

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT THE CILCAIN
VILLAGE HALL ON 15 JANUARY 2024.**

Present: Chairperson: Cllr Gareth W Hughes
Councillors: Malcolm Down Pauline Douglas
John Doyle Gwenda Hardman
Ian Hughes Tim Mitchell
Karen Parker Michael Parr
Christine Vaughan J V Worthington
The Clerk was also in attendance

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairperson wished everyone a Happy New year (Blwyddyn Newydd Dda) and welcomed Members to the January Meeting. (Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Ionawr). The Chair also welcomed two Cilcain residents (SJ), (DF) and County Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr J Emyr Davies

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None received.

4. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING (18 December 2023) - Cllr Gwen Hardman proposed acceptance, and Cllr Malcolm Down seconded and all Members agreed.

5. HIGHWAY MATTERS -

Members were concerned regarding the existing arrangement whereby the temporary pothole repairs appear to be failing within a matter of weeks of the repairs being undertaken.

Item 2 - Trelan Culvert, Cilcain - Contractor appointed and work scheduled to commence on Monday 22 Jan 2023. Mr Hickie had discussed and agreed the access arrangement with the adjoining landowner.

Item 3 - Dolfechlas Rd, Rhydymwyn blocked gulleys - Cllr Gareth Hughes reported - work done.

Item 4 - The Pistyll, Cilcain - Cllrs Emyr Davies, John Worthington and Gwen Hardman had been to inspect and confirmed - satisfactory work completed.

Item 15 - Bottom Road, Cilcain - Cllr Michael Parr had corresponded with Mr Neil Hickie since the Dec 2023 Council Meeting. Some of the issues had been dealt with but encroachment and erosion of the verge remained outstanding.

Item 21 - Garth Lane, Cilcain - A new supporting post had been provided, but the new sign had not yet been fixed. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst and Cllr Christine Vaughan reported on the position.

Item 22 - The Square, Cilcain - pot hole repair - worst potholes had been repaired.

- Item 23 Dolfechlas Road Sweeping - Done as far as Leete Park junction. Cllr Tim Mitchell reported that the section of road from Leete Park up to the top house (Vista Alegre) had not been done. Chair had already spoken to Neil about the omission.
- Item 24 Nant Alyn, Rhydymwyn - Chair reported sweeping done.
- Item 25 Car Park, Cilcain - Chair reported sweeping done.
- Item 26 Trial Hill, Cilcain - Cllr Ian Hughes reported work done. Clerk to report the Pantymwyn side of the bridge to Mr Andy Lightfoot.

Additional Items reported:

- (a) A541 by Service Station in Rhydymwyn - Chair reported series of potholes on the Denbigh side of the Service Station entrance / exit.
- (b) A541, Farm side of the Rhosesmor Junction - Chair reported potholes.
- (c) Dolfechlas Road, Rhydymwyn - Chair reported roadside gully opposite Impala appears to be blocked.
- (d) Rhydymwyn, Village up as far as Y Graig - Chair maintained road sweeping required.
- (e) Coed Du junction up towards Nant Alyn - Chair maintained road sweeping required.
- (f) Roadside footways in Hendre - Cllr Karen Parker reported encroaching vegetation reducing the width of the pedestrian footway through the village on the Mill Terrace side of the A541.
- (g) Pentre up to the village - Cllr Christine Vaughan reported that salt bin top-up has taken place today but the existing salt in the bin was so hard that it unusable.
- (h) Loggerheads Road - Cllr Worthington reported top up of salt heaps at Loggerhead Rd required.

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

- p65 National Park - A news article had been emailed to Council Members a few days ago regarding the Levelling Up Fund (Westminster Government) giving Denbighshire CC a grant of over £10 million for the Loggerheads area. Cllr Gwen Hardman did not rule out the possibility of some of the funding being expended on the Flintshire side of the border.
- p65 Chair reported that following the advice given by Flintshire conservation Section (Mr Chris Rhys-Jones) the solar panels pre-application had been re-submitted to Flintshire CC.
- p65 Cilcain Shop - Meeting scheduled to be held this month between the Hall Ctee, Shop Ctee and the Council Chair plus Cllr Karen Parker.
- p65 Cilcain cemetery - Cllr Gwen Hardman, Cllr John Doyle and Cllr Michael Parr had fixed a time for a meeting for the end of this week.
- p65 Rhydymwyn play area - Chair reported refurbishment completed and the received invoice is scheduled for payment in this month's payment list. Cllr Karen Parker requested to make enquiries regarding the wording for the commemorative seat inscription for former Cllr Jean Ramsay.

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.

- p66 Former Antelope Hotel Rhydymwyn - Chair reported that the owner had now submitted a full planning application for development of the site. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that he had received an email from David Hall to indicate the application was scheduled to be submitted before the end of January. Members noted that a pre-planning application was advisable but not mandatory.
- p66 Bier House, Cilcain - Cllr Ian Hughes to take some photos of the bier in due course.
- p66 Hendre speed limit - Cllr Karen Parker reported having emailed John Morris to enquire when it would be appropriate for village residents to commence with checking again vehicle speeds through the village. A reply was awaited.
- p66 Cilcain Cemetery, leaning headstone - Clerk reported having reminded the Memorial Mason of the need for an estimate. Clerk to pursue. Members agreed that the Council can proceed with the work if the Chair and Vice Chair agree on the estimate received.
- p66 Street Lighting, Cilcain - light intensity issue between Flintshire and the AONB is now sorted. AONB to send a proposal for the Community Council to accept.
- p66 Tarmac Hendre Quarry - Cllr Karen Parker reported meeting arranged for 10.00 am Wednesday 17 Jan 2024. Items to be discussed:
- (a) Land ownership in Mill Terrace area
 - (b) Flooding issue that occurred on 19/20 Oct 2023
 - (c) Recent state (thick layer of white dust) on the A541 carriageway from the Quarry entrance to the Service Station. Mechanical brush is supposed to be brushing twice per week.
- p66 Cilcain Speed limit - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that the meeting with Mr Richard Flood had now been agreed for 10.00 am start on Friday 26 Jan - start at Rhydymwyn Service Station (vehicle speed for pedestrian crossing the road by the garage) - on to Hendre (issue of vehicles having to reduce speed from 60 to 20 mph on the approach to Hendre) - on to Nannerch and back to Star Crossing junction - and up to Cilcain (concern about speed at Berth Road junction, Cilan Lodge Road junction and the Fforrest Farm junction raised by Cllr Emyr Davies) - on to The Cilcain Square and down to the Pentre (request for speed limit between The Square and The Pentre from a Cilcain resident) - back to The Square and down Pantymwyn Road towards Trial Hill.

Representatives for different sections:

Rhydymwyn (Cllrs Gareth Hughes and Malcolm Down)

Hendre (Cllr Karen Parker - but Karen to join at the Rhydymwyn Service Station meeting start.

Cilcain (Cllrs J Emyr Davies, Gwen Hardman and JV Wworthington) - aim for meeting in Village Car Park by 11.00 (or by Bwlch Lane junction).

- p66 Covid Snake - An approximate estimate was given by Cllr John Doyle for a new attempt at the Covid Snake in the Donkey Field. Item included in the Budget for 2024/2025.
- p66 River Alyn, Rhydymwyn - Cllr John Doyle reported quite a big tree in the River Alyn opposite the Sewage Treatment Plant. Cllr Doyle to take a photo. Clerk to report to Mr Peter Ellis at the NRW (Holt Office).
- p67 Rhydymwyn Bonfire, 4 November 2023 - Clerk reported having received a copy of the Risk Assessment which is in place for the Bonfire event. Cilcain YFC had also been contacted. Cilcain YFC secretary scheduled to furnish the Council with a copy of the Cilcain Bonfire Risk Assessment.
- p67 Roadside verge fenced off, Rhydymwyn - Clerk and Cllr Gwen Hardman to make the necessary enquiries with the Land Registry.
- p68 Star Crossing vehicle activated sign (VAS) - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that the sign manufacture was scheduled to make a site visit.
- p68 32 Maes Cilan, Cilcain - Clerk had written to Flintshire Housing Section on two occasions since the December Council meeting to obtain an update on progress. No indication forthcoming yet about an estimated date for felling the tree. Clerk to pursue further with Mr Daniel Delaney at Flintshire CC.
- p69 Lloyds Spar Quarry - Cllr Parkhurst reported that the Quarry Manager was going to consult with the Company's Head Office regarding the possibility of setting up a regular liaison meeting. No reply had been received as yet. If no response is received, it would be advisable for all residents with a complaint to report directly to Lloyds Spar, with a copy to Hannah Parish at Flintshire CC Minerals Section.

Cllr Ian Hughes enquired if the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) had been consulted. Cllr Parkhurst referred to the reply from HSE indicating that it was a matter for the County Council to deal with. Members had agreed in the December Council Meeting that enquiries may need to be made in due course with the Public Health Section in Flintshire CC.

Cllr Pauline Douglas wanted the size of the vehicles using Lloyds Quarry looking at. Cllr Parkhurst was not aware of an obvious answer to the vehicle size issue. If a Liaison Meeting was set up, the Quarry Manager might be persuaded to speak to the wagon drivers to emphasise the need to be considerate of local users on the Quarry approach road.

Cllr Gwen Hardman recalled 'licensing' being discussed many years ago. Cllr Hardman and Clerk to check if the information can be retrieved.

- p69 Flintshire Local Development Plan - Cllr Karen Parker had studied the document thoroughly. Members discussed in particular the use of timber cladding (sourced locally) instead of natural stone for the external walls of extensions.

p70 Mountain Road Cilcain, ice across the carriageway - Cllr Gwen Hardman had contacted one of the residents to request that consideration be given by residents who were concerned about the ice to write into Flintshire CC to express their concern.

-- -- Bottom Road, Cilcain - Cllr Michael Parr expressed concern that salt heaps was located quite some distance from the locating where water was ponding on the road. There was a salt heap located not far from the Bwlch Lane junction. But that salt heap was about 60 yds away from the location where there is always water on the road. The Clerk maintained that salt heaps are normally located by a junction or a gradient in the road. Cllr Parr's observation / concern to be brought to Neil's attention.

p70 Boundary review - No response received from Flintshire CC as yet.

p71 Street Lamp Cilcain car park - Members noted that clearing the braches from around the lamp had been reported to having been completed in the December Council Meeting. No update had been received from Deeco regarding the Council's request to investigate where the supply to the car park lamp was coming from.

Deeco had reported that the lamp at Penallt had been repaired. Cllr Ian Hughes had noticed that the new Penallt Lamp was now 'day burning'. Clerk to inform Deeco. Clerk reported that Neil had arranged to trim the lower branches of the birch tree obstructing the lamp opposite the school. The landowner's permission had been forthcoming prior to the trimming work.

p71 National Park - Proposed invitation for Mr Sutcliffe to attend the Community Council Meeting. In view of the recent issue with the need to invite the Community Support Officer to the February Council Meeting, Members agreed to extend an invitation to the Police Officer to the Feb 2024 Council Meeting

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Ref No: FUL/001094/23

Proposal: New agricultural store / workshop, garage and carport with offices and gym

Location: Tan Lan Barn, Cilcain, Mold, CH7 5PG

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

(i) The proposal can be easily converted to a new dwelling in due course.

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 new dwelling does not occur in the future.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS / ITEMS DISCUSSED -

- 1) 18/12 Ash Tree, 32 Maes Cilan, Cilcain - Email to Flintshire Housing to emphasise the urgency of dealing with this potentially dangerous Ash Tree. Position dealt with earlier.
- 2) 19/12 18 Dec 2023 Cilcain Council Meeting - highway related items discussed were sent to Flintshire Street Scene. Position noted.
- 3) 20/12 Cilcain Car Park cleaning with mechanical brush - Email had been sent to Cllr Christine Vaughan to cancel the arrangement for the work to be done by O Roberts. Chair thanked Mrs Sue Jones for her part in arranging for bollards to be placed at the car park entrance. Laminated / chalk board type sign to be prepared for next year. Chair reported that the Cemetery and Church entrance area had been cleaned and an excellent job had been done.
- 4) 20/12 Street Lamp, Penallt gable end, Cilcain - Note from 'DEECO' - lamp repaired. Item discussed earlier.
- 5) 21/11 Bottom Lane, Cilcain - Report and photos received from Cllr Michael Parr detailing concerns regarding the condition of Bottom Lane - Information forwarded to Flintshire Street Scene. Item discussed earlier.
- 6) 22/12 Rhydymwyn and Hendre Bonfire risk assessment and Emergency Plan - Copy of risk assessment received from the Secretary of the Bonfire Ctee. Position noted.
- 7) 22/12 Photo Voltaic Panels, Village Hall, Cilcain - Copy of response received by Cllr Andrew Parkhurst from Mr Mathew Parry-Davies, Flintshire CC Service Manager (Development). Item discussed earlier.
- 8) 23/12 Street Lamp not working, Ffordd y Llan, Cilcain - Cllr Gwen Hardman reported the street lamp outside No 25 Ffordd y Llan not working. DEECO requested to repair. Position noted.
- 9) 29/12 Tree in River Alyn, Rhydymwyn - Fallen tree across the river reported by Cllr Gareth W Hughes with photo - information sent to Peter Ellis (NRW). Position noted.
- 10) 30/12 Catch-pit full by the DEFRA bridge - Report received from Cllr Gareth W Hughes sent to DEFRA's Site Manager with the following requests:
 - (i) Who cleans the catch-pit down river of the DEFRA bridge?
 - (ii) If the two large catch-pits down river of DEFRA grilles are full - can a photo be taken?
 - (iii) Is DEFRA responsible for removing the log in the catch-pit between the DEFRA bridge and the DEFRA grille?
- 11) 02/01 Catch-pits by the DEFRA grille / bridge - Response received from Sando Citra.
 - (i) Catch-pit down river of the DEFRA bridge usually cleaned by NRW.

- (ii) River level currently too high to take a photograph of two large catch-pits down river of DEFRA grilles.
- (iii) Log reported in the catch-pit will only be removed by DEFRA if it obstructs the DEFRA grill.

Position noted and Clerk to pursue.

- 12) 03/01 Footbridge at Nant Alyn, down river of the Caravan Park - Email to Flintshire to enquire if any progress has been made in arranging for the Footbridge to be replaced. Position noted.
- 13) 03/01 Cilcain Car park - Cllr J V Worthington reported that the car park was brushed by the mechanical sweeper. Some cars were parked in the car park when the sweeper arrived to undertake the sweeping. However, Cllr Worthington reported that the brushing operation had still been successful. Item discussed earlier.
- 14) 04/01 Community Speed Watch - Information to Community Councils regarding on-line session via Zoom on Wed 8 Feb 2023 arranged by GoSafe. Position noted.
- 15) 04/01 Street Lamp opposite Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain - Lamp currently obstructed by tree branches. Flintshire Streetscene informed that adjoining resident (GF) has no objection to the work. Item discussed earlier
- 16) 05/01 Ash tree, Maes Cilan - Email sent to Flintshire Housing requesting an estimated date when the tree will be felled. No written response received. Mr Daniel Delaney from Flintshire Housing had visited the site on 19 December 2023 to take a photograph of the tree so that a tree felling contractor could be requested to submit a quotation for the felling work.
- 17) 05/01 Tree in River Alyn, Rhydymwyn - Fallen tree across the river reported to NRW on 29 Dec 2023. Response received from Peter Ellis - tree obstruction is no longer there, possibly tree could have moved due to recent elevated river level.
- 18) 08/01 Street Lamp, 23/25 Ffordd y Llan, Cilcain - Reminder from Cilcain resident (PF) that the streetlamp reported before Christmas has not been attended to. Deeco requested to give an indication of the repair date.
- 19) 08/01 Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Activity, Cilcain - Email from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst regarding local concern about the perceived rise in anti social behaviour in the village. Members agreed to invite the PCSO for the area to attend the February Community Council Meeting. Clerk to enquire with the PCSO if North Wales Police has some leaflets to give general advice to residents who are troubled by such behaviour.
- 20) 02/01 Flintshire 2024 Summer Playscheme - Plans and cost for the 2024 summer playscheme. Response requested by 16 February 2024. Item to be discussed in the Payment / Precept Section.

- 21) 09/01 The Pistyll, Cilcain, re-kerbing and drainage work - Mr Hickie reported that the appointed Contractor was commencing work on 09 Jan. The culvert work at Trelan had also been approved and the appointed Contractor was to undertake the work in the next few weeks, following liaison with the adjoining landowner regarding access during the construction work.
- 22) 09/01 Cefn Road / Nant Alyn Rd - Cllr Pauline Douglas requested discussion at the Council Meeting regarding the need to re-view the adequacy of the warning road signs near the former Tilcon Quarry. A recent incident involving damage to adjoining properties in Nant Alyn Road due to large vehicles using the narrow lane has highlighted the need to have a site meeting with Flintshire CC Traffic Engineer to discuss a possible solution to this long standing issue. Cllr Parkhurst requested to include Cefn Rd / Nant Alyn on the general site visit with Mr Richard Flood from Flintshire CC Traffic Section scheduled for Friday 26 January 2024. Clerk to send photos of wagon damage problems to Cllr Parkhurst prior to the site meeting.
- /-- Out of hours contact with Flintshire CC Streetscene - Cllr Pauline Douglas expressed concern regarding difficulties contacting Street Scene between New Year and January 2024. A local person rang up Streetscene at 3.00 pm on Friday between Christmas and New Year (office closed period). Cllr Andrew Parkhurst explained that the Streetscene call centre number should automatically divert you after office hours to an emergency number.
- 23) -/- Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan - For Members to comment on, and to add to as appropriate.

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 19 February 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 December 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)	133.00
(iv)	AE - web fee	18.00
(v)	Zurich insurance - Last year premium payment was £2,458.77	2,468.72
(vi)	Scottish power - street lighting energy	951.22
(vii)	Flintshire CC - Rhydymwyn 50/50 play area match funding refurbishment scheme	3,600.00
(viii)	Rhydymwyn FC - Room hire for 2023 - 4 No @ £25	100.00
(ix)	AE - Additional work regarding Rhydymwyn Flood meeting and Rhydymwyn Ruby Brick AD Public meeting	600.00

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

Chairman Vice Chair (or 2nd Councillor)

2. **COUNCIL BALANCE AT THE END OF THE 9 MONTHS THROUGH THE 2023/2024 BUDGETARY YEAR**

Members noted the observations regularly made by the internal auditor, emphasizing the need to undertake regular monitoring of the Council's expenditure at various points throughout the year. Traditionally, the monitoring at the end of the first 9 months (31 Dec 2023) period is a particularly useful exercise, to enable the Council to assess its precept requirements for 2024/2025 at the January Council Meeting.

A computerized version of the Reconciliation of Balances for this first nine month period was attached to the Agenda.

3. **SUGGESTED BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2024/2025**

Prior to discussing the precept, the Chair felt that the Council needed to decide whether or not the Council needed to accommodate an amount for the 2024 Summer playscheme:

- (a) Flintshire had put the cost up by 20% which was equivalent to £600 extra in the precept.
- (b) Members felt that the scheme was not well used last year.
- (c) The advertising was poor in 2023 compared to previous years. The poster eventually provided by Flintshire had no dates, times or locations for specific villages.
- (d) In previous years, a Flintshire Officer would visit Cilcain school and use the school as a means of distributing information about the scheme. This year Flintshire relied on parents finding details on Flintshire's website.

- (e) When parents looked on the website to register for a place, Cilcain was initially not listed in the list of villages participating. The Community Council had to inform Flintshire of the Cilcain omission.
- (f) Enquiries made with Flintshire to see if the 6 weeks total could be reduced to four weeks total for the 2024 scheme. Flintshire was not prepared to reduce the total time from 6 to 4 sessions so the Council could have 2 weeks in each village.

In conclusion, Flintshire to be informed that the Council was very disappointed with last year's scheme, and is therefore not in a position to participate this summer. Members took a vote. majority decision reached. Two members wanted to participate in Flintshire's scheme this year.

Attached for Members information was Sheet No 1 with a suggested precept for the financial year 2023/2024, based on spending aspirations discussed by Council Members, and detailed in Sheet No 3 of the attached correspondence information pack.

The suggested budget represents a 1% increase in the precept so that the precept increases from £30,500 to £30,800. (For a person on Band G paying £67.62 per year towards the Community Council precept - **1% per year extra in the precept** is equivalent to £0.67 per year - which **is equivalent** to approx. **2 pence per week extra in the residents Tax Bill**).

Members noted that Sheet No 3 detailed how the two most significant items in Sheet No 1 were arrived at.

Members noted that the Tax Base equivalent to Band D properties had increased from £751.83 to £ 754.61 for 2024/2025. The 1% increase in the precept received by the Council therefore resulted in band 'D' residents being subject to a 0.6% increase in the Tax levied.

Members were aware of Flintshire CC having to find substantial / drastic savings in its budget for 2024/2025 and hoped that the savings that Flintshire CC need to make would not result in Flintshire cutting down on the grass cutting service it currently provides at the Council owned playing fields and cemeteries in Cilcain and Rhydymwyn.

Members noted UK Inflation Rate is currently at 3.90%, compared to 4.60% last month and was as high as 10.70% in October 2023.

The increase in the cost of Flintshire's playscheme by **20%** for this year was hard to justify based on the above inflation figures. Another option Members were requested to consider was to increase the precept by more than the suggested 1%, on the basis that every 1% raised increases the precept by approximately £300. The Council could have justified a 2% increase to accommodate the increased cost of the playscheme alone.

Members noted that one adjoining Community Council was increasing its precept by 5% and another Council by 10%.

Members agreed to increase the precept by 1%

4.0 **Current Council Bank Balance.** Members noted that the closing balance in the Council's

Bank Account on 08 Jan 2024 was:

Current Account: £2,084

Deposit Account: £41,631

Dep. Acc. interest:

(Dec £42.40) (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)

Chair ClerkDate