

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL CILCAIN ON 20 JANUARY 2025

Present: Chairperson: J V Worthington
Councillors: J Emyr Davies Malcolm Down
John Doyle Gareth W Hughes
Ian Hughes Karen Parker
Tim Mitchell
Christine Vaughan.
The Clerk was also in attendance

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the January Meeting. (Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Ionawr). The Chair also welcomed Cilcain residents (SJ and DF)) and Flintshire County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst to the Community Council Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Pauline Douglas, Cllr Gwen Hardman, Cllr Michael Parr.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

Cllr Gareth W Hughes, Cllr Malcolm Down, Cllr Tim Mitchell and Cllr Karen Parker declared an interest in the item regarding the Rhydymwyn Institute.

4. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING - Cllr Karen Parker proposed and Cllr Gareth W Hughes seconded and all Members present agreed to approve the 16 December 2024 Minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING - HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Alterations / Additions to Action Plan:

Item 3 Hendre Village - Light which had been fixed has now gone out again.

Item 4 Ffordd y Llan - New street name plate had recently been erected on the Chapel side of the junction - Is the original damaged street name plate (on the RHS going down Ffordd y Llan from the Square) going to be taken away or left there, or replaced ?

Item 5 Pedair y Groesffordd overgrown hedge still needs sorting out. Only about a month to go. Neil to be reminded.

Item 6 Damaged sign, Hendre - The sign was on the bottom of the supporting pole on the A541 (Rhydymwyn side of the Tarmac entrance). The sign which was lying in the verge seems to have recently disappeared.

Item 10 Cilan Lodge new bench base has been provided - The bench has been taken from Tre Lan Farm for assembly at Flintshire CC's depot - appropriate fixing brackets required. Tree roots left on the highway verge by Cilan Lodge junction need taking away.

- Item 11 New Junction sign (Berth Road) - Sign not erected - Neil's Action list indicated the sign will be erected by week commencing 09/12/24.

- Item 13 Bobcat sweeping - Sweeping done in Cilcain - but not Bath Hill, Nant Alyn Road, Dolfechlas Road and by the Church in Rhydymwyn.

- Item 14 Pren Teg , Nant Alyn - Longitudinal crack - Cllr John Doyle reported that the recent snow and ice has made the crack worse. Needs temporary sealing to prevent water ingress into the crack.

- Item 18 Damaged sign A541 Rhydymwyn - Confirmation required from Neil - Is this opposite The Antelope

- Item 20 A541 Hendre, BT sinking BT cover - looks as if a temporary repair has been done. Is a proper repair going to be arranged?

- Item 22 Damaged Salt bin, Dolfechlas Road - Item has been on the list for nearly two years But several new bins have recently been provided in Cilcain. Neil to be reminded.

- Item 27 Bel Air, Rhydymwyn - During the recent snow, the trees were pushed down further on to the link path. the path was completely obstructed. Update required. Has a Statutory Notice been served on the landowner?

- Item 30 Church Meadow Rhydymwyn - Some potholes have been repaired whilst some remained.

- Item 31 Nant Alyn Road - verge encroachment - Request update from Neil.

- Item 33 A541 Rhydymwyn garage to Rhosesmor Junction - blocked gulleys along this section of road have now been a longstanding issue. When is the gulley emptying scheduled for?

New Items needing to be added to Neil's Action List

- (a) Tan y Coed, Nant Alyn Road, (slightly further up than the Caravan Park entrance). Road giving way opposite Tan y Coed.

- (b) Salt bin required by Garreg Boeth.

- (c) Water across the road by Walwen in Cilcain - gulley (or gulley connection) needs unblocking.

- (d) Berth Road junction with Ffordd y Llan - sunken gulley grid in the roadside wheel track. Depression getting worse.

- (e) Water standing on the Quarry Road by Fforrest Farm junction dangerous in icy conditions.

- (f) Cefn Melyn Road, Cilcain - Cllr Christine Vaughan reported a 'crater' of a pothole at the bottom of Cefn Melyn Hill (near road junction).
- (g) Loggerheads Road, Cilcain - Chairman reported pothole repairs required along Loggerheads Road.

6. MATTERS ARISING (NON HIGHWAY MATTERS)

- p66 Cilcain Cemetery risk assessment - Cllr Michael Parr had completed modifying the risk assessment. Copies had been distributed at the December 2024 Council meeting. Members agreed to approve the risk assessment.
- p66 Play area, Rhydymwyn - An additional key to the vehicular access gate had been provided to Cllr Karen Parker in the Quarry Liaison meeting by Mr Neil Hickie and passed on to Cllr Gareth W Hughes.
Members assumed that Mr Ian Smith had one key for use regarding the annual bonfire event. Neil to supply another two keys in due course.
- p67 Street Lighting, Cilcain - Chair confirmed that the Wattage numbers for Cilcain had now been obtained. The Clerk reported having sent the relevant information to Scottish Power. Clerk to pursue with Deeco the two LED lamp replacement at the rear of the Royal Oak in Hendre.
- p67 Hendre Quarry liaison meeting - Cllr Karen Parker reported that a Liaison Meeting had taken place on Friday 20 Dec 2024. Cllr Parker reported:
 - (i) The position regarding litter from waiting wagons on the A541 had improved.
 - (ii) New company (Sweeptech) has taken over the A541 road sweeping, but issues regarding the effectiveness of the road sweeping **remain**.
 - (iii) Obstruction in the Fechlas brook being monitored by Tarmac.
 - (iv) Another visit for residents will be arranged in a couple of months.
 - (v) Regular 'drone' surveys taking place to monitor developments at the quarry.
 - (vi) No blasting complaints received since the last quarry liaison meeting.
 - (vii) 800,000 Tons stone sold last year, aiming for 1 million Tons this year.
 - (viii) No further movement in the landslide detected since February 2024. The Feb 2024 slippage was due to ground water - road still closed.
 - (ix) Current preferred design option appears to be the use of concrete piles to stabilise the the bank - predicted cost £1m to £1.5m.
 - (x) Security of the site to be improved. Injury claim recently received from a lady trespasser.
 - (xi) Surface water discharge from the quarry road on to the A541. Mr Hickie to liaise with Mr Neil Parry in Flintshire CC's surface water drainage section.
 - (xii) The Quarry Manager indicated his intention to check the trees on land owned by Tarmac on the Mill Terrace side of Dolfechlas Brook and also on the Lloyds Terrace side of the A541.
 - (xiii) Mr Hickie indicated that he would pursue the closed access road off the A541 that has been closed by barriers for well over two years. Land presumed to be owned by D P Williams.

(xiv) Cllr Parker reported that Liaison Meeting minutes are occasionally available. When minutes are available, a copy of the minutes would be useful for distribution to Community Council Members.

p67 River Alyn, Rhydymwyn - No change.

p67 Roadside verge fenced off, Rhydymwyn.

- (i) Cllr Gareth Hughes had brought to the meeting a plan showing all the fields that used to belong to Flintshire County Council.
- (ii) Clerk requested to write to Flintshire CC to establish who Flintshire sold the land to.

p67 Catch-pit full between the DEFRA bridge and the DEFRA grille.

With regard to the obstruction preventing the trash grille being lifted, the Chairman, Cllr Gareth Hughes and Cllr John Doyle had met Michael Garrod (Defra) on Tuesday 14 Jan 2025.

The Chair reported that a fairly useful meeting had taken place. Mr Garrod would be updating the Clerk on progress made with arranging for the specialist contractor to carry out the necessary repairs to the gate lifting mechanism.

Cllr Doyle was surprised to find the set up, whereby the grille lifting mechanism was battery operated, with a main supply and a solar panel being used for charging the batteries. On this occasion, the battery charging facility was faulty and not charging the batteries. The batteries were therefore flat and unable to open the trash grille. Unfortunately, there was no backup facility in place whereby the gate could be lifted manually if necessary.

Clerk to pursue Michael Garrod for an update. Cllr Gareth W Hughes indicated his intention of inspecting the obstructed trash grille on a weekly basis

p67 Cefn Road / Nant Alyn Rd, speed issues. Item not discussed.

p67 Speeding in Hendre - Cllr Karen Parker reported that the speed measuring strips had been taken away, but no results of the speed survey had been forthcoming from Flintshire CC.

When the speed limit was 30 mph, the average speed was 33.6 mph, so it will be interesting to see if the average speed is now lower following the 20 mph limit being introduced.

Cllr Andrew Parkhurst had emailed Mr Lee Shone in Flintshire Traffic to request the speed results.

p67 Planning matters, Gwysaney Arms Hotel, Planning Application. No change from the December 2024 Council meeting.

p68 River Works, Rhydymwyn

- (a) Removal of the fence obstruction at the rear of the Institute. No change.

- (b) Raising the river bank of the Fechlas Brook by a couple of feet for a 20m section near the Tarmac entrance in Nant Road. No change.
- (c) Obstruction in the Fechlas Brook between the Coed y Felin / A541 junction and the Tarmac entrance. Cllr Karen Parker had reported on this issue in the Quarry Liaison meeting item earlier in the Council Meeting.

p68 Covid Snake, Rhydymwyn. Cllr John Doyle reported that the Covid Snake was now in place in the Defra site.

p68 Resurrecting the minerals grant - No change since the October 2024 Council meeting.

p68 Bus time tables. No change since the December 2024 Council meeting.

Cllr Karen Parker referred to a May 2024 Council Minute, whereby Mr Neil Hickie reported on his request to an Officer from Flintshire CC's Integrated Transport Unit for time tables to be provided.

The Clerk recalled asking the Flintshire Officer who was dealing with Bus Time tables, and was informed that due to a shortage of staff bus time tables could not be provided.

The Bus Company was then requested to provide a time table, which turned out to be incorrect for Cilcain. The Council then had to rely on a local resident who was in a position to correct the Bus Company's time table for Cilcain.

Cllr Gwen Hardman had recently reported to the Council that she was still trying to contact the Cilcain resident for information regarding the latest timetable. Clerk and Cllr Hardman to pursue.

p68 Rhydymwyn Service Station - No change since the December 2024 Council meeting.

p68 Hendre Flood Risk Management Scheme. Item not discussed.

p68 Parking Concern Cilcain - Clerk had written to Mr Richard L Jones at Flintshire CC. Flintshire Tourism agreed to give favourable consideration to refurbish / replace the two Notice Boards at Pedair y Groesffordd. Clerk had attempted to contact Mr Richard Jones. The Clerk had left a message but Mr Jones had not returned the call.

p68 Drainage, Nant Road, Rhydymwyn - The culvert outfall had been identified as being partly blocked in a river walk that Cllr Gareth W Hughes and the Clerk had attended on 15 Nov 2023.

The Clerk reported having inspected the culvert exit and taken a photo (23 Dec 2024). The bed of the open watercourse downstream of the stone built culvert under Nant Road had been cleaned. However, the stone culvert under Nant Road did not appear to have been cleaned. Clerk to send photos to Mr Neil Hickie.

p68 Sycamore Tree at Sharpow, Dolfechlas Road, Rhydymwyn - Cllr Tim Mitchell reported that the owner of Sharpow had been informed by Flintshire Housing that the tree issue was on the list of outstanding items.

p69 Cilcain Reservoirs - Cllr J V Worthington reported that Dwr Cymru's Contractor had left the Brithdir Mawr site. The Contractor was scheduled to return to the site in the Spring of 2025. The reservoir water level had been lowered slightly before the Contractor had left the site.

Cllr Parkhurst reported that a site meeting had been arranged with Mr Paul Reeves. for early March to discuss the potential flooding of Loggerheads Road and the loss of water supply in adjoining properties.

The de-silting of the pond at the rear of the Waterworks Pump House, so that it can provide attenuation to the flow in storm conditions, had been discussed further with Gwenan Davies. Gwenan maintained it would be a large and costly project, which would require NRW permission. Can be looked at in the future, but not in the short term.

- Community work by Dwr Cymru's Contractor - Chair invited Cllr Parkhurst to outline the community work undertaken in Cilcain village:
- (i) Clearing work in Cilcain Churchyard
 - (ii) Provided salt bins and replenished local salt heaps

Cllr John Doyle referred to an item seen on Country File regarding 'leaky barriers', the idea being to use barriers made of natural materials that allow water to pass through at normal flow rates, but slowing the flow of water, allowing it to seep into the ground instead of rushing downstream.

p69 Septic Tank serving Ruby Houses, Rhydymwyn. Item can now be removed from the Minutes.

p69 Cilcain Defibrillator - The Chair invited Mrs Sue Jones to update the Council on the defibrillator signage: Mrs Jones reported that she had requested the Nannerch C C's Clerk to enquire with Mr Huw Morgan where the Nannerch defibrillator direction signs had been purchased from.

Cllr Worthington indicated he would take a photo of the Nannerch signs.

p70 Proposal for a new National Park -

- (i) Chair - Now that the consultation period was over, we will need to wait for the results.
- (ii) Cllr Christine Vaughan maintained - If the activity during the recent snow is anything to go by, and the National Park goes ahead, it will be a nightmare. Inconsiderate drivers and inconsiderate parking was the norm.

p70 Defnydd o'r Iaith Gymraeg - Clerk to pursue the preparation of a Policy document.

p70 Planning Issues - Cllr Karen Parker referred to a planning application which had recently been considered by the Community Council for 'Pen y Cefn Farm, Rhydymwyn'. The development now has three points of access on the highway. Clerk to request Flintshire Planning Enforcement Officer to check on the position.

- p71 Fallen tree between Nant Road and Hendre on the A541. Item to be deleted.
- p71 Raised grid near Fforrest Farm, Star Crossing Road.
(i) Chair reported that the raised grid had been sorted.
(ii) Cllr Parkhurst had sent a reminder to the Call centre Manager for a response to his request regarding the average time it took for the 'out of hours' phone system to answer a call.
- p72 Road flooding by Walwen. Clerk confirmed that the item had been reported to Mr Neil Hickie.
- p72 Flooding by Fforrest Farm junction - Clerk confirmed that the item had been reported to Mr Neil Hickie.
- p72 Two street lamps out on the A541 near Hendre. The report from Cllr Gareth W Hughes had been forwarded to Jamie Bennett at Flintshire CC's Street Lighting Section on 26 Nov 2024.

Cllr Karen Parker reported that one of the lamps had been repaired but had gone off again.

Clerk to request an update from Jamie Bennett at Flintshire CC's street lighting section.
- p72 Cilcain Village Hall photovoltaic panels planning permission. Item to be discussed when Cllr Gwen Hardman is present.
- p73 Salt heaps refilled at Loggerheads Road, Cilcain. Chair maintained the salt heaps in Loggerheads Road need to be replenished again.
- p73 Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn - Clerk reported having sent a reminder to the Planning Enforcement Section at Flintshire CC. Clerk to pursue further.
- p73 Blocked culvert causing flooding near Ruby Cottages -
Cllr Andrew Parkhurst had made Mr Hickie aware of the flooding which had occurred in the Rhydymwyn and Hendre area on Sat 07 Dec 2024. A pack of photographs were distributed at the meeting showing the flooding incidences which had occurred in the Cilcain, Rhydymwyn and Hendre area on 07 Dec.

Phot (1-4) - Hendre photos from Cllr Karen Parker - Surcharging of the Pumping Station at rear of Lloyds Terrace to be discussed between Paul Reeves and Dwr Cymru (probably Mr Ronnie Kelbrick from Dwr Cymru).

Phot (5-7) - Antelope Ind Estate entrance area. Photos from Cllr Tim Mitchell. Cllr Parkhurst had written to Mr Neil Hickie.

Phot (8-13) - Ruby Villas area - Photos from Mr Saul Burton - Saul had written to Mr Neil Hickie.

Plan (14-15) - Fforrest Farm junction - Neil to arrange for the gulleys in the area to be cleaned out. There was uncertainty regarding the outfall for the gully system in this vicinity. Plan 14 identified the location of a ditch discharging into a pond in a field owned by Fforrest Farm.

p74 Rhydymwyn Football Club (RFC) donation - Cllr John Doyle had noticed a three day tournament event scheduled for the Football Club. Clerk to write to the RFC to request that the Club makes adequate parking arrangements to ensure that inconsiderate parking in the village does not take place.

p75 Rhydymwyn Flood Protection.

- (i) New removable barrier above the 5 culvert system. The four figure combination lock number has been given by telephone to Rhydymwyn Ward Members. In due course, the number will need to be given to the Flood Wardens.
- (ii) The Clerk reported that Paul Jones and NRW only have access to the double gates, located approx 200 yds upstream of the Defra bridge.
- (iii) Rakes are already available with Jimmy Hulse. Flintshire CC is in a position to supply a long handle rake.
- (iv) In the long term, Members noted that a different style of grille may be appropriate. Cllr Gareth Hughes to take a photo of a recently provided grille near Beamarris.

p75 Loggerheads Road - Verge slipping on to the carriageway - Chairman reported that the verge slips were cleared by Flintshire Streetscene. Further slips occurred which have been cleared again.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS** None received.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) 19/11 Town / Community Council Precepts (2025-26) - Notification regarding the Council's precept to be submitted by Tuesday 28 January 2025. Precept to be decided upon in the Payment Section of the Meeting.
- 2) 17/12 Wattage of lamps in Cilcain. Information supplied by the Chairman regarding the wattages of the new Cilcain lamps. Information received following his telephone conversation with Deco. Position noted.
- 3) 17/12 Extract from a press article received from Cllr Worthington regarding Assembly funding for pothole repairs. Position noted.
- 4) 18/12 Deeside.com: Flintshire Councillors hesitant on North East Wales national park plans over costs. Extract from press comment from Cllr John Doyle. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that Flintshire CC's Cabinet expressed reservations about the

National Park on the basis that the costs were very uncertain and the benefits had not been sufficiently quantified.

- 5) 18 /12 Rhydymwyn Defra Site - Letter sent to Michael Garrod to express concern regarding the regular failure of the trash grille. Position noted.
- 6) 18/12 Rhydymwyn Flood Protection gates. Photo from Cllr John Doyle of the new flood protection gates recently fixed by NRW. Clerk contacted Mr Dafydd Roberts at NRW and Mr Paul Jones, Tros yr Afon regarding the key or combination lock number. Item discussed earlier.
- 7) 23/12 DEFRA Rhydymwyn Site. Information and photo from Mr Leigh Brassey (NRW) regarding the obstruction in the trash grille. Position noted.
- 8) 23/12 Concern regarding flood debris obstructing the Defra grille, Rhydymwyn. Response from Michael Garrod (Defra). Item discussed earlier.
- 9) 01/01 Telephone conversation with Mr Paul Jones regarding the locking arrangement for the new removable fence by the 5 culvert grille near the Defra bridge. Item discussed earlier.
- 10) 03/01 Defra Grille photo - photo of Defra Grill obstruction received from Rhydymwyn resident (GJ). Position noted.
- 11) 03/01 Defra bridge pillar, Rhydymwyn - Report received from Rhydymwyn resident (GJ) regarding brickwork and pillar foundation. Concern and photo referred to Mr Mathew Davies, Flintshire's Bridge Engineer. Flintshire CC to be reminded in a few weeks time.
- 12) 04/01 Rhydymwyn Defra Site - concern regarding the Defra grille. Email to Becky Gittins MP to request her support in putting pressure on Defra to ensure the grille problem is resolved as soon as possible. Position noted.
- 13) 06/01 Loggerheads Road, Cilcain - verge collapse. Cllr Worthington reported that collapsed verge in two locations near Maes Groes Bella had been cleared last week. Unfortunately another verge collapse nearby had now occurred. Item passed on to Mr Neil Hickie. Position discussed earlier.
- 14) 08/01 Rhydymwyn Defra Site - Concern regarding the Defra grille. Response from Amy McAteer (Office Manager for Becky Gittins MP) suggesting a site visit on 21 February. Position noted.
- 15) 13/01 PSOW Consultation Notification of Complaints. Information from Flintshire CC. Position noted.
- 16) 13/01 Cilan Lodge Road, Cilcain - Report from a Cilcain Member regarding the boundary hedge protruding out into Cilan Lodge Road near its junction with

Ffordd y Llan. Report forwarded to Mr Neil Hickie with a request for the item to be included on the Action List. Position noted.

- 17) 14/01 Road Closure - Cilain Lodge Junction to Ty Gwyn Access Road, Cilcain. Information from Flintshire CC. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported - new water main going in the field. Cllr Parkhurst reported that access will be maintained.
- 18) 14/01 Gutters on cemetery bier house. Report and photo received from the Chairman of the snow damage to the rain water gutter. Cllr Ian Hughes had been requested to assess the nature and extent of the repair. Chair reported that Cllr Ian Hughes had inspected the damage and repaired the gutter the following day. Members noted from the photographs that a neat job had been undertaken. The Chair expressed the Council's thanks to Cllr Hughes for the prompt and excellent work.
- 19) 14/01 Defra trash grille, Rhydymwyn. Site meeting for Councillors to meet Mr Michael Garrod (Defra) to discuss the position regarding the regular failure of the trash grille's opening mechanism.

Chairman, Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr John Doyle reported that the meeting with Michael Garrod had been very constructive. The meeting had demonstrated the advantage to be had from a 'face to face' meeting. Mr Garrod had been able to answer all the questions regarding the functioning of the trash grille.

With regard to the cleaning of the catch pits, Mr Garrod had explained that the three catch pits at the entrance to the Defra Site were an NRW issue. The catch pits had not been cleaned out for nearly four years (April 2021) because of the conditions imposed on the means of disposal of the gravel arising.

Mr Garrod had explained that any proposal for cleaning the catch pits had to be approved by four different Departments within NRW.

Cllr Gareth W Hughes maintained that NRW were more concerned 'moving stone' than 'flooding the village'.

- 20) 17/01 Cilcain cemetery, Bier house guttering - Note and photo from Cllr Ian Hughes showing before and after of repair work. Item discussed earlier.
- 21) 17/01 Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan. For Members to comment on and add to. Item discussed earlier.

9. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS** - The accounts scheduled in the Appendix were approved.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on the 17 Chwefror - 17 February 2025. 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.

Appendix - Payment section not for publication until approved at the Council Meeting -

1. Payment of Accounts - (January 2025)

(i)	A E (sal + fixed exp) for December 2024	705.85
(ii)	HMRC - PAYE (L.G.A.1972 S112) confirmation of the BACS payment made	108.45
(iii)	Office Equipment and stationery - (L.G.A.1972 S111) (Invoices available at the Council Meeting)	136.00
(iv)	AE - web fee	18.00
(v)	JDK annual hosting and domain fee (past twelve months)	150.00
(vi)	Zurich insurance - Renewal date (12 Feb 2025). Last year premium payment was £2,468.72 (3.5% increase this year)	2,556.44
(vii)	Rhydymwyn War Memorial Institute (£600 included in precept)	600.00
(viii)	Cilcain Clean and Lock (insurance premium with Zurich)	125.87
(ix)	O Roberts - grass cutting around seats in Cilcain for 2024 (2023's payment was £110)	110.00
(x)	Power Systems Street lighting energy charges (3 months)	948.26

Please Note: Payment for the above items being 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 2024/2025 BUDGETARY YEAR

Members recalled observations 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 (ending on 31 Dec 2024) period is a particularly useful exercise, to enable the Council to assess its precept requirements for 2025/2026 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 2025/2026

Members were referred to Sheet No 1 and Sheet No 3 attached to the correspondence pack. Sheet No 1 identified the suggested precept for the financial year 2025/2026, based on the spending aspirations recently discussed by the Council, with the two most significant items in sheet No 1 being detailed in Sheet No 3.

The recommended precept was a standstill budget, as suggested by the Council in the December 2024 Council Meeting.

Additions noted and approved by Members:

- (i) Web site hosting fee for the Council website - add £150 in Sheet No 3.

- (ii) Add a new row on the 'Precept Form' for the internal and external audit fees. Members noted that the Council had been using the same Precept Form for the last 20 to 30 years. Twenty years ago - there was no charge by the 'District Auditor' based in County Hall.

Members noted that Flintshire CC is having to find substantial savings in its budget for 2025/2026. The Council hopes that the savings that Flintshire CC need to make will 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.

As of November 2024, the UK's inflation rate was 2.6%. This is up from 2.3% in the previous month.

Resolution - Cllr Gareth W Hughes proposed, Cllr J Emyr Davies seconded and all Member agreed with the above alterations and with the precept being the same as last year at £30,800.

Clerk and Chair authorised to sign and submit the precept request form to Flintshire CC.

- 4. **Current Council Bank Balance.** Please note that the closing balances in the Council's Bank Accounts on 13 January 2025 were:
Current Account: £223.29
Deposit Account: £47,465.20

Dep. Acc. interest:

2024 (Dec £56.43) (Nov £59.51) (Oct £64.13) (Sep £67.70) (Aug £56.76) (July £58.41) (June £63.43) (May £61.07) (Apr £49.17) (Mar £46.29) (Feb £54.96)

Chair ClerkDate