

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT THE CILCAIN
VILLAGE HALL ON 18 MARCH 2024.**

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

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the March Meeting. (Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Mawrth). The Chair also welcomed three local residents (KB) (DF) and (SJ) to the Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr J Emyr Davies, Cllr John Doyle, Cllr Michael Parr. County Cllr Andrew Parkhurst had informed the Chairman and Clerk that he would not be in a position to attend the Council Meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The five Rhydymwyn Ward Members present declared an interest in the War Memorial Institute - request for donation item.

4. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING (19 February 2024) - Cllr Gwen Hardman proposed, Cllr Christine Vaughan seconded and all Members present agreed to approve the minutes, subject to the following change being made: (p 91 - 7.5 Tons instead of 2.5 Tons)

5. MATTERS ARISING HIGHWAY MATTERS

Neil's Action Plan dated (19 Feb 2024) - was considered:

Item 2 Tre Lan culvert, Cilcain - Cllr Emyr Davies reported culvert completed but waiting for better weather to install an entrance grille.

Item 3 A541 Rhydymwyn fronting garage - Chair reported that the potholes outside the garage are now going as far as The Antelope. The Skid resistance of the surfacing material that was originally laid now needs checking on this dangerous and slippery bend at the Service Station.

Item 7 Pen Lan culvert, Loggerheads Rd, Cilcain - Cllr John Worthington has spoken to Neil - waiting for a JCB to become available.

Item 8 Pedair y Groesffordd hedge cutting work will probably not now be done because of seasonal restrictions coming into place at the end of February.

- Item 10 Chairman assumed the landslip referred to was near the Coed Du Hall Junction - description needs amending to clarify the location.
- Item 18 Cilan Lodge Cilcain - seat base required. Clerk to remind Neil of the outstanding need for a concrete base.
- Item 19 Coed Du to Plas Wilkin - Cllr Gareth Hughes maintained there appears to be confusion between this item and Item 31. There are no pot-holes between Coed Du and Plas Wilkin, but the road does need sweeping. So Item No. 19 can be deleted.
- Item 21 Garth Lane Cilcain - Cllr Christine Vaughan reported that the sign had now been erected. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst had sent the clerk a photograph of the installed sign.
- Item 24 Cllr Karen Parker reported - cutting back of hedges near 10 Mill Terrace was done some time ago but path encroachment work still outstanding.
- Item 26 Loggerheads Road salt heaps - Salt replenishment work never happened. Item can now probably be deleted.
- Item 30 Sweeping in Dolfechlas Road - Sweeping from Llys Alyn up to Vista Alegre is still outstanding. Chair had already spoken to Neil about the omission prior to the February Council Meeting.
- Item 31 Chair repeated the observations he made in the February Council meeting - the need to road sweep from Coed Du Farm as far as Plas Wilkin.
- Item 32 Chair repeated the observations he made in the February Council meeting - the need to road sweep from the village to The Graig in Nant Alyn.
- -- Chair reported - Hedge between playing field and cemetery in Rhydymwyn needs cutting

Additional items reported at the Council meeting that need adding to Neil's list:

1. Berth Road, opposite (OT's) large shed - Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that the hole in the roadside verge opposite the shed has gone much bigger during the last month. Clerk reported on the presence of an underground stream approximately 4 ft below ground level at this location. When the last sink hole appeared approximately 2 years ago, the hole in the highway verge at this location was filled by Flintshire.
2. Fechlas Brook between Coed y Felin Nature Reserve entrance junction and the Tarmac entrance - Cllr Karen Parker to send Clerk photos of debris in the Fechlas Brook and overgrowing hedge at the back of the A541 boundary - Clerk to request Neil to look at cutting back the hedge. Peter Ellis (NRW) to check on debris in the Fechlas Brook.

3. A541, Rhydymwyn, Rhosesmor Junction to the Antelope Industrial Estate. Road gulleys still blocked. Issue had been reported previously by Cllr John Doyle. The concern had been forwarded to Flintshire Streetscene. Item needs to be including on Neil's Action List.
4. Pentre Road, Cilcain - large pot-hole half way between the Nook and Tyddyn Mihangel (opposite St Michael's Well). This stripping of the macadam surfacing had been reported some weeks ago to Mr Neil Hickie by Cllr Andrew Parkhurst. Cllr John Worthington requested that this item be including on the next Action List.

Cllr Gwen Hardman maintained that the confusion that has arisen on a number of the Action List items would not have occurred if Neil had still being attending Council meetings.

6. MATTERS ARISING (NON HIGHWAY MATTERS)

p85 Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Activity, Cilcain - Most Members had not been able to find specific crime details for various parts or streets of the villages. Clerk was requested to send to all Members again the Police link for local criminal activity.

p88 Chair noted that the minute at the top of page 88 should have referred to sweeping being required from the village to The Graig, and not from The Graig to Nant Alyn.

p88 Hendre Bends - Water on Road - Cllr Karen Parker reported that the manhole where the water was discharging from has been cleaned out. The water flowing across the road issue appears to have been dealt with.

p88 Solar Panels, Cilcain Village Hall - Chair referred to items in the correspondence section whereby appealing against the views of the Conservation Section was being suggested. Members agreed that the issue was one for the Hall Ctee to deal with.

Since Flintshire was involved, the Chair maintained it would be appropriate to refer the matter to Cllr Andrew Parkhurst.

Cllr Hardman indicated she had already spoken to Cllr Parkhurst. The Hall Ctee would also be taking professional advice before proceeding.

Cllr Worthington maintained that solar panels are improving in appearance. Some of the recent panels are so inconspicuous one can hardly notice them.

Cllr Harman referred to some solar panels being made to look like tiles, but the cost of such tiles would be an issue that would need to be given careful consideration by the Hall Ctee.

p89 Cilcain Shop - Meeting with the Shop Ctee has not yet taken place. Cllr Gwen Hardman reported that the Shop Ctee has been invited to a meeting, but no response has yet been forthcoming .

- p89 Cilcain cemetery - Cllr Parr had volunteered to add the finishing touches to the document.
- p89 Cilcain Play area - The Clerk reported having spoken to Mr Richard Roberts. Flintshire is due to write to all Town and Community Councils to outline the arrangement for match funding grants for 2024 / 2025 financial year. When the position regarding grants has been clarified, a site meeting can be arranged. Clerk to enquire if there are any other options instead of the hanging bars item.
- p89 Cilcain Cemetery, leaning headstone - Clerk had made enquiries with the Memorial Mason. Due to a recent peak in burial work, there has been a delay in headstone repair work. Clerk to pursue.
- p89 Street Lighting, Cilcain - Clerk reported on three emails received from the AONB since the February council meeting. Discussion was taking place between Flintshire and the AONB regarding the Kelvin levels which would satisfy both parties. Agreement had not yet been reached. Chair suggested that once agreement is reached, and the Council arranges for Deeco to install the lanterns, any spare LED's being replaced can be utilised at the back of the Royal Oak in Hendre. Members agreed.
- p89 Hendre Quarry - No date yet available for a quarry liaison meeting. The Chairman maintained that the condition of the A541 is worse than it has ever been. Cllr Karen Parker had been informed that the sweeper is being used three times per week but the mechanical sweeper did not appear to be able to keep on top of the dust debris problem.
- Cllr Pauline Douglas referred to concern expressed by Rhydymwyn villagers regarding quite a number of quarry wagons regularly parking along the A541 between the village and Nant Road. The parked wagons in close proximity to the bend at the Nant Road /A541 junction created a potential traffic hazard.
- Cllr Pauline Douglas referred to photographs being available of the potential traffic hazard issue. Chair stressed the importance of having any written complaints and photographs available before the next quarry liaison meeting.
- p90 Covid Snake - Cllr John Doyle had reported prior to the meeting that some village volunteers had met and the group was nearly in a position to order materials. Position noted. Repainting some of the stones would be required.
- p90 River Alyn, Rhydymwyn - Tree in the River Alyn opposite the Sewage Treatment Plant. NRW had passed the issue on to Dwr Cymru (Ronnie Kelbrick). Clerk had checked with Mr Kelbrick. Dwr Cymru had checked the deeds and established that the strip of land between the River Alyn and the Treatment Plant was not owned by Dwr Cymru. Land enquiries on going. Clerk to pursue.
- p90 Roadside verge fenced off, Rhydymwyn - Clerk and Cllr Gwen Hardman to make the necessary enquiries with the Land Registry.

p90 32 Maes Cilan, Cilcain - No new position statement available. The Council was assuming that Flintshire Housing is still waiting for Power Systems to disconnect the nearby power cable before the tree can be felled.

p90 Lloyds Spar Quarry - Item to be discussed when Cllr Andrew Parkhurst is in attendance. Cllr Pauline Douglas reported on the Rhydymwyn village litter pick that had taken place on Saturday 16 March. The worse location for litter was the entrance verge by Lloyds Quarry. Discarded coffee cups etc. and all other debris which could have been dropped by wagon drivers parking near the entrance waiting for the premises to open.

p90 Catch-pit full by the DEFRA bridge -
Clerk had written to Sando Citra to enquire if he had a record of the date when the catch pits were last cleaned out. Email reply received from Defra on 7 March 2024 to confirm that the grit cambers were last cleaned out on 21 April 2021. This date agreed with the date given by NRW (Mr Tim Owens).

The NRW maintained that material cleaned out of a river or catch-pit has to be used in the system for defence work. Since most of the Defra site was canalised, negotiations with another landowner would be necessary. Negotiations would probably take some time.

Since the previous grit chamber material was stored in the Defra site on a temporary basis, Members agreed it would be appropriate to enquire if the NRW would be prepared to store more material on the Defra site on a temporary basis, until arrangements can be made for another more suitable disposal method.

Clerk to discuss this temporary storage option with NRW (Mr Tim Owens).

p90 Footbridge at Nant Alyn, down river of the Caravan Park - Chair reported on the current position. Work supposed to be starting this week.

p90 Cefn Road / Nant Alyn Rd - Speed issues
Photographs had been included with the correspondence pack showing a large wagon which had recently caused damage to a boundary wall.

However the vehicle on this occasion had been gaining access to the caravan site, so no regulations were being breached.

Members felt Flintshire needs to review the warning signs either end of Nant Alyn to establish:

- (i) If the sign at Coed Du Hall junction needs relocating.
- (ii) Are the existing signs at both ends adequate and suitable?

Members felt it would be appropriate for Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to enquire with Flintshire Traffic Section what measures Flintshire are able to recommend to deal with this regularly occurring issue.

The Chairman reminded members what had been said by Richard Flood at the last site meeting: Take the registration number of any large vehicle coming down and report it to the appropriate website and the issue will be sorted. Unfortunately, in this case the vehicle was gaining access to a property within the restricted length of road. Members felt the sign should prohibit

articulated vehicles from using the lane whether or not the vehicle wants to gain access to a property. Enquiries need to be made to establish if such a restriction can legally be imposed.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) Ref No: FUL/000140/24
Proposal: Proposed single storey side extensions and first floor side extension
Location: Brynsholyn, Cilcain Road, Rhydymwyn

The Community Council has **no objection** to the application, subject to the Planning Officer being satisfied that the proposed extension footprint in comparison to the original footprint of the dwelling does not exceed the 50% planning guidelines.

- (b) Ref No: FUL/000155/24
Proposal: Residential development (9 dwellings) including new (repositioned) site access and ancillary landscaping, following demolition and clearance of existing licensed premises and hotel (including separately accessed manager's apartment).
Location: The Gwysaney Arms Hotel, Rhydymwyn, CH7 5HE

Community Council's observations -

- (a) The Community Council supports this application.
(b) If planning permission is given for the development, the Planning Officer is reminded of the need to include a Section 106 contribution requirement in the planning conditions. On the last two housing developments in Rhydymwyn, the Planning Officer 'forgot' to include the Section 106 requirement in the planning conditions.
- (c) Ref No: FUL/000186/24
Proposal: Construction of 2 storey and single storey extensions
Location: Ty Cerrig, Parc Bychan, Rhydymwyn, CH7 6PE

The Community Council supports the application.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS / ITEMS DISCUSSED -

- 1) 07/02 Rhydymwyn Flood Culvert Intake - A sketch from Cllr Tim Mitchell of a suggested modification to the grille to enable clearing flood debris off the grille to take place by local volunteers. Details to be forwarded to Dafydd Roberts (NRW) with a request for a site meeting. Clerk to arrange site meeting.
- 2) 19/02 North Wales Police - Website link from PCSO Emma Gallon to provide details of local crime. Position noted. Clerk to forward link to Members again.
- 3) 19/02 Star Crossing Road near Siambur Wen Lane - missing water stop tap cover in carriageway. Photo received from Cllr Christine Vaughan. Item reported to Flintshire Streetscene. Check required to establish if the cover has been replaced / repaired. Item to be included on Neil's Action Plan.

- 4) 21/02 Fallen tree in River Alyn opposite Pren Teg, Nant Alyn, Rhydymwyn - Report from Cllr John Doyle. Tree removed.
The fallen tree across the river near the Sewage Treatment Plant was not considered a problem at present but will need monitoring. Item discussed earlier.
- 5) 21/02 Replacing footbridge near the Caravan Site - Update from Cllr John Doyle. Repair to bridge railing has started. Position noted.
- 6) 21/02 Cilcain Bowling Club - Request for donation to assist with replacing timber surround to the bowling green. Request to be considered in the Payment of Accounts Section of the meeting.
- 7) 21/02 Cilcain Village Hall, solar panels - email from concerned Cilcain resident (DF) regarding the observation made by Flintshire's Conservation Section Officer at the site meeting with the Village Hall Ctee Chairman and Secretary. Solar panels issue discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 8) 23/02 Cilcain street Lights - Dark Sky project - Information / Offer from AONB. Item discussed earlier.
- 9) 25/02 Cilcain Village Hall - Letter to Zurich to seek clarification regarding building and contents insurance cover. Position noted.
- 10) 28/02 Rhydymwyn War Memorial Institute - Request for donation to assist with renovation work. Item to be discussed in the Payment of Accounts section.
- 11) 28/02 Nant Alyn / Cefn Road - Photo of large vehicle which caused damage to a roadside boundary wall. Members may find it appropriate to refer this incident to Flintshire Traffic Section. Consideration may need to be given to re-locating the weight restriction sign (which includes - except for access) from the Coed Du Hall Junction to the Caravan Site entrance. Item to be discussed when Cllr Parkhurst is in attendance at the Council meeting.
- 12) 29/02 Cilcain School Bus - Parking issue in Maes Cilan affecting school bus drop off point. Request from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst for the Community Council's views. Cllr Parkhurst suggested that the Community Council may consider it appropriate to write to the residents in Maes Cilan. Clerk to write to the appropriate residents in Maes Cilan.
- 13) 29/02 Ash tree Maes Cilan - Update from Flintshire Housing regarding felling of the ash tree in the boundary hedge of No 32 Maes Cilan. Position noted.
- 14) 29/02 Tarmac Quarry Hendre, landslip - Information via Cllr Andrew Parkhurst from Tiffany Cox, Strategic Planning Surveyor, regarding a landslip of a quarry face at Tarmac's Quarry. Position noted.
- 15) 29/02 Gwysaney Arms - Information from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst - Planning application now submitted by the landowner. Position noted.

- 16) 01/03 Tarmac Quarry Hendre - Landslip - Update via Cllr Andrew Parkhurst from Tiffany Cox, Strategic Planning Surveyor, regarding a landslip of the quarry face at Tarmac's Quarry. Position noted.
- 17) 04/03 Replacing footbridge near the Caravan Site - update from Cllr Gareth W Hughes. Re-fixing the footbridge to take place when river levels are lower.
- 18) 05/03 Fechlas Brook (classified as a Main River) - Clerk requested Mr Dafydd Roberts (NRW Buckley Office) to provide an update on the removal of the fence obstruction at the rear of the War Memorial Institute. Position noted.
- 19) 06/03 Cilcain Play Area - Proposals from Mr Richard Roberts regarding a proposed refurbishment scheme. Members noted that Flintshire CC is scheduled to inform Town and Community Councils in the next few weeks about details of the funding arrangements which will apply this forthcoming financial year.
- 20) 07/03 Cilcain Village Hall Insurance - List of fixtures provided by the Village Hall Ctee which are regarded as belonging to the Community Council. Position noted.
- 21) 08/03 Street Lighting Policy - Copy of Flintshire CC Street lamps. Policy document for information. Position noted.
- 22) 08/03 Cilcain Street lights - Information from Gwenno Jones (AONB) to inform the Community Council that agreement has been reached with Flintshire CC regarding the lamp specifications to be used in Cilcain. Position noted.
- 23) 11/03 Cilcain Street lights - Information from Flintshire CC regarding the new lamps proposed for Cilcain complying with the 'dark sky at night' policy requirements. Position noted.
- 24) 13/03 Vehicle parking in Village car park, Cilcain - Report received of a vehicle parked in the car park on a long term basis. Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the vehicle owner.
- 25) 15/03 Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan - For Members to comment on, and to add to as appropriate. Item discussed earlier.

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 April 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 February 2024	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)	132.60
(iv)	AE - web fee	18.00
(v)*	Cilcain Clean and Lock - Donation to match the donation given by the Welsh Assembly.	600.00
(vi)*	Cilcain Bowling Club - donation to assist with renewal replacing timber surround to the bowling green.	600.00
(vii)*	Rhydymwyn Institute - donation to assist with renovation works All five Rhydymwyn Members in attendance were Members of the Institute Committee, so all five left the Council room whilst the request for a donation was being discussed.	600.00
(viii)	GB - Rhydymwyn Notice Board annual payment	40.00
(ix)	Rhydymwyn Institute - donation to assist with renovation of bowling green.	100.00

Please Note - Items (v) (vi) and (vii) were included in the Council's budget for the current financial year.

Please Note: Payment for the above items being made by BACS - authorised by the following two signatories.

Chairman Vice Chair (or 2nd Councillor)

2.00 **Current Council Bank Balance.** Please note that the closing balance in the Council's Bank Accounts on 11 March 2024 were:

Current Account: £52.56
 Deposit Account: £ 31,092

Dep. Acc. interest:
 2024 (Feb £54.96) (Jan £56.41)
 2023 (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 Clerk Date