

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT THE FOOTBALL CLUB BUILDING, RHYDYMWYN ON 20 JUNE 2022.**

Present: Chairperson: Cllr Gwenda Hardman

Councillors: J Emyr Davies Pauline Douglas  
Gareth Hughes Michael Parr  
Jean Ramsay John Worthington  
The Clerk was in attendance  
Mr Neil Hickie from Flintshire Streetscene joined the first part of the meeting.

**1. CHAIPRESON'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the June Council Meeting. Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Mehefin. The Chair also welcomed seven members of the public to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Ian Hughes**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None received.**

**4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - Cllr Gareth W Hughes proposed acceptance, Cllr Jean Ramsay seconded and all Members agreed to approve the Minutes of 16 May 2022 meeting. The Chairperson signed the Minutes.**

Changes / comments:

- (i) Cllr Gareth W Hughes referred to the reference on page 3 of the Tarmac Liaison Meetings. There were currently two Community Council representatives on the Liaison Meetings.
- (ii) Cllr Michael Parr noted that he had not seen any reference in the Minutes to his request that all Council documents sent to himself should be sent electronically.

**5. FILLING OF VACANCIES ON THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BY CO-OPTION**

The Chair explained that the co-option process would abide by the Guidelines given for Town and Community Council on co-options. The Chair indicated that there were nine applications originally, but one applicant had withdrawn. We now had four applicants for three vacant seats at Rhydymwyn and four expressions of interest for one seat in Cilcain. The Chair felt that all the expressions of interest had been very impressive. Council Members had been provided with the applications prior to the Council Meeting.

Ballot papers were distributed and the Chair and Clerk counted the votes.

The Chair announced that Malcolm Down, John Doyle, and Karen Parker had been elected for the three vacant seats in the Rhydymwyn Ward.

The three applicants from Rhydymwyn who were at the meeting, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the Council meeting.

The Chair declared that Christine Vaughan had been duly co-opted for the Cilcain Ward.

## **6.0 MATTERS ARISING (NON HIGHWAY MATTERS)**

### **p3 Cilcain Village Hall Management Committee (1)**

Nomination to be left until there is a full complement of Ward Members in attendance at the Council Meeting .

### **p4 Rhydymwyn Football Club Management Committee -**

Clerk to write to the Football Club Chairman to advise the Club of the contacts for the two Cilcain CC representatives.

**p4 Rhydymwyn Flood Sub-Committee -** The Clerk reported that he had recently been informed by NRW that a revised Flood Plan was about to be issued. The Clerk would now need to notify the NRW regarding the changes in Council Members so that the contact lists can be modified accordingly.

**p5 Mill Terrace, Hendre traffic issues -** Cllr Jean Ramsay enquired if there had been any progress with the speed issue at Hendre. The Clerk reported having passed the previous correspondence on to Cllr Andrew Parkhurst. Cllr Parkhurst reported having spoken to Mr Anthony Stamford. Mr Stamford had explained that Mr Lee Shone was still dealing with traffic safety issues. Mr Shone was going to report back to Cllr Parkhurst giving an update on the proposal whereby a speed camera would be used for a month in four or five locations in Flintshire and then return in six months' time for another month's session.

**p6 Trimm Rock former quarry -** The Clerk reported that a reminder had been sent to Flintshire Minerals Section regarding the potential danger to trespassers from gaining access to the quarry pond. A response has been received from Flintshire on the 13 June to indicate that legal advice was still awaited. Hannah was going to seek legal advice to establish if someone in Flintshire was in a position to serve a public protection notice on the landowner to secure the site.

Cllr Gareth Hughes had provided a recent photograph showing a gap in the security fence, this gap being there when the Council held a site meeting with Connor Freel over twelve months ago. This latest photo will need to be forwarded to Flintshire.

Cllr Pauline Douglas maintained that the gap in the fence was not the only security breach. Cllr Douglas maintained that there were a number of places around the boundary where anyone can walk straight in with no impediment.

Hannah Parish had given the Clerk a link to enable Cilcain CC to write to the HSE to see if they could bring pressure to bear on the landowner.

Hannah Parish still had to:

- (i) Establish who the owner of the mineral rights is.
- (ii) Make contact with her opposite number in Gwynedd County Council to see how Gwynedd CC Minerals Section had dealt with the danger from the Dorothea Quarry near Caernarfon, where 12 deaths had occurred in a ten year period.

The Clerk reported having passed previous correspondence on to Cllr Andrew Parkhurst.

p7 **Wall mortar coping damage in the Cilcain car park.** Cllr Gareth W Hughes had spoken to Mr D Morris regarding obtaining a price for repairing the coping on the wall between the village car park and the Waen Field entrance. An estimate was required from Mr Morris. Cllr Hughes to pursue.

p7 **Cilcain and Rhydymwyn Play Area** - Clerk had sent Mr Richard Roberts a photograph to show what would appear to be an adequate space for some under five play units at Cilcain.

Mr Roberts was requested to provide details and cost of a couple of items for the under five age group. Mr Roberts was going to take measurements to see if items can be accommodated in the space available.

The provision of a self standing basket ball facility in Waen Field will also need to be given further consideration and a solution found to discourage youngsters from constantly kicking a football against the gable wall of the toilet block. Once the costs are available, a site meeting can be arranged.

Cllr Gwen Hardman had spoken to the Head Teacher at the school to establish if the school had any views on the type of equipment that would suit the under five age group.

The Clerk had also spoken to Mr Roberts about the match funding scheme at Rhydymwyn. The Rhydymwyn match funding proposal had been the subject of a site meeting last year with Mr Paul Jones and Mr Richard Roberts. Another meeting on site would be needed with Flintshire to establish the likely timescale for the Rhydymwyn match funding scheme.

Cllr Jean Ramsay had heard of a problem with the 'zip wire' at Rhydymwyn. Cllr Gareth Hughes and the Clerk recalled this issue being discussed previously. One has to put weight on the seat prior to the seat being moved sideways. The seat must not be dragged sideways before pushing the seat downwards. Clerk to request Mr Richard Roberts to check the position.

A Thursday meeting at 10.00 am appeared to be suitable for the time and day for a site meeting in due course.

p9 **Grass cutting in Waen Field** The Chairperson expressed concern about the recent grass cutting operations in Waen Field. Mr N Hickie had just arrived in the Meeting when the Chair started the item. Mr Neil Hickie explained that Flintshire CC had been having problems with the tractor (hired from an external Contractor) towing the grass cutting equipment. This meant that the cutting operations had recently been undertaken on a 'three to four week' cycle instead of the normal 'two to three week' cycle. Because the grass was so long by the cutting time, the triple type mower (which normally cuts the grass into much smaller pieces) could not be used effectively. Neil

indicated this tractor problem had resulted in complaints being received throughout Flintshire. Neil added that things should improve as soon as two or three cutting operations had taken place.

- p9 **Permits for trailers in Flintshire's skip sites.** Clerk had sent an early copy of the draft Minutes to Cllr Andrew Parkhurst. Cllr Parkhurst reported that he had spoken to Kate Wilby, Head of Streetscene, and also to Cllr Ian Roberts, the Leader of the Council. A review of the Skip Site policy had been made in February this year, and it was now a case of persuading Flintshire to revisit the policy to make the application less complicated. Cllr Gareth W Hughes had checked the locations in our community area where fly tipping usually occurred and there was no evidence of fly tipping this year.
- p10 **Meeting with the Shop Ctee** - Members agreed that even though Cllr Gareth Hughes was no longer the Council Chairman, he was the most appropriate person to meet the Shop Ctee. Councillor Hughes explained the current circumstances whereby he was making almost daily visits to the Hospital in Manchester. Cllr Ian Hughes had indicated his willingness to attend the meeting with Cllr Gareth Hughes. Once Ian was back from his holiday, the possibility of a meeting would be looked at again.
- p13 **Pedair y Groesffordd - Site Meeting** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes enquired if Mr Richard Jones had been asked to confirm that the design and costing was being arranged. Mr R Jones had replied in the affirmative (email dated 25 June ).

The Clerk suggested that the view from Moel Famau will need to be assessed. It would strengthen Cilcain CC's case considerably if the view is blighted by the appearance of windmills. Members were reminded of the £50,000 grant back in 2013 for the play area in Cilcain being based partly on the village view-point being affected by minerals 'blight'. Similarly, the case for a much bigger grant for the Rhydymwyn play area refurbishment was partly based on blight as a result of quarry workings being seen from a view point on the outskirts of the village.

If the view of the Irish Sea is not available, an alternative grant will need to be considered such as the Lottery Fund. Cllr J Emyr Davies recalled himself and the Clerk attending a meeting with a representative of the Lottery Fund. At that time the Lottery Fund was crying out for applications from the North East Wales area. The Clerk explained that Cilcain CC was not particularly interested in the Lottery Fund grant at the time since the 85% minerals grant and Flintshire's (£ for £) grant was freely available for the remaining 15% of the cost of the play area refurbishment schemes in Rhydymwyn and Cilcain.

The Chair concluded that funding possibilities for extending view point parking areas will need to be looked at in due course.

## **7.0 MATTERS ARISING (HIGHWAY MATTERS)**

Mr Neil Hickie was invited by the Chairperson to comment on the highway matters on the Action List.

Action for Clerk to pursue:

- (i) Arrange an annual walkabout meeting with Neil.

- (ii) Contact Lloyds Spar to check if the internal traffic sign is still in place within the quarry to advise drivers not to turn right at the quarry exit.

## 8. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

- (i) **Planning Applications received from Flintshire County Council.** One application for Hesp Alyn, Cilcain was received a few hours before the Council meeting. Clerk to Check with the Planning Officer to establish whether or not the 21 days limit can be extended until after the July Council Meeting.

Cllr Michael Parr enquired if notices are still erected regarding a planning application so that passers-by were made aware of the application. The Chair recalled the last time she had seen such a notice was when the housing development proposal was being considered for the land adjoining the village car park.

## 9. **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

Exclusion of Press and Public - In pursuant of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it may be appropriate for a number of the correspondence items below to be discussed after the press and public have been excluded.

Please Note\* - Where the correspondence items listed below are not copied to Members, they were read out, if necessary, at the Council Meeting.

Please note that the correspondence listed below may not include all the correspondence since the previous Council meeting.

- 1b)10/05\* Cilcain car park - email from Cilcain resident (PP) - signage concern. The Chair indicated that all the Cilcain car park items would be dealt with collectively later in the meeting.
- 2)10/05\* Congratulations on the Election Result. Letter of congratulations from Delyn's Member of Parliament. Position noted.
- 2b) 12/05\* Cilcain car park - email from Cilcain resident (IH) - signage concern.
- 2c) 13/05\* Cilcain car park - email from Cilcain resident (LD) - signage concern.
- 3)14/05\* Cilcain car park - email from Cilcain resident (SA) - signage support.
- 4)14/05\* Cilcain car park - email from Cilcain resident (AH) - signage concern.
- 5)16/05 Ffordd y Llan, Cilcain - email to Flintshire CC Tree Officer to express Cilcain CC's concern regarding the overhanging trees in Ffordd y Llan. Farmers carrying high loads having to use the centre of the road have to undertake sudden manoeuvres to avoid oncoming traffic. Fatalities were a distinct possibility if high loads tip over in undertaking these sudden manoeuvres. Subsequent response received to indicate that Flintshire has higher priorities elsewhere in Flintshire. This item was discussed earlier in the Meeting when Mr Hickie was present.

Cllr J Emyr Davies felt that the Community Council had done all it can to warn Flintshire of the danger. If a fatal accident occurs then the blame will be on their shoulder.

- 6) 18/05 Repair of picnic tables in Donkey Field Rhydymwyn - confirmation from Flintshire that repairs will be undertaken by Flintshire CC. Cllr Gareth Hughes reported the filler material had been used to deal with the rotten parts, presumably the repair being regarded as a temporary repair until matching timber can be procured. Clerk to check the position with Mr A Roberts.
- 7) 19/05 New LED lamps former Ysgol y Ddol link path - Request to seek confirmation from Flintshire CC that the three replacement columns erected by Flintshire in connection with the safe route to schools have been adopted by Flintshire. Confirmation has subsequently been obtained from Mr Jamie Bennett that Flintshire CC is now responsible for the three lamps.
- 8) 22/05\* Cilcain car park - email from Cilcain resident (LJ) - signage concern.
- 9) 22/05 Former Trimm Rock Quarry, Cefn Road, Cilcain. Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- 10) 23/05 Cilcain car park sign replacement - Email sent to AONB to request advice - Is there a preferred colour and style for signs in the AONB?
- 11) 23/05\* Cilcain car park - e-mail from Cilcain resident (DF) - signage concern.
- 12) 23/05 Pedair y Groesffordd, extending parking areas - Email sent to Flintshire Leisure and Tourism to request confirmation that plans and estimates will be drawn up for extending the car park. Item dealt with earlier.
- 13) 25/05 Cilcain car park in the Conservation Area. Reminder sent to Flintshire Conservation Officer to request observations on the appearance or design of signs in Conservation Areas in rural landscapes. Clerk to remind Mr C Rees-Jones in Flintshire Conservation Area Section.
- 14) 26/05 Cilcain Community Shop Meeting - Email from Cilcain Ward member expressing concern regarding the apparent delay in arranging a meeting between the Shop Chair and the Community Council. Item dealt with earlier.
- 15) 26/05\* Road Closure, Cilcain. Pump House Junction to Plas Newydd - 3 day road closure scheduled to start from 28 June 2022. Position noted.
- 16) 26/05\* Caravan A541Rhydymwyn - Update position from Flintshire Planning Enforcement section regarding the Community Council complaint submitted in October 2021. An Enforcement Warning Notice is to be served on the landowner.
- 17) 27/05\* Flintshire CC Standards Committee - Town and Community Council's Representative. Notification from Flintshire's Chief Officer (Governance) regarding a position vacancy on the Standards Committee. Nominations invited. Closing date Friday 29 July 2022. Position noted.

- 18) 29/05\* Cilcain car park - e-mail from Cilcain resident (JE) - signage concern.
- 19) 29/05\* Rhydymwyn FC building - email from FC Chair re: wi-fi password for hybrid Council Meeting. Speaker/mike system has been checked for use in the Football Club building. Cllr Gareth Hughes, Mr Ian Smith and Clerk in attendance on Tuesday 7th June. Cllr J V Worthington took the part of the person making a telephone contact with the meeting room.
- 20) 29/05\* Cilcain cemetery - Email sent to the Commonwealth War Grave Commission to approve the installation of a Gallipoli pedestal marker on a grave space in the cemetery. The Clerk reminded Council Members that the Council had decided a few months ago not to make a charge for the plaque to be installed. Members agreed not to pursue seeking a contribution from the War Graves Commission for ongoing maintenance of the grave space and plaque.
- 21) 30/05 Match funding scheme, Play areas, 2022/2023 - Flintshire CC has allocated funds for a (£ for £) match funding of improvement works to children's play areas. Issue at Cilcain discussed earlier.
- 22) 06/06 Street Lighting schedule from Scottish Power to identify the total number of St Lamps that Cilcain CC is being charged for. Schedule forwarded to Deeco to request information on the wattage and type of lamp for each street lamp the Council maintains. Clerk reported that Cilcain CC total number of lamps was well short of the total being charged for. Also there was a considerable difference in the wattage being charged for.

On the last occasion that Cilcain CC was being overcharged, Scottish Power gave the Council free power for several quarters following the point when the overcharging was discovered.

The new LED lamps that the Council owns are rated at 15 watts, whereas two of the lamps on Scottish Power's list are 200 watts per lamp.

Clerk to pursue:

- (i) Preparation of the Council's schedule with DEECO.
- (ii) Enquires with Scottish Power to establish if they have location details for the lamps on its schedule.

- 23) 07/06 Ambulance Service - email from Councillor Ian Hughes to express concern regarding the 13 hour wait from calling the ambulance and another 7 hour wait in the ambulance outside Wrexham Hospital before his elderly mother was admitted into hospital.
- Councillor Hughes has subsequently written to the Assembly Member and the Member of Parliament. This unacceptable service is not unique to this area alone. An extract from the newspaper on Saturday 11 June 2022 refers to the situation in Gwynedd and Anglesey, where all but one of the ambulances in the two Counties were parked outside the hospital for up 7 hours waiting for admittance.

County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst reported that he had brought this example to the attention of the Leader of the Council. Cllr Ian Roberts was intending to make representations to the Health Minister at the Senedd (Welsh Assembly).

24) 07/06 Cilcain Play Area - email and photo sent to Flintshire CC showing apparent sufficient room for a couple of 'under five' items. Mr Roberts will measure the width involved and inform the Council of his observations. This issue was discussed earlier.

25) 10/06 Photograph received from former Councillor Mrs Janet Butlin detailing river bed pollution in the River Alyn in March 2003. Members recalled that the incident that was reported by Cllr Gareth Hughes in early 2021 in the same location was investigated by the NRA and an analysis report was received by Cilcain CC. Members noted that in the pollution incident reported in 2021, the river bed stones were covered in a white deposit.

County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst reported that the recent pollution concern at Hendre had been inspected by NRW, and the landowner had been requested to undertake some changes to resolve the issue. Since the Fechlas brook was not classified as a 'main river' upstream of Hendre, any further pollution concern would have to be dealt with by Flintshire CC.

26) 11/06 The Antelope, Rhydymwyn - potentially dangerous roof slates. Reminder had been sent to Flintshire CC regarding the Community Council's concern regarding the danger to pedestrians using the public footway in front of the building. Cilcain CC's concerns had been reported to Flintshire CC on the 04 April 2022 and an email received on the 8 April that Building Control would make an inspection in a few days time.

Members noted from the correspondence now received that Flintshire would appear to be dealing with the total issue of the building, whereas Cilcain CC's main concern is danger to users of the public footway. Members agreed for Cilcain CC to request Flintshire to deal with loose slates as a separate danger otherwise the slate danger could take another two or more months before being dealt with. Cilcain CC needs to emphasise that school children use this path on a daily basis.

27) 12/06 Car Parking - correspondence summary. Information received from Cilcain CC Chairperson giving a resume of the issues raised in emails to the Community Council regarding parking and car park signage.

The Chair explained that a number of emails had been received by the Council for and against the car park signs. Rather than dealing with individual emails, and since a number of the issues identified in the various emails were common, for and against, the only practical way of reaching a conclusion was to assess the issues.

Clarification had been sought by the Clerk from the following:

- Flintshire CC Legal
- Flintshire CC Conservation Area
- Flintshire CC Business and Tourism
- Flintshire CC Planning
- Flintshire CC Advertisements

- Flintshire CC Streetscene (Highways)
- AONB

The only outstanding responses now were from the Conservation Section and the AONB.

The Chair maintained that until Cilcain CC has the answers to the outstanding responses, the Council has not yet got the full picture.

Cllr J Emyr Davies proposed:

**The Community Council should decide the wording on the signs in the Community Council car park in Cilcain.** The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gareth W Hughes.

Cllr Michael Parr proposed: **The community shall be given the opportunity to vote on one or an agreed number of options for the sign wording, and the Community Council will base their decision for the signs on this vote.** Cllr Parr's proposal was not seconded.

The Proposal by Cllr J Emyr Davies was put to the vote by show of hands: Nine Members were in favour of the proposal. One vote against.

Cllr J Emyr Davies maintained it was the Council's responsibility to represent the total number of electors, which is over a thousand, and not to leave the decision to part of the community.

The Chair felt that we had already received the views of residents and most views were different on both sides.

Cllr Gareth W Hughes noted that the time was 10.00 pm so the Council should consider either starting the meeting earlier or have a separate meeting about the car park signs. The Chair maintained this was always going to be a longer meeting than usual, due to the co-option process. The Council should aim to finish the meeting by 9.30 pm in future.

28) 13/06      Fechlas Brook pollution upstream of Hendre - Email from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst regarding a pollution incident in Fechlas Brook at Hendre. Item discussed earlier.

29) -- --      Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan - Action plan discussed earlier.

**10.    ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes emphasised the need to keep the item regarding the smell at Dolfechlas Road on the Agenda.

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

**12.    DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for the Rhydymwyn Football Club building, at 7.30 pm Monday 18 July 2022.

Signed .....Chairman      Date: .....      Clerk .....

**APPENDIX - MATTERS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE - PAYMENT SECTION NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL APPROVED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING -**

1.

May 2022, salary + expenses (Sal = £484.6 / month ) (and part annual expenses - for travel, office allowance, telephone etc.	625.85
HMRC - PAYE (L.G.A.1972 S112)	97.45
**G B - painting seats in Rhydymwyn + Notice Board in Hendre 8 No x £32.50 = £227.50 + Notice Board at Hendre £27.50.	255.00
Bloomin Gardens (Cilc cem central area, clippings taken away) + Rhyd cem + Dolfechlas Rd seat	221.00
Office stationery and equipment - (L.G.A.1972 S111)	168.61
Transfer from Main Account to Deposit Account	5,000.00
Speaker / microphone device to allow the Council to hold a hybrid meeting. Cllr Worthington has discussed with Nannerch's Chairman the possibility of the Community Council sharing the device with Nannerch CC.	203.14
Under 18's headstone refund to bereaved family - On 11 May 2022 Blackwell's paid Council £140.00 in error. Members may note that the Council received £1,769.75 Welsh Assembly funding for under 18's for burial and headstone fees.	140.00
New plaque for the newly replaced Is-y-Mynydd seat, Cilcain	30.00
On line fee / month for hybrid meeting. Subscription may be dropped in a few months time after experience is gained with the hybrid meeting system.	18.00
Canon UK - photo copying machine	44.08

\*\* **Staining of street furniture in Rhydymwyn**

(i) Members noted the condition of the seat in Nant Alyn. The seat was provided at no cost to the Community Council (£750 in 2011) courtesy of 'Keep Wales Tidy'. The person who has painted the seat annually is giving up after this year. Cllr Gareth Hughes was therefore authorised to make enquiries to find a replacement seat maintenance person. A photo was available at the meeting to show that the timber in the seat is still in top condition.

(ii) The new notice board in Hendre has been weather proofed this year and the Notice Board in Dolfechlas Road has had an annual coat of varnish since its installation over 20 years ago.

The Notice Board in 'The Square' in Cilcain has not been stained since it was installed. Members agreed for the Chairwoman to enquire with Mr J Bateson, who supplied and installed the Notice Board, if he is prepared to give the Cilcain Notice board a few coats of varnish.

Exactly the same colour varnish would need to be utilised. Masking of the adjoining stonewall would be needed and full consultation with the adjoining property owner would be required.

Signed .....Chairman      Date: .....      Clerk .....