

Minera Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2022

Commencing at 7.15 pm at the Tyn y Capel, Minera

Present: Cllrs H Field (Chair), D Kelly (Vice-chair), A Roberts, W Brown, J Wellens, N Jones, W Ollerhead, J Belton, T Grundy

Clerk: Mr D Hinchliffe

Apologies: Cllrs G Dillon, D Gidlow

One member of the public was in attendance.

76/22 Declarations of interest

76/22.1 Cllr N Jones declared an interest in a proposed payment to his daughter for her service as celebrant at the Remembrance service on 12 November.

77/22 Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting

77.1/22 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr A Roberts.

78/22 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with in the agenda

78.1/22 The Chair had reviewed the minutes and believed no open issues would fail to be considered within the agenda. This view was agreed by all present.

79/22 Police report – to receive an update from the local policing team

79.1/22 The Clerk had received a report of incidents and other salient information covering police activity in the Minera ward from the outgoing PCSO, and had circulated it for review. It was the view of the meeting that the report was a useful summary, and the Chair asked the Clerk to thank the new PCSO for the report, and for attendance at the Remembrance service.

79.2/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that he had met the new PCSO, who had informed him that there were currently some issues with police issue mobile phones, which caused calls to be dropped or fail to connect. This issue was being urgently addressed.

80/22 Footpath issues – report on activities

80.1/22 Cllr N Jones advised the meeting that an outbreak of vandalism towards marker posts and signs had been evident in the past month Details had been passed to the Clerk, who had in turn alerted WCBC. The Chair asked the Clerk to share the details also with the PCSO.

80.2/22 Cllr T Grundy advised the meeting that the indexation of activities completed by the Footpath Committee against the path maps and records received from the late Cllr John Edwards' records was now complete and would be maintained in real time henceforth.

81/22 Minera Community Council Chair's report – summary of activities

81.1/22 The Chair gave a brief recital of her main activities in the month.

81.2/22 The efforts of Cllr J Wellens to initiate action to repair potholes in Bryn Hyfryd had been followed by strong expression of thanks from residents.

81.3/22 The promised return of computers to Coedpoeth library had not yet happened. Cllr J Wellens undertook to chase up the relevant officer within WCBC.

81.4/22 Visits had been made periodically to the playground build in Gwynfryn and the youth club. The former was progressing and would need some respite from the weather to reach a finished position. The latter had not run in the current week due to staffing shortages. The Clerk confirmed to Councillors that no payment for the service had yet been made, and evaluation of participation and frequency of the service would be part of the mid-contract review at the end of January.

82/22 Borough Councillor's report – summary of activities

82.1/22 Cllr J Wellens advised the meeting that he had not as yet pursued the matter of beneficial ownership of the football field, but would return to this topic shortly.

82.2/22 The Clywedog Valley Partnership had reached the next stage of its lottery application and was now seeking volunteers to help tidy Minera Country Park. The Clerk noted that future meetings of the partnership would move from Thursdays due to diary clashes with several representatives, including the Clerk and Cllr Wellens.

82.3/22 Rectification of the broken fence was still outstanding, and had been escalated within Housing for resolution.

82.4/22 The vacancy for a School Governor was still unfilled, but progress towards filling it was hoped for in the coming weeks via a meeting with the Head Teacher.

83.5/22 A cost of living event in Brynteg had yielded a number of useful contacts and resources. These would be passed to the Clerk for dissemination.

83.6/22 A residents' surgery had received a low attendance, but had also yielded some important feedback and had raised some important topics, so had been very worthwhile.

83.7/22 Work with the new Streetscene co-ordinator had yielded some immediate improvements to long-standing issues, as well as realistic assessments of what could be done with available resources. Both inputs were appreciated.

83.8/22 Good initial work had been done to explore the setting up of a Minera-based newsletter. The consent of the meeting was sought to move to the next stage, namely production of a dummy issue, which consent the meeting duly provided.

83.9/22 Cllr D Kelly commented that any perception of ownership of the ensuing newsletter by Minera CC should be carefully judged in the light of any editorial stamp. Cllr J Wellens confirmed that this had and would be properly considered before any document was publicly available.

84/22 School Governor's report – summary of activities

84.1/22 Cllr W Ollerhead advised the meeting that no Governors' meeting had been held in the previous month, and as such there was nothing to report.

85/22 Correspondence – summary of items received: the Clerk will highlight any issues requiring attention and provide any clarifications

85.1/22 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the month's correspondence ahead of the meeting. Cllr N Jones enquired as to the nature of the free high resolution Ordnance Survey mapping tool sourced via the Parish Online website. The Clerk confirmed that this was a digital tool provided free of charge which may have some use to Minera CC to highlight resources and features within the Minera ward on the website. As yet the tool had been downloaded, but not tested, and the Clerk would advise a future meeting of its potential usefulness.

86/22 Grants and donations – to consider requests for financial support received

86.1/22 The Clerk advised the meeting that the only request received since the previous month related to the 2023 Urdd Eisteddfod in Llandoverly. Following a short discussion Cllr J Belton proposed and Cllr W Ollerhead seconded a donation of £100 be made in favour of the event.

87/22 Financial matters – to approve the month's financial statement and schedule of proposed payments

87.1/22 The Clerk briefly explained the financial activities for the period, and the details of payments proposed to be made.

87.2/22 The financial statement for the period was proposed for acceptance by Cllr N Jones and seconded by Cllr D Kelly. The schedule of payments, shown below, together with: 1) a commitment to reimburse the costs of Elin Jones for acting as celebrant at the Remembrance service; 2) a payment of £50 to the Royal British Legion for providing a banner party at the Remembrance service and 3) a payment of £300 to Del Fidler for construction of a new memorial bench and repairs to an existing bench, was proposed for approval by Cllr W Ollerhead and seconded by Cllr J Wellens.

Salvation Army for bugler at Remembrance event	50.00
D Hinchliffe - Clerk salary, November	438.78
D Hinchliffe - Clerk HWA, November	20.00
HSBC, charges for October	5.40
SSE - electricity charges for October	336.07
D Hinchliffe - Clerk's expenses for October	13.00
Mega - invoice for light repairs	268.04
D Hinchliffe - backpay following national pay settlement	312.44
OVW - training costs: H Field	35.00
Groundwork NW - room hire for Coffee Companions	20.00
S Allcroft - Agent salary for October	1,147.22
HMRC - Tax and NHI on Agent's salary	200.41
Netwise - domain registration renewal	84.00
Tyn y Capel - tea and coffee after Remembrance event	35.00

87.3/22 The Clerk had circulated a first draft budget to all Councillors, which was now tabled for discussion. Initial estimates had unsurprisingly suggested that the precept for the coming year was likely to increase. External drivers of employment costs and purchased services were the main causes of potential increase.

87.4/22 Following detailed review, the Clerk undertook to provide a second draft budget for further review at the Projects Meeting scheduled for 1 December, noting that the next likely full meeting of Minera CC would be on 18 January, around the time that WCBC would require a precept request to be submitted.

87.5/22 Cllr D Kelly asked the Clerk to ascertain prior to the next review of the budget whether any redundancy cost would attach to Minera CC in the event of discontinuance of the school crossing patrol.

87.6/22 Cllr J Wellens asked the Clerk to ensure that any increase was itemised for public consumption when budgets were finalised and communicated appropriately. The Chair confirmed that this would be done via publication of budgets, accounts and the Annual Report through all established channels.

87.7.22 Cllr J Belton advised the meeting that he would produce a report summarising issues discussed at the recent Streetlight Consortium meeting, so that any relevant concerns could be reviewed alongside the draft budget on 1 December.

Susanne Allcroft now joined the meeting.

88/22 Community Agent's report – summary of activities

88.1/22 Coffee Companions was now established at the Lead Mines, and grant funding had secured the cost of the facility for 60 weeks hence. Other grants were in the process of finalisation and application, covering art classes and community inclusion, and Cllr J Wellens offered to refer a grant specialist known to him to Susanne to assist with any issues in this regard.

88.2/22 The initial community response to the energy crisis had been encouraging, but the coming months would still be a challenge for many residents.

88.3/22 In response to a specific enquiry by the Chair, Susanne advised the meeting that the current referral rate was around 8-10 per month for conventional issues, but this number was small at the side of smaller requests for support and one-off help, which could be very time-consuming.

88.4/22 In response to a question from the Clerk, Susanne confirmed that a RITA device for use in dementia support could be procured for a discounted price of £700, and could be used to benefit numerous individuals. Cllr W Ollerhead confirmed that a grant of £450 for digital support to the Community Agent that he had leveraged from his employer could be put towards this device, and that he would make enquiries as to whether a further £250 of support could be obtained to secure the acquisition.

The Chair reiterated the Council's thanks for Susanne's continuing service to the Minera communities, and Susanne then left the meeting.

89/22 Planning matters – to consider items received from the Chief Planning Officer

89.1/22 A response had been received from WCBC answering issues and concerns raised at the previous Council meeting relating to application number P/2022/0763, confirming that a fence was considered to be within consent, and that all other issues raised were not planning matters.

89.2/22 Cllr J Wellens confirmed that this application and the property in general had featured in his recent residents' surgery. He had taken a number of points away from the surgery relating to current conditions in New Brighton and consequential issues arising from them, which he would pursue in his capacity as Borough Councillor.

89.3/22 Papers had been received in support of planning application P/2022/0883, single storey side extension and conversion of outbuilding to ancillary residential – Lynnwood, Maesyffynnon Road, Minera. Following a brief discussion the Chair asked the Clerk to write to WCBC seeking assurance that no new build was involved, that an adjacent footpath and access to it would not be compromised during or after the build, and that permitted footprint extension of the existing residential element of the property would not be exceeded.

Meeting adjourned 2055 hrs.