### **14/24 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer**

**14.1/24** Papers had been received relating to planning application P/2024/1066, application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use or operation (trailer service or repair) 54 Minera Hall Road, Minera.

**14.2/24** Following a brief discussion no objections or observations were noted in respect of this application.

Meeting adjourned 2040 hrs.