

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT THE CILCAIN VILLAGE
HALL ON 18 DECEMBER 2023.**

Present: Chairperson: Cllr J V Worthington

Councillors: John Emyr Davies

Malcolm Down

Gwenda Hardman

Karen Parker

The Clerk was also in attendance

John Doyle

Tim Mitchell

Christine Vaughan

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the December Meeting. Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Rhagfyr. The Chair also welcomed one Cilcain residents (SJ) and County Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Pauline Douglas, Cllr Gareth W Hughes, Cllr Ian Hughes, Cllr Michael Parr.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None received.

4. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING (20 November 2023) - Cllr Karen Parker proposed acceptance, and Cllr J Emyr Davies seconded and all Members agreed.

5. HIGHWAY MATTERS -

The Chairman indicated that in order to make cost savings, Flintshire CC had decided that Street scene Supervisors would not be attending Community Council meetings in future.

Cllr Karen Parker felt the alternative way of reporting highway issues certainly did not work. Cllr Parker had contacted Flintshire Streetscene about an issue but no feedback regarding progress had been forthcoming.

Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Flintshire CC to express the Community Council's dissatisfaction with the retrograde step and to request reconsideration of the position. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to also write to Flintshire to reinforce the Community Council's request.

New highway related issues:

- (i) Cleaning of Cilcain car park - This work may need to be undertaken by the Community Council. If necessary, Members agreed for Mr O Roberts to be requested to undertake the work.
- (ii) Leaves down Trial Hill - Clerk to remind Neil regarding leaf clearing required at Trial Hill.
- (iii) Light out on a bend sign at Hendre. (Rhydymwyn side of Hendre).

- (iv) Has the road sweeper been in Cilcain this Autumn / Winter?
- (v) A541, Rhydymwyn - Gulleys from The Antelope towards the Rhosesmor Junction full of silt (presumably the silt is coming off the quarry wagons). The gulleys on this section of road should be cleaned out more frequently than once per year.
- (vi) Near No 10 Mill Terrace - crack in carriageway reported by Cllr Karen Parker - Neil to be reminded that the crack in the carriageway coincides with the location of a disused mineshaft shaft known to be 20m to 30m on the Rhydymwyn side of the gable end of No 10 Mill Terrace. The disused shaft is partly in the carriageway / footway / garden of No 10.
- (vii) Loggerheads Rd, Cilcain - from Brithdir Mawr Lane to the Denbighshire boundary - horrific pot holes reported by Cllr Christine Vaughan.
- (viii) Highway culvert by Trelan, Cilcain - exposure of the water main in the highway verge reported by Cllr Davies to be much worse following the recent heavy rainfall on 19/20 Oct 2023. Neil had reported to the October 2023 Council Meeting that Flintshire was hoping for extra funding from the Welsh Assembly for dealing with land drainage issues following the October floods which had occurred in Flintshire.

6. **MATTERS ARISING (NON HIGHWAY MATTERS)**

- p51 Item No 3 - National Park presentation by a Cilcain resident - Cllr Gwen Hardman wanted to comment on the 'Need for the Community Council to put forwards its views'.
The Council Minutes need to make it clear that it is not appropriate for the Community Council to put forward views at this stage.
- (a) We have not yet been requested to put forward views on the proposal as a statutory consultee .
 - (b) We are not yet in the consultation period.
 - (c) According to 'The Good Councillors Guide', the Council's role is to represent the views of members of the community.
- p52 Proposed solar panels, Village Hall roof, Cilcain - Cllr Gwen Hardman and County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst reported on the current position. Mr W Pierce and Cllr Parkhurst to pursue with Mr Mathew Parry Davies in Flintshire CC Planning Section.
- p52 Cilcain Shop - Cllr Karen Parker reported that the Council Chairman and herself had a recent meeting with the Chair and Secretary of the Hall Ctee. Most of the issues had been sorted. However just one last item remained outstanding. Another meeting, maybe in January, to be arranged between Council, Hall and Shop representatives.
- p52 Cilcain cemetery - Cllr Gwen Hardman and Cllr John Doyle reported that progress was being made with the risk assessment. Flintshire C C does not appear to have a Risk Matrix. Cllr Hardman to pursue further with Mr Richard Blake at Flintshire CC.
- p52 Rhydymwyn play area - Clerk reported having been notified by Mr Richard Roberts that an invoice would shortly be sent to the Community Council. Cllr John Doyle was satisfied that all the work had been undertaken. Cllr Gareth Hughes had also been requested to inform the Clerk if the work was to his satisfaction.

A match funding scheme for further improvement to the Cilcain play area can now be considered for the next financial year commencing in April 2024.

- p52 Former Antelope Hotel Rhydymwyn - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that there had not been any change from the position reported to the November Council Meeting. The site owner was still waiting for Flintshire Planning to assist with a pre-planning assessment involving a site visit. A soils survey had now been completed by the landowner. The soil survey had not identified any unusual issues. An asbestos survey was required.
- p53 Bier House, Cilcain - Cllr Ian Hughes to pursue in due course.
- p53 Hendre speed limit - Cllr Karen Parker reported that a number of Hendre residents are convinced that the vehicle speeds through the village are now higher than they were prior to the 20 mph limit being introduced. Cllr Parker intended emailing John Morris to enquire when it would be appropriate for village residents to commence with checking again vehicle speeds through the village.
- p53 Cilcain Cemetery, leaning headstone - Clerk reported having reminded the Memorial Mason regarding the need for an estimate.
- p53 Clerk reported that AONB were currently in discussion with Flintshire Street Lighting Section regarding suitable light intensity levels to use. The Chairman reported that a 'Dark Sky at Night' meeting is arranged for Cilcain Village Hall on the 22 Jan 2023.
- p53 Tarmac Hendre Quarry - Cllr Karen Parker reported having recently contacted the quarry management regarding a blasting complaint made by a local resident. Cllr Parker was anticipating a meeting in January for a discussion to take place regarding the drainage issue which had occurred in October 2023.
- p53 Speed limit issues Cilcain - Cllr Parkhurst confirmed - meeting arranged for January 2023.
- p53 Covid Snake - An approximate estimate would be required for the budget setting Council Meeting scheduled for January 2024. Cllr Doyle to arrange.
- p54 River Alyn, Rhydymwyn - Clerk to prepare Minutes for the Flood Group meeting that had taken place in the DEFRA Visitor Centre in November 2023.

Cllr Tim Mitchell reported that the big tree stump that was in the middle of the river bed 200 m up river of the caravan site has now been removed most of the tree and flood debris had been removed.

Cllr Doyle and Cllr Mitchell reported a tree across the river (approx 100 m down river of Coed Du Junction). The tree was not regarded as being an issue at present. A photo of a branch catcher recently provided by the NRW at Llanfair TH had been attached to the correspondence pack.

A suitable location for a branch catcher would need to be at a location where access to the river is fairly close to the road, to allow easy access for mechanical equipment to be used for clearing the debris caught by the branch catcher.

Members who had attended the Flood Group meeting in November 2023 maintained that NRW need also to be reminded about the need for a camera installation up river of the 5 culvert system, with a telemetry connection to NRW local office. Cllr Tim Mitchell had looked at the option of introducing a fairly low cost solution to make it easier and safer for the grille to be kept clear. Cllr Mitchell to prepare a sketch in due course so that the Council can pursue the idea with NRW at a future site meeting.

- p54 Rhydymwyn Bonfire, 4 November 2023 - Clerk to check with the bonfire Committee to establish whether or not there is a risk assessment in place for the event. Cllr Gwen Hardman suggested the Cilcain YFC also need to confirm that a risk assessment is in place.
- p54 Roadside verge fenced off, Rhydymwyn - Clerk and Cllr Gwen Hardman to make the necessary enquiries with the Land Registry.
- p54 Salt bin request - Clerk reported that the issue had now been dealt with.
- p54 Hendre drainage scheme - Cllr Karen Parker reported that:
- (i) The ecological survey had now been completed
 - (ii) The repair to the access road at the rear of Mill Terrace had not taken place. One of the residents had requested Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to make enquiries with Flintshire CC. Cllr Parkhurst had received a response from Flintshire CC. Flintshire responded to confirm that the road was unadopted so Flintshire CC could not be involved in the repair.
 - (iii) Enquiries to be made with Tarmac in January to check again if any light could be shed on the land ownership position for the rear access road.
 - (iv) The property worst affected by flooding in Hendre was Felin Newydd. Waterco had undertaken a study to establish what measures were available to deal with the flooding at the property.
 - (v) Gwenno Talfryn (NRW) and Paul Reeves (Flintshire CC) and Cllr Parker had discussed the Hendre issues in an on-line meeting. A modified version of the Rhydymwyn flood plan will be considered for use for Hendre residents.
 - (vi) Since Tarmac quarry was affected by heavy rainfall issues, the possibility of the Quarry funding a 'river level' or 'rainfall' gauge is to be discussed at the next quarry liaison meeting. The possibility of Tarmac sharing the information with NRW could then be explored. Such information could be fed into NRW's warning system for the Hendre area.
 - (vii) Gwenno Talfryn (NRW) to identify the risk areas in Hendre so that the information can be included in a Flood Plan for Hendre.
 - (viii) Information to be supplied by NRW regarding a regular 'network meetings' for flood wardens. This information, when received, can be shared with the Rhydymwyn Flood Wardens. Network meetings (led by NRW) will allow for Flood Wardens to have discussions regarding any problems they have with the NRW's warning system.

- (ix) The main river classification status of Fechlas Brook - Cllr Parker had expressed concern to NRW that on the Rhydymwyn side of the entrance to Coed y Felin Nature Reserve, the brook was classed as a 'main river', but up river of Coed y Felin entrance the brook was classed as a 'watercourse' as opposed to a 'main river'. Cllr Parker had requested Gwenno Talfryn (NRW) to consider extending the main river status of the brook from Coed y Felin entrance to a point well above Hendre.

p56 Dolfechlas Rd, Rhydymwyn, litter bin - Cllr Tim Mitchell reported that a new bin had now been installed.

p56 Star Crossing vehicle activated sign (VAS) - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst had written again to Flintshire CC. The electrical problem with the sign has now been referred to the manufacturer of the sign.

p56 32 Maes Cilan, Cilcain - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that there had been lights in the dwelling in the evenings. Cllr Christine Vaughan expressed concern regarding the house having been left to deteriorate for an awful long time. Now that grant approval for renovation had been given, Cllr Parkhurst was requested to find out from Flintshire CC Housing Section how long it will now be before the dwelling can be re-let.

p59 Tree in catch-pit down river of DEFRA bridge - reported by Cllr Tim Mitchell - Clerk to pursue.

Flooding by the Caravan Park at Nant Alyn - Cllr John Doyle enquired what had been decided regarding the footbridge. Clerk to make enquiries with John Hill and Neil Hickie at Flintshire CC.

p60 Speed issues on village approaches - Cllr Karen Parker wanted to be involved in the meeting being arranged by Cllr Parkhurst on 26 Jan (10.00 am start at Rhydymwyn Service Station). Cllr Parker was concerned about the speed limit on the approach to Hendre making a sudden change from 60 mph to 20 mph. Such sudden change in vehicle speed could create a safety issue under wet / icy conditions.

p60 Former Railway Line (Mold - Denbigh) - Clerk to inform the Clerk of Ysceifiog CC that the Council Chairman and Cllr Tim Mitchell would be participating in the working group meeting. Cllr Worthington reported having been informed by a Cilcain resident (OT) that Flintshire CC had already conducted a feasibility study into using the former railway line for a pedestrian / cycle way. The study conducted by Flintshire could contain some useful information regarding land ownership etc. The Chair suggested it might be appropriate for Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to check what information Flintshire CC has already gathered / acquired on this topic.

Cllr Parkhurst was aware of a cycle way from Mold to Denbigh being included in Flintshire CC's 'Active Travel' plans / proposals. Cllr Parkhurst reported that he had already made enquiries with Flintshire CC to enquire how much work has been done on the Active Travel study.

p60 Lloyds Spar Quarry - Cllr Parkhurst reported having spoken again to the Quarry Manager regarding the possibility of arranging a liaison meeting. The Quarry Manager was going to raise the issue with the Head Office.

Photographs taken in the Summer of the dust on the Cefn Road had been sent to the Quarry Manager.

Members agreed that enquiries may need to be made in due course with the Public Health Section in Flintshire CC. There is likely to be a section in Flintshire that deals with Public Health safety issues.

p61 Biogen Site Visit - Visit now be left in abeyance for the time being.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) Proposal: Change of use from unused field to a glamping pod site, to include the siting of four handmade glamping pods with decking, soakaway and drainage, recycling/waste area, bike storage, parking areas and associated access, footpaths and landscaping. An existing storage unit will also be utilised and improved to support the development.
- Location: Land Adj. Alyn Kennels & Cattery, 1 Cefn Bychan Woods, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5EP
- Ref No: FUL/001010/23

The Community Council has **no objections** to this application.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS / ITEMS DISCUSSED -

- 1) 21/11 Bottom Lane, Cilcain, Works Report - Information received and photos from Cllr Michael Parr regarding the damage to the highway verge discussed at the 19 November 2023 Community Council meeting. Report forwarded to Flintshire Streetscene. Position noted.
- 2) 22/11 Precept Letter 2024-25 - Information from Flintshire CC regarding the Community Council's Tax Base for 2024/2025. Please note that the Precept requirement information needs to be returned to Flintshire CC by the 26 January 2024.
- 3) 23/11 Caravan A541, Rhydymwyn - Information from Flintshire CC's Planning Officer Enforcement regarding the parked caravan in the field between the War Memorial Institute and Nant Road. Members noted that the caravan been removed from the field several months ago.
- 4) 1/12 Flintshire Local Development Plan - Consultation on Draft supplementary Planning Guidance - SPG. Members noted that any comments need to be submitted

to Flintshire CC by 26 January 2024. Members discussed the concern expressed in the past few years relating to external timber cladding being approved on a number of recent planning approvals instead of the planning authority insisting on matching the external fabric of the extension to the existing stone construction. The reason being put forward for the growing use of timber cladding was because timber had the possibility of being sourced locally, and would therefore potentially have a lower carbon footprint than the traditional stonework previously advocated. Members agreed to study Flintshire's document before the January Council meeting, so that the Council can consider submitting observations along the lines of the above discussions.

- 5) 01/12 Topping up salt heaps, Cilcain - Cllr J Emyr Davies and Cllr J V Worthington had expressed concern that salt heaps in certain areas had not yet been replenished. The lack of salt heap replenishment in Trelan area and Loggerheads Rd had been reported to Street Scene by email on the 01 Dec 2023.

Cllr Davies maintained that Flintshire should consider providing small shovels in the salt bins so that drivers would be in a better position to use the salt if the vehicle was stuck in a patch of slippery road.

Regarding the issue at Mountain Road, Cllr Davies had reported on the 01 December the sheet of dangerous ice on the road. An email had been sent to Flintshire on the 01 Dec 2023 to pass on the complaint.

Cllr Parkhurst had reinforced the concern in an email to Street Scene on the 02 Dec 2023 and request that the complaint be escalated. No response had yet been received to the request made by Cllr Parkhurst.

In the case of Mountain Road, Members agreed that the provision of the salt bin was of limited use when there was a stream of water discharging from the surcharging manhole near the road centre.

Members agreed that it would be beneficial if Mountain Road residents would write to report the issue. Cllr Gwen Hardman indicated she would contact one of the residents.

Cllr John Worthington reported that salt heaps had recently been provided at Brithdir Mawr Lane but none on the Loggerheads Road. This position had also been reported in an email to Street scene on 1st Dec 2023.

- 6) 01/12 Extensive ice on carriageway, Mountain Road Cilcain - Cllr J Emyr Davies reported concern regarding surface water bubbling from a manhole cover and creating a sheet of ice across the carriageway. Item dealt with above.

- 7) 03/12 Boundary review - Information submitted to Flintshire CC with the Community Council's request for two changes to the Ward boundary:
(a) Twmpath area, Rhydymwyn - eight properties involved.
(b) Ruby Brick area, Rhydymwyn - the AD site.
Position noted.

- 8) 06/12 Street lamp, Cilcain car park - Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr John Worthington had inspected the street lamp in the village car park. Cllr Worthington reported that cutting back the obstructing branches could be undertaken without using DEECO's raised platform street lighting equipment. The work had now been completed by Mr O Roberts.
- 9) 06/12 Flintshire CC - Draft Resource and Waste Strategy Consultation - Information from Flintshire CC's Regulatory Services Manager. Members referred to the concern Cllr Michael Parr had raised some time ago regarding the strict regulations regarding trailers using the skip. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that the trailer issue had been taken on board in a review of the regulations that took place a few months later.
- Cllr John Worthington noted that any Council Member or resident could submit on line any concerns they had about the service.
- 10) 06/12 Local Toilet Strategy Consultation - Information from Flintshire CC's Streetscene Maintenance Manager. The Chairman invited Mrs Sue Jones (Cilcain Clean and Lock) to give her observations on the consultation document. The strategy document was disappointing in that it did not highlight the issue of there being too few public toilets in Flintshire. The document was concentrating more on improving the facilities in the existing toilets. Some areas suffering from vandalism was being put forward as the reason for closing some former toilets in the first place. Clerk to respond to Flintshire CC. The possibility of involving the AONB in future maintenance of the Cilcain toilet will need to be considered when the Council submits its observations on the National Park proposal.
- 11) 07/12 Star Crossing Road junction - Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) still not working. Copy of an email Cllr Andrew Parkhurst sent to Flintshire Street Scene. Members may recall that the sign was first reported to Flintshire Streetscene on 06 July 2022. Cllr Parkhurst updated Members at the Council Meeting.
- 12) 07/12 National Park Proposal - Freedom of Information details from NRW received from a Cilcain resident (DF) regarding the estimated cost for creating a fourth National Park in Wales. (Welsh Assembly 3year grant of £1.78 million being received by NRW for its role in 'evaluating the case for creating' the National Park). Position noted.
- 13) 08/12 Nant Alyn, mud on carriageway - Report received from Cllr Gareth W Hughes and passed on to Mr Neil Hickie. Wide vehicles are scraping the high verge and bringing a constant supply of earth down onto the carriageway. Clerk to pursue with Flintshire Streetscene.
- 14) 10/12 Powys County Council set to oppose plans for the National Park proposal in north-east Wales - Information received from Cllr John Doyle regarding a press cutting he had recently noticed. Members agreed that there was useful information gained from the three separate articles emailed to all Members.

- 15) 20/11 National Park - What is it like to live there? Another interesting article from Cllr John Doyle. Item discussed earlier.
- 16) 11/12 Ash Tree, No 32 Maes Cilan, Cilcain - Email from Cilcain resident (KS) to express concern regarding the safety of a tree in the 32 Maes Cilan boundary hedge. Copy of email forwarded to Mr Dewi Ellis in Flintshire Streetscene and Daniel Delaney in Flintshire Housing. Mr Delaney was scheduled to visit the site on Tuesday 19 Dec 2023. An estimate will then be invited from a tree contractor for felling the tree.
Cllr Parkhurst had also pursued the dangerous tree issue with Flintshire CC.
Clerk to send another email to Flintshire Housing to express the Community Council's concern regarding the dangerous tree.
- 17) -/- Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan - For Members to comment on. Items in the Action Plan were discussed earlier in the Council Meeting.

09. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - The accounts scheduled in the Appendix were approved for payment.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on the 15 January 2024. However, the Chair and Vice Chair reserve the right to change the date, having regard to the three clear working days statutory notice being given for any new date.

PAYMENT SECTION NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Payment of Accounts

| | | |
|-------|---|--------|
| (i) | A E (sal + fixed exp) for November 2023 | 665.85 |
| (ii) | HMRC - PAYE (L.G.A.1972 S112) Confirmation of the BACS payment made | 98.45 |
| (iii) | Office Equipment and stationery - (L.G.A.1972 S111) (Invoices available at the Council Meeting) | 169.30 |
| (iv) | AE - web fee | 18.00 |
| (v) | Transfer of funds from Main Account to Chairman's Account | 100.00 |
| (vi) | O Roberts - Cut back branches at Cilcain village car park | 70.00 |

Payments to be made by BACS - authorised by the following two signatories:

Chairman Vice Chair (or 2nd Councillor)

2. **Current Council Bank Balance.** Please note that the closing balance in the Council's Bank Account on 11 Dec 2023 was:

Current Account: £8,044

Deposit Account: £26,588

Dep. Acc. interest:

(Nov £43.74) (Oct £42.26) (Sep £42.94) (Aug £40.61) (Jul £34.56) (June £33.51)

(May £30.79) (April £30.04) (March £26.85) (Feb £21.53) (Jan £19.08) (Dec £15.52)

3. **Xmas Dinner** - Venue Cherry Pie - Friday 22 Dec 2023
(7.30 pm for 8.00 pm sitting down)

Chair ClerkDate