

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, CILCAIN ON 15 JANUARY 2018

Present: **Chairperson:** Cllr W Owen Thomas
 Councillors: Janet Butlin J Emyr Davies
 Gwen Hardman Gareth W Hughes
 Cllr Ian Hughes Cllr Jean Ramsey
 Ian Smith John Worthington
 The Clerk was also in attendance

1. **CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed all, in both English and Welsh, to the January (Ionawr) 2018 Council Meeting. Cilcain resident Mrs Sue Jones attended the Council Meeting. Mr Ian Williams from Flintshire Streetscene had submitted his apologies for not being able to attend. Mr Williams had submitted notes to the Clerk to detail any updates on the various highway items included in the Minutes.

2. **APOLOGIES** - Cllr Ann Baker

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no Declaration of Interest.

4. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the 18 December 2017 Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Cilcain were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as being correct.

5. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2017/2018 TERM (RHYDYMWYN WARD)**

Following the recent passing away of the Council's Vice Chairman, Members considered the election of a new Vice Chairperson for the remainder of the 2017/2018 term.

It was proposed by Cllr Gareth W Hughes, seconded by Cllr J Emyr Davies and resolved unanimously that Cllr Jean Ramsay be elected Vice Chairperson.

The new Vice Chairperson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. **MATTERS ARISING** - from the 18 December Council Meeting.

p77 **Llys Alyn play area** Members noted in the October Council Meeting that there were two aspects to the play area issue:

- (a) The boundary fence. Mr Williams reported that Mr Alan Roberts was checking out the land ownership position on this play area, to establish if Flintshire is responsible for the boundary fence.
- (b) The rotting timber posts used for youngsters to climb on. This was now an issue for Mr Richard Roberts to deal with.

Clerk reported having spoken to Mr A Roberts. Flintshire likely to undertake repair works in March / April 2018.

- p77 **White lining** - Cllr W Owen Thomas reported notices having been posted on several of the telegraph posts in Hendre. Members assumed the notices were in connection with Traffic and Road Safety Scheme being implemented by Flintshire.
- p77 **Hendre culvert** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that the material cleared from the culvert had been stored in a heap in the adjoining Coed y Felin nature parking area. Clerk to pursue with Mr Ian Williams.
- p78 **Street lighting repairs, Rhydymwyn / Hendre** - Cllr Gareth Hughes reported that the two lamps (No 11 and No 20) are still not working.
- p78 **Coping Stone, Church Meadow** - Mr Ian Williams reported - work ongoing.
- **Pothole repairs, generally** - Members referred to numerous potholes which had been reported recently, but there had been very little progress made on repairs in the last two months. Members stressed that the Council was very appreciative of the work being done by Mr Ian Williams. The Community Council is aware of the financial constraints imposed on Flintshire's road maintenance budget. However, Members felt the County Council needs to look at the existing arrangements whereby the so called temporary pothole repairs appear to be failing within a matter of weeks of the repairs being undertaken.
- When the potholes are left unattended for several weeks, water and the frost penetrates into the adjoining surfacing material, leading to rapid deterioration in the road condition of many lengths of road in the Council's area.
- Clerk to write to Mr Steve Jones at Flintshire County Council to express the Community Council's concern.
- p78 **Depression in carriageway outside No 1 Church Meadow** - Mr Williams reported in the December Council meeting that BT had been doing broadband work on Church Meadow. Cllr Gareth W Hughes maintained the depression he had been referring to was in a separate area.
- p78 **Longitudinal crack in carriageway, Coed Du Hall entrance** - Work ongoing.
- p78 **Rose Lane, Cilcain, deteriorating road surface** - Mr Williams reported having inspected the roads in the whole of the Cilcain Ward today, following the recent snow and salting treatments. A number of new potholes have appeared. A schedule of the most critical potholes had been prepared.
- p78 **Tardd y Dwr, Star Crossing Road** - Cllr J Emyr Davies reported pothole not repaired.
- p78 **Seepage across road - caravan park side of Coed Du Hall junction** - Mr Ian Williams has arranged to have a site meeting with Mr Phil Foster from Flintshire's Environmental Health Section.
- p78 **Nant Alyn** - highway water discharging into Cae'r Eithin - Works ticket raised. The provision of a length of 'dropped kerb' envisaged to positively direct the highway runoff past the property entrance. Another option would be a tarmac hump. Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Mr Ian Williams to make a joint inspection.
- p78 **Potholes at Loggerheads Road, Cilcain** - Some work done. More work required between Brithdir Mawr Lane and the County boundary.

- p78 **The Pistyll** - Survey results awaited.
- p78 **Overhanging trees Ffordd y Llan** - Work ongoing.
- p78 **Village walkabout meeting held at Cilcain, 14 July 2017** - The following items were raised:
- (i) Problem surface water drain at side of Chapel - TV survey required. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported in a previous Council meeting - a lot of silt in the inspection chamber at the lower corner of the school yard. Members note the drain is very shallow so has very little cover to protect the pipe. The TV survey would identify any defects in the pipe prior to refurbishment work starting.
 - (ii) Tree affecting boundary wall by the cemetery - Access through Waen Field difficult in the Winter. Members agreed for work to be now re-scheduled to the Spring of 2018.
- p78 **Refuse collection vehicle** - Mr R Broughton to be invited to attend a future Council Meeting. Cllr Ian Smith had enquired if the plastic bags issued by Flintshire for the battery disposal were going to be replaced by Flintshire. It would appear that residents are to supply their own bags for further battery disposal. The Chairman reported that Flintshire would shortly be deciding whether or not a charge was going to be made this year for the first brown bin.
- p78 **Proposed new dog bin for Hendre** - Location agreed at a recent site meeting. Bin available in stock. Bin installation to take place.
- p79 **Road from Cilcain Church to the Waterworks** - Further work required.
- p79 **Bryn Gollen, Rhydymwyn, split channel at entrance to estate** - Work ticket raised.
- p79 **Rhydymwyn, Leete Avenue** - Site meeting with Flintshire's Survey team to be arranged.
- p79 **Overgrowing hedges, Pedair y Groesffordd and Bryn Celyn area** - Mr Ian Williams to assess the position and see if more cutting back needs to be done in other nearby locations.
- p79 **Plas Newydd, Cilcain**, drainage work and potholes - Mr Williams had arranged for a JCB to carry out a day's work to deal with the drainage problem. Pothole repair can now take place.
- p79 **Upper Cilan Lodge Road, BT cable in highway verge**. Mr Ian Williams had attended a site meeting with Mr B Weston. Flintshire will be arranging for the verge to be cleared so that BT can have access to its cable.
- p79 **Nant Alyn Road, Caravan park up to Cae'r Eithin** - Carriageway edge breaking up. Item discussed earlier.
- p79 **Church Meadow, Rhydymwyn** - repair to road surfacing. Mr Ian Williams reported that patching work had taken place at Church Meadow last week. Repairs had also been carried out on the A541, near the junction with Dolfechlas Road.
- p79 **Ffordd y Llan, between the Shop and the Square** - Mr Williams now confirms that the 'statutory hedge cutting Notice' had been sent for the offending growth overhanging into the road.
- p79 **Pantymwyn Road, near the Square** - Mr Williams now confirms that the 'statutory hedge cutting Notice' had been sent for the evergreen hedge protruding into the road.

- p79 **A541 Hendre bends, memorial flowers** - Clerk reported on his recent discussion with Mr Derrick Charlton. Flintshire will not now be adopting the Welsh Assembly guidelines on Memorial Flowers. Adopting the guidelines in adjoining Authorities has not been found to be particularly effective in dealing with the associated memorials. Flintshire will therefore be proceeding by dealing with each situation on its merit.
- p79 **Encroachment of green verges, Pantymwyn Road, Cilcain** - Landowners to check their deeds to seek ownership clarification.
- p79 **Road past Plas Newydd, Cilcain** - Item discussed earlier.
- p79 **Proposal of a bus shelter in Llys Alyn** - Item included in the Jan 2018 precept recommendation.
- p80 **Footway between Hendre and Rhydymwyn** - Mr Ian Williams reported that a works ticket had been issued for the small item of outstanding work.
- p80 **Rhydymwyn to Rhosesmor Junction** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported debris on footway following recent work by Utility Company.
- p80 **Lon Cilan, Cilcain, hedge cutting** - Mr Ian Williams reported that Mr D Charlton would be writing to Mr Millington to explain the County Council's position. Clerk to request a copy of the Flintshire response letter.
- p80 **Mountain Road, Cilcain** - Catchpit beneath centre of carriageway to be jetted out.
- p80 **Trial Hill, Cilcain needs brushing** - Mr Williams reported that Flintshire's mechanical brush would not be available for this work. Mr Williams to arrange for hand blowers to carry out the work. Cllr Ian Hughes reported that the metal railing has still not been repaired.
- p80 **Cefn Road, by Pandy Cottage** - Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin had reported in the November 2016 Council Meeting a leaning tree near Pandy Cottage. Mr Williams had inspected and agreed the tree would be dealt with by Flintshire. .
- p80 **Nant Alyn Road, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin reported salt heaps now in place.
- p80 **Coed Du Farm, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported the absence of salt heaps this year near the Coed Du Farm Junction.
- p80 **Brithdir Mawr Lane, Cilcain, salt heaps** - Mr Ian Williams reported he had made a request for salt heaps to be replenished in Brithdir Mawr Lane. Cllr John Worthington confirmed that the salt heaps had not been replenished this year.
- p80 **Ty Gwyn, Cilcain** - Mr Ian reported having replenished the salt heaps by Ty Gwyn before Xmas. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported the salt heaps are now in need of replenishment again
- p80 **Pantymwyn road, Cilcain** - Cllr Mrs Gwen Hardman had reported in the November Council Meeting - the uneven surfacing near 'The Close'. Mr Williams had inspected. Mr Williams agreed some patching work was required at this location.

- p80 **Dolfechlas Road visibility at Church Lane junction** - Cllr Jean Ramsay had reported in the November Council Meeting - vegetation overhanging stone wall on Hendre side of the junction impairing visibility for vehicles exiting Church Road. Mr Williams to pursue.
- p80 **Llys Alyn Estate, Rhydymwyn** - Two potholes near the cross roads on the Estate. Mr Williams reported the repair had been undertaken last week. Item can now be deleted.
- p81 **New dog control orders** - Provision and installation of larger signs to be considered further. Cllr Hughes to discuss the position with the Rhydymwyn Football Club.
- p81 **Blue bins need collecting after the Bonfires** - Blue bins had still not been collected by Flintshire. Mr Ian Williams to re-submit the request for the bins to be collected.
- p81 **Winnwood Gulley, Dolfechlas Road** - sunken framework / blocked gulley. Members noted that the outfall drain connection for this gulley has been found to be a problem in the past. Mr Ian Williams reported a works ticket had been raised for repairs.
- p81 **Statimeter Junction** - Welsh Water's rocking triangular cover still not been seen to. Mr Ian Williams reported a reminder was being sent to Welsh Water.
- p81 **Ffordd y Berth, Cilcain** - Gulleys blocked solid. Mr Williams reported that the new gulleys at the bottom of Berth Road, are included on the current gulley-cleaning schedule.
- p81 **Brithdir Mawr Lane** - Friday 2.00 pm site meeting to be arranged in due course. Cllr John Worthington reported on the proposal by Denbighshire to erecting a Moel Famau direction sign on their side of the County Boundary. If the Denbighshire proposal is effective, a sign on the Flintshire side of the boundary may not be required. These issues would be discussed at the site meeting.
- p81 **Wellingtonia Tree** - Chairman reported on his discussion with Mr Stuart Body. Mr Body will inspect the tree and assess what precautions are necessary to protect the roots when access path repairs are undertaken by Flintshire's Housing Section.
- p81 **Bath House, Rhydymwyn** - Clerk to request a copy of the correspondence between the Conservation Section and Coed Du Management.
- p82 **Village Hall, Cilcain** - The Chairman reported on his recent discussion with the Council's Solicitor. The information from the Land Registry is scheduled to be available in February 2018.
- p83 **Purchase Defibrillator, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr W Owen Thomas enquired if the Rhydymwyn Group were aware of the grants given by the Welsh Hearts organisation. Cllr Jean Ramsay indicated she would check on the grants given by Welsh Hearts. Cllr Jean Ramsay reported their current proposal was to purchase through Heart Foundations. 'Heart Foundations' gives free training and supplies for a 5 yr period after purchase. VAT aspect to be clarified by Clerk's Society. In Rhydymwyn, Cllr Jean Ramsay reported that the WI has arranged for training to start on 1st Feb 2018. Cilcain and Rhydymwyn will be going for an unlocked box
- **Salt bin next to former Ysgol y Ddol school** - needs relocating. Mr Williams to discuss new location with Cllr Gareth W Hughes.

-- **Plas Newydd, Cilcain** - salt bin dragged out onto the road and has been tipped on its side. Clerk to pursue with Mr Ian Williams.

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7. **PLANNING MATTERS**

(1) **Community Council observations requested on:**

Location: Site adjacent to Bryn Rhodyn, Cefn Road, Cilcain
Proposal : Proposed development of 9 No holiday dwellings
Ref No: 056448

The Community Council **strongly objects** to the application for the following reasons:

- (i) A new development on this site constitutes sporadic development in the countryside.
- (ii) Additional development at this location will worsen the foul drainage problems in the area. Any overflows from septic tanks finds its way into the River Alyn. In the summer months, the River Alyn is completely dry for several months, thus no dilution of the polluted seepage takes place, leading to river bed pollution.
- (iii) Since the location of the proposed holiday type facilities is in close proximity to a quarry and a building products yard (Trimm Rock and Lloyds respectively) the site location is unsuitable for a holiday type facility.
- (iv) The road from the applications site down to Rhydymwyn is unsuitable to accommodate additional traffic that would be generated by the development. The lane is very narrow, has minimum visibility and inadequate passing places. Whilst the road from Star Crossing on the A541 to this site is quite adequate, vehicles following Sat nav instruction invariably take the shortest route. Vehicles approaching the site along the A541 from the Mold direction are directed by the sat nav instructions up Nant Alyn Road. Clerk to enclose two photographs with the Council's observations:
 - Photo (A) - shows the narrow one track road towards Rhydymwyn, showing poor visibility and inadequate passing places.
 - Photo (B) - shows what can happen when drivers not familiar with the local road network ignore the recommended road towards Star Crossing and follow the sat nav instructions by using Nant Alyn Road instead.

(2) **Planning decisions made by Flintshire County Council:**

- (a) Location: Glan yr Afon, Denbigh Road, Hendre
Proposal: Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission ref:054678
Ref No: 057816
Decision: Approved
- b) Location: Ty Newydd, Lon Cilan, Cilcain
Proposal: Prune 1No. Beech and 1No. Sycamore
Ref No: 057798
Decision: Approved

8. **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS** Position noted on the following:

- 1) 30/11 Section 137 Discretionary Expenditure Limit - Information from Welsh Assembly regarding the Limit of Total Annual Donations for Community Councils.
- 2) 19/12 Defibrillator - donation for Rhydymwyn and Hendre Group - thank you note for recent donation.
- 3) 01/01 Wellingtonia Tree, Rhydymwyn - copy of reminder letter sent to Flintshire's Tree Officer.
- 4) 02/01 New Women's Institute plaque outside Cilcain Village Hall - concern from local resident regarding the lack of the Welsh language on the recently erected W I centenary plaque. A copy of this email has been forwarded to Cilcain WI. Cllr Gwen Hardman maintained the Welsh Language Act was directed at public bodies, whereas the WI was a charity.
- 5) 08/01 Dolfechlas Road - report of litter left behind following paper refuse vehicle collection. Concern to be forwarded to Mr Ian Williams.
- 6) 10/01 Bath House, Coed Du Hall, Rhydymwyn - copy of reminder sent to Flintshire Conservation Section. Clerk to pursue.
- 7) 11/01 Visit by the independent Members of the Standards Committee - Information from Flintshire Chief Legal Services Officer. Copies of the Standing Orders to be made available at the February Council Meeting.
- 8) 11.01 New Business Rate - Information from Flintshire regarding the New business rate. Payment approved.
- 9) 12/01 Open Garden NGS in Cilcain - request to use Waen Field for parking on 7 July. Members maintained the main function of the field was its use as a playing field for village youngsters. Parking in Waen Field would have Health and Safety implications. Approval not given.
- 10) 12/01 North Wales Police - Monthly crime report from Laura Williams.

9. MATTERS RAISED SINCE THE LAST MEETING –

- (i) **Street Lamp, Dolfechlas Road** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported (11 Jan) that the lamp by the entrance gate to the Donkey field has now been repaired.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) **Cilcain Shop** - Cllr Gwen Hardman reported that the villagers had been recently notified of the impending closure of the village shop. Members discussed the various options suggested at the Council Meeting. Members felt the Community Council would be in a position to support an initiative to assist the continuation of the shop service in the Village. Cllr Gwen Hardman indicated a working group of individuals from the Village would need to look into the details for each of the options discussed.
- (ii) **Various items, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes raised the following items.
 - (a) Style by gas plant to be included on future Council Agendas / Minutes.
 - (b) Painted tarmac area in Donkey Field - permission given for Cllr Hughes to pressure spray the existing road pattern, to assess whether or not the pattern can be rejuvenated by cleaning.
 - (c) Provision of seat to commemorate former Cllr John Douglas. Various locations discussed. Cllr Gareth Hughes to obtain the views of Mrs P Douglas on the options considered by Members.

11. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - Accounts scheduled in the Appendix were approved.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting of the Council will be held at the Village Hall Cilcain at 7.30pm on 19 February 2018.