

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE WAR
MEMORIAL INSTITUTE RHYDYMWYN ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Present: Chairperson: Ian Hughes
Councillors: J Emyr Davies Gwen Hardman
Malcolm Down Tim Mitchell
Michael Parr Christine Vaughan
J V Worthington
The Clerk was also in attendance

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

Croeso i bawb i Gyngor Mis Medi. The Chairperson welcomed Members to the September Meeting. The Chair also welcomed Cilcain resident (SJ) and Flintshire County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst to the Council Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Pauline Douglas, Cllr John Doyle, Cllr Gareth W Hughes, Cllr Karen Parker.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None received.

4. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING - Cllr Michael Parr proposed and Cllr Gwen Hardman seconded and all Members present agreed to approve the 18 August 2025 Minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING - HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Neil's Action Plan - dated 18 August 2025 -

Sheet One (Potholes)

Item 8 - Pantymwyn Road, Cilcain - Members questioned where the outfall is for highway surface water flowing in the road channel past Brynford. There would appear to be two options:

- (i) Cllr Ian Hughes maintained the drainage system in Parc y Llan is a combined system, whereby the foul and surface water drain into the same combined sewer, in which case the surface and foul would be taken down Pantymwyn Road towards Trial Hill.
- (ii) The second option is for the highway water collected in gulleys between The Square and the Parc y Llan junction being discharged into a soakaway in the field on the Trial Hill side of the Parc y Llan entrance.

Clerk to request Mr Hickie to check on the drainage records. If highway surface water discharges into a soakaway, then the soakaway needs to be found and probably cleaned out.

Items to be added to Sheet One of Action List

- (a) Bottom Road - Number of potholes have developed between the bottom of Cefn Melyn Hill and Pantymwyn Road - reported by Cllr Michael Parr.
- (b) Pothole by the Fforrest Farm entrance - Since the hole is on the inside of a bend vehicles tend to veer out towards the middle of the road to avoid the pothole, such a manoeuvre being dangerous.

Sheet Two (Miscellaneous)

- Item 3 Berth Road / Ffordd y Llan junction, Cilcain - Date issued 16/12/25 needs correcting.
- Item 10 'Bryn y Graig' needs changing to 'Bron y Graig'. Members questioned whether or not the surface water discharging down Pantymwyn Road discharges into the roadside verge at this point, soaking the verge and resulting in a depression of the carriageway being formed.

Items to be added to Sheet Two on the Action List

- (a) Trial Hill railing repair - Cllr Parr maintained a check is needed to establish whether or not all the three sections of railing repair have been done.

General observations regarding highway matters

- A) Cllr Tim Mitchell referred to the depth dimension (40 mm) being used by Flintshire CC to define a pot hole requiring repair. Is the 40 mm dimension a Flintshire CC policy decision or a limit being adopted nationally? Also, is the proposal to raise the 40 mm limit to 75 mm a Flintshire CC or a national policy? Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to clarify the position.
- B) Members noted that Flintshire CC is not proposing to use weed killing spray in future. Future clearing of paths is going to be done manually. The manual system is likely to take much longer. Members maintained that by the end of next summer the problem is likely to get much worse as a result of this year's growth not being dealt with. Cllr Gareth Hughes and Cllr Karen Parker had provided photographs showing examples of paths that were already suffering from reduced width due to lack of weed killing this year. Clerk to forward the photos to Cllr Andrew Parkhurst.

6. MATTERS ARISING (NON HIGHWAY MATTERS)

- p28 Hendre Quarry and Fechlas Brook - Cllr Karen Parker will be having a meeting with Mr Paul Reeves and the landowner. Cllr Parker to provide an update in the October Council Meeting.
- p29 Roadside verge fenced off, Rhydymwyn - Holding reply received from Flintshire CC Legal on 3rd Sept - Matter being pursued by Flintshire. Clerk to send a reminder.

- p29 Parking concerns at Pedair y Groesffordd - No update from Mr Richard L Jones since mid August
- p29 Sycamore Tree, Sharphaw, Dolfechlas Road, Rhydymwyn - Item to stay on the Agenda to act as a reminder.
- p29 Cilcain Reservoirs - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that Gwenan Davies was going to schedule a site meeting date for October
- p29 Cilcain defibrillator - Photos of the two different types of signs were available at the meeting. Members agreed to provide a double sided sign for erecting on the footpath post outside the Village Hall. Mrs Sue Jones has requested a quotation from a firm in Denbigh. Once the size of the sign is known, a check can be made to find out if there is sufficient room for the sign on the existing post.
- p29 Cilcain Village Hall photovoltaic panels. Cllr Gwen Hardman reported that monitoring was ongoing. Chair indicated it will probably need monitoring for a 12 month period.
- p30 Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn - New large shed erected without planning permission. According to Flintshire CC Planning Enforcement Section, the building is classed as a 'temporary' structure that will be removed before the end of October.
- p30 Rhydymwyn Flood Protection
- (i) Clerk had spoken to Mr Peter Ellis to enquire if changing the batteries could be done by volunteers. Jimmy Hulse had made a suggestion that the solar panel could be located in the secure Defra site and a low voltage armoured cable be threaded through the 5 culvert system.

Mr Ellis had come up with another option for the camera. NRW is currently arranging for a safety railing to be erected on the outfall end of the spillway. When operatives are cleaning the spillway a guardrail will be required to protect operatives from falling into the main culvert / catch pit. When the guardrail is in place, the camera can be fixed to the new railing.
 - (ii) Clerk to arrange with Defra for a Rhydymwyn Council Member, possibly Cllr John Doyle, to be present when the automatic lifting mechanism for the Defra gates is being checked.
 - (iii) Clerk had recently spoken to Mr Michael Garrod at Defra. It would appear that Defra have discovered that the work of cleaning the culvert by the triples can be done under an existing licence, subject to the work being completed before the expiry of the licence at the end of October. Construction equipment is currently arriving on site.
 - (iv) Clerk to contact Mr Tim Owens at the NRW's Defra Office to seek an update on the timescale for the gravel management plan for cleaning out the catch pits either side of the automatic grille by the Defra Bridge. If the work is unlikely to take place this year, the issue will need to be taken up with Becky Gittins (MP).

p30 Vehicle speed results Hendre - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst had not yet received a reply from Mr Lee Shone in Flintshire CC's Traffic Section regarding the timescale for the improvements scheme for the A541 from Mold to Hendre. Cllr Parkhurst had suggested a vehicle activated sign as a possible speed control measure in Hendre.

p30 Cilcain Chapel - Cllr J Emyr Davies maintained that Flintshire CC's lack of maintenance of the highway system had a lot to answer for. Gulley connections are not checked and cleaned out.

There used to be gulleys discharging into a sinkhole in Mountain Road. When the sinkhole in Mountain Road 'ceased up' approximately twenty years ago, an alternative discharge arrangement for the highway surface water was not pursued. An estimate was prepared at the time of £65,000 for a system to take the surface water down to The Square and on to Bwlch Lane.

Another blocked gulley was reported recently near Plas yn Llan. The gulley connection is blocked and there are no records to show whether or not the gulley is connected into a soakaway.

The gulley near the entrance of the village car park (at the entrance of the culverted watercourse system) does not even have a silt trap facility, so the storm water debris coming down Mountain Road goes straight into the culverted system to cause siltation in the drain behind Capel Gad.

p30 Dwr Cymru Reservoir at Cilcain Pump House -
Cllr Parkhurst reported that the gap had been filled and warning signs erected.

p31 Bryngwiog lead mine disaster. Cllr J V Worthington reported that the historical display had now been moved from the Village Hall to Cilcain Church.

p31 Play Areas 50/50 Match-Funding Scheme 2025/26, Cilcain. Clerk to contact Mr Richard Roberts to enquire about a starting date.

p31 The Waen, Cilcain - Cllr Ian Hughes reported that the goal posts have been replaced after the Village Show.

p31 Road speed outside Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain, No change from the August Council Meeting.

p32 The ash die-back trees, Rhydymwyn and Cilcain play areas.
No information received yet from Flintshire CC regarding the date for tree removal at Rhydymwyn and Cilcain play areas.

p32 Dogs on the Waen Field - Item to be discussed later in the Council meeting.

p32 Village Hall, Cilcain, grant application to Cadwyn Clwyd for modifications to the entrance hall and toilets. The important annual events using the Village Hall have just finished, so the modification works can now start. Members noted that the modification works proposed by the Village Hall Committee had received the Community Councils permission a few months earlier.

p32 Nannerch and Cilcain Action Plans. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that earlier this year the Welsh Assembly had made £120 million additional funding available to Local Authorities for

highway maintenance. Local Authorities were able to apply in April 2025 for an allocation for their areas. Cllr Parkhurst had reported in an earlier Cilcain CC meeting about Flintshire's intention to produce a report by November this year to outline the repair plans. Cllr Parkhurst felt it seemed to be a long time to wait for the improvement to take place. Cllr Parkhurst to pursue.

- p32 Spar Quarry, Cilcain - Cllr Andrew Parkhurst emphasised again the need for residents to keep writing (with photos if possible) to Flintshire to report dust problems. Cllr John Worthington suggested there is no reason why the residents cannot undertake their own dust surveys. Cllr Michael Parr felt that possessing such surveys would come in useful to support a case for persuading Flintshire to take action.
- p33 Schedule of street lamps. Clerk to write to Scottish Power to request a credit note to compensate the Community Council for the overpayments that occurred as a result of paying for too many lamps.
- p33 Road damage, Pantymwyn Road, Cilcain. Cllr Michael Parr explained that the repaired depression was the second attempt at dealing with the problem at this location. Cllr Parr suspected that the depression may have been as a result of a leaking water main which occurred some eighteen months ago. Ideally, investigation should have taken place to establish the cause of the current depression. Monitoring of the position will now be appropriate to see if the depression returns.
- p34 Rhydymwyn river gate - Clerk to arrange with Defra for a Rhydymwyn Member to be present when the regular monthly check of the gate operation occurs.
- p34 Loggerheads Road, Cilcain. Site meeting at the Denbighshire boundary (attended by Cllr Worthington, Neil Hickie and the Clerk). Clerk to request Neil to clean out the verge grip on the Flintshire side of the boundary.
- p34 Site meeting at Waen Field with Flintshire CC's Mr Crumplin - Clerk to enquire with Mr Crumplin if he has made any progress with arranging for occasional inspection by the dog wardens.
- p34 Y Waen, Cilcain Village Green. Members recalled the discussion which had taken place in the 18 August 2025 Council Meeting:

In the August Council Meeting, Cllr Karen Parker had referred to comments being made regarding grass cutting. The grass cutting was being done in accordance with Flintshire CC's grass cutting policy. The Community Council did not want to move away from that arrangement. Transferring the task from Flintshire to a voluntary group would be a big risk. Insurance, maintenance equipment, regular inspections and liabilities would have to be considered.

Cllr J Emyr Davies felt it was important that a resolution was passed to formalise this grass maintenance position because otherwise this issue would be discussed in every future meeting. Cllr Davies maintained that as owner of the Waen Field, the Council must stay in control of the Waen and continue with the arrangement whereby Flintshire CC cuts the grass in accordance with its existing policy.

To abandon this arrangement for any other system is not appropriate. Many Councillors have recently expressed satisfaction with Flintshire grass cutting arrangement. If we take up any other maintenance arrangement, we would probably not be able to persuade Flintshire to take on the grass cutting maintenance again.

Cllr Gwen Hardman explained that the Waen was a registered village green. Therefore, the Community Council was the 'guardian' of the field. As the owner of the Green we cannot allow any encroachment or disturbances.

Cllr Michael Parr referred to the damage caused to the Waen as a result of last year's bonfire. The grass has still not recovered. Cllr Ian Hughes confirmed that the bonfire was seeded by the YFC last year. Cllr Worthington maintained that there had been an exceptionally dry spring this year so the grass had not recovered as it would in normal years. As long as the YFC follows best practice guidance they have fulfilled their duties. Cllr Gwen Hardman indicated that a list of conditions is given to the YFC with the Council's permission every year.

Regarding the entrance pedestrian gate, Members agreed to have the gate rubbed down and repainted with Hammerite. Clerk to arrange.

In view of the comments made regarding the grass maintenance and the village green status, Cllr J Emyr Davies maintained it was important to reach a decision on the grass cutting arrangement.

Cllr Michael Parr referred to the letter from the Cilcain resident, which requested the Council's response to the proposals outlined in Item (9D) in the correspondence pack distributed to Members prior to the Council Meeting.

Clerk to:

- (i) Acknowledge Mr Facer's email dated 29 August.
- (ii) Inform Mr Facer that further discussions regarding his proposals will continue in the October Council meeting.

County Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported having received an email from a Cilcain resident expressing concern that her young children were frightened of dogs in the Waen.

Members agreed that whilst dogs cannot be banned from The Waen, it is desirable to request dog owners to act responsibly and be more aware of young children using the field. If the dog is not on a lead then it is quite possibly that the dog owner is not aware of a dog fouling the field. Cllr Ian Hughes had taken a photo of recent dog fouling, which suggested that not all dog owners are close enough to their dogs to have their dogs under control.

Cllr Christine Vaughan referred to the possibility of the dog owner stopping to talk to someone by the shop and letting the dog loose to run into the Waen, not knowing if there are any young children in the field, who may be petrified of dogs.

In conclusion, Cllr J Emyr Davies proposed, seconded by Cllr J V Worthington that:

Cilcain Community Council as registered owner of the Waen Field stays in charge of the field and continues with the arrangement whereby the grass cutting is done by Flintshire County Council in accordance with its existing policy. Members unanimously agreed the proposal. The motion was therefore passed.

- p38. Cilcain Car Park. Cllr Ian Hughes had requested a quotation for surfacing the car park. Clerk indicated an estimate was required prior to the January precept preparation Council meeting.
- p38 Evergreen hedge protruding into Pantymwyn Road near The Square in Cilcain. Cllr Ian Hughes reported that the hedge had now been cut back. Item had been reported to Mr Neil Hickie at Flintshire Streetscene. However, the hedge had been cut by the owner / occupier before Mr Hickie approached the property owner.
- p38 Clacking manhole A541 between Rhydymwyn Garage and The Antelope. Cllr Gareth Hughes to check if the clacking manhole has been fixed.

7. MATERION CYNLLUNIO - PLANNING MATTERS -

- (i) Ref No: FUL/000709/25
Proposal: Construction of single storey extension, refurbishment & improvements
Location: Bryn Alyn Cottage, Rhydymwyn, Mold, CH7 5HE

Two Members reported not being able to access the details on Flintshire's Portal.
Cilcain CC's observations: No objections to the application.

- (ii) Ref No: FUL/000712/25
Proposal: Demolition of existing flat roof garage and extension of living area including new roof over remaining and new single storey construction.
Location: Isfryn, Cilcain, Mold, CH7 5NW

Cilcain CC's observations: No objections to the application.

8. GOHEBIAETH - CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) 19/08 Heavy goods sign, bottom of Cefn Melyn Hill, Cilcain - Email from Cilcain resident (DF) regarding the sign at the Bottom Road / Cefn Melyn Hill junction. Sign has now been re-orientated. Mr Hickie had suggested that the signs are often hit in the hedge cutting process. Apparently, the same problem occurred last year
- 2) 19/08 Dumped mattress Email (with photos) from Cilcain resident (DF) regarding fly tipping off Cefn Road, Cilcain. Information forwarded to Neil Hickie in Flintshire CC Streetscene. Clerk reported - mattress removed quite promptly by Flintshire CC.
- 3) 22/08 Repair to footbridge at Maes y Groes, Loggerheads Road, Cilcain - Report and photo from Cllr J V Worthington. Cllr Worthington reported - repair completed by Flintshire CC.

- 4) 26/08 Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported having passed on the long handle rake to Mr J Hulse for safe keeping. A suggestion was made by Mr Hulse regarding locating a solar panel in the Defra Site with a wired power cable from the solar panel to the existing camera located at the entrance of the 'five culvert' overflow system. Position noted regarding the rake's safe keeping with Mr Hulse. The suggestion regarding the wired power cable had been discussed earlier in the Council meeting.
- 5) 25/08 Map - 'FindMyStreet' - Link supplied by Cllr John Doyle to give the description for any section of road according to the National Street Gazetteer that Flintshire CC uses to give instructions for maintenance items to the workforce. The description in the National Street Gazetteer does not always agree with name of the street used by locals. For instance, 'Berth Road' in Cilcain is listed in the National Gazetteer as Four Crosses to Maes y Coed junction. Discussion took place regarding the merits or otherwise of using the National Gazetteer to report a problem to Mr Hickie.
- 6) 26/08 Pot holes filled - Email (with photos) from Cilcain resident (DF) regarding potholes having been filled near the dog leg junction between Rose Lane and Cefn Melyn Hill. Position noted.
- 7) 26/08 Millennium Woods, Pentre Road, Cilcain. Email (with photos) from Cllr Michael Parr regarding condition of items in the woodland area. Concern email forwarded on 27 Aug 2025 to Rebecca Good (Regional Manager of the Woodland Trust). Cllr Parr reported at the Council Meeting on his subsequent correspondence with the Woodland Trust. Cllr Parr confirmed that the broken bench and the rope swing are still there. Mrs Rebecca Good indicated that the issues raised by Cllr Parr would be inspected.
- 8) 28/08 Defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg (Use of the Welsh Language). Email from Hendre resident (JLT). The Clerk has responded to the request for an update. Position noted.
- 9) 29/08 Y Waen, Cilcain, Village Green - Email from Cilcain resident (DF) regarding state of the grass, dog signage, lack of amenities and suggestion for improvement of the Waen Field. Item discussed earlier.
- 10) 29/08 Burials at Cilcain cemetery. Email from a Cilcain resident (HB) regarding the possibility of reserving a grave in Cilcain cemetery. The Clerk has responded to the enquiry. Council's long standing policy is not to have plot reservations.
- 11) 30/08 Link Path Rhydymwyn - Information from Cllr John Doyle regarding the overgrowth obstructing the 'link path' between Dolfechlas Road and the Llys Alyn Housing Estate. Information forwarded to Flintshire Streetscene.
- 12) 01/09 Land ownership, adjoining a public highway, Dolfechlas Road, Rhydymwyn. Reminder sent to Flintshire CC Legal Section regarding land ownership. Position noted.
- 13) 01/09 Ash dieback tree removal at Rhydymwyn and Cilcain Playing Field / Play areas. Email to Dewi Ellis requesting an update. Item discussed earlier.
- 14) 02/09 Rhydymwyn. Wooden play item in the sand pit area. Information from

Mr Richard Roberts regarding the temporary cordoning off of the sand pit area. Position noted.

- 15) 05/09 New fence erected at the head of the culvert entrance between Pentre Cottage and Glan Aber. Cllr J V Worthington reported that the new fence above the culvert entrance was now in place. Position noted.
- 16) 05/09 Potholes repaired, The Pentre, Cilcain. Cllr J V Worthington reported that the series of potholes on the Cilcain village side of Pentre Cottage have been repaired by Flintshire CC. Position noted.
- 17) 08/09 CCC meeting 15/9/25 - Email from Cilcain resident (DF) regarding the Waen Field, Cilcain. Item discussed earlier.
- 18) 08/09 Proposed Carriageway Resurfacing Programme 2025/26 - Copy of an email from Flintshire CC to Cllr Andrew Parkhurst (Antelope to the Rhosesmor junction).
- 19) 08/09 Overhanging hedge, Hendre. Copy of an email from the Chairperson to Mr Neil Hickie at Flintshire CC regarding an overhanging hedge by No 5 Mill Terrace, Hendre.
- 20) 11/09 Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan. Action Plan discussed earlier.

9. TALU CYFRIFON - PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - To approve the accounts in the Appendix.

10. DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD NESAF - DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting of the Council will be held at the Institute in Rhydymwyn on Monday 20 October 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** - (September 2025)

(i)	A E (sal + fixed exp) for Sept 2025	745.85
(ii)	HMRC - PAYE (L.G.A.1972 S112) confirmation of the BACS payment made	118.45
(iii)	Office equipment and stationery - (L.G.A.1972 S111)	155.77
(iv)	AE - web fee	18.00
(v)	Rhydymwyn Institute - room hire Sept 2025.	30.00
(vi)	Blooming Gardens - grass cut at Cilcain cemetery, outside Rhydymwyn park, cemetery and two benches	276.00
(vii)	Canon UK	61.12
(viii)	O Roberts - staining Cilcain seats, grass cutting around seats, weed killing in Cilcain car park	215.00
(ix)	Cilcain Village Hall Ctee - donation towards annual calendar - £60 last year.	60.00

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's Xmas dinner** - Venue Cherry Pie - Friday 12 Dec 2025

Members may consider it appropriate to note that the Council Xmas Dinner has been booked for Fri 12 Dec 2025.

3. **Current Council Bank Balance.** Please note that the closing balances in the Council's Bank

Accounts on 10 August 2025 were:

Current Account: £218

Deposit Account: £50,182

Dep. Acc. interest:

2025 (Aug £49.29) (July £52.61) (June £54.79) (May £47.23) (April £47.23)
(Mar £48.71) (Feb £56.07) (Jan £70.11)

2024 (Dec £56.43) (Nov £59.51) (Oct £64.13) (Sep £67.70) (Aug £56.76)

Chair Clerk Date