

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON LINE ON 19 APRIL 2021.

Present: Chairperson: Cllr Ian Hughes

Councillors: Ann Baker Emyr Davies
Pauline Douglas Greg Foster
Gwen Hardman Gareth W Hughes
Jean Ramsay Ian Smith
Owen Thomas John Worthington
The Clerk was also in attendance

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members to the Council Meeting. Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Ebrill.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Janet Butlin,

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were no Declaration of Interests.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING Cllr John Worthington proposed acceptance, Cllr Gwen Hardman seconded and all Members agreed to approve the Minutes of the 15 March 2021 Council Meeting. The Chairman signed the 15 March 2021 Council Minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING

p13 **Foul Smell, Dolfechlas Road** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes maintained the Council should be obtaining an update from Welsh Water. Clerk to contact Welsh Water to request an update following the data logger results being completed. Cllr Ian Smith had kept a record of odours in the vicinity of the problem.

p14 **A541 Hendre** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr W Owen Thomas referred to the poor condition of the roadside fence between Tarmac and Hendre. Clerk referred to the occasion, some ten years ago, when the Council was concerned about the roadside fence between Rhydymwyn and the Rhosesmor junction. It was established at the time that the landowner was not legally responsible for maintaining his boundary fence. The County had to repair / replace the fence on that occasion because of the potential danger to pedestrians using the roadside path. Members concluded the item should be referred to Mr Hickie to include the item on his Action List.

p14 **Village Hall Lease** - Members expressed concern regarding the escalating fee cost for the new lease. Cllr Gwen Hardman explained the Council's Solicitor had been requested to revise the lease to include the four of the nine points requested by the Hall Ctee. Members felt strongly that the Council should not agree to any more changes. A vote was taken on this position. Unanimous agreement was reached via a show of hands.

- **Bowling Club, Cilcain** - Cllr Gwen Hardman explained that the previous lease had expired. Theoretically, the Council was now therefore responsible for the building. Following authorisation from the Chair and Vice Chair, the Clerk had arranged to obtain insurance cover for the fabric of the building.
- p14 **Coed Du Hall** - Foul smell from highway gulley. Members enquired who was dealing with the foul smell. The Clerk reminded Members that Mr Hickie had indicated in the March 2021 Council Meeting that he would be pursuing the matter with Coed Du Staff.
- p17 **Council cheques** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes enquired if progress was being made with the on-line banking arrangement. Clerk indicated that the signed March Minutes would be sent to the Bank following the Minutes being signed. The Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations may need altering. Clerk to pursue.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

(i) **Planning Applications received from Flintshire County Council:**

- (a) Proposal: Erection of car port and gym with office over.
Location: Plas Ucha, Cilcain
Ref No: 061841

Members were requested to note the item of correspondence from Cllr Ian Smith. Cllr Smith had compared the current application with the previous application. Copy of Community Council's previous submission dated 6 Nov 2020 was also attached to the correspondence item.

Resolved: The Community Council **strongly objects** to the development because:

- (i) The proposal can be easily converted to a separate dwelling in due course, or can be easily converted to extend the existing dwelling even further, by the construction of a glass connecting corridor between the existing dwelling and the proposed car port.
- (ii) The dwelling has already had substantial additions in the past. Planning guidelines allow for a 50% addition to an existing dwelling. The extension of this particular dwelling is nearer 250% than 50%.
- (iii) This development is regarded as over development of the site and therefore contravenes Flintshire's planning guidelines.

If the Planning Authority is minded to give planning permission for this proposal, the Community Council requests a condition be included in any permission to ensure that conversion to a separate dwelling does not occur in the future. Also, a condition should be added to ensure the connection of the car port to the existing dwelling does not eventually take place.

- (b) Proposal: Fell 2 No conifers and prune 3 No trees
The Close, Pantymwyn Road, Cilcain.
Ref: 062701
Resolved: No objection.

- (ii) **Planning Decisions made by Flintshire County Council** - None received

7. **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

Paper copies of the correspondence were distributed to Members.

1. (12/03) - **Rhydymwyn Public Cemetery** - Water main easement - Enquiry sent to Welsh Water to establish the easement that Welsh Water will require. Members noted that the Vice Chair and the Clerk had met two representatives of Welsh Water in August 2018 to establish the location of the water main located on the cemetery side of the boundary hedge. Clerk to send reminder on a monthly basis.
2. (26/03)- **A 541 Rhydymwyn - Pedestrian crossing scheme** - reminder sent to Flintshire County Council's Traffic Section requesting an update position on the proposed crossing. Copy had also been sent to the Deputy Leader of Flintshire County Council, and the Leader of Flintshire Council. Mr L Shone had given the Clerk a verbal position statement prior to the Council Meeting. The Clerk reported he had written to the Assembly Member to express concern that it was extremely difficult to obtain response to our request for an update.
3. (26/03) - **Mill Terrace, Hendre** - culvert renewal scheme - reminder sent to Flintshire's Flood and Risk Management Section requesting an update on the proposed scheme. A copy of the request was sent to the Leader and Deputy Leader of Flintshire County Council. An update statement had been received prior to the Council Meeting. See item 21 in the correspondence below.
4. (26/03) -**River Alyn, Rhydymwyn** - Obstruction at entrance of Rhydymwyn overflow culvert. Reminder sent to NRW's maintenance engineer. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that the obstruction at the culvert entrance has now been removed. See item 17 below.
5. (26/03) - **Fly tipping A541** - between y Dderwen and Star Crossing - report received from a Rhydymwyn resident, via Cllr Gareth W Hughes, regarding eight plastic bags of rubbish having been tipped on private land alongside the A541. Item passed to Mr N Hickie. There was a need for Neil to inform the Community Council if Flintshire has not got the power to deal with fly tipping on private land.
6. (27/03) - **River Alyn** - need for an additional river gauge at Loggerheads to give advance warning of rising river levels at Rhydymwyn? - Items of correspondence received by Cllr John Worthington. Request for information passed on to National Resources Wales. Cllr Worthington reported at the Council Meeting that the four reservoirs up Garth Lane, Cilcain are no longer being used by Welsh Water. Not using the water for water supply may put more pressure on the River Alyn during times of storm. The Clerk enquired if the reservoirs had been abandoned in the full position, in which case they would not act as regulating reservoirs. Cllr Worthington presumed the reservoirs had been left in the full condition. Cllr Worthington added that there used to be a river gauge by Llanferres, but that the Llanferres gauge was not now being used. Cllr Owen Thomas maintained a preferable location for a river level gauge would be at the bottom of Trial Hill. The Trial Hill location would be down river of all the swallow holes. Cllr Worthington referred to a suggestion by Chris Webs - if an additional swallow hole was opened in the bed of the river, the Milwr tunnel could accept approximately 10% of the flood water at peak storm conditions. Clerk to pursue.

7. (27/03) - **Mill Terrace, Hendre** - Copy of the Mill Terrace culvert correspondence forwarded to the Assembly Member to request Hannah Blyddyn's assistance in obtaining an update on the drainage scheme. Cllr Gareth W Hughes indicated that the Council had now received an update position from Flintshire's Mr Ruairi Barry.
8. (28/03) - **Pedestrian Crossing proposal, Rhydymwyn** - Copy of the Rhydymwyn pedestrian crossing correspondence forwarded to the Assembly Member to request her assistance in obtaining an update on the pedestrian crossing proposal. Cllr Gareth W Hughes indicated that the Council had now received an update position from the AM and Flintshire's Mr Steve Jones.
- 9.(verb) - (30/03) - **Coed Du Junction - Longitudinal crack** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes had reported that work had commenced on reconstruction of the carriageway affected by the longitudinal crack. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported at the Council meeting that the work had now been completed. A good job had been done.
10. (05/04) - **River Alyn, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes had reported that the tide flap immediately upriver of the DEFRA bridge was still obstructed by vegetation. Reminder sent to Flintshire Streetscene. This item needs to be added to Neil's action list
11. (05/04) - **North Wales Police** - Email from Cllr Ian Smith expressing concern regarding the current difficulties of reporting crime incidents to North Wales Police. Cllr W Owen Thomas maintained it was wrong for the Police precept to be increasing this year and we were getting less from the Police than we did last year. The Clerk reported that he had left a message on Connor Freel's mailbox expressing the Council's concern regarding the lack of contact. The Council to consider writing to the New Police Commissioner following the May elections. Cllr Ian Smith elaborated on the lack of interest shown by Connor Freel when Cllr Smith had provided details regarding the trespass which had taken place in Rhydymwyn recently. There had also been clear contravention of the Covid 19 regulations in the trespass incident.
- 12.(verb) (06/04) - **Coed Du junction** - Cllr Gareth Hughes reported repairing the longitudinal crack work completed by Flintshire Streetscene.
13. (06/04) - **Pothole funding** - additional £500,000 recently given to Flintshire for pothole repairs - item noted by Cllr Gareth W Hughes. Members to reconsider the position when Mr Hickie is at the next Council Meeting.
14. (06/04) - **Former Trimm Rock quarry** - Report (via Cllr Gareth W Hughes) from a Rhydymwyn resident regarding trespassers. Cllr Pauline Douglas has subsequently spoken to Mr G Taylor, Coed Du Nursing Home regarding the issue. Mr Taylor's contact details forwarded to Flintshire's Minerals Section.
15. (07/04) - **Dolfechlas Rd, Rhydymwyn** - email from Rhydymwyn resident to express concern regarding vehicles parked in Dolfechlas Road affecting the visibility of youngsters exiting the yellow pedestrian gate from the play area onto Dolfechlas Road. The views of Flintshire Leisure has been requested. A priority scheme would cost approximately £10,000 depending on services and power supply. Leisure's match funding grant cannot be spent on works outside the play area. The Community Council has no powers to incur expenditure on highway works. The viability of a Flintshire funded scheme would depend on how well such a scheme meets

various highway safety criteria, compared to other similar proposals being considered in Flintshire. Clerk to arrange a site meeting.

16. (07/04) - **Plas Ucha, Cilcain**, planning application - Comparison information from Cllr I Smith and a copy of the Council's previous observation submitted to Flintshire. Item dealt with earlier.
- 17.(verb) (09/04) - **Defra site, Rhydymwyn** - 5 pipe overflow emergency culvert under Pantymwyn Rd. Cllr Gareth Hughes reported the obstruction had been cleared from the culvert entrance by Welsh Water.
18. (10/04) - **Hendre Notice Board** - Confirmation received from the Council Chairman that the Hendre Notice board had been erected by Cllr Gareth W Hughes and himself. Members thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for fixing the Notice Board on to the posts provided by Flintshire.
19. (16/04) - **Burials for under 18** - Invitation to apply for grant for under 18 burials. Flintshire informed of the Community Council's position. Members may wish to note that future burials for under 18 will also be given a direct payment of £500 from the Welsh Assembly to assist with the burial. The under 18 burial information will need to be added to the Council's website when the detailed position becomes available. Members agreed to wait until Flintshire's website is changed before posting the information on the Community Council's website.
20. **Streetscene Action Plan - dated 16 March 2021** - Mr Neil Hickie had been unable to join the Council Meeting on this occasion.

The following observations were made to Neil's Action List:

- No 2 - Tre Lan - culvert jetted and TV surveyed - part of culvert pipe missing - plastic liner to inside of pipe being considered - also reconstruct / repair to concrete apron at outlet
- No 3 - Nant Alyn carriageway crack - work completed - good job done.
- No 5 - Loose BT cover, Cilcain - work done.
- No 6 - Dead badger - two locations Cefn Rd and near Fron Farm - carcass removed.
- No 7 - Former School Rhydymwyn - fly tipping - Cllr Hughes to check - item to stay on action list.
- No 8 - Dog fouling stickers - Chair to stick more posters up.
- No 9 - Loggerhead Road - potholes - road getting to be an absolute disgrace - sunken gully near Maes Alyn is a serious road safety issue.
- No 13 - Post erected by Flintshire - Chair and Vice Chair erected the Notice Board. Cllr Ramsay expressed her thanks.
- No 15 Lloyds Spar sweeping - item to stay on the list until work by the Quarry is undertaken.
- No 19 Defra Bridge - even though item passed on to Mr Lightfoot - request Neil for item to stay on Action List until work is completed.
- No 20 Trimm Rock to Cefn Lane - Should be described as Bryn Sholyn to the Caravan Site - pot holes and edge of road eroding badly.

Additional Items to be added to the Action List:

- (a) A 541 - Rhydymwyn to Tarmac footway sweeping required.
- (b) A 541 - Rhydymwyn bus shelter to the Antelope - footway sweeping.

21. (16/04) - **Mill Terrace, Hendre** - Position statement regarding the Mill Terrace drainage scheme. Item discussed earlier. Clerk to write again to Ruairi Barry in a few months.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS -

1. **Cilan Lodge Road, Cilcain** - Replace seat at the bottom of Cilan Lodge Road. Cllr Thomas had spoken to a Contractor that was in a position to construct a concrete base for the new seat, and then fix the seat. The Clerk referred to the seat at the Donkey Field being fixed by Flintshire. The Council should therefore request Flintshire in the first instance, since Flintshire was in a better position to check for services, in case the Community Council's contractor hit a service cable. Members agreed.

2. **Cilcain Play Area** - Cllr W Owen Thomas had been approached with an enquiry regarding the play area. Essentially, a gate was proposed to allow access from the rear of the Public House into the play area. Members discussed the pros and cons of the proposal. Members felt that various conditions would have to apply:

- a) The gate would have to be approved by Flintshire and be lockable by Flintshire.
- b) Grown ups wandering into the play area with drinks would have to be prohibited.
- d) Proposal would have to be for a probationary trial period, say for two to four years.
- e) Safety aspects of the difference in level between the two sides of the boundary would have to be considered.

In conclusion, Cllr Greg Foster suggested the applicant should put his proposal forward in writing, giving as much detail as possible. Members agreed with this suggestion. A meeting could then take place on site to look at the proposal.

3. **Donkey Field Play Area** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes expressed concern regarding the safety surface lifting in parts. Clerk to pursue.

4. **Donkey Field, Willow Tree** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes had received concern regarding the need to trim the tree. Clerk to pursue with Mr Neil Hickie.

5. **Is y Mynydd, Cilcain** - Cllr Gwen Hardman reported a Is y Mynydd resident having problems contacting the correct person in Flintshire to discuss her concerns about the tree. Cllr W Owen Thomas indicated that the tree had been looked at recently by Mr Dewi Ellis. Clerk to establish from Dewi, who in Property Services recently requested him to inspect the tree.

9. **PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS** - The accounts scheduled in the Appendix were approved for payment.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held on-line at 7.30pm on Monday 17 May 2021.

Signed Chairman Date: Clerk