

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL CILCAIN ON 17 FEBRUARY 2025**

Present: Chairperson: J V Worthington  
Councillors: J Emyr Davies Malcolm Down  
John Doyle Gwen Hardman  
Gareth W Hughes Ian Hughes  
Karen Parker Michael Parr  
Tim Mitchell  
The Clerk was also in attendance

**1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the February Meeting. (Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Chwefror). 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 Christine Vaughan**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -**

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

**4. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING - Cllr J Emyr Davies proposed and Cllr Ian Hughes seconded and all Members present agreed to approve the 20 January 2025 Minutes.**

**5. MATTERS ARISING - HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

Alterations / Additions to Neil's Action Plan dated 29 Jan 2025.

- Item 1 Cilan Lodge, Cilcain - tree root in highway verge still there.
- Item 2 Cilan Lodge, Cilcain - overgrown hedge has not been cut back.
- Item 3 Hendre Village - Cllr Karen Parker reported - light still out. Neil had forwarded the report to the Street Lighting Dept. Clerk reported sending an email and location map to Jamie Bennett - acknowledgment received from Jamie on 13 Feb 2025.
- 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?  
Chair reported that Neil was considering leaving the original sign in place, but cut off the damaged edge of the sign.
- Item 5 Pedair y Groesffordd overgrown hedge. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that some cutting back work had been done.

- Item 6 Damaged sign, Hendre - The sign was on the bottom of the supporting pole on the A541 (Rhydymwyn side of the Tarmac entrance). No change.
- Item 8 Trial Hill damaged gulley grid - Neil indicates it has been repaired. Cllr Michael Parr to check.
- -- '13 and a 1/2 furlong' sign at the Bottom Road / Pantymwyn Road junction. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that that the mile stone had recently been nudged, and was now leaning. Clerk to report to the Conservation Section at Flintshire CC, or to Mr Neil Hickie.
- Item 9 Loggerheads Road, Cilcain, Chairman reported that the potholes along Loggerheads Road are extremely bad at present.
- Item 10 Cilan Lodge new bench base has been provided and fixed - Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that a tidy job had been done. Old metal seat needs disposing of.
- Item 11 New Junction sign (Berth Road) - Sign erected on the Star Crossing side of the Berth Road junction. Another sign has been ordered for the village side of the junction.
- Item 12 A541 Rhydymwyn to Rhosesmor junction, - Cllr Tim Mitchell reported the tree that he had reported seemed to have been dealt with. Check required.
- Item 13 Water standing on the Quarry Road by the Fforrest Farm junction. Gulley emptier to attend so that the outfall can be established.
- Item 14 Pren Teg, Nant Alyn - Longitudinal crack - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that Neil had indicated in the recent site meeting that he would have another look at the crack and decide if the remedial work can take place at the same time as the depression in the carriageway, 80 yds on the Rhydymwyn side of the Coed Du junction.
- Item 16 A541 Opposite former Gwysaney Pub - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that a new lamp was in place.
- Item 20 A541 Hendre, BT sinking BT cover - temporary repair had taken place. Cllr Karen Parker reported that a Section 81 Notice had been served on BT to require BT to undertake a more permanent repair.
- Item 22 Damaged salt bin, Dolfechlas Road - Cllr Karen Parker reported that Neil had indicated in the site meeting that all the salt bins available for this year had been allocated. Request made for a replacement bin to be included in next Winter's allocation.
- Item 25 Cllr Tim Mitchell reported that two of the three gulleys remain blocked.
- Item 27 Bel Air, Rhydymwyn - Cllr John Doyle reported there had been no change - the trees were still obstructing the link path. Neil had explained to Cllr Karen Parker that serving a notice on the landowner was a long process..

- Item 29 Garreg Boeth, Hendre - Chair reported that a new salt bin had been provided. Item can now be deleted.
- Item 30 Church Meadow, Rhydymwyn - No change from January 2025. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that some potholes have been repaired whilst some still require attention.
- Item 31 Nant Alyn Road - verge encroachment - Neil had indicated that he intended speaking to the new landowner.
- Item 33 A541 Rhydymwyn garage to Rhosesmor Junction - Cllr Gareth Hughes reported that the footway had been swept but the gulleys had still not been emptied. Neil to be reminded.
- item 35 Bob Cat sweeping - Bath Hill not yet done.

**New Items - requiring to be added to Neil's next Action List**

- (a) Outside The Graig, Nant Alyn Road, Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported new pothole opposite driveway.
- (b) Coed Du Farm, Rhydymwyn, - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported two or three potholes (100 yds on the Rhydymwyn side of Coed Du Farm).
- (c) A541 Denbigh side of Hendre - Cllr Tim Mitchell reported (200 metres outside the 40 mph limit) - pothole.
- (d) Trelan to Ty Gwyn - bad potholes reported by Cllr J Emyr Davies.
- (e) Berth Road junction with Ffordd y Llan - sunken gully grid in the roadside wheel track. Deposition getting worse reported by Cllr J Emyr Davies.
- (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) Trial Hill railing, Cilcain - railing appears to have been hit again so that one of the horizontal tubes has become undone from the fixing coupling. The horizontal rail was now protruding towards the carriageway.

Members were concerned that a number of the items reported to Neil since the January 2025 Council meeting have not been added to Neil's Action List dated 29 Jan 2025.

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

- p80 Play area, Rhydymwyn - Neil to supply another two keys in due course.

p80 Street Lighting, Cilcain - Chair confirmed that the 'wattage numbers' for Cilcain had now been obtained. The Clerk reported having received a request from Scottish Power for the 'LED charging codes' for each lamp. The Council has received (from the AONB) the UMSUG codes for twelve of the thirteen lamp in Cilcain. Deeco has been requested to supply the LED charge codes for the lamps in Rhydymwyn. Deeco will request the information from the firm that supplied the Rhydymwyn lanterns.

p80 Hendre Quarry and the Fechlas Brook - Cllr Karen Parker reported:

- (i) On her intention to inspect the Fechlas Brook to take photographs of the numerous obstructions to the flow.
- (ii) Parts of the culvert gabions opposite Lloyds Terrace are damaged or missing - identifying the landowner responsible for repairs could become an issue.
- (iii) No further information from the Quarry Manager regarding the possible timing of dealing with the north face slippage.

Members expressed concern that there had been no movement regarding the road closure for approximately two years. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst indicated he had arranged to meet the adjoining farmer to discuss the road closure position.

p81 Roadside verge fenced off, Rhydymwyn.

Clerk requested to write to Flintshire CC to establish who Flintshire sold the land to.

p81 Catch-pit full between the DEFRA bridge and the DEFRA grille.

Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged for the Chairman and Rhydymwyn Ward Members to meet Becky Gittins (MP) on Friday 24 Feb. In case the weather is an issue the Defra Reception Office has been booked for the meeting at 2.30 pm.

p82 Bus time tables. Cllr Gwen Hardman reported having spoken to the Cilcain resident (MB). The hand written notice had been erected to explain the error in the Bus Company's time table. Cllr Hardman and Clerk to arrange for a laminated A3 typed version of the corrected notice to be put up.

p82 Rhydymwyn Service Station - Draft letter to Service Station prepared. Letter to be sent by Royal Mail.

p82 Parking concern Cilcain - Renewal of the Pedair y Groesfford Notice Boards - Clerk had attempted to contact Mr Richard Jones. The Clerk had left a number of telephone messages, but Mr Jones was not currently returning the calls. Clerk to pursue.

p68 Drainage, Nant Road, Rhydymwyn - The culvert outfall had been identified as being partly blocked in a river walk that took place in Nov 2023. The open watercourse downstream of the stone built culvert under Nant Road had been recently cleaned. However, the stone culvert under Nant Road did not appear to have been cleaned. Clerk to pursue with Mr Hickie.

p82 Sycamore Tree at Sharpow, Dolfechlas Road, Rhydymwyn - Cllr Tim Mitchell reported - no change.

p83 Cilcain Reservoirs - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that a site meeting had been arranged for the 7 March (at 9.30 am ) with Paul Reeves (Flintshire's Land Drainage Engineer) and Dwr Cymru. The concern to be discussed is that the loss of attenuation resulting from removing the reservoir has not been taken into account in the reservoir removal plans.

The potential flooding of Loggerheads Road and an adjoining property as a result of the attenuation loss was discussed.

Cllr John Doyle had mentioned in the January Council Meeting 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.

Cllr Tim Mitchell wondered if consideration could be given to retaining a partially filled reservoir, with a mechanism in place to control the flow of water from the reservoir. Members felt that Flintshire CC was unlikely to take on the responsibility for maintaining a partially filled structure.

The Chairman referred to a flood attenuation arrangement having been tried at the top end of Reservoir 1 and 2. Unfortunately, the arrangement was washed away in the first downpour that occurred.

p83 Cilcain Defibrillator - The Chair had seen direction signs in Nercwys. Clerk to make enquiries with the Clerk of Nercwys CC.

p83 Proposal for a new National Park - No change

p83 Defnydd o'r Iaith Gymraeg - Clerk to pursue the preparation of a Policy document.

p83 Planning Issues - 'Pen y Cefn Farm, Rhydymwyn'. The development now has three points of access on the highway. Clerk to pursue with Flintshire CC's Planning Enforcement Section.

p84 Flooding near Fforrest Farm junction - No change. Item discussed earlier. Neil's survey of the gully system to take place in due course to determine the system's outfall.

p84 Road flooding by Walwen. Gulleys to be cleaned out.

p84 Two of Flintshire CC's street lamps out on the A541 near Hendre. No change. Clerk to pursue with Jamie Bennett in Flintshire CC.

p84 Cilcain Village Hall photovoltaic panels planning permission. Cllr Gwen Hardman reported that full planning permission had now been granted for the panels. One more quotation is now being sought to satisfy the conditions of the funding body.

p84 Salt heaps refilled at Loggerheads Road, Cilcain. Chair reported that replenishing the salt heaps on Loggerheads Road was still outstanding.

- p84 Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn - Clerk reported having sent a reminder to the Planning Enforcement Section at Flintshire CC. A copy of the reminder had been sent to the Chair, Vice Chair etc. Clerk to send another reminder.
- p84 Recent Flooding in Hendre, Ruby cottages and Rhydymwyn:  
Members noted:
- (i) 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).
  - (ii) Antelope Ind Estate entrance area. Cllr Parkhurst had written to Mr Neil Hickie and reported on the response received. Cllr Parkhurst intended raising the issues at the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee to request a 'lessons learnt' review.
  - (iii) Ruby Villas area - Mr Saul Burton had written to Mr Neil Hickie. Neil had written back to Saul to indicate that a contract had been let to clean out the culvert in Nant Road.
  - (iv) 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 area. Once the gulleys have been cleaned out, it should be easier to establish where the gully system discharges to.
- p85 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 does not take place in the village.
- p85 Rhydymwyn Flood Protection.
- (i) Rakes are already available with Jimmy Hulse. Flintshire CC is in a position to supply a long handle rake. Clerk to remind Mr Hickie.
  - (ii) In the long term, Members noted that a different style of grille may be appropriate. Cllr Gareth W Hughes to take a photo of a recently provided grille near Beaumaris.
- p85 Loggerheads Road, verge slipping on to the carriageway - Chairman reported that the verge slips issue have now been dealt with.
- p86 Rhydymwyn Defra Site - Clerk to request Michael Garrod to confirm that operation of the automatic trash gate was now fully functional. Clerk to request the required information from Mr Michael Garrod (Defra).
- p86 Defra bridge pillar, Rhydymwyn - Clerk to remind Flintshire CC's Bridge Engineer to assess the structural integrity of the brick pillar and concrete foundation.

7. **MATERION CYNLLUNIO - PLANNING MATTERS** -

- (i) Ref No: FUL/000098/25  
Proposal: Erection of a detached garage  
Location: Cartrefle, Cilcain, Mold, CH7 5PG

The Community Council has **no objection** to the application

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) 20/01 Donation to Rhydymwyn FC - Thank you note from Rhydymwyn Football Club for the Council's recent donation to assist the Club with some badly needed electrical renovation work. Position noted.
- 2) 21/02 Rhydymwyn War Memorial Institute - Thank you note for the Community Council's donation. Position noted.
- 3) 22/01 Tre Lan trash grille, Cilcain. WhatsApp photo from Mr Neil Hickie of the newly installed trash grille at the entrance to the highway culvert near Tre Lan Farm. A photo was attached to the correspondence.
- 4) 22/01 Town and Community Council Precepts - 2025/2026. Inform Flintshire CC of the Council Precept - being £30,800 (same as the previous year). Position noted.
- 5) 23/01 Tre Lan trash grille, Cilcain - Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that the trash grille had been installed at the highway culvert entrance.
- 6) 24/01 Action List site meeting (three monthly). The additional items that were reported by Council Members at the 20 January 2025 Council meeting were sent to Mr Neil Hickie, in readiness for the site meeting scheduled for 1.30 pm Wednesday 29 Jan 2025 at the Rhydymwyn Institute. Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported at the Council Meeting. Notes taken by Cllr Karen Parker regarding the items discussed at the Institute meeting had been forwarded to Mr Hickie.
- 7) 24/01 'New Bid Writing Information Available' - Information received from Ambition North Wales.
- 8) 27/01 Defra Trash Grille. Timber obstruction cleared! Information received from Cllr Gareth Hughes. Cllr Hughes and Clerk will report on the current position regarding the gate operation.
- 9) 28/01 Rhydymwyn defibrillator - Cost of replacing defective defibrillator battery. Information from Cllr Gareth W Hughes. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported on the battery failing well before its expected life. Manufacturer indicated a free battery will be given when the next renewal battery is required.
- 10) 29/01 Entrance gate to Village hall - Photos of condition of Waen Field entrance gate from Cllr J V Worthington. Cllr Worthington had spoken to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. Further discussion to take place to confirm that gate post can stay in place, but renewal of the gate to take place.

- 11) 30/01 Culvert by Ruby Cottages, Rhydymwyn - Copy of email from Ruby Villas resident (SB) regarding the need to undertake work to the highway culvert in Nant Road. Item discussed earlier.
- 12) 30/01 Culvert by Ruby Cottages - Copy of email from Mr Hickie to indicate that a Contractor has been instructed to clean the surface water culvert in Nant Road. Item discussed earlier.
- 13) 31/01 Vehicular speed results, Hendre - Cllr Karen Parker gave a very detailed breakdown of the speed for each direction of travel and at different times of the day.

The speed results appeared to indicate that the introduction of the 20 mph speed restriction had not had the desired effect in Hendre. Members recalled that the average speed prior to the speed limit being brought down from 30 mph to 20 mph was 33.6mph.

Cllr Karen Parker to liaise further with Mr Leigh Shone for him to assess how the 'before' and 'after' speeds compared. Flintshire CC would also need to indicate what actions were available if it transpired that the average speed had increased following the 20 mph introduction.

Generally speaking throughout Flintshire, Cllr Michael Parr enquired if Cllr Parkhurst had information on any of the speed reduction benefits following the introduction of the 20 mp reduction.

Cllr Parkhurst explained that Flintshire generally had to be very careful regarding any reviews. There appeared to be a strong lobby in place that objects to any changes involving going back to 30 mph.

- 14) 31/01 Hendre Quarry access - Copy of email Cllr Karen Parker had sent to Frazer Harding (Quarry Manager) regarding the pot-holed condition of Nant Road.

Cllr Parker explained that even though the wheel wash had been repaired, the clean wagons were getting filthy dirty again after travelled along the slurry filled potholes in the exit before reaching the A54.

- 15) 03/02 Rhydymwyn FC Tournament. Information received from Rhydymwyn Ward Member - Three Day Football Festival scheduled for 4th to 6th July 2025 to take place at Rhydymwyn FC premises. Item discussed earlier.
- 16) 03/02 Hendre quarry access. Response from Frazer Harding to Cllr Karen Parker regarding the recent local concerns. Item discussed elsewhere.
- 17) 05/02 National Landscape Town & Community Councils & Local Members Forum. Minutes of the last meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (AONB) which took place on 7 Nov 2024. Members noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for 15 May 2025.



- 18) 06/02 Re: Slurry on the A541 through Rhydymwyn. Report from Cllr Karen Parker following her conversation with Frazer Harding regarding the various concerns relating to the Quarry. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that he and Cllr Parker had met the Deputy Quarry Manger to discuss the wheel washing equipment. The equipment had now been repaired and Cllr Hughes felt there had been a recent reduction in the amount of slurry on the A541.
- 19) 07/02 'Potholes filled in Flintshire as £25m funding announced' - Press article received from Cllr J V Worthington. Position noted.
- 20) 07/02 A541, Farm manure on carriageway (Mold side of Rhosesmor junction) - Report received from Rhydymwyn Ward Member. Report forwarded to Mr Andrew Lightfoot at 3.45 pm on Friday 07 Feb. Mechanical sweeper on site cleaning road and footway at 4.30pm. Note sent to Mr Lightfoot to thank him for the prompt response. Position noted.
- 21) 07/ 02 A541 Flintshire's replacement street lamp opposite the Antelope Estate. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that the leaning streetlamp reported on 22 Sept 2024 had now been replaced by Flintshire CC. Members may recall that the leaning lamp had been a threat to an overhead power cable. Initially, the top part of the lamp had to be sawn off to remove the power cable threat. Position noted.
- 22) 09/02 ZOLL AED Plus Defibrillator - The Square, Cilcain Community Centre. Information from Mrs Sue Jones regarding the general position regarding the supply of batteries and pads for various defibrillators. Position noted.
- 23) 10/02 Surface water drain at the rear of Cilcain Chapel. The Chairman had attended a site visit Monday 10 Feb 2025 to discuss the problem at Capel Gad. The meeting had been arranged by Cllr Andrew Parkhurst for Chapel representatives to meet three Flintshire CC's land drainage officers. A plan was attached to the correspondence pack showing the line of the drain.

Cllr Parkhurst reported that the issue related to a drain that runs along the back and side of the Chapel. The drain is not in a particularly good condition. A TV drain survey was last done in 2018, the survey identifying cracks in the drain.

The Chapel representatives were concerned the water leaking from the drain into the adjoining ground has resulted subsidence and damp in the Chapel walls.

Flintshire maintained that a Highway Authority had a legal right to discharge water into the drain. Cllr Parkhurst explained that this did entirely absolve the County Council, since the amount of water coming down Mountain Road had increased significantly as a result of the sink hole by Greystones in Mountain Road being blocked.

Whilst the highway authority may have a legal right to discharge highway water into a culverted watercourse, Members agreed that this right to discharge does not allow the highway authority to increase the discharge and cause a problem to the landowner

downstream. When the Highway Authority realised that the sinkhole had ceased to function, it should have found another means of accommodating the highway water.

Cllr J Emyr Davies referred to another gully by Plas yn Llan that used to go into a soakaway in the adjoining field. The gully is now completely blocked, leaving more water to flow down Mountain Road.

The Chapel Elders were going to check if the deeds mentioned the drain and hopefully arrange for an up to date TV survey.

Cllr Emyr Davies recalled a scheme being mentioned by Frazer Roberts, (Flintshire's Local Supervisor at the time) to take the Mountain Road water down as far as The Square, and then join the existing surface water sewer at the Bwlch Lane junction.

- 24) 12/02 New seat fixed, bottom of Tre Lan Road (by Cilan lodge) - Cllr Gareth Hughes reported that the new wooden seat has been fixed. Cllr J Emyr Davies has been requested to inspect. Item discussed earlier.
- 25) 13/02 New Staggered Junction sign at the Bwlch Lane / Ffordd y Llan junction. Mr Neil Hickie reported that the requested sign has been erected. A second sign has been ordered for the Cilcain village side of the junction. Position noted.
- 26) 14/02 Speed results, Hendre - Report from Cllr Karen Parker regarding the results of the recent speed survey. Item discussed earlier.
- 27) 12/02 Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan. 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 Mawrth - 17 March 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** - (February 2025)

(i)	A E (sal + fixed exp) for January 2025	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)	184.89
(iv)	AE - web fee	18.00
(v)	Canon photocopier (3 months fee)	117.18
(vi)	Cllr allowance (Chair + V Ch + Members 250+200+208/member = £458 + £408 + 10 x £208.	2,946.00
(vii)	Rhydymwyn and Hendre (defective defibrillator battery last replaced in 2023).	267.60
(viii)	Cilcain Clean and Lock (Water charges for the Cilcain Toilet)	105.09

Please Note: Payment for the above items being 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 balances in the Council's Bank Accounts on 07 February 2025 were:

Current Account: £489

Deposit Account: £42,185

Dep. Acc. interest:

2025 (Jan £70.11)

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 ..... Clerk ..... Date .....