

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT CILCAIN VILLAGE HALL ON 15 FEBRUARY 2016

Present: **Chairperson:** Cllr Miss Ann Baker
Councillors: Mrs Janet Butlin, J Emyr Davies
 John S Douglas Ian N Hughes,
 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 February (Chwefror) 2016 Council Meeting. The Chairperson welcomed two Cilcain residents (Mrs Sue Jones and Mrs Gwen Hardman) to the meeting. Chair also welcomed Mr James Hulse and Mrs Val Hulse from Rhydymwyn. Mr Ian Williams was not in attendance, but had submitted a report to outline the position on various highway matters.

[Prior to the start of the meeting, a number of Members were given a conducted tour of the Village Hall by Mrs Gwen Hardman and Mrs Sue Jones. Members who were shown around were very impressed with the work which had been undertaken, and expressed appreciation to Gwen and Sue for managing the work in such a professional manner.]

2. APOLOGIES -

Apologies: Cllr Sue Sawyer,
Absent: Cllr Mrs Andrea Davies

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST - No declarations of interest received.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the 18 January 2016 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:

p67 **Potholes at the Pentre / Loggerheads Road, Cilcain** - Mr Ian Williams had reported - pothole repair ongoing.

p67 **Potholes, Nant Alyn** - Mr Ian Williams had reported - pothole repair ongoing.

p67 **Coed Du to Plas Wilkin** - build-up of leaves problem. Mr Ian Williams had reported - work on going. Cllr Gareth W Hughes had noted sign being posted up at Coed Du regarding impending road closure. Mr Ian Williams contacted for information. Clerk reported at the meeting. The Council used to be notified of road closures, but the practice seems to have now

stopped. Clerk to enquire if the procedures have changed. Chair reported having seen a notice of road closure for two weeks (for BT works).

p67 **Seepage by Bryn Teg (between Coed Du Hall entrance and the Caravan Site)**

Mr Ian Williams had reported he had not yet received a reply from NRW.

p68 **Cilcain Toilets** Flintshire to treat doors with Sadolin. Cllr W Owen Thomas reported that the doors cannot now be closed, so the door will need shaving again and sealing immediately afterwards. Mr Williams was anticipating treating the door this coming 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 had purchased a tanalised post of a similar dimension. Flintshire to fix the post.
- (iv) Dwarf wall between the car park and the Village Hall. Flintshire is now prepared to provide the new mortar coping.

p68 **Street Lighting, A541, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported the lamps had not been repaired since last month. In addition another lamp was out on RHS going from Rhydymwyn, just before the Tarmac junction. Therefore current list:

- (i) opposite bus shelter in Rhydymwyn
- (ii) by Coed y Felin entrance
- (iii) Tarmac junction - RHS before junction, going towards Hendre.

Flintshire Streetscene to pursue.

-- **Light outside Village Hall building entrance** - Light assumed to belong to Bowling Club, but the reflector appears to face the Village Hall. Clerk to pursue with Mr J Mash at the Bowling Club. Cllr Derek May felt there was a possibility of the lantern being turned towards the Hall entrance for the Bonfire night.

-- **Nant Alyn Road, first lamp on right outside No 1.** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes had recently reported this lamp. Clerk to pursue with DEECO.

p68 **Potholes, Ffordd y Llan, Cilcain** Cllr J Emyr Davies had reported in the January Council Meeting that the new pot-holes by Crown Farm and at Tyn y Caeau entrance were getting worse. Cllr J Emyr Davies reported the repairs between Pedair y Groesffordd and Plas Newydd were still to be done.

Mr Ian Williams had reported that some repairs had been undertaken since the January Council Meeting

- p68 **Mountain Road, Cilcain, ice across carriageway** - Cllr J Emyr Davies reported the water had started to surcharge from the gulley again. It would appear that the recent work had only stopped the discharge temporarily. Clerk to pass this information on to Mr Ian Williams.
- p68 **Overhanging trees Ffordd y Llan / Trial Hill** - Trial Hill done. Crown lifting of Ffordd y Llan trees to commence week beginning 15 Feb 2016. The Sycamore at the Berth Junction is to be taken down on health and safety grounds.
- p68 **Coed Du to the Caravan Park** - Mr Ian Williams had reported that the work of sealing the longitudinal cracks in the carriageway was ongoing. Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin had reported in the Jan 2016 Council Meeting, having noticed cracks across the road at this location, in addition to longitudinal cracks. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported having looked at this section of road since the Jan 2016 Meeting. Cllr Hughes reported that there were marks across the road, as if they had been caused by a JCB bucket, but no cracks were noted.
- p68 **Star Crossing / A541 junction** - Mr Ian Williams had reported - work completed. Chair had seen a Flintshire van on site on 15 Feb 2016, and the visibility seemed to be improved.
- p68 **Gritting routes - cut backs** - Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin had reported in the 21 Dec 2015 Meeting - a pre-gritting sign having been removed. Mr Williams to pursue.
- p69 **Noisy manhole cover by the Antelope** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes confirmed that the clacking manhole mentioned in the January meeting had been repaired. However, there is now another (drainage) manhole - opposite the Leete Avenue junction on the Garage Side. Mr Ian Williams to pursue.
- p69 **General tidying of grass verges in Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes had reported in the Jan 2016 Meeting - encroachment of the grass verge opposite school house where the Gas Contractor had been working. Mr Williams had submitted a report to the Meeting - Utility contractor contacted and requested to undertake re-instatement.
- p69 **Rhosesmor Junction Rhydymwyn** - Mr Ian Williams had reported in the Jan 2016 Meeting - Sign to be erected.
- p69 **Village Walkabout meeting for Cilcain and Rhydymwyn** - Village walkabout to be arranged this coming Spring.
- p69 **Trelan highway culvert** - Mr Ian Williams to meet Cllr J Emyr Davies on site.
- p70 **School bus drop off point, Rhydymwyn** - Mr Ian Williams had confirmed in the Jan 2016 Meeting, having passed the concern on to Flintshire's School Transportation Unit.
- p70 **Loose metal rail, Trial Hill, Cilcain** - Mr Ian Williams had reported prior to the Council Meeting - work completed.
- p70 **Refuse collection vehicle** - Mr Ian Williams reported prior to the Council Meeting - Enquiries has been made with Refuse Collection Supervisor.

- p70 **Dolfechlas Road, gulleys** - 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.
- p70 **Potholes near Coed Du Farm** - In the Jan 2016 Meeting, Cllr Hughes had reported two potholes close to Coed Du Farm. Cllr Hughes reported - one pothole had been filled, but one remained to be done.
- p70 **Llys Alyn entrance** - At the Jan 2016 Meeting, Cllr Gareth W Hughes had reported mud and debris on the road near the entrance to Llys Alyn. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported clearing of the carriageway had taken place.
- p71 **Gritting at Nant Alyn / Church Meadow** - Item can now be deleted.
- p71 **Gulleys in Berth Road** - Cllr W Owen Thomas reported that the gulleys in Beth Road were full solid with silt. Clerk referred to a recent Council Minute where it had been reported the gulleys had been cleaned out. Mr Ian Williams to check current position.
- p71 **Star Crossing Road surface water** - At the Jan 2016 Meeting, 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. Mr Ian Williams to pursue.
- p71 **Defra site, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr W Owen Thomas reported on the Meeting which had taken place with Mr David Hanson. Mr Hanson had sent a brief note regarding the decisions taken at the Meeting. Mr Hanson's e-mail was attached to the Council's agenda for Members information. Members enquired if the Council was to submit observations 'before or after' the consultation invitation from David Hanson. Clerk to check the position.
- p71 **Bath House, Coed Du Hall, Rhydymwyn** - Clerk reported on his conversation with Mrs Eleanor Carpenter in Flintshire's Conservation Section. The Bath House had been submitted to two national Heritage Organisations - SAVE (Britain's Heritage) and SPAB (Society Protection Ancient Buildings) for consideration to be given to including the repairs in a list of projects. Flintshire Conservation would still continue to push the owner to undertake works to make safe.
- **Erosion of highway edge opposite the Bath House** - Cllr John White expressed concern regarding the deteriorating condition of the roadside edge opposite the Bath House. Cllr Gareth W Hughes maintained this problem had recently been drawn to the attention of Mr Ian Williams. Clerk to check if Flintshire has yet scheduled the repair works.
- p71 **Rhydymwyn Flood Committee** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Clerk reported on the outcome at the Warden's Meeting they had attended at Llandudno. Discussion had taken place with NRW's Area Maintenance Manager regarding the possibility of installing a TV telemetry arrangement at the upstream side of the DEFRA grid. A camera system had been considered by NRW at various locations in North Wales approximately five years ago, but a camera at the Rhydymwyn location was not considered high enough on the priority list at the time. The highest priority was given to locations which were the most remote. Members agreed with

proposal of raising this issue again with NRW, with the possibility of having a 50/50 arrangement for the installation cost between DEFRA and NRW. The offer of assistance from DEFRA may provide sufficient inducement to push the Rhydymwyn location nearer the top of NRW's priority list. Clerk to obtain an approximate cost for the installations which have already been provided in North Wales.

p71 **Cilcain Play areas, refurbishment** - Site meeting with Mr Richard Roberts had taken place. Reasonable agreement agreed on site regarding the new items to be included in the proposed refurbishment scheme. At the site meeting, Members agreed for the kick back item to be located by the conifers on the Bowling Club side of the Waen Field. Cllr May needed confirmation that the new items can be used for disabled youngsters. Clerk to obtain a written confirmation from Mr Richard Roberts. Estimated cost of refurbishment scheme was £35,000. Mr R Roberts requested to provide a reasonably detailed plan for the Council.

p71 **Rhydymwyn play areas, refurbishment** - Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin enquired if there was sufficient gradient between the start and end of the Zip Wire. Clerk to check with Mr Richard Roberts. Cllr Mrs Butlin reported having checked to make sure no Village Orchard trees had been damaged during the construction work.

p72 **Rhydymwyn Football Club, dog fouling** - Clerk to obtain an update from Flintshire.

p72 **Kiosk door** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes to pursue with Mr David Morris.

p72 **Village Hall conveyance plan** - Clerk to write to the Hall Ctee Secretary to request the Management Ctee to consider:

- (i) Adding 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 request, the Council would need a letter from the Committee to identify the nature of the problem.

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Village Hall Committee was scheduled for 10 March 2016.

p72 **Antelope Industrial Estate, recycling plant** - Clerk confirmed having written to Flintshire's Enforcement Officer. No reply had been received. Cllr W Owen Thomas to arrange a meeting with NRW in due course. Clerk to seek a response to the Council's E-mail to the Planning Enforcement Officer.

p72 **Parking problems in Cilcain** - Mrs Sue Jones was invited by the Chairperson to read out a letter received from the local Organiser. This letter to be copied for Members and considered again in the March Council Meeting. Clerk to write to Ffordd y Llan resident. Members maintained that parking on an agricultural field in Novembers would not be practical.

p75 **Parking in Hendre** - Clerk to discuss with the appropriate Traffic Section Officer in Flintshire.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

Community Council observations requested on:

- (i) Location: Mill Cottage, Pentre, Cilcain
Ref No: 054800
Decision: No objection.

Planning Decisions made by Flintshire County Council:

- (i) Location: Glan yr Afon, Denbigh Road, Mold
Ref No: 054678 Decision: Approved

7. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS - To consider the following items. N.B. only the items with an asterisk were copied for Members. The remaining items were read out at the Council Meeting:

- 1) 20/01 Cilcain Clean and Lock - note of thanks for annual donation.
- 2) 25/01 St John's Church, Rhydymwyn - note of thanks for recent donation.
- 3) 25/01 Rhydymwyn war memorial institute - note of thanks for recent donation
- 4) 11/02 Best Kept Village competition - invitation to attend meeting with the judges and to participate in this year's competition. Position noted. Clerk explained that during the last four weeks, seven e-mails was received from Flintshire on this topic. Together with the enclosures, the total number of sheets came to 28. Since there are 63 Community Councils in Flintshire. Flintshire do not have to print (28x63 = 1,764) sheets of paper. If each Community Councils were to make a copy of the correspondence to their Members, this would involve Community Councils printing 21,168 sheets of paper for this one topic. The Chairperson maintained this justified the decision taken in Matters Arising - only to circulate important items of correspondence.

Cllr Thomas explained that each County Councillors is provided with a laptop in Flintshire. It was up to each Councillor to take the laptop to the Council Meeting

- 5)* 12/02 DEFRA site meeting of stakeholders with David Hanson - Cllr Gareth W Hughes explained:
 - (i) Mr David Hanson had called the stakeholders meeting (12 Feb 2016) because the maintenance contract with NEW Wildlife was scheduled to finish at the end of March 2016.
 - (ii) DEFRA announced at the meeting that the NEW Wildlife contract had been extended by 12 months.
 - (iii) The 12 month extension would give DEFRA sufficient time to consider the options for the future of the site, and to undertake consultation with the various stakeholders regarding the options for the future.
 - (iv) DEFRA will write to the interested stakeholders in the next 8 to 12 weeks to commence the consultation exercise.
 - (v) Defra was asked by one of the stakeholders present - would there be a dowry given to a potential new operator / owner? Mr Aidan McGuffie indicated - this was a possibility.

The Clerk maintained that the other option, which could have considerable merit, was for DEFRA to operate a reduced specification 5 or 10 year contract for maintenance.

Cllr W Owen Thomas maintained:

- (i) Who would want to take on the responsibility from DEFRA for the site? There was a significant obligation on river maintenance, maintaining the buildings and providing security for the site?
- (ii) Cllr Thomas felt there would be strong objections by Rhydymwyn residents to the site being promoted for any purpose other than a nature reserve.
- (iii) Cllr Thomas maintained the village residents would not want busloads of visitors coming from all over the country to look at the war history aspects of the site.
- (iv) The possibility of a petition taken in the village needed to be considered, together with a public meeting in due course.

Cllr J Emyr Davies indicated that the future of DEFRA itself was not guaranteed, with all the Government cuts taking place.

In conclusion, the Council would now wait to be contacted by DEFRA for the consultation process. Clerk to check with DEFRA's Mr Nigel Sweasey if the Council needed to submit observations before or wait for DEFRA to initiate the consultation process?

6)* --/02 Urdd National Eisteddfod, Flintshire 2016 - invitation to be a steward at the event.

8. MATTERS RAISED SINCE LAST MEETING

- (i) **Rhydymwyn Sewage Treatment Plant** - Cllr J Emyr Davies had reported (9 Feb) effluent overflowing from the Treatment Plant on to the adjoining field and then into the Fechlas Brook. Clerk had taken photographs at 9.00 am on Wed 10 Feb. The overflow had stopped by that time, but considerable sludge remained on the adjoining field. It was evident from the amount of sludge outside the plant that the tanks had been overflowing sewage effluent for some considerable time prior to the problem being discovered / reported .

Members considered it appropriate to make enquiries with NRW (who regulates Welsh Water's operations) to establish how often the site is manually inspected, and are there any telemetry flow monitors in place to send a remote wireless message to a central office to activate an immediate inspection by a maintenance engineer.

Cllr J Emyr Davies explained that Nitrogen Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) require farmers and landowners to be extremely careful regarding treatment of land within the NVZ. It would appear the NRW was not imposing the same level of control on Welsh Water's Treatment plants.

Cllr Mrs Janet Butlin expressed concern regarding pollution of the Rive Alyn. Mrs Butlin maintained that youngsters played in the River Alyn and the pollution from raw sewage was

a health hazard. Members referred to the treatment plant at Cilcain. During the last river walk, effluent was noted overflowing from the sludge tanks into the river. The Council was informed at the time that an audit of the works was shortly to take place. Welsh Water was having problems in transporting the sludge off site due to the condition of the site access. With respect to the Cilcain STW, Clerk to ask NRW:

- (i) If the scheduled audit of the works did take place.
- (ii) Has the access been improved to allow sludge removal during most weather conditions.
- (iii) How often is the outfall effluent tested. The Council assumed the condition of the outfall effluent will give an indication as to whether or not the treatment plant is overloaded.

Clerk reported having spoken to Mr Kevin Williams in the NRW Office regarding the trees across the Fechlas Brook adjoining the Rhydymwyn STP. Mr Williams explained that only low priority could be given to tree removal where the fallen trees were substantially above the river bank. Mr Williams reported that NRW operatives had removed trees from the River Alyn upstream of the DEFRA bridge in the last few weeks. Cllr John White maintained the tree above the new Yarranton houses was still obstructing the river flow. Clerk to pursue again with Mr Williams.

- (ii) **Temporary Road works signs - Coed Du to Plas Wilkin and Coed Du towards Trimm Rock quarry.** Cllr Gareth W Hughes had noted sign being erected up at Coed Du regarding impending road closure. Item discussed earlier
- (iii) **Footpath between Football Ground and Heatherdene, Dolfechlas Road -** Cllr Gareth W Hughes had reported (12 Feb) the condition of the fence / hedge between the Football Club and Heatherdene. This matter had been raised with Mr John Hill last Autumn. Mr Hill had taken the view that the boundary fence with the Football Club would need to be repaired by Flintshire Streetscene. Mr Ian Williams had been reminded of the need to schedule the work. The Council noted it was important for the boundary to be brought up to a reasonable standard, before the asset transfer changes are mentioned again.
- (iv) **Flooding of agricultural land at rear of the Rhydymwyn Service Station -** Extensive flooding of the land at the rear of the Service Station has recently occurred. Members recalled this land was being considered for inclusion in the next Development Plan for Flintshire. Photographs of the extent of the flooding had been taken. The photographs would allow the Community Council to pressure NRW to undertake dredging of the Fechlas Brook. Members also maintained the photographs can be used in any future discussions with Flintshire Planning regarding the drainage condition of the land.
- (v) **Flood Wardens meeting at Llandudno -** Cllr Gareth W Hughes and the Clerk attended the recent Warden's practitioner's session at Llandudno. Item discussed earlier.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS -

- (i) **Provision of dog bin, Plas Uchaf Junction, Cilcain** Cllr W Owen Thomas requested consideration to be given to the provision of a dog bin at the Plas Ucha junction. Request to be made to Mr I Williams. Clerk to consult with the resident living in Plas Ucha.

- (ii) **Footway leading from Rhydymwyn towards Mold** - Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported the path was in need of cleaning. Clerk to pursue with Flintshire Streetscene.
- (iii) **Visibility Access to Treatment Works, Rhydymwyn** - Cllr Gareth Hughes noted that the Minutes referred to the splay having been cleaned by Flintshire. Cllr Hughes maintained more work was required. Clerk to pursue with Mr Williams.
- (iv) **Ysgol y Foel Community Pond** The Chairperson had attended a recent school Governors Meeting, when the proposal of the pond refurbishment by the PTA was discussed. Cllr W Owen Thomas maintained the Community Council had been involved in the arranging for the importing of quarry material to the site to aid with the pond construction. The Chairperson indicated that copies of the Council Minutes in the period 2002 to 2013 had been sent to the Governors Ctee. These Minutes indicated the Council had not been consulted prior to the grant application being made by the School Governors.

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 21 March 2016.

SignedChair Date Clerk

APPENDIX - MATTERA OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1.0 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

(i)	A Evans sal + exp for January 2016 (sal = £360/month)	501.25
(ii)	HMRC - PAYE for January 2016	72.00
(iii)	A Evans - Office stationery and equipment (Amazon)	149.68
(iv)	One Voice Wales - annual subscription	--
(v)	Sadolin for Rhydymwyn seats and Notice Board	20.87
(vi)	Asda - office stationery and equip	44.98
(vii)	SLCC - annual subscription for Soc. of Local Council Clerks	103.00

2. **VAT REFUND** - The VAT claim for the year ending 31 March 2015 had been submitted to the Customs and Excise Office on 27 Jan 2016. Details of the refund claim was available at the Council Meeting for Members information. The £783.64 claimed had been deposited into the Council's account on 12 Feb 2016.
3. **Reducing Cost of printing paper** - At the 21 January 2016 Council Meeting, Cllr Gareth W Hughes expressed concern regarding the excessive amount of paper being circulated to Members. Clerk had looked at the options for reducing the stationary costs:
- (i) Print the Agendas on white paper instead of using the more expensive green paper.
 - (ii) Only important items of correspondence to be circulated with the Agenda.
 - (iii) Smaller envelopes to be used where possible.
 - (iv) Reduce the length of the Agendas. Members noted that the January 2016 Agenda for Cilcain was 12 sides long, plus 30 sides of correspondence. In an adjoining Community Council, the January Agenda was on one side, with no correspondence being circulated.

Approximately ten years ago, Members were even circulated with copies of each planning application being considered at the Council Meeting. Members are now able to use the Planning Reference number given on the Agenda, to examine the plans on the internet prior to the meeting.

Regarding the correspondence, Members noted - the Council had taken legal advice a few years ago. There is a legal obligation for the Agenda and Correspondence items to make it clear exactly what is to be discussed at the Council Meeting.