

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT CILCAIN VILLAGE HALL ON 18 JANUARY 2016**

**Present:**       **Chairperson:** Cllr Miss Ann Baker  
                  **Councillors:** Mrs Janet Butlin,       J Emyr Davies  
                          Ian N Hughes,       Cllr Mrs Joanna Hobson  
                          Gareth W Hughes   Derek May  
                          Mrs Susan Sawyer   W Owen Thomas  
                          The Clerk was also in attendance

**1.       CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairperson welcomed all, in both English and Welsh, to the January (Ionawr) 2016 Council Meeting. The Chairperson welcomed two Cilcain residents (Mrs Sue Jones and Mrs Gwen Hardman) to the meeting. Mr Ian Williams was in attendance at the start of the meeting. The Chair thanked Cllr Gareth Hughes for standing in for her during her three months absence. The Chair also thanked Members for the flowers she had received.

**2.       APOLOGIES   -**

Cllr John Douglas, Cllr John White.  
Absent: Cllr Mrs Andrea Davies

**3.       DECLARATION OF INTEREST -** Cllr Gareth W Hughes declared an interest in the item of correspondence from the Institute. Cllr Hughes is a Member of the Committee.

**4.       MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the 21 December 2015 Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Cilcain were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as being correct.

**5.       MATTERS ARISING   including the following items:**

p55       **Potholes at the Pentre / Loggerheads Road, Cilcain** - Mr Ian Williams reported - pothole repair on going recently throughout the Council's area. There had been an issue at the top of Trial Hill. An area of surfacing had been planned out and the road re-surfaced. A grip had been provided in the verge on the pond side. Members agreed the position was now much better.

p55       **Potholes, Nant Alyn** - Same position as the item above.

p56       **Coed Du to Plas Wilkin** - build-up of leaves problem. Mr Williams reported that work had been done with the sweeper. Bobcat awaited. Cllr Gareth W Hughes referred to a length of dished concrete channel going so far, but there was no obvious outlet for the water to discharge to at the end of the channel. Mr Williams to have a look at the position. Nant Alyn scheduled to be swept next week.

p56       **Seepage by Bryn Teg (between Coed Du Hall entrance and the Caravan Site)**  
Mr Ian Williams reported he had not yet received a reply from NRW. Mr Williams to pursue.

p56 **Cilcain Toilets** Flintshire to treat doors with Sadolin. Cllr W Owen Thomas reported that the doors have now started to be tight again. Mr Williams was anticipating treating the door in the next week.

Several items regarding the repairs to the Village Hall area were also discussed:

- (i) Entrance to car park - Streetscene had started to lift the kerb line on the car park entrance, but unfortunately the workforce had been called away to deal with the pond overflowing the A5119 at Sychdyn.
- (ii) Dwarf stone wall outside the Village Hall entrance door. One of the coping stones had come loose and needed re-fixing. Cllr W Owen Thomas had volunteered to re-fix the coping stone.
- (iii) Gate post at lower entrance - Cllr W Owen Thomas arranging to obtain a tanalised post of a similar dimension. Flintshire will then fix the post,
- (iv) Dwarf wall between the car park and the Village Hall. Mr Williams reported that he had made enquiries. Flintshire was prepared to provide the new coping.

p57 **Street Lighting, A541, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported two lamps still off:

- (i) opposite bus shelter in Rhydymwyn
- (ii) by Coed y Felin entrance

Flintshire Streetscene to pursue.

p57 **Potholes, Ffordd y Llan, Cilcain** - Mr Ian Williams to pursue. The pot-holes by Crown Farm and at Tyn y Caeau entrance were getting worse. Cllr J Emyr Davies referred to new pot-holes between Pedair y Groesffordd and Plas Newydd.

p57 **Mountain Road, Cilcain, ice across carriageway** - Connections had been jetted by Flintshire. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that the position was much improved. Cllr Davies thanked Mr Williams for the good result.

p57 **Overhanging trees Ffordd y Llan / Trial Hill** - Trial Hill done. Ffordd y Llan trees marked up. The Sycamore at the Berth Junction was to be taken down on health and safety grounds.

p57 **Coed Du to the Caravan Park** - Mr Ian Williams to arrange for the longitudinal cracks in carriageway to be sealed to prevent further deterioration of the road surface. Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin had noticed cracks across the road at this location, in addition to longitudinal cracks. Mr Williams to pursue,

p57 **Star Crossing / A541 junction** - Members confirmed that the visibility was now much better. However, the visibility could be further improved by one of the signs being moved by 6 to 9 inches, without having to move the vertical supporting poles. Mr Ian Williams to pursue.

p48 **Gritting routes - cut backs** - Cllr W Owen Thomas reported he was satisfied that appropriate level of gritting was now taking place at Ffordd y Llan on a regular basis.

Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin had reported in the 21 Dec Council Meeting - a pre-gritting sign on the Pantymwyn side of Trial Hill having been removed. Mr Williams had investigated and found several signs in Flintshire had been removed. Flintshire was arranging for the signs to be replaced.

Clerk reported having spoken to the Manager at Coed Du Hospital. The Manager had already telephoned Flintshire Streetscene to express concern regarding the absence of pre-gritting on the section of Nant Alyn between Rhydymwyn and the Hall entrance. The Coed Du Manager indicated he would make written representations, as suggested by the Community Council.

Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin reported upon the recent press coverage given to the recent spate of road traffic accidents which had taken place in a four hour period in North East Wales. Had these incidences arisen as a result of not pre-gritting? Mr Williams reported that the weather forecast received on the Saturday evening had not indicated frost conditions on the following morning. Then, at about 3.00 am there was a sudden drop in the temperature forecasted, but this information was not relayed to the local authorities.

Cllr J Emyr Davies reported that the 'TV forecast' he had seen on Sunday had predicted correctly the frost on the Monday morning. There had been between 60 and 70 road traffic accident in North East Wales in a four hour period. Two helicopters had to land in Castell Alun School in Hope. Lives could have been lost. The saving due to not pre-getting was nowhere near the cost of ambulances and helicopters involved. The firm supplying the forecast would appear to have been poor. Mr Williams indicated that Flintshire had submitted a complaint to the forecasting firm.

p58 **Noisy Manhole cover by the Antelope** - Mr Ian Williams reported the clacking manhole by the garage was repaired last Friday.

p58 **General tidying of grass verges in Rhydymwyn** - Mr Ian Williams indicated the visibility splay by Welsh Water's Treatment Plant had been done. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported an encroaching of the grass verge opposite school house where the Gas Contractor had been working. Mr Williams to pursue.

p58 **Rhosesmor Junction Rhydymwyn** - Mr Ian Williams reported - the Highway Safety Section had now agreed to the provision of a 'concealed junction' sign on the Mold side of the Rhosesmor Junction. Sign to be erected.

Cllr Thomas explained that the quarry operations was likely to become busier in the future and wagons were already queuing on the A541, waiting to turn right at the quarry junction. Mr Williams reported that no official request had been received from the quarry operator. Cllr Thomas to pursue.

Members noted that the large tree at the Tarmac quarry junction had blown down in the recent high winds. The tree had been cleared.

p58 **Village Walkabout meeting for Cilcain and Rhydymwyn** - Village walkabout to be arranged this coming Spring.

p58 **Trelan highway culvert** - Mr Ian Williams to meet Cllr J Emyr Davies on site in due course.

- p59 **School bus drop off point, Rhydymwyn** - Mr Ian Williams confirmed having passed the concern on to Flintshire's School Transportation Unit.
- p59 **Loose metal rail, Trial Hill, Cilcain** - Mr Ian Williams reported having measured up the amount of galvanised steel tubing required. Two different sizes involved. Work to take place in next few days.
- p59 **Refuse collection vehicle** - Cllr Derek May reported that the problem of blowing paper refuse had improved. Cllr W Owen Thomas and Cllr J Emyr Davies expressed concern regarding the number of vehicles on the collection service. Cllr Thomas noted the food collection vehicle going up Berth Road on three separate occasions on a Monday. Mr Williams to make enquiries with the Refuse Collection Supervisor.
- p59 **Cilcain Church Wall, ivy removal** Mr Ian Williams reported ivy removal completed.

**New highway related concerns raised since the Dec 2015 Council Meeting:**

- (a) **Brithdir Mawr Road, Cilcain** - Cllr J Emyr Davies had reported on 11 Jan 2016 - no salt heaps had been left on Brithdir Mawr Road. Mr Ian Williams reported - salt heaps now provided.
- The Clerk had received an e-mail from a local resident (Mr Bryn Jones, Bryn Bannon) (8 Jan) concerned about a blocked catch-pit. Complaint had been forwarded to Flintshire Streetscene, Mr Williams reported having met Mr Jones on site to discuss the surface water drainage problem. Mr Williams to arrange for a highway catch-pit to be cleaned out.
- (b) **Dolfechlas Road, gulleys** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes thanked Mr Williams for cleaning out the gully by the Berllan. The gully is now working well. Cllr Hughes referred to the split concrete channel at the entrance to Bryn Gollen (private housing estate). The top two meters are blocked. Mr Williams reminded to check the gulleys on the Bryn Gollen estate, in case the gulleys are blocked, resulting in the road silts not being collected on the estate and subsequently discharging into Dolfechlas Road, putting pressure on the Berllan gully.
- (c) **Potholes near Coed Du Farm** - Cllr Hughes reported two potholes close to Coed Du Farm near the recently re-surfaced road section.
- (d) **Llys Alyn entrance** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported mud and debris on the road near the entrance to Llys Alyn. Mr Williams to pursue.
- (e) **Gritting at Nant Alyn / Church Meadow** - Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin had been requested to enquire why Church Meadow was being gritted, but not Nant Alyn. Mr Williams explained that Church Meadow was gritted with main gritting machine to allow the refuse wagon to make its collection. However, the main gritting wagon was too wide to go up Nant Alyn. Mr Williams had spoken to Cllr Douglas. A transit van with a rear hopper fitted, will be used next time gritting is needed.
- (f) **Berth Road, Cilcain** - Cllr W Owen Thomas reported several of the gulleys in Berth Road were blocked. Cllr Thomas also referred to a gully at the bottom of Berth Road not catching

the surface water. The road profile was such that the surface water from Berth Road was flowing across Star Crossing Road. This situation could be hazardous in freezing conditions.

- (g) **Star Crossing Road surface water** - Cllr W Owen Thomas referred to a number of places on Star Crossing Road where water was coming on to the carriageway from the adjoining agricultural land. By Fforrest Farm, surface water discharging across the road, in addition to the road bend, was particularly hazardous.

The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for attending the Meeting. Cllr J Emyr Davies commented that Mr Williams was doing an excellent job in dealing with the Council's highway concerns. Members agreed. Mr Williams left the Council meeting at this point

### **MATTERS ARISING (CONTINUED)**

p59 **Defra site, Rhydymwyn** - Mr David Hanson meeting with stakeholders arranged for 12 Feb.

p59 **Bath House, Coed Du Hall, Rhydymwyn** - No change in position. Clerk reported on his conversation with Mrs Eleanor Carpenter in Flintshire's Conservation Section. No reply to Flintshire's correspondence received from Coed Du manager or owner. Mrs Carpenter to telephone the manager. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported on his conversation with Mr Gerald Taylor. Clerk to pursue.

p59 **Rhydymwyn Flood Committee** - Meeting took place at the DEFRA Reception Office on Wednesday 6 Jan 2016. Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Clerk reported on the outcome at the Council Meeting. NRW will not be issuing sandbags in future for domestic properties. Flintshire has 1,000 filled sandbags, but these bags will not be issued before a flood. NRW was represented by Mrs Linda Thomas and Mr Gwyn Moseley from the Bangor Office. Handouts were supplied for issuing to village residents to explain the new warning system.

Clerk explained that following the Nov 2000 floods, it was envisaged that, in the event of extremely high river levels, a row of sandbags would be required across the carriageway by the DEFRA Bridge. The Clerk reported having recently met Mr Bill Jones on site. At the site meeting it was agreed that the protection work undertaken by NRW had made the idea of sandbags across the bridge obsolete.

Cllr Hughes reported having received a letter from NRW regarding a training meeting for Senior Flood Wardens, to be arranged at Llandudno on 28 January 2016. Cllr Hughes and Clerk to arrange for representatives to attend.

p59 **Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd, Flint, 2016, fund raising** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported that HSBC had donated £500 to the local fundraising effort, bringing the fund total up to £9,183, which was well over the original target of £8,000. The overall Eisteddfod target requirement of £230,000 was currently standing at £186,000, with a deadline of June 2016.

p60 **Cilcain Play areas, refurbishment** - Site Meeting with Mr Richard Roberts to be arranged. Clerk to arrange a meeting at 2.00 pm on a Friday.

p60 **Rhydymwyn play areas, refurbishment** Clerk reported - work scheduled to start on site this week. New goal post had been erected at no cost to the Community Council.

p60 **Rhydymwyn Football Club, dog fouling** - Clerk to pursue with Flintshire.

p60 **Kiosk door** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes to pursue with Mr David Morris.

p60 **Village Hall conveyance plan** - A draft copy of the Council Minutes had been e-mailed to Cllr Derek May prior to the Village Hall Management Committee. The new plan showing the current footprint of the Village Hall (based on the Ordnance Survey) was considered at the Hall Committee Meeting.

The Community Council had taken the view in the 21 December 2015 Council Meeting that:

*The existing Management Agreement had served the Community well in the past and the agreement had approximately 13 years left to run. It should be fairly straight forward*

to:

- (i) *Add a paragraph to the Agreement to accommodate the toilet block.*
- (ii) *Add an up to date plan to the Agreement to show the current footprint of the Village Hall and Toilet Block.*

*If the Hall Committee has a difficulty with this proposal / request, the Council needs a letter from the Committee to identify what the problem is.*

Unfortunately, the Hall Committee had not discussed the Community Council's position or request so a letter from the Hall Committee was not being anticipated / expected until after the next Hall Committee.

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Village Hall Committee is on the 11 March 2016.

Clerk to write to the Hall Committee Secretary to outline the Community Council's position as identified in italics above.

p60 **Antelope Industrial Estate, recycling plant** - Position considered under the Planning Applications Agenda Item. Clerk to write to Flintshire's Enforcement Officer.

p60 **Request for support for Rhydymwyn Church refurbishment scheme** - Donation of £200 included in 21 December 2015 payment list. Future assistance to be discussed in the Precept discussions in the Appendix.

p61 **Parking problems in Cilcain** - Clerk had written to the national organisers. Mrs Sue Jones had subsequently obtained the name and contact details for the local organiser. Clerk to pursue. Member agreed with the suggestion made by Cllr W Owen Thomas - The December Minutes to be amended to add - 'parking in Waen Field would not be allowed for this event at any time of the year'.

p61 **Electoral Register** - Clerk reported on receipt of electoral register. Item can now be deleted.

## 6. PLANNING MATTERS

**Community Council observations requested on:** None received

1. Proposal: Application to vary condition 4 attached to planning permission ref: 043879 relating to hours of working.  
Location: Unit 8a-8b, Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn  
Ref No: 053957  
Decision: The Community Council **strongly objects** to extending the operating hours. The existing operation is resulting in dust and noise pollution for the village community. Extending the hours will merely increase the hours of pollution per day.
2. Proposal: Application to vary condition 3 and 4 following grant of planning permission 048179 to extend operational hours.  
Location: Unit 6, Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn  
Ref No: 053959  
Decision: The Community Council **strongly objects** to extending the operating hours. The existing operation is resulting in dust and noise pollution for the village community. Extending the hours will merely increase the hours of pollution per day.
3. Proposal: Construction of external training enclosure for horses  
Location: Hesp Alyn Farm, Pantymwyn Road, Cilcain  
Ref No: 054570  
Decision: The Community Council has no objection to the above proposal, subject to the following conditions being included in the permission:  
(i) Condition to ensure the facility is restored to agricultural land if the facility ceases to be a horse training area.  
(ii) Condition to ensure no topsoil leaves the site, so the topsoil can be used for any eventual restoration which may be required.
4. Proposal: Erection of building for use as office and store  
Location: Glan yr Afon, Denbigh Road, Hendre  
Ref No: 054678  
Decision: The Community Council has **no objection, subject to** - the visibility requirements and vehicular access details at the A541 junction being strictly in accordance with Flintshire County Council's Highway Design Standards for access on to a Class A road.
5. Proposal: Construction of pitched roof over existing flat roof  
Location: Cefn Cottage, Nant Alyn, Rhydymwyn  
Ref No: 054811  
Decision: The Community Council has **no objection** to the above proposal.
6. Proposal: Change of use of land to equestrian and erection of new stable block  
Location: Barn at Star Crossing  
Ref No: 054721

Decision: The access on to a busy road is of concern. Therefore, the Community Council **objects** to the application, especially if the development is to be used on a commercial basis.

**Planning Decisions made by Flintshire County Council:**

1. Location: Plas Teg, Cilcain  
Proposal: Construction of ménage and erection of stable block and barn  
Ref No: 054510  
Decision: Approved

**7. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS** - To consider the following items:

- 1) 22/12 Defra Site, Rhydymwyn - E-mail from David Hanson - date fixed for meeting of stakeholders.
- 2) 30/12 Urdd Gobaith Cymru - Local 'A' Level Student chosen to represent Flintshire in a party of students to visit Patagonia - request for donation. Request for donation considered in Appendix section.
- 3) 05/01 Flintshire County Council - Forum meeting - changing dates for forum meeting.
- 4) 05/01 Cilcain Village Hall - copy of current contents insurance policy schedule for Village Hall.
- 5) 05/01 Electoral Register - digital and paper copy of current electoral register now available from Flintshire.
- 6) 05/01 Council Accounts for 2014/2015 - Receipt of Annual Return signed by UHY Hacker Young (External Auditor)
- 7) 07/01 Age Friendly Communities in Flintshire - information from Flintshire Older People's Strategy Co-ordinator.
- 8) 08/01 Cilcain Chapel - Thank you note for recent donation.
- 9) 08/01 Brithdir Mawr Road - blocked catch pit - report from local resident - item reported to Mr Ian Williams in Flintshire Streetscene. Item discussed earlier.
- 10) 11/01 Flood Warden's Meeting in Llandudno - Confirmation of meeting scheduled for 28 January 2016. Item discussed earlier.
- 11) 11/01 River Alyn - Tree across river - acknowledgement from NRW regarding Council's recent submitted report. Position noted.
- 12) 11/01 Internal Audit - Information from JDH regarding next year's internal audit and the audit service being offered. Offer of internal service for this year's audit accepted.
- 13) 11/01 Parking in Cilcain - Annual Fell races - Name and address of local organiser supplied by Mrs Sue Jones. Item discussed earlier.
- 14) 13/01 Dolfechlas Road, Rhydymwyn - Street lamp near Bryn Gollen Junction - Information from Deeco - fault repaired.
- 15) 14/01 Cilcain Village Hall - Thank you letter from Hall Ctee Secretary for recent donation, plus a progress report on the refurbishment scheme.
- 16) --/-- Press article submitted by Cllr J Emyr Davies regarding the need for river dredging.

**8. MATTERS RAISED SINCE LAST MEETING**

- (i) **Dolfechlas Road, Rhydymwyn** - Street lamp not working - report received from a Bryn Gollen resident regarding a lamp not working in Dolfechlas Road. Item reported to Deeco.

- (ii) **Brithdir Mawr Road, Cilcain** - Cllr J Emyr Davies had reported (11 Jan 2016) - no salt heaps had been left on Brithdir Mawr Road. Item reported to Mr Ian Williams at Flintshire Streetscene. Item discussed earlier.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS / REPORTS -**

- (i) Street lamp out by Bier House, Cilcain
- (ii) Parking at Hendre - position becoming worse. Clerk to write to North Wales Police.

**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 7.30 pm in Cilcain Village Hall on Monday 15 February 2016.

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

**APPENDIX - MATTERA OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE - NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

**1.0 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

(i)	A Evans sal + exp for December 2015	501.25
(ii)	Bloomin Gardens - Rhydymwyn cemetery - maintenance and waste removal	50.00
(iii)	A Evans - Office stationery and equipment (Amazon)	220.95
(iv)	UHY Hacker Young - External Audit	336.00
(v)	HMRC - PAYE for December 2015	72.00
(vi)	A Evans - postage in conjunction with Minerals application £9.50 + £6.45 = £15.95	15.95
(vii)	P May - Annual cleaning of Village Hall car park (2015)	20.00
(viii)	Annual payment to Cilcain Clean & Lock (£500 – £166.59 = £333.41	333.41
(ix)	G Bellis - Notice Board Rhydymwyn - annual payment	40.00
(x)	Rhydymwyn Institute - donation to assist with maintenance work	400.00
(xi)*	Cilcain Village Hall - Additional cost of annual insurance premium. Please Note - (i) the annual contents premium of £387.87 reported to the Dec 2015 Council did not cover the additional insurance cost of the Hall Ctee taking Clean & Lock into its management agreement. Estimated additional cost is £160. (ii) Premium without the Hall Ctee accepting Clean and Lock = £387.77 - £250 = £137.77	--
(xii)	Zurich - annual insurance for Community Council (Last year's premium was £2,142)	1,790.93
(xiii)**	Patagonia - Flintshire's representative - Urdd Gobaith Cymru - to be paid out of Chairman's Account	75.00
(xiv)	Canon - photocopy lease	127.04
(xv)	Scottish Power street lighting energy	251.50

Please Note:

\* **Village Hall Insurance** - Members agreed to hold on to the extra payment until it becomes clear that the Village Hall Ctee is prepared to accept Clean and Lock under its umbrella.

\*\* **Donation to student (overseas event)** - Cllr W Owen Thomas maintained the Council had a £400 allocations for donations, and the allocation had been spent for this year. Cllr Gareth W Hughes explained that the £400 allocation was for non-regular donations to organisations. Donations to individuals (usually students taking part in overseas events) was a separate issue. Chair suggested an allocation should be included in next years budget for individual applications. Members agreed a total allocation limit of

£300 (4 x £75) per year with a £75 limit per personal donation. Donation of £75 agreed for the Urdd Patagonia visit.

2. **COUNCIL BALANCE AT NINE MONTHS THROUGH THE 2015/2016 BUDGET YEAR** –

Members noted the Council's financial position at the three quarter stage (9 months up to the end of December 2015) by referring to the details attached to the Agenda.

3. **COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2015**

The Annual Return submitted to the External Auditor on 07 December 2015 had been returned from the External Auditor. Members noted the contents.

4. **NEXT YEAR'S PRECEPT** - A draft budget had been prepared and circulated to Members, following guidelines given to the Clerk in the 21 December 2015 Council Meeting. The draft budget recommended a £1,000 increase.

The main additional items included were:

- (i) Institute external rendering - £1,000
- (ii) Rhydymwyn Church - £500 (based on the presumption that the donation would be used strictly for match funding a grant by others)
- (iii) Cilcain Play area scheme - £2,000
- (iv) Community buildings £1,500 (3x£500) instead of the £1,200 (3x £400) in last year's budget

Cllr Gareth W Hughes referred to the part of his existing rate demand for the Community Council amounting to £50.33 per annum. The recommended £1,000 increase would result in the Community Council portion of the annual cost increasing by £2.21 per annum (equivalent to 4.2 pence extra per week)

Cllr J Emyr Davies maintained that £2.2 per year cannot be considered significant in this day and age.

Cllr W Owen Thomas referred to last year's precept being £22,400, but the total expenditure was approximately £28,000. Cllr Thomas maintained the Council could not continue to operate on this basis, where it was spending more than it received. The Clerk explained the 'total income' is made up of 'the precept' plus 'other income'. The 'other income' amounted to approximately £4,000 last year (burial fees plus a contribution from Flintshire towards cemetery maintenance. etc.) It is always the aim of the budget to match the 'total expenditure' with 'total income'.

Cllr Thomas maintained the Council should look first at its own requirements.

Cllr Thomas felt the Community Council was not here to support the Church in Rhydymwyn or the Chapel in Cilcain for that matter. If the Church in Rhydymwyn was being assisted, why was the Church in Cilcain not being given a donation? If the Church in Rhydymwyn had major alteration requirements, the Church should make a specific request for a one off donation.

Cllr Thomas opposed increasing the precept. The Council should first look at the way the Council was being run. Cllr Thomas referred to the Church in Cilcain and the Community Council in Nannerch not issuing a paper copy of the Agenda etc. All the information was e-mailed. The Clerk maintained putting the onus on Members to print their own information merely passed the administration cost down the line to the individual Members.

Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin and Cllr J Emyr Davies strongly opposed having to print the Agendas etc. One or two members had no objection to going paperless, but the majority decided to stay with paper agendas and correspondence for the time being.

Councillor W Owen Thomas maintained individual items in the budget need not be decided upon at the Council Meeting. The Clerk maintained that it was a normal practice to set out and agree individual items at the Precept Meeting. The changed items had been discussed in the 21 Dec 2015 meeting, and the recommended draft had detailed as much as possible every separate item of anticipated expenditure. Most of the routine items were based on last year's expenditure under each heading.

Cllr Mrs Joanna Hobson maintained that savings could be made by having less colour photographs presented at Council Meetings. More use should be considered of bringing a lap top to the meeting to show colour photographs and plans etc.

Cllr Gareth W Hughes agreed that administration costs should be looked at, with a view to making reductions. Clerk to pursue.

Cllr W Owen Thomas enquired how many of the Rhydymwyn Football Club players lived in Rhydymwyn. Members felt the donation to the Football Club was to assist keeping the building in operation, as opposed to assisting the players.

The recommended increase of £1,000 was put to the vote. Members were prepared to accept the £1,000 increase. Cllr W Owen Thomas wanted it minuted that he was against increasing the precept. Cllr J Emyr Davies maintained the Council was not in a position to reduce the Council balance to accommodate the additional items.

Cllr Thomas felt the Council should consider spending more money on maintenance items in the villages. Cllr Thomas felt the path in the Cilcain cemetery needed new edging. The cost could not be identified with any degree of accuracy. Members agreed to include an additional amount of £1,000 towards the cemetery path edging work. If the estimate or quotations turn out to exceed £1,000, the improvement would have to be done in two phases.

Members took another vote and **approved unanimously to increase the precept by £2,000.** This addition would be equivalent to 8.5 pence per week for a band G property.

The Chairperson and Clerk signed the necessary form, which would be submitted to Flintshire before the 29 January 2016.