

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2024

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs, D Kelly (Chair), K Coventry (Vice-chair) T Grundy, A Roberts, G Dillon, D Gidlow, J Belton, J Wellens

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllr W Ollerhead

One resident was in attendance.

175/23 Declarations of interest

175.1/23 There were no declarations of interest.

176/23 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

176.1/23 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2024 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr K Coventry and seconded by Cllr D Gidlow.

177/23 Co-option – update on the process to fill 3 vacancies for Community Councillors

The resident in attendance was asked by the Clerk to leave the meeting for a short time.

177.1/23 The Clerk confirmed that one expression of interest had been received, and the interested individual had been interviewed earlier in the evening by a delegation of Councillors.

177.2/23 The Chair invited those Councillors who had met the candidate to express their views as to the suitability of the candidate, and all were in favour of recommending co-option.

177.3/23 The Chair put the matter to the vote, and Councillors unanimously voted to co-opt Mrs Brenda Heard as a Community Councillor.

177.4/23 The Clerk asked Mrs Heard to rejoin the meeting, communicated the outcome of the vote, and welcomed her back to the meeting. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Cllr Heard and ratified by the countersignature of the Clerk. The Chair welcomed Cllr Heard as a member of Minera CC and wished her many years of happy and rewarding service, a view endorsed by all present.

177.5/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that he would now publish a new Notice of Co-option for the remaining two vacancies. This had been held back until completion of the first co-option so as not to confuse the process to date.

178/23 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

178.1/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that repairs to the bench in Bryn Madoc Road had been completed.

178.2/23 The Clerk had not yet had a response regarding the missing footpath sign near the Lead Mines. This would be followed up once more with the help of Cllr T Grundy who offered to provide a photograph of the sign and location.

178.3/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that it was still planned to add white lines would to the Gwynfryn football pitch once WCBC had provided the first cut of the grass. A date for this cut had still not been advised.

178.4/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that research into the possibility of registering the land comprising 'The Nurse' in the centre of Minera in the name of Minera CC had begun and would continue.

178.5/23 The Clerk had still had no response to objections and observations raised concerning the change of use of Pen y Palmant farm. A follow-up communication would follow if no response was received by the end of May.

178.6/23 The Clerk had contacted WCBC with respect to potholes on the road into New Brighton and had thanked WCBC for prompt action to resolve the problem within 48 hours.

178.7/23 The Clerk had liaised with the Community Agent with respect to DBS checks for individuals from the Coffee Companions group who might become involved in support activities with Minera School. The cost of the checks was not onerous, and existing grant funding held could be applied within the terms of the grant award.

178.8/23 In spite of assurances to the contrary, heating was still an issue at the Lead Mines for the Coffee Companions meetings, so the Clerk would engage in further dialogue with Groundwork North Wales.

178.9/23 The Clerk had provided a letter of authority to the Clerk of Penycae CC in order for research to be undertaken into the feasibility of combining the purchasing power of lighting consortium member Councils for a better energy price.

178.10/23 The Clerk confirmed that, in line with the authority granted to him at the previous meeting, he had satisfied himself that the renewal terms of the insurance policy offered by Zurich were in accordance with Minera CC's needs, and the invoice had been paid. Insurance cover to 31 May 2025 was therefore now in place.

178.11/23 The Clerk confirmed that the contract for the work to restore the bus shelter memorial had been awarded to the preferred bidder at the quoted price. Work would commence in the near future and the Clerk would monitor progress closely through to completion.

178.12/23 The Clerk had registered Minera CC's opposition to the siting of a locking gate on the access path to the football field in response to planning application P/2024/0187. To date no response had been received.

179/23 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

179.1/23 The Clerk had circulated a summary of incidents which had been provided by North Wales Police relating to April, and a further summary relating specifically to recent antisocial behaviour and disturbances at Minera Hall.

179.2/23 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that, following receipt of an inspection report by WCBC which deemed the building 'secure,' he was in dialogue with the officer responsible for the assessment with a view to changing this opinion in the light of recent events. Any amendments to the opinion would be shared with the Clerk.

179.3/23 Following a short discussion, The Chair asked the Clerk to contact North Wales Police to seek details of what formal proceedings had been initiated against individuals detained on the site by police officers during recent disturbances, and to establish whether recent events would now result in the placing by North Wales Police of a Community Protection Order against the landlord.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

180/23 Community Agent's report – summary of activities

180.1/23 Workflow had been steady but positive throughout the month. A highlight had been the raising of a total of £750 for Help for Louis via the quiz night at the Tyn y Capel.

180.2/23 Liaison with Minera Scholl was providing positive outcomes. The school had been chosen as one of two in the County Borough to participate in an intergenerational falls prevention project, and opportunities had been lined up for volunteers to assist with reading support.

180.3/23 The Operation Cinnamon event for older residents jointly organised with North Wales Police and Brymbo/Bwlchgwyn CC would take place on 23 May. Cllr J Wellens advised Susanne that he could assist with transport for anyone who might wish to attend and who might need a lift to or from the venue.

180.4/23 After some bedding in the new monitoring process was now in place and operating. It was more time-consuming, but it was accepted that some of the pressure for paperwork originated beyond WCBC and that this was part of the funding agreement. Familiarity with the new routines would hopefully streamline them in due time.

180.5/23 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.

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

181/23 Footpath issues – report on activities

181.1/23 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that issues surrounding a footpath re-routing case in Pentre were now resolved.

181.2/23 The arisings from Ash Dieback works had now been tidied up in Maesyffynnon Road. NWWT continued with its project work to re-balance the ground cover to improve biodiversity, and repairs to the bench at the foot of Maesyffynnon Road (not a Minera CC asset) had been completed, presumably also by NWWT.

181.3/23 Following reports from a resident of a footpath blocked by a tree advice as to the location on the definitive map had been provided. No further response from the resident had yet been received.

182/23 Minera Community Council Chair’s report – summary of activities

182.1/23 The Chair had nothing to report that would not be covered by the business of the meeting, other than that he would be meeting with the proprietor of the former Jordan’s Commercials site to ascertain whether the Five Crosses noticeboard might need to be re-sited in due time.

183/23 Borough Councillor’s report – summary of activities

183.1/23 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that three off-plot parking interventions had been completed in the ward in the past month.

183.2/23 Cllr Wellens was also monitoring developments with respect to proposed changes to 20mph speed limits in the ward following Welsh Government commitments to review the status of the new national speed limit. No details of public participation procedures were yet available, but they would be shared once forthcoming.

183.3/23 Match funding for the development plans for the Clywedog Valley Trail had now been found and the project was about to commence. There was an interesting and gently hopeful opportunity within the overall package of project initiatives to provide some level of community transport. This would be pursued closely as the project moved forward.

184/23 School Governor’s report – summary of activities

184.1/23 In Cllr W Ollerhead’s absence the Clerk gave a brief recital of current activities at the school of interest to Minera CC.

184.2/23 Estyn inspectors had returned but as yet had not produced an updated report. A full Governors’ meeting with the Head Teacher would be held to review the report once available. This would also be summarised for Councillors.

185/23 Correspondence – summary of items received; the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications

185.1/23 The Clerk had circulated details of correspondence received in the month and drew attention to three items.

185.2/23 A resident had requested larger signs in Minera play area to try and discourage smoking and the presence of dogs within the fenced enclosure, both of which were prohibited by a small sign at the back of the area. The Clerk had made enquiries of WCBC, who had offered to erect such a sign, but not provide it. The Chair asked the Clerk to obtain an outline quotation for a sign for review and a decision at a future meeting.

185.3/23 A resident of Nantlais had enjoined the Clerk and Borough Councillor in a complaint to WCBC concerning the non-maintenance of a grass verge. The Clerk had signposted the resident to the WCBC officer responsible to pursue resolution.

185.4/23 The Clerk had received the previous day from WCBC the contract for the Community Agent service for 2024/25. Unfortunately, there were numerous corrections and clarifications required before the document could be put to the Chair to sign on behalf of Minera CC, and no funding could be released prior to this signature being applied. At the Clerk's request Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr K Coventry seconded that the Clerk obtain the Chair's signature on the contract prior to the next Council meeting if the document was returned by WCBC in a condition fit to receive it, so as to shorten as much as possible the delay in receiving funding.

186/23 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received.

186.1/23 Donation requests had been received from Wrexham Sounds, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod (LIME) and the Wrexham Miners' Project.

186.2/23 Following a brief discussion Cllr G Dillon proposed and Cllr J Wellens seconded a donation of £100 to Wrexham Sounds, Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr J Wellens seconded a donation of £200 to LIME and Cllr A Roberts proposed and Cllr J Belton seconded a donation of £100 to the Wrexham Miners' Project.

187.23 Financial matters – to approve the month's financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

187.1/23 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 G Dillon and seconded by Cllr D Gidlow and the schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr J Wellens and seconded by Cllr K Coventry.

S Allcroft, Agent salary for April	839.73
D Hinchliffe, overtime and expenses for April	172.38
D Hinchliffe, Clerk salary for May	544.59
D Hinchliffe, Clerk HWA for May	20.00
EE, mobile phone bill for April	13.37
SSE, electricity bill for April	380.00
HSBC, bank charges for April	5.00
HMRC PAYE and NHI quarter to 31/3	70.11
Consumables for Tyn y Capel defibrillator cabinet	4.34
Tech Heroes laptop repair	45.00
Tech Heroes further laptop repair	45.00
Groundwork, April invoice (not yet received)	120.00
JDH, Internal Audit Fee	363.60
Total to approve	2,623.12

187.2/23 Cllr A Roberts noted the sums currently held in reserve and enquired whether it had ever been the practice of Minera CC to seek residents' input as to how such balances should be applied. The Chair confirmed that such a process had been applied in the past, resulting in the creation of the MUGA. The Clerk undertook to examine the reserve balances in due course and provide Councillors with guidance as to the sums which could be reasonably made available for a similar exercise.

187.3/23 The Clerk advised the meeting that the Internal Auditor had completed her work and certified the Annual Return for the year to 31 March 2024. Two audit findings had been submitted, which had been shared with Councillors ahead of the meeting along with the Annual Return. The Clerk had responded to the audit findings, expressing the view that one finding could be disregarded as it had overlooked a minute which authorised the expenditure in question, and that the other was covered by an existing clause in the published Financial Regulations. The Clerk therefore signed the Annual Return and placed it before the meeting to receive the Chair's signature, which was duly applied with the consent of all Councillors present.

188/23 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

188.1/23 Papers had been received relating to planning application P/2024/0271, works to trees at Pen y Nant, Church Road, Minera. No observations or objections were recorded with respect to this application.

188.2/23 An email received from a resident in Gwynfryn expressing difficulties with the planning process surrounding an intended development. The Chair confirmed that the resident had approached him directly and been signposted to an experienced former planning officer and that no further intervention at this stage was appropriate. The Clerk had similarly signposted the resident and would write to him to confirm the position.

Meeting adjourned 2055 hrs.