

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT CAPEL GAD,  
CILCAIN ON 19 JANUARY 2026**

Present: Chairperson: Karen Parker  
Councillors: J Emyr Davies Pauline Douglas  
Malcolm Down John Doyle  
Gwen Hardman Gareth W Hughes  
Ian Hughes 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 Ionawr. The Chairperson welcomed Members to the January Meeting. The Chair also extended a welcome to two observers (SJ - Cilcain Clean and Lock), (Mr David Facer, Cilcain resident) and Flintshire County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - None. All Members present.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** -

Cllr J Emyr Davies declared an interest in the 'warm hub' Item 26) 04/01 in the Correspondence Section.

**4. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING** - Cllr Michael Parr proposed, Cllr Ian Hughes seconded and all Members present agreed to approve the December 2025 Minutes.

**5. MATTERS ARISING** -

p73 Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn. Members noted that the large shed was still in place. Clerk had received the last update from the Flintshire's Planning Enforcement Officer in early December 2025. Clerk to seek another update from Flintshire CC.

p74 Footway near the War Memorial Institute, Rhydymwyn. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported having sent Mr Neil Hickie an email regarding the condition of the footway. Mr Hickie was under the impression that some clearing work had taken place. Cllr Parkhurst maintained that more work was needed and would pursue the matter further with Mr Hickie.

p75 Concern from a resident regarding the height of the roadside hedge in a section of road between Cilcain Church and the Pump House.  
Clerk reported having written to Mr Neil Hickie regarding the resident's concern. Neil's observations received on 18 Dec 2025 were:

*The roadside hedge has recently been cut back and one assumes that the field side and top were missed due to wet conditions and the*

*field being on a relatively steep gradient making it awkward and possibly dangerous to access. The hedge opposite Nyth y Wennol appears well maintained with just a year's growth to the top section.*

Regarding the powers available to the Highway Authority, the observations received from Flintshire CC's Environment & Conservation Section were:

*The hedge in question is deciduous and therefore does not come under the scope of the High Hedge legislation in Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. This means that a complaint cannot be made about its height affecting 'the reasonable enjoyment of a complainant's property'.*

Clerk to respond to the concerns raised by the local resident.

p77 Mountain Road, Cilcain - drainage and slippery road condition in freezing conditions. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported that Mr Neil Hickie had written to Mr Lee Shone in Flintshire's Traffic Section to enquire if any injuries or accidents had been recorded (in the last few years) at the location where water crosses the road.

Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that a local resident had fallen at this location last Wednesday. Members maintained that it was important for any accidents which occur to be reported to Flintshire C C to enable accident black spots to be identified.

Cllr Parkhurst to forward the details on to Mr Hickie.

Cllr Gwen Hardman confirmed having passed the request for a petition to the appropriate person.

Cllr Parkhurst to arrange a site meeting with Neil and a few local Ward Members after the accident figures have been made available.

p78 New artwork for Pedair y Groesffordd. Chair reported that a response had been received from Mr Richard L Jones to confirm:

- (i) The slight change to the artwork of the Notice Board at the Pedair y Groesffordd parking areas mentioned in the Dec 2026 Cilcain CC meeting would be taken on board.
- (ii) Replacing the existing notice board by the Village car park will be arranged as the existing board is now beyond repair and the same artwork as Notice Boards at Pedair y Groesffordd parking areas will be used so that it's consistent with the latest National Landscapes branding.

p 79 Salt heaps, Cilcain and Rhydymwyn:

Clerk reported having passed a copy of the Dec 2025 Minutes to Mr Neil Hickie highlighting the locations where salt heaps had been required.

Members requested the Clerk to bring the following to Mr Hickie's attention:

- (i) Cllr Michael Parr referred to a location near Pantymwyn Road / Bottom Road junction where there was water running across the road but there was no salt heap there this year.
- (ii) Junction by Plas Wilkin Farm. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that there was no salt heap there this year.
- (iii) The dip in Pantymwyn Road on the Cilcain side of Trial Hill - Cllr Ian Hughes maintained a salt heap was required at this location.
- (iv) Cllr J V Withington suggested it would be useful for location plans to be prepared so the salt heap locations can be identified.

Members felt if the bags are taken away after the winter then, Flintshire CC will not know where the salt bags were located in the previous year. This potential problem to be discussed with Neil in the next site meeting.

## **6. ROLE OF THE VICE CHAIR -**

The Chair reported that an email had been received from Cllr Ian Hughes to inform the Council that he needed to step down as Vice Chair. A copy of the email had been sent to all Council members.

The Chair thanked Cllr Hughes for all the hard work he had done since the May 2025 AGM.

Chair explained that a new Vice Chair will be needed from the Cilcain Ward.

Cllr Gwen Hardman proposed that Cllr John V Worthington be nominated. Cllr J Emyr Davies seconded the proposal. No other nominations were received. All other Members were in agreement.

Cllr Worthington accepted the nomination and signed the Declaration of Office form at the meeting.

## **7. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

### **Sheet 1 - Potholes**

- (i) Item 13 - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported numerous potholes appearing on the A541 either side of the Rhydymwyn Service Station. The Chair mentioned that there was the possibility of resurfacing taking place on the A541, but the timing was not yet available.
- (ii) Item 3 - Cllr J Emyr Davies requested the Item 3 description to include the section of road from Cilan Lodge to Ty Gwyn. There were cracks now appearing in the road near Cilan Lodge.

- (iii) Item 5 - Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that some work was done in August 2025, but the potholes are now as bad as ever. Multiple cracks in the surfacing have now appeared along this section of road.
- (iv) Item 8 - Potholes along the Loggerheads Road. The item description needs to highlight that there are a number of sections along the Loggerheads Road from the Denbighshire boundary to the Pentre where the road surfacing had completely disintegrated. Cllr J V Worthington reported that the worst sections were by Maes Alyn and Rhyd y Fenni.
- (v) Cllr Michael Parr reported that repairing the potholes in the dip on the Cilcain side of Trial Hill are missing from the Action List.
- (vi) Cllr Pauline Douglas reported sizeable depressions around a couple of metal covers, further up the road past the Cilcain Village Hall entrance. Photos to be emailed to the Clerk by Cllr Ian Hughes.

## Sheet 2 - Miscellaneous

- (i) Item 10 - The name 'Bryn y Graig' needs changing to 'Bron y Graig' in the location description.
- (ii) Item 3 - Sunken gully and road surfacing by the Berth Road / Ffordd y Llan junction. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that the sunken gully is getting worse.
- (iii) Members noted that the overhanging hedge in the section of road further up the hill from Plas Newydd was cut about two years ago, but needs adding to the Action List again.
- (iv) The entrance to the highway drain crossing the road 30 yards up from Trelan Bach is blocked, resulting in surface water discharging down Trelan Road.
- (v) Cilan Lodge Road, Cilcain - Sizable hole in the edge of the road between Cilan Lodge and Pen Cilan.
- (vi) Item 17 - Cllr Tim Mitchell reported the road sweeping had not been done in Dolfechlas Road between the Llys Alyn junction and Vista Alegre.
- (vii) Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that the sweeping had been missed in Dolfechlas Rd between Church Lane and Fawns Keep.

8. **PLANNING MATTERS** - None Received.

## 9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) 11/12 Broken Salt Bin, Pen Line Rd. Cilcain - Broken salt bin had now been replaced by Flintshire CC.

- 2) 11/12 Missing from the agenda - Email from Cilcain resident. Clerk explained that the closing date for an item to be included on the Agenda was the Monday before the scheduled Council meeting. The Dec 2025 Meeting was on the 15 Dec so the closing date for adding items of correspondence on to the Agenda was therefore the 8 Dec 2025.
- 3) 12/12 Rhydymwyn automatic trash grille. An update had been received from Defra regarding the repair of the recent damage to the trash grille. New parts awaiting delivery. Completion date to be confirmed. Clerk to obtain an update before the Feb 2026 Council meeting.
- 4) 16/12 Section 6 - Biodiversity Action Plan. Moles on Waen Field - The Chair reported having emailed Mr Sam Langdon to seek his observations on the mole infestation at Waen Field. Mr Langdon had responded outlining the options available for dealing with the mole issue. A site visit was being arranged with Mr Langdon.
- 5) 16/12 Railing damaged at Trial Hill, Cilcain. Report from Cllr Michael Parr forwarded to Mr Neil Hickie at Flintshire CC. Cllr Parr reported that no repair had yet taken place.
- 6) 17/12 Donated bench from a Pantymwyn Rd resident for locating in Cilcain cemetery. Cllr Ian Hughes and Cllr J V Worthington reported at the Council meeting that the donated bench had been moved to the Bier House. When the weather improves, the seat will be bolted down to a paving slab base in the cemetery.
- 7) 17/12 FCC signs and ongoing damage / vandalism. Report received regarding vandalism of sign. Chair reported she had been attempting to contact Mr Kevin Crumplin by phone and email.

The Council needs to know if regular spot checks in the area have been undertaken. Chair to pursue further, and include Sian Jones in on the correspondence.

Cllr Ian Hughes reported that he had replaced dog signs on a Friday in early December and they had been removed or defaced by the following Monday.

Cllr Hughes referred to one of the signs in the corner by Chapel House. The middle part of the sign had been cut out with a knife or a sharp bladed instrument. It was worrying that someone was walking around the village with a knife prepared to vandalise signs.

The Chair maintained that the signs were not directly addressed at residents in the village. The signs were also useful so that visitors to the area would know what is expected of them. If signs are being vandalised elsewhere in the village as well as on the Waen, we will arrive at the stage that there will not be any signs at all.

Arrangements to be made for a supply of new signs to be forwarded to Cllr Hughes.

- 8) 18/12 Bonfire Traffic. Concern email from Cilcain resident. Clerk responded on 19 Dec. Position noted.
- 9) 18/12 Identification of author of correspondence in CCC's Agendas and Minutes.

Concern email from Cilcain resident. The Chair explained that all Members had received a copy of the correspondence relating to this item.

Cllr J V Worthington maintained that currently the authors of correspondence from residents received by the Council are not named. If we are to change this unwritten policy, then care would be needed to ensure that all residents who write to the Council are treated equally. Cllr Worthington recommended that the council should have a sub committee to formulate a policy on this issue. The subcommittee would be able to seek advice from One Voice Wales and other relevant bodies.

Cllr Gwen Hardman thought Cilcain Councillors may recall this issue was discussed previously when GDPR was our concern. At the time, the Council was made aware of its responsibility to ensure that any identifiable information about residents did not have any adverse repercussions on them. The Council agreed in the December Council meeting that a subgroup should be set up to look at the various written policies the Council needed to have in place.

Cllr Gareth W Hughes agreed that it would be a good idea to have a written policy on the issue.

Councillor John Doyle felt it would be important to take account of data protection regulations in formulating a policy.

Cllr Christine Vaughan maintained that data protection legislation could be a minefield and need careful consideration.

In conclusion, a proposal to refer the issue to a subcommittee was put forward by Cllr Worthington, seconded by Cllr Gwen Hardman and agreed.

- 10) 18/12 Annual Governance Statement. Concern email from Cilcain resident. The Chair reminded Members that this topic was discussed in the December meeting. The Chair indicated that she would be preparing a full list of recent consultation examples that had taken place.

Two Members from each Ward was suggested to form a sub-group to formulate various policies. The inclusion of the Chair and Cllr John Doyle from the Rhydymwyn Ward, together with Cllr Gwen Hardman and Cllr Michael Parr from the Cilcain Ward was agreed.

Members agreed that any recommendations put forward by the sub group would need to be ratified by the Council.

- 11) 18/12 A541, Rhydymwyn, St Lamp out on the Village side of the Antelope. Report of Street Light passed on to Flintshire CC. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that the lamp had now been fixed.
- 12) 18/12 Electoral Register Request - December 2025. Copy of request made to Flintshire CC. Clerk reported that the new annual list had been received.

- 13) 18/12 Tarmac Quarry Liaison meeting held at the Quarry Office. Cllr Karen Parker and Cllr Gareth Hughes had attended the meeting.

The Chair reported:

- (i) The landslide had first occurred in Nov 2022.
- (ii) Boreholes were in place to allow Tarmac's Geologist to monitor the ground water movement in the land adjoining the site.
- (iii) Planning permission will be required for the remedial work.
- (iv) When work at the quarry eventually ceases, the excavated area will not be used as a landfill site, due to the proximity of the Milwr Tunnel.

- 14) 18/12 Annual Governance. Email from the Chair to Council Members suggesting possible options for the Community Council. Item discussed earlier.

- 15) 19/12 Splitting CCC into Cilcain CC and Rhydymwyn and Hendre CC - Email from Cilcain resident commenting on the discussion that took place in the Dec 2025 Council Meeting. Members views were:

- (i) Cllr Gareth W Hughes maintained the suggestion was a non-starter in terms of cost. All that needs to be done is to change the name Cilcain in the letter heading to include Hendre and Rhydymwyn.
- (ii) Cllr Michael Parr enquired what would be the position if there was a groundswell of support in the local communities to support a change. Would the Council not be duty bound to take the matter forward? The Chair maintained that was the reason why the Council was now considering the issue. The decision needs to be made by the Community Council.
- (iii) Cllr Gwen Hardman maintained that since she has been a Councillor there had been several occasions where very serious issues had affected one of the two Wards. The skills and experience that Members of this Council possess had been of benefit to the decisions taken.

The recent proposal for the Anaerobic digestion facility was a typical example where the broad range of skills and experiences possessed by the twelve Members of the Council were of great benefit to the decision making process.

We all benefit from the number of skills we have around this table.

- (iv) Cllr Worthington could not see any particular advantage to be gained from spitting the Council into two parts. There is usually safety in numbers. The existing Council with 12 Members make it easier to ensure a quorum is in attendance.
- (v) Cllr Tim Mitchell felt that neither of the communities had grown to any great extent to a point that additional Councillors would be justified for each area. So why change things?

- (vi) Cllr Parker's view was that in the current review of boundaries currently taking place, there is a tendency to amalgamate Councils as opposed to increasing the number of Councils. Cllr Parker agreed entirely with the views expressed by Cllr Hardman. The skills, experience and knowledge that exist around this Council table are very valuable and much of this experience would be lost if the Council was split into two parts.
- (vii) Cllr Christine Vaughan felt she had heard all the perfectly valid points for not splitting the Council into two separate parts. Can any Member think of any burning issue that would benefit from separating the communities into two Councils?
- (viii) Cllr Gareth Hughes commented that the period of silence that followed Cllr Christine Vaughan's question said it all.

In conclusion, Cllr Gareth W Hushes proposed that the Council continues in its current form with the proviso that the letter heading be changed to include the three communities of Cilcain Rhydymwyn and Hendre. The proposal was seconded by Cllr J V Worthington and unanimously agreed by the twelve members present.

- 16) 19/12 The Zurich Insurance policy was due for renewal. Members noted that the payment of £2,648.52 needed to be authorised in this January 2026 Council meeting. Payment approved.
- 17) 19/12 Site meeting with Keri Evans (Liverpool University) took place at the former Nant Gain Reservoir. Cllr Gwen Hardman had arranged the site meeting but due to unforeseen circumstances Gwen had been unable to attend the site visit.

Cllr J V Worthington and Cllr Parkhurst reported at the Council meeting. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst felt that it had been beneficial to have held the meeting on site as opposed to a meeting around a table. Keri had indicated that she would eventually provide the Council with a summary of the dissertation. Members agreed that it will be interesting to have her perspective on the issues encountered by a community on the removal of a reservoir.

- 18) 23/12 Traffic Speeding Hendre. Email from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to update Cilcain CC on Flintshire CC's Traffic Section's possible solutions for traffic speed reduction measures at Hendre:
  - (i) Have a buffer 40mph speed limit on the Mold side round Hendre bends to include part of the road which is currently 60mph and part which is 20mph. Mr Shone (Flintshire Traffic) feels that the 20mph zone starts too soon so vehicles ignore it because they don't see any houses.
  - (ii) Vehicle activated signs may be considered if sufficient funding is available.

The Chair had spoken to several Hendre residents regarding Mr Shone's proposed solution. The alternative suggestion proposed by the Chair and Hendre residents had been sent to Flintshire's Traffic Section:

An alternative solution suggested was to remove the 60 mph limit completely between Hendre and Rhydymwyn. The speed limit would then be 40 mph from Rhydymwyn all the way to where the 20 mph starts in Hendre.

- -- Activated speed sign A541 Rhydymwyn. If there is a proposal to provide or replace activated speed signs, Cllr Garth Hughes maintained that there is a need to repair / replace the activated sign on the A541 on the approach road into Rhydymwyn from the Nant road side (opposite the start of the Llys yr Haul houses).
- 19) 24/12 Salt bin replacement - Email and photos from Cllr J V Worthington showing broken salt bin (reported to Flintshire CC on 11 Dec 2025) had been replaced. Members noted that the tyre marks on the grass verge near the broken bin gave a good indication of how the damage may have been caused. Position noted.
- 20) 25/12 Viewpoint fly tipping. Copy of a report sent from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer) to Mr Neil Hickie at Flintshire Streetscene. Position noted.
- 21) 27/12 Viewpoint fly tipping. Copy of a report from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer) to Mr Neil Hickie. Fly tip bags removed. Position noted.
- 22) 30/12 A541 Streetlamps. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported the street lamp opposite Mill Terrace, Hendre has been fixed and the lamp on the village side of the Antelope in Rhydymwyn has also been fixed by Flintshire CC. Position noted.
- 23) 30/12 Cilcain cemetery gate. Report from Cllr J V Worthington that the gate was becoming difficult to open. Cllr Worthington and Cllr Ian Hughes had been to look at the gate.

Cllr Worthington explained the reason why the gate latch was difficult to open was probably because one of the gates had dropped slightly. Cllr Worthington maintained that the stiff latch can be fixed by some angle grinding work, which he could undertake.

Adjusting the height of a modern gate can normally done by making adjustments to the gate hinge. But due to the age of the gate, the gate hinges were of a type that cannot accommodate gate height adjustments to be made.

Lifting one of the gates would require a new top hinge to be provided, and such specialist work would require to be done by a metal fabricator.

Cllr Ian Hughes explained that the existing top hinge was bolted through the stone gate pillar and work would be required to the cemetery wall to gain access to the end of the bolt.

Cllr Ian Hughes and Cllr Worthington would have another site visit and arrange to meet a local metal fabricator.

At this time, Cllr Ian Hughes indicated it would not be possible to estimate the cost for including an item of, say £1,000 in the 2025/2026 budget.

24) 30/12 Hendre - Traffic Speeding - Cilcain CC's Chairperson's alternative suggestion sent to Cllr Andrew Parkhurst regarding the traffic reduction measures suggested by Flintshire CC. Item dealt with earlier.

25) 31/12 Gwysaney Arms Hotel - Update, Copy of email received by Cllr Andrew Parkhurst. Cllr Parkhurst reported at the Council Meeting. Position noted.

26) 04/01 Request for funding for a 'warm hub' initiative in Capel Gad, Cilcain.

Cllr J Emyr Davies left the Council room while the discussion took place on this item.

Cllr Andrew Parkhurst had contacted an Officer in Flintshire CC to enquire if there was any funding left in the allocation that Flintshire had for 'warm hub' facilities. Money is still available in Flintshire's warm hub fund. Cllr Parkhurst had emailed Mrs Sue Jones a copy of the application form.

Members noted that Sheet No 3 of the 2025/2026 budget included an item of £200 for this type of donation. Donation of £200 was approved.

Cllr Malcolm Down reported that he had attended one of the 'warm hub' sessions at Capel Gad. Cllr Down felt it was an excellent initiative.

27) 05/0 Notice Board at Cilcain village car park. Update from Mr Richard L Jones regarding the proposed repair / renewal options for the existing Notice Board. Item discussed earlier.

28) 07/01 Car obstruction, Hendre. Copy of reminder sent from the Chairperson to North Wales Police. The Chair reported on the latest position:

- :
- (i) The hedge had not been cut.
  - (ii) The car which had been causing an obstruction had been moved.
  - (iii) Unfortunately, another vehicle was now causing an obstruction.
  - (iv) Flintshire Streetscene has been requested to take the appropriate action regarding the bush obstructing the footway.

29) 09/01 Site meeting. Email from Cilcain CC Chairperson to Sam Langdon (One Voice Wales Biodiversity Officer). Chair reported at the Council meeting. The Chair reported that Cllr Worthington and Cllr Down had signed up for some of the Biodiversity training sessions.

The Chair was currently arranging a meeting with Mr Langdon.

30) 09/01 Loggerheads Road and Brithdir Mawr Rd. Cllr J V Worthington reported that the salt bins and salt heaps have been replenished by Flintshire CC. Position noted.

31) 09/01 Hendre river monitor. Copy of updated information received by the Chairperson regarding the proposal to introduce a flood warning system for Hendre. The Drainage Consultant had assured the Chair that the provision of flow gauges was being pursued.

32) 12/01 Policy re. snow/icy conditions in Cilcain village car park. Email received from a user of the Village Hall (via Cllr Gwen Hardman) to enquire if Cilcain CC has a policy on salting and gritting of the car park and the adjoining land.

The Clerk had made enquiries regarding a similar sized car park in a nearby local village:

- (i) The Community Council as owner of the car park does not salt the car park.
- (ii) A salt bin is provided, but is rarely used by users of the car park.

The Clerk referred to an Insurance Adviser coming from the Cardiff office to give the Council a presentation / advice session at a Council meeting. If the Council spreads salt on an area, and the salt is spread at the incorrect time, a surface layer of slippery ice could result, and such an action can be construed as making the surface more dangerous. The Council could then be held liable for the salting action it had carried out.

In a Pay and Display car park near Cilcain, the owner attempts to spread salt before and during a snow fall. When the local supply of salt runs out in a heavy snow fall, a problem of salt procurement can occur.

Cllr J V Worthington enquired if the path from the pedestrian gate to the Village Hall and the Shop is salted? Cllr Gwen Hardman reported that the path is salted sometimes, 'sometimes' not being a good position to be in.

Cllr Christine Vaughan agreed that if one does not have fool-proof salting arrangements in place then we go back to the advice given by the Council's Insurance Company.

Cllr Gareth W Hughes referred to being informed by the owner of a local private car park who never salted the car park that if he cleared the car park and someone slips, he would become liable.

The Clerk maintained that the unwritten policy adopted by the Community Council over the years has been that the Council does not grit parking areas, cemetery paths etc. Possibly, such a policy needs to be in writing and put on the Council's website.

Cllr J Emyr Davies enquired if there was a 'parking at owners risk' sign erected in the car park. The Clerk understands that a 'parking at owners risk' sign does not carry any legal weight, but possibly the Council should take legal advice on the merits or otherwise of providing such a sign.

Cllr Christine Vaughan maintained that she had also heard the same comment made about the legality of a 'parking at owners risk' sign.

33) 12/01      Role of Vice Chair - Email from Cllr Ian Hughes to the Council Chairperson and Clerk. Issue discussed earlier in the Council meeting.

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

10.      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Council will be held at Capel Gad, Cilcain (Cilcain Capel) on Monday 16 February 2026. 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 2026

(i)	A E (sal + fixed exp) for Jan 2026	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)	127.51
(iv)	AE - web fee	18.00
(v)*	New lease for the Village Hall £1,708 + VAT	2,049.00
(vi)	Scottish Power Street Lighting energy - Additional standing charge of £32/ month is now being made by Scottish Power.	132.11
(vii)	Capel Gad, Cilcain - Assist with 'warm hub' initiative	200.00
(viii)	Defibrillator sign for Cilcain Defib at the Village Hall entrance (£95+ VAT). Note - Payment was not made following the November 2025 Council Meeting.	114.00
(ix)	JDK - Annual hosting and domain fee 12 months in arrears.	200.00
(x)	JDK - Quarterly payment for website (Oct 25 to Dec 25)	60.00

\* Cllr Gwen Harman left the meeting room whilst this item was being discussed

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 2025/2026 BUDGETARY YEAR**

Members recalled the comments regularly made by the internal auditor, emphasizing the need to undertake regular monitoring of the Council's expenditure at various points throughout the year.

Traditionally, the monitoring at the end of the first 9 months (ending on 31 Dec 2025) period is a particularly useful exercise, enabling the Council to assess its precept requirements for 2026/2027 at the January Council Meeting.

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

3. **SUGGESTED BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2026/2027**

Attached for Members' information was Sheet No 1 with a suggested precept for the financial year 2026/2027 based on the spending aspirations / recommendations discussed and agreed by

Members at the 15 Dec 2025 Council meeting, and detailed in Sheet No 3 of the attached correspondence information pack.

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

Members noted that the Council has essentially had a standstill budget for the last three years, the precept being held at £30,800.

Members also noted that, as of November 2025, the UK's annual inflation rate was 3.5%. (and 2.6% in the previous 12 months).

Members therefore agreed to increase the precept by 5% on this occasion. This increase will allow the Council to proceed with all the items of expenditure identified in the Dec 2025 Council meeting, and in particular the main item being the need to resurface the village car park at Cilcain.

Additional observations:

- (i) Members assumed and hope that the savings which Flintshire CC need to make in 2026/27 will not adversely 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.
- (ii) Cllr Ian Hughes and Cllr John Worthington had recently inspected the pedestrian cemetery gate at Cilcain. Since there is no adjustment facility on the gate hinge, it was going to be necessary to obtain a price from a local fabricator / welder to give an indication for a repair / refurbishment solution.
- (iii) Since the gate repair estimate was not available by the precept meeting, Members agreed for an allocation of £1,000 to be included in the precept form to accommodate the gate repair / repainting.
- (iv) Members noted that the approved precept requirement would remain at £34,340, by reducing the 'predicted balance carried forward' by a £1,000.

#### 4. **Current Council Bank Balance.**

Members noted that the closing balances in the Council's Bank Accounts on 11 Jan 2026 were:

Current Account: £200  
Deposit Account: £51,490

Chair ..... Clerk ..... Date .....