

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

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

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllr J Wellens

15/24 Declarations of interest

15.1/24 There were no declarations of interest.

16/24 Co-option – update on the process to fill 2 vacancies for Community Councillors

16.1/24 The Clerk advised the meeting that the interested party who had responded to the latest co-option notice had now been interviewed by a delegation of Councillors.

16.2/24 The candidacy of the interested party was briefly discussed, following which Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr G Dillon seconded that Mrs Lisa Brook be co-opted as a Community Councillor for the Minera Ward. All present were in agreement with the proposal.

16.3/24 Mrs Brook, who was present in the building, was invited into the meeting to be advised of the decision to co-opt her to Minera Community Council, and she duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was ratified by the endorsing signature of the Clerk. The Chair then welcomed her to the meeting and wished her many years of mutually rewarding service.

16.4/24 The Clerk advised the meeting that there remained one open position for a Community Councillor within the Minera Ward, and that he would include consideration of a renewed co-option exercise on the agenda for the next Council meeting on 28 August.

17/24 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

17.1/24 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2024 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr D Gidlow.

18/24 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

18.1/24 The Clerk advised the meeting that, following dialogue with Coedpoeth United, he had contacted their current white lining contractor to request that they mark out the Gwynfryn football pitch. A response was awaited.

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18.2/24 The Clerk advised the meeting that he had made a request of the local SLCC branch for any local Clerk who had experience of registering title to a small parcel of community land to advise how this was accomplished as guidance on gov.uk was not very helpful. On receipt of feedback he would pursue registration of 'The Nurse' in the name of Minera CC.

18.3/24 The Clerk had still had no response to objections and observations raised concerning the change of use of Pen y Palmant farm. A full set of documents relating to the proposed development had been obtained and shared with the Chair following concerns expressed by a resident as to potential access and egress on Pen y Palmant Road. The documents had shown that the entrance in question would be for pedestrian and cycle use only, these details having been advised back to the resident.

18.4/24 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.

18.5/24 The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that the enlarged prohibition sign to discourage dogs, smoking and vaping within the enclosed play areas in Minera playground was now in place.

18.6/24 The Clerk confirmed that the funding for the Community Agent service for 2024/25 had now been received.

18.7/24 The Clerk confirmed that he had been assured by North Wales Police that car parking near Minera School at the beginning and end of the school day was being monitored, although no specific commitment could be given as to frequency.

18.8/24 The Clerk had reported the overgrown bridleway by Minera Hall to the Rights of Way team, but it was understood to be still outstanding for attention. The Clerk would therefore follow up the request for a maintenance cut.

18.9/24 The Clerk confirmed that he had discussed the possibility of a donation from the Civic Budget towards the cost of the recent Flower Festival with the Church Wardens. A response was now awaited.

18.10/24 The Clerk advised the meeting that the long-standing issue of abandoned unroadworthy and untaxed vehicles in New Brighton had been resolved in the previous few days. Cllr J Wellens had engaged WCBC in efforts to enforce removal, but in the event, removal had been effected by private initiatives from within the local community.

18.11/24 The Clerk confirmed that the Community Agent now had a replacement laptop and that no sensitive data would now be stored on any personal device.

18.12/24 The Clerk had initiated the process of migrating the Minera CC website to the new gov.wales domain. New email addresses would be provided to all Councillors shortly as part of the process.

18.13/24 Following confirmation that no pre-election rules would be compromised by doing so, the Clerk had published links to the Minister for Transport's consultation into potential changes to the national speed limit layout on the website and the Facebook page.

18.14/24 The Clerk confirmed that two litter bins, in Wern and Nant Lais, had been advised to WCBC for replacement, with acknowledgement that the work would be performed and billed in due course. The Clerk was asked by the meeting to schedule a similar replacement for the bin adjacent to the entrance to Minera Hall.

19/24 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

19.1/24 The Clerk had circulated a summary of incidents which had been provided by North Wales Police relating to June. This was the longest list for a single month for several years. In addition, the Clerk had been in frequent dialogue with the PCSOs and local residents in the previous fortnight regarding misbehaviour and vandalism involving axes in New Brighton and the Lead Mines Country Park, which had resulted in direct police intervention.

19.2/24 Cllr W Ollerhead commented that the police's impact in New Brighton had been disappointingly low-level and non-interventionist, including allowing a misused axe to be retained by the owner. Cllr Ollerhead therefore asked the Clerk to contact the police to establish the justification for this approach towards abuse of an edged weapon.

19.3.24 The Clerk undertook also to advise the police of ongoing low level nuisance damage to the new fence opposite Minera School. Individual panels had been broken off the fence and variously repaired by WCBC and residents in recent weeks.

20/24 Footpath issues – report on activities

20.1/24 Cllr T Grundy noted that Footpath Minera 6 (The Cinder Path) was becoming overgrown with adjacent vegetation again. The Clerk undertook to advise the Rights of Way team of the issue before it became hazardous to users.

20.2/24 As the Footpath Committee had effectively become a committee of one following the loss of Cllr Nigel Jones, the Chair asked Councillors to consider whether they might wish to assist by supporting Cllr Grundy on this committee.

21/24 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities

21.1/24 In Cllr J Wellens' absence this item was deferred.

22/24 School Governor's report – summary of activities

22.1/24 Cllr W Ollerhead had circulated his report, and drew attention to a number of points.

22.1/24 A Post Inspection Action Plan which addressed all of the issues arising from the Estyn report had been drawn up and was being continuously addressed. Improvements

were evident in all areas, and the imminent arrival of a new teacher was being looked forward to.

22.2/24 Governor meetings continued to be frequent, and were now all being scrutinised by GwE, which created some additional pressure on participants. Attendance statistics was one particular area of attention, leading to efforts to understand why certain absences occurred. It was frustrating that Welsh Government would make no allowance for the impact of Covid on any statistical data.

22.3/24 Pupil numbers were expected to fall from 100 to 85 at the beginning of the next school year. This was principally a fact of local demographics, but lower numbers would lead to lower funding with all aspects of school funding remaining very challenging.

22.4/24 All year 6 pupils leaving in 2024 had places at St Joseph's, and as the end of the school year approached it was fair to say that, in spite of many challenges, the school was a happy environment.

22.5/24 The Chair asked the Clerk to minute the great appreciation of Minera CC for the very hard work of all the staff and Governors at Minera School, together with thanks for a very positive report.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

23/24 Community Agent's report – summary of activities

23.1/24 The service had had a productive and busy month, with several indications of the Community Agent service taking up some slack from overstretched Social Service provision.

23.2/24 The intergenerational falls project with Minera School would be initiated at the beginning of the new school year in September. Volunteer reading assistance from Coffee Companions would also be brought into the school from this point.

23.3/24 Three Counties Connect had agreed to fund the creation of a memory book into local railways, and this would now be organised through Coffee Companions.

23.4/24 A dementia refresher course would be required in the near future to maintain accreditation as a Dementia Champion.

23.5/24 A day trip to Llandudno, jointly organised with Rhos's Community Agent, was provisionally scheduled for the third week in August. Attempts to engage Coedpoeth's agent in the event had not been successful, although the former Coedpoeth Agent had lists of contacts of potentially interested parties to fill the coach.

23.6/24 Funding was being sought to support ongoing activities in the future, with funding for craft-related activities the easiest to source.

23.7/24 The Chair had had contact with an organisation specialising in domestic green energy solutions, and he would pass the details to Susanne for consideration.

The Chair once again thanked Susanne for her work in the community and she then left the meeting.

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

24.1/24 The Clerk had circulated details of correspondence received in the month and drew attention to a number of items.

24.2/24 A quarterly review meeting with WCBC Youth Service had been attended by the Clerk, at which the latest statistics had been reviewed. A report received in the month had related only to the quarter ended in March, but the subsequent quarter was much more encouraging, with average weekly attendance up from 5 to 19, with a better mix than previously of boys and girls. The principal catalyst was a visit to present the service at Minera School, which included lowering the participation age to 10.

24.3/24 A request had been received by a parliamentary lobbyist seeking to tighten regulations on the disposal of lithium batteries and thereby reduce incidences of domestic and commercial fire incidents. The lobbyist needed no more than an expression of support, and following a brief discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to advise the lobbyist that Minera CC would endorse the campaign.

24.4/24 Groundwork North Wales had requested permission to make a short presentation at a future Council meeting about the Clywedog Valley Trail project. The Clerk had provisionally allocated 15 minutes at the 16 October meeting, which was agreed by all present.

24.5/24 The Clerk advised the meeting the chosen contractor for the work to improve the Minera bus shelter had indicated a start date no later than 2 September. Weeks of inclement weather had unfortunately caused a backlog of work. All work would be completed promptly once initiated and would in no way threaten the Remembrance Day commemorations.

25/24 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received.

25.1/24 A single donation request had been received from Cerebral Palsy Cymru. After a brief discussion it was decided not to support this charity at the present time.

25.2/24 Cllr G Dillon advised the meeting that she had been approached by some children in Minera Play Area who asked if an all-weather table tennis table could be installed. The Clerk undertook to research costs and availability and advise Councillors of options.

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

26.1/24 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 Belton and seconded by Cllr K Coventry and the schedule of payments, shown below, was proposed for approval by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr D Gidlow together with additional late payment requests from D Fidler for bench and noticeboard repairs (£332.00) and One Voice Wales for induction training provided to Cllr B Heard (£40.00).

S Allcroft, Agent salary for June	997.94
D Hinchliffe, Clerk salary for July	544.59
D Hinchliffe, Clerk HWA for June	20.00
EE, mobile phone bill for June	28.74
SSE, electricity bill for June	400.00
HSBC, bank charges for June	5.00
Groundwork, room hire charges for June	120.00
WCBC, half yearly youth service costs	3,333.08
D Hinchliffe, tax refundable	2.80
Netwise, gov.wales and domain renewal	134.68
WCBC, half yearly play area inspection fee	747.00
Total to approve	6,333.83

27/24 Planning matters – to consider items received from Chief Planning Officer

27.1/24 Papers had been received relating to the creation of a new and the erasure of an old public path (Bersham 26 by Willowbank Road, Five Crosses).

27.2/24 Following a brief discussion no objections or observations were noted in respect of this application.

Meeting adjourned 2055 hrs.