

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE FOOTBALL CLUB PREMISES, RHYDYMWYN ON 16 JUNE 2014

Present: **Chairperson:** Janet M Butlin
 Councillors: Miss Ann Baker Mrs Andrea Davies
 John S Douglas Mrs Joanna Hobson
 Gareth W Hughes Derek May
 Mrs Susan Sawyer W Owen Thomas
 Cllr John White
 The Clerk was also in attendance

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the March 2014 Council Meeting. The Chairperson also welcomed two Cilcain residents to the Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES - Cllr J Emyr Davies, Cllr D Julian Hughes.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST - There were no declaration of interest declared.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the 19 May 2014 Council Meeting held at the Rhydymwyn Football Club premises were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as being correct.

5. MATTERS ARISING

p2 **Rhydymwyn Football Club Meeting** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr John S Douglas had attended the Football Club Meeting on Tuesday 20 May 2014. Cllr Hughes outlined the current issues at the Football Club. Cllr Hughes explained that maintenance grants would be ideal, but unfortunately, grants were invariably for capital works. Sports Lot grant had been mentioned. Mrs Sue Jones had been to a Grants Fair in the Memorial Hall in Wrexham in September 2013. Enquiries need to be made with FLVC to establish if the grant event will be repeated this year.

Reference was made to the Caersws Football Club, where the committee members were scheduled to appear in Mold Court this July. Members noted - it is not sufficient to insure against potential danger - Committee Members must ensure that they have in place an inspection regime which examines the potential danger to the public from facilities owned by the Club.

p2 **School Managers** - Clerk to write to Headmaster

p2 **Rhydymwyn Flood Committee** - Clerk to arrange a Flood Committee Meeting. River walk considered. Members noted that the Fechlas brook was as important as the River Alyn. However an inspection by the Community Council of the Fechlas brook had already taken place this year. Walking the dry river bed of the River Alyn was also much easier.

- p3 **Pot Holes, Berth Road** - Clerk had requested a position statement regarding Flintshire's surfacing programme. Mr Lightfoot arranging for a schedule to be sent. Mr Lightfoot made the observation that Flintshire is not controlling the proposed start dates of a particular road section, this is down to the Contractor Notices will be served by Flintshire following receipt of the programme of works from the Surfacing Contractor. Cllr Miss Ann Baker had seen the schedule of works in a recent Daily Post. 3 roads in Cilcain area were included in the list of 20 roads in Flintshire. One of the roads was the Cilan Lodge to Ty Gwyn Section. Cllr Miss Baker questioned the logic of resurfacing this particular road, when substantial surfacing had been done last year. The Clerk and Cllr Gareth W Hughes recalled raising this issue with Mr Alan Pugh in a Rhydymwyn walkabout some eight years ago. Mr Pugh explained that a newly surfaced road needs sealing, usually with a coat of surface dressing, ideally the following year, to prolong the life of the new expensive surfacing.
- /-- **Potholes, general** Cllr Derek May reported having counted 73 patches on the road between the village and The Pentre. Clerk maintained it was probably more relevant to identify the location of pot-holes, so the information can be submitted to Flintshire. Clerk to prepare several ordnance sheets for the July Council Meeting. Members can then locate the most serious potholes. Clerk referred to Mr Lightfoot's comment in a Council Meeting earlier this year - rural roads are routinely inspected for potholes twice per year. Flintshire then has three months from the inspection date to repair the potholes included in the inspection. However, the fact that Flintshire has a planned inspection regime should not stop the Community Council reporting pot-holes. Cllr May reported the tarmac repair around the metal cover near Glasfryn had failed again. Clerk to report to Flintshire. Cllr Miss Ann Baker reported having noted that Flintshire's budget is to be reduced by 20%.
- p7 **Repair to damage at Glasfryn** - Cllr Derek May reported that the repair to the recent damage had now been carried out. Cllr Thomas maintained the mortar repair had been carried out and reported upon in the 19 May 2014 Council Meeting.
- p3 **Coed Du to Plas Wilkin** -. Mr Lightfoot had inspected the partly collapsed stone retaining wall near the Bath House. Lightfoot arranging for programmed repairs.
- p3 **Nant Alyn, width restriction and sat nav sign.** Clerk reported on his discussion with Mr Gerwyn Powell at Flintshire Traffic. Mr Powell had instructed Streetscene to re-locate the heavy goods sign from Trimm Rock exit to the Lloyds Quarry exit. Mr Lightfoot had issued a works order for the necessary work. change the sign. Mr Lightfoot had indicated he would check in the Council Stores to establish if any unused 'no sat nav' signs were still available. Clerk to pursue.
- p4 **Cilcain Toilets** - Provisional arrangements had been made for Cilcain Ward Members to meet Mr Derrick Charlton and Mr B Watkins from Dutton and Peters on Friday 20 June at 2.00 pm. Mrs Gwen Hardman from Cilcain Clean'n Loch was able to attend. Since the last inspection with Flintshire, several new items had been identified as requiring attention:
- (i) vent pipe held in place by a length of wire
 - (ii) broken brackets on downpipe by gents toilet
 - (iii) blocked downpipe resulting in gutter overflowing by gents toilet (photograph provided by Mrs S Jones of overflowing gutter available at Council Meeting)
 - (iv) Loose slate on roof
 - (v) Gents door difficult to lock (pull handle required).

Mr D Charlton had been notified of the above items.

Mrs Gwen Hardman maintained there was a lot of ‘buck passing’ apparent in Flintshire, so it was important to have all the stakeholders from Flintshire at the site meeting. Clerk to confirm site meeting with Flintshire.

Members referred to the Environmental Audit statement prepared by Flintshire following the April 2014 Cilcain walkabout. According to the Audit statement, the water flowing from the car park towards the toilet block is scheduled to be dealt with by Flintshire in one month’s time.

p4 **Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd, Flint, 2016, fund raising** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes had attended a recent fund raising meeting. A sponsored bike ride from Cilcain to Swansea was being arranged.

p4 **Cilcain Play area refurbishment** - A site meeting had been held with Mr Richard Roberts on Friday 6 June 2014. Possible extension of the play area boundary towards the goal post was agreed. Mr Roberts to prepare a sketch of a potential scheme that would cost between £25,000 and £30,000. Cllr W Owen Thomas, Cllr Mrs Joanna Hobson and Cllr Derek May and the Clerk reported at the Council Meeting. Future maintenance of play areas was discussed at the site meeting. Mr Roberts commented on the recent press article regarding the involvement of Community Councils in play area maintenance in the Wrexham area.

Flintshire Leisure agreed to draw up sketch proposals .

p4 **Revision of Cemetery Fees** - Clerk to pursue revision of Fees.

p4 **Tarmac entrance, Rhydymwyn** –

p4 **Rhydymwyn Play area refurbishment** - A site meeting had taken place with Mr Richard Roberts on Friday 6th June 2014. A sketch plan of the proposed layout was available at the Meeting. Flintshire will now have a presentation plan made available in the next few weeks. Cllr Gareth W Hughes, Cllr John S Douglas and Cllr Mrs Susan Sawyer and the Clerk reported at the Council Meeting.

The cracking of the existing flexible surfacing is going to be repaired. Mr Roberts accepted it the cracking had not been as a result of ‘wear and tear’. Cllr W Owen Thomas referred to a hole which had appeared in the tarmac during construction . There had been some speculation at the time that the hole had been caused by a badger . On this occasion the cracking was widespread and occurred mainly beneath, and at the side of the equipment. This would suggest the cracking had probably been due to the difficulty of achieving sufficient compaction of the base material so near to the play equipment.

Members noted the Zip Wire facility is to be re-positioned. A tarmac path would cost approximately £5,000. Flintshire has been requested to consider increasing its match funding element of the finding from £7,500 by £1,200 (25% of £5,000). Rolling over the funding was mentioned as being an option.

Members discussed the possible closure of the Dolfechlas Road Access point. Members concluded :

- (i) Youngsters may then be encouraged to climb over the wall.
- (ii) The recently provided gate had cost approximately £1,200. Closing the entrance now could be viewed by local resident as being wasteful of scarce public finances.
- (iii) The Community Council had recently persuaded Flintshire to provide new play area warning signs in Dolfechlas Road. Closing the entrance now could result in the Community Council being perceived as being indecisive and wasteful of public finances.

Clerk to remind Flintshire of the need to repair the base of the stone wall.

Future maintenance of play areas was discussed at the site meeting. Mr Roberts had commented on site on the recent press article regarding the involvement of Community Councils in play area maintenance in the Wrexham area. When the Clerk comes to prepare the grant application, the response to the question on future maintenance will be the same as in the previous application. In the event unlikely event of Flintshire pursuing a similar policy to Wrexham in a few years' time, Members felt it would be very unlikely the Community Council would allow the play areas at Cilcain and Rhydymwyn to close.

Cllr Mrs Andrea Davies reported that one of the original swings has a slight jolt when in use. Clerk to report mechanism problem to Flintshire.

- p4 **Meeting at Coed Du Hall** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr John S Douglas had attended a meeting with the new Manager at Coed Du Nursing Home. Cllr Hughes reported that the Manager was quite prepared to have regular dialogue with the Community Council, and attend the Community Council, if required, on a twice per year basis. The Council's concern was raised regarding the old part of the building being left to deteriorate. The Manager would make enquiries with The Owner regarding this issue. North Wales Police has no statutory requirement to visit the establishment on a scheduled basis.
- p5 **Street Lighting Rhydymwyn** - Mr Lightfoot had reported to the Clerk that Flintshire Street Lighting Section currently has a backlog of defects to deal with and are working their way through it.
- p5 **Rhydymwyn Football Club, water ponding in stone area** - Work not yet done by Flintshire. Clerk and Cllr Gareth W Hughes had reminded Mr Richard Roberts at the play area site meeting on 6 June 2014. .
- p5 **Blocked gulley adjoining Winnwood** - Mr Lightfoot had notified the Clerk - Manhole cover of soakaway in Donkey Field exposed, and soakaway cleaned out. Inspection by Mr Lightfoot of Gulleys in Dolfechlas Rod in Heavy rain on 2 June 2014 indicated system working correctly
- p5 **27 Ffordd y Llan, gulley blocked** - Mr A Lightfoot to look at the two gulleys up from No 27. Mr Lightfoot has included this item of outstanding work on a list passed over to Mr Russell Broughton.
- p5 **Sleeping Policemen, Dolfechlas Road** - Mr Lightfoot reminded of the need to re-paint the speed control red paint patches in Dolfechlas Road. Work outstanding.

p5 **Parking in Hendre** - One vehicle still parked in front of houses in the evening 80% of the time. Cllr Mrs Andrea Davies felt the residents were in a difficult position. Room for parking at the rear was very limited. Clerk referred to the site meeting with Mr Gerwyn Powell in February 2013. Mr Powell had explained at the site meeting that North Wales Police support would be required for a Parking Order. Since there is now a new Community Police Officer in place, Members felt it appropriate to seek his views on this matter.

Cllr Mrs Joanna Hobson maintained that speed of vehicles within the 30 mph section was an issue. Cllr W Owen Thomas referred to a recent 'rubber tube on the road' speed survey. The results showed the average speed was below the 30 mph.

Members felt the lack of a suitable place for a police radar van to park did not help the situation.

Clerk to:

- (i) Recover the letter sent from Flintshire to one of the residents about speed cameras.
- (ii) Make enquiries with the new Police Support Officer at North Wales Police.

p7 **Rhydymwyn cemetery** The Cemetery grass had been cut by Flintshire on Monday 16 June 2014. Due to the substantial growth this spring and possibly due to the grass being cut when wet, the grass left in the cemetery was lumpy and considerable. A photograph taken prior to the meeting was available at the Council Meeting. Members agreed to meet on Thursday evening 19 June 2014 to rake, collect and bin the grass cuttings. A decision is to be taken on site regarding the removal of the sticky weed inside of the Donkey Field boundary hedge. A photograph was available at the Council Meeting showing the extent of the sticky weed in the hedge. If the Rhydymwyn Members attending the site meeting feel the removal of the sticky weed is too much for them to tackle, then Blooming Gardens will be instructed to cut and take it away.

Members felt it would be useful to obtain information from Flintshire regarding the grass cutting frequency. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk to write to the family regarding the tilting headstone near the entrance in Rhydymwyn cemetery.

p7 **Cilcain cemetery** - Cllr Derek May reported that the black bin had gone missing again from outside Cilcain Cemetery. Clerk to arrange for a replacement bin. Blooming Gardens authorised to clear grass cuttings from Cilcain cemetery. Members discussed the problem arising with planting of shrubs in grave spaces. A copy of the first page of the cemetery regulations was circulated at the Council Meeting. Members agreed to change the time when flowers are permitted in the grave space, immediately after an interment, from '2 weeks' to '2 months'. Clerk to write to the grave owners and draw attention to the need for a 'lawned' cemetery in order to facilitate a high standard of maintenance.

Members discussed the issue of artificial flowers. Since Cilcain's regulations were based upon the regulations used in Mold and Flintshire cemeteries, Members agreed to take a similar approach to Mold and Flintshire policy on this matter.

Members discussed the need to import top soil into Cilcain cemetery. Cllr J Emyr Davies to inspect cemetery before the July Council Meeting. If no topsoil required this year - Clerk authorised to purchase two or three bags for Rhydymwyn cemetery

- p7 **Former Ysgol y Ddol link footway, Rhydymwyn** - Cleaning of debris on footway was an item reported in the Village Walkabout on Thursday 17 April 2014, but not included in the Environmental Statement following the site meeting. Mr Lightfoot had sent a note to the Clerk to confirm that this item of work had been included on the list of outstanding work passed on to Mr Russell Broughton. Clerk to pursue.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

Community Council observations requested on -

- (i) Proposal: Garden room extension
Location: School House, The Square, Cilcain
Ref No: 052172
Resolved: The Community Council **supports** the development.

Planning Decisions made by Flintshire County Council: -

- (i) Location: Mwynbwll Cottage, Garreg Boeth, Rhydymwyn
Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension
Ref No: 052006
Decision: Approved

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED The following items were considered:

- 28/05 Flintshire Refurbs - Information from Flintshire detailing the available refurb service.
29/05 Cilcain Public Toilets - Note from Mrs Sue Jones (Cilcain Clean'n Lock) regarding problem with the locks on the new doors.
13/05 Cilcain Public Toilets - Photographs from Cilcain Clean'n Lock showing the flow of water off the road and car park. Members may recall this item being discussed at the site on meeting with Flintshire Streetscene Officers on 17 April 2014. The item was included in Flintshire's Environmental Audit Statement (copy attached). Priority Code No 5 was allocated to the work. This schedules the anticipated completion time to be - 3 months (17 July 2014).
05/06 PCSO Rob Hill's replacement - Information from North Wales Police. Clerk to invite New PCSO to July Council Meeting.
10/06 Tarmac entrance, site meeting - clarification regarding correspondence response time from Flintshire' Democracy and Governance Manager. Clerk to write To Mr P J Evans again. Members noted that the Flintshire Planning Officer did not achieve any of the set of values identified in the policy document .
--/-- Play Area Maintenance - Press Article from the Wrexham area regarding a County Council proposal / decision to pass on the maintenance of play areas on to Community Councils in the Wrexham area. Members will recall Cllr J Emyr Davies reporting in the 19 May 2014 Council Meeting about the concern expressed by the Wrexham area Community Councillors at a recent One Voice Wales meeting. Members noted the possibility of Flintshire adopting a similar cost cutting position in a few years' time. In any application for grant to the Minerals -

this is one of the questions that will need to be addressed. If Flintshire adopts a similar position to Wrexham in a few years' time, the Community Council noted the financial implications of such a potential policy change. The Council is prepared to give an undertaking at the grant application stage that the Council would, if necessary, be prepared to meet the maintenance cost.

8. MATTERS RAISED / ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE LAST MEETING:

- (a) **Is y Mynydd, Cilcain, lack of grass cutting** - Cllr Derek May had reported a problem with the lack of grass cutting by a resident of Is Y Mynydd pensioners bungalows. Clerk reported on his discussion with a Flintshire Housing Officer. It would appear that some residents pay Flintshire to have the grass cut (not in the communal areas). Payment is made for 14 cuts per year - but where the cuts are not made - a refund is given to the resident. Cllr May and Clerk reported at the Council Meeting.
- (b) **Rhydymwyn play area refurbishment** - A site meeting took place with Mr Richard Roberts on Friday 6th June 2014. A sketch plan of the proposed layout was available at the Meeting. Flintshire will now have a presentation plan made available in the next few weeks. Cllr Gareth W Hughes, Cllr John S Douglas and Cllr Mrs Susan Sawyer and the Clerk reported at the Council Meeting.
- (c) **Cilcain Play Area refurbishment** - A site meeting was held with Mr Richard Roberts on Friday 6 June 2014. Possible extension of the play area boundary towards the goal post was agreed. Mr Roberts to prepare a sketch of a potential scheme that would cost between £25,000 and £30,000. Cllr W Owen Thomas, Cllr Mrs Joanna Hobson and Cllr Derek May and the Clerk reported at the Council Meeting. Future maintenance of play areas was discussed at the site meeting. Mr Roberts commented on the recent press article regarding the involvement of Community Councils in play area maintenance in the Wrexham area.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS / REPORTS - Items raised following the Chairman's permission.

- (i) Refuse collection - Cllr Derek May expressed concern regarding the amount of litter left behind by the paper collection vehicle Members questioned if the vehicle was unsuitable, or was the problem down to the operators. Clerk to make enquires with Mr Lightfoot

10. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - Accounts scheduled in the Appendix were approved.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting of the Council will be held at the Football Club premises, Rhydymwyn on 21 June 2014.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Clerk

MATTERS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

(i)	Chairman's annual allowance	125.00
(ii)	Bloomin Gardens – Cilcain cemetery £89.00 (02/05/14). Rhyd bench, cemetery £32.00 (02/02/14). Additional maintenance at Rhyd Cem £59 (19/05/14). Surplus grass removal and weed killer at Rhyd Cem £20.00. (LGA 1972 S214)	200.00
(iii)	A Evans - sal + expenses per month for May 2014 = £485.36 + tax rebate of £58 due to overpayment = £543.36 (L.G.A.1972 S111)	543.36
(iv)	Cilcain Community Council - transfer to Chairman's account	45.00
(v)	A Evans - office equipment - Amazon (L.G.A.1972 S111)	161.97
(vi)	Customs and Excise PAYE per month (See note 2.0 below for PAYE overpayment) Tax overpaid per month = £58 (L.G.A.1972 S112)	Nil
(vii)	A Evans - (L.G.A.1972 S111) - office equipment Asda	59.57
(viii)	P May grass cutting around Cilcain seats (Sep 2013 - end May 2014) 4 cuts at £18 / cut.	72.00

2.0 PAYE - SALARY PAYMENTS TO CLERK

The Clerk had been informed by the Customs and Excise Office that overpayment of £451.32 had been made. This means the no PAYE deductions need to be made from the Clerk's salary until the total overpayment of £451.32 has been reached. The first £58 deduction was added to the Clerk's payment in the March Council Meeting. Remaining overpayment was therefore $£451.32 - (3 \times £58) = £451.32 - £174 = £177.32$

3.0 Clerk's Computer Allowance - The Clerk's computer allowance was approved in the 19 May 2014 Council Meeting and a cheque was made out. However at the May Council Meeting Cllr Gareth W Hughes felt it would be more appropriate for the computer to be purchased with the invoice made out to the Community Council. This would be cleaner as far as the VAT Office is concerned. The 19 May 2014 cheque was brought to the meeting and the cheque was scrapped. Members discussed the problem experienced in selecting the Windows Software (Windows 7, Windows 8 or Windows 8.1 etc.) Clerk to pursue.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Clerk