

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, CILCAIN ON THE 16 MARCH 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 Mawrth. The Chairperson welcomed Members to the March Meeting. The Chair also extended a welcome to five observers, one of the observers being Mr D Facer, Cilcain resident.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

- (a) Presentation by a Cilcain resident (Mr D Facer) regarding the need for a litter bin on Pen Line Road, Cilcain. Mr Facer referred to the email Mr Neil Hickie had sent to the Community Council maintaining that Flintshire CC very rarely have any litter issues in the area near the Cowper commemorative seat. Mr Facer indicated that he would be writing directly to Mr Hickie to explain that he had recently been collecting litter near that area on a regular basis, hence the reason why Flintshire CC was not in receipt of reports of litter at this section of road. Chair thanked Mr Facer for the information.
- (b) Presentation by Ella Raw, Pen Line Road resident - regarding the Planning permission being considered by the Community Council for Ysgubor Goch, Penline Road, Cilcain. Members noted that the planning application would be considered later in the Council Meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE All Members present at the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None received.

5. MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING - Cllr Gareth W Hughes proposed, Cllr J V Worthington seconded and all Members present agreed to approve the February 2026 Minutes.

6. MATTERS ARISING - HIGHWAY MATTERS

Members discussed the following highway issues:

Sheet One - Potholes

- Item 11 Defra Bridge, Rhydymwyn - Action Plan indicates 'Passed on to Andy Lightfoot'. But the item needs to stay on the Action Plan, until the work is done.
- -- Cllr Tim Mitchell referred to long sections of roads being re-surfaced in Denbighshire, not just the odd pothole repair. Flintshire CC domestic rates are increasing more than Denbighshire CC, so why is the same amount of resurfacing not occurring in Flintshire?
- -- Cllr Gareth Hughes expressed concern that the Action List is getting longer every month. The Clerk suggested that the pothole concerns should be raised with Neil in the next site inspection meeting.
- -- Cllr J Emyr Davies expressed concern that the Council Tax keeps on increasing by a tremendous amount, but the pothole repairs on rural roads are not being done. So where is the money going to?
- -- Cllr Michael Parr commented that some proper good quality repairs have recently been undertaken in Pantymwyn. So more good quality repairs are needed in this area.
- -- Cllr Andrew Parkhurst explained that Mr Hickie had taken his annual leave entitlement before the end of the financial year so the Action Plan would probably not be updated much since the February meeting.
- Cllr Parkhurst suggested that if Neil cannot come to an evening meeting, inviting Neil for a drive round in the Cilcain area might be an alternative.
- Cllr Gareth W Hughes enquired if the extra funding that is being made available is for pot hole repairs or resurfacing.
- Cllr Parkhurst explained that an extra allocation has been received to repair 1,500 potholes in Flintshire's rural roads in the next financial year. Flintshire CC repairs approximately 3,500 defects per year, so the extra funding for 1,500 pothole repairs should make a substantial impression.
- Cllr Parkhurst reported that he had recently written to Neil to ask him to ensure that our area receives our fair proportion of the total rural allocation.
- Cllr Parkhurst referred to a section of the A541 near the Rhosesmor junction being programmed for this calendar year. Re-configuring of the junction layout will be involved together with widening of the road to accommodate a centre lane for right turning vehicles. Flintshire CC is currently waiting for BT to undertake cable diversion, to allow for localised widening of the A541 at the junction.

Cllr Gwen Hardman asked if Flintshire has a priority list for surfacing schemes. Cllr Parkhurst indicated that there is a list but demand for resurfacing far exceeds the amount of funding available. In recent years, Flintshire CC had concentrated on urban roads which has resulted in rural roads suffering from under investment. Flintshire CC recognises that the rural roads have suffered, and extra funding has been made available to address the imbalance.

Cllr Michael Parr asked what decision making process is involved in deciding whether one area gets resurfacing work, possibly at the expense of another area.

Cllr Parkhurst explained that Flintshire CC uses a matrix system for establishing priorities. Various factors are included in the matrix assessment (proximity to schools, accident statistics, skid resistance readings etc,) which go to determine surfacing priorities.

Chair and Cllr Christine Vaughan enquired about the recent publicity regarding funding being made available from the Welsh Assembly. Cllr Parkhurst explained the funding has not yet been received by Flintshire CC. (Addendum - Cllr Parkhurst indicated that he had been incorrectly told the position regarding the funding. The 2025/26 funding had in fact been received).

Item 14 - The existing description needs to include the section of road between the Vardo and Cefn Road

Additional potholes for the Action Plan

- (i) Cllr Tim Mitchell reported potholes near Hendre. (on the Denbigh side of the Dolfechlas Rd / A541 junction. Also tarmac failure around a gully grating opposite the above mentioned junction. Cllr Mitchell to forward the GPS co-ordinates to the Clerk so that the locations information can be forwarded to Mr Hickie.
- (ii) Bottom Road, Cilcain - Fforrest Farm to the bottom of Cefn Melyn Hill Lane - Cllr Michael Parr explained that the original surfacing material had been laid in two strips. A clear gap was now developing in the road centreline, which needed attention.

Sheet Two (Miscellaneous) -

Item 10 - The additional item reported by Cllr Michael Parr in the February 2026 Council meeting had not yet been added to the Action Plan. Pantymwyn Road, Cilcain - 50 yds on the Bron y Graig side of Item No 10. Large crack in road surfacing on the right hand side of the road as one travels from Cilcain towards Pantymwyn.

-- -- A541 opposite the Antelope, Rhydymwyn. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported a street lamp not working. Clerk to report to Jamie Bennett at Flintshire CC.

Sheet Three - Drainage - No new issues added.

7.0 MATTERS ARISING NON HIGHWAY MATTERS

- p100 Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn. Members noted that the large shed was still in place. Clerk had written since the Feb 2026 Council meeting to request an update. Reply received from Flintshire's Enforcement Officer on 23 Feb 2026.
- p100 Footway near the War Memorial Institute, Rhydymwyn. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst reported having pursued the issue with Mr Neil Hickie. According to the latest Action Plan, the work is still outstanding.
- p100 Concern from a resident regarding the height of the roadside hedge in a section of road between Cilcain Church and the Pump House. Clerk to write to the local resident.
- p100 Mountain Road, Cilcain - drainage and slippery road condition in freezing conditions. There was no update on the proposed petition. Item had been discussed with Mr Hickie in the recent Meeting at the Institute. A pipe across the carriageway had been put forward as a possible short term solution. A site meeting will be required with Neil to discuss the details of the proposed pipe crossing. Cllr Andrew Parkhurst to arrange a suitable site visit date.

Cllr J Emyr Davies referred to another blocked gulley nearly opposite the Plas yn Llan entrance.

There was no update on the proposed petition. Cllr Gareth W Hughes felt it was important to pursue the petition, on the basis that a petition may help to push the scheme forward.

- p100 Rhydymwyn automatic trash grille. Repairs scheduled to take place on 17th March 2026.
- p100 Section 6 - Biodiversity Action Plan. Chair reported on the site meetings with Mr Sam Langdon:
- (i) Cllr Worthington and Cllr Malcolm Down had attended the site meetings with the Chair.
 - (ii) Mr Langton was concerned about the presence of artificial flowers in the cemetery.
 - (iii) Did Flintshire CC have a policy on micro-plastics?
 - (iv) Did Flintshire CC have a pesticide policy?
 - (v) If further daffodil bulb planting is proposed, the bulbs should be native bulbs.
 - (vi) Bird boxes were required in the Village Hall area as part of the planning permission conditions for the solar panel application. Bird boxes have to be placed in a high position. Mr Langdon can give advice.
 - (vii) Any hedge cutting envisaged should be V-shaped. Cutting every two years better than cutting once per year.
 - (viii) Re-seeding bonfire area. Concern regarding the lack of grass growth. Cllr Ian Hughes had added more seed to the Cilcain bonfire area last Tuesday. Cllr Gareth W Hughes had looked at the Cilcain bonfire area last week and maintained that the new grass area was looking good.
 - (ix) New native trees required around the boundary in Rhydymwyn playing field. New trees recently planted, probably after the site meeting with Mr Langdon had taken place.
 - (x) Flower planters on the Pantymwyn Road was deteriorating and needs renewing or taking away.

Mr Neil Hickie had mentioned a few weeks ago that he could arrange for the rotten timber planters to be taken away. Clerk to pursue.

p100 Railing damaged at Trial Hill, Cilcain. The item has been included on Neil's Action list.

p100 Donated bench from a Pantymwyn Rd resident for locating in Cilcain cemetery. Fixing the seat to a slab base will be undertaken when the weather improves.

p100 FCC signs and ongoing damage / vandalism. Chair reported - No reply had yet been received from Mr Kevin Crumplin. Chair reported that in the walkabout there was dog faeces that had not been picked up on the Waen playing field and in the Public Cemetery.

Cllr Michael Parr maintained that dog fouling has been significantly worse in the Millennium Woods area. Members noted that a dog bin is located right by the entrance to the Millennium Woods.

p100 Bonfire Traffic. Concern email from Cilcain resident. Clerk to write to the resident.

p100 Identification of author of correspondence in CCC's Agendas and Minutes. Chair reported that the issue was being addressed.

p100 Annual Governance Statement. Date required for the 'Village Map Display' meeting. Available dates to be emailed to the Clerk.

p101 Traffic Speeding Hendre. Chair reported:

- (i) Online meeting took place on the 19 Feb with Mr Lee Shone:
- (ii) Last speed monitoring through Hendre was in Dec 2024 - another speed survey to be undertaken.
- (iii) Suggestion discussed regarding the go-safe vans - but no suitable location for the van to be parked up in Hendre.
- (iv) The Chair's suggestion of extending the proposed 40 mph buffer zone all the way from Hendre to the Rhosesmor junction was discussed again. Mr Shone indicated he would look further into the matter.
- (v) Depending on the availability of funding, a vehicle activated speed sign would be considered.
- (vi) Different road marking to be considered.
- (vii) A541 Rhosesmor junction modification being considered (provision of a central reservation lane for right turning vehicles from the Mold direction) which would involve localised road widening at the junction. BT cable diversion required prior to Flintshire CC's work starting.

- (viii) Rhes-y-Cae junction (Star Crossing junction) - possible realignment of the junction may be looked at.

Cllr Parr wondered if roadside mirrors could be installed. Clerk maintained that roadside mirrors have not in the past been approved by Flintshire CC. A problem with glare can create a safety issue.

- (ix) Cllr Andrew Parkhurst indicated that the speed limit near the junction may be looked at when the revised Welsh Assembly speed guidelines have been made available.
- (x) Cllr Parkhurst also indicated that land purchase on the Cilcain side of the junction may also be considered in due course.
- (xi) Chair reported that the improvements envisaged will take into account the accidents which have occurred at different locations along the A541. For instance, consideration will be given to a central pedestrian refuge by the Rhydymwyn Service Station.
- (xii) A 40 mph buffer (between the 60 mph and the 20 mph) zone to be considered on the Star Crossing approach to Cilcain Village.
- (xii) Street Lighting in Bwlch Lane, Cilcain - dark gap section to be looked at.

p101 Cilcain cemetery gate. Chair reported that plans are in place for re-painting the gate.

p102 Notice Board at Cilcain village car park. Clerk reported that Mr Richard L Jones was sending a photo of a lectern type Notice Board for Cilcain CC's consideration. Mr Jones had also been requested to look at the location and orientation of one of the Pedair y Groesffordd notice Boards.

p102 River monitoring,

- (i) Hendre - Chair reported no change since the February 2026 Council meeting.
- (ii) Rhydymwyn - Cllr Gareth Hughes and the Clerk have met to update the Rhydymwyn Community Flood Plan's names and telephone numbers. Modified plan to be sent to NRW's Bangor Office. Flood Group meeting to be arranged.

p102 Policy regarding snow/icy conditions in Cilcain village car park. Chair reported - Matter ongoing.

p102 Tros yr Afon side of the Defra bridge - Potential boundary changes. Clerk authorised to repeat / resubmit the Community Council's proposed boundary changes.

p102 A541 Litter between Rhydymwyn and the Rhosesmor junction. Position noted. The Chair reported that a 'community type' litter collection event had been arranged for the Rhydymwyn and Hendre area on Saturday 21 March 2026.

- p102 Date of the scheduled Feb 2026 Community Council meeting. Email from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer). Position noted.
- p103 Request from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer) for his name to be shown in all Council Agendas and Council Minutes. Chair reported that the request had been noted and actioned.
- p103 Email from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer) regarding an email he had sent earlier. Position had been noted.
- p103 Road condition in Cilcain. Request from Cllr Ian Hughes to add several potholes / defects by the Cilcain car park on to Flintshire Streetscene's Action List. Item already discussed earlier.
- p103 Funding donation to Capel Gad for a warm hub - Members noted that Capel Gad had made an application for funding. Members noted that the application had been very successful.
- p103 Anonymisation of correspondents to CCC - FOI request from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer). Chair reported that the matter was ongoing.
- p103 Cilcain Community Council Tax Base 2026-27. Position noted.
- p103 Cilcain YFC bonfire Nov 2025, Traffic management - Concern from a local resident. Item discussed earlier. Clerk to write to the resident to explain that the YFC AGM takes place in September when new officials are appointed for the year.
- p103 Damage to FCC's dog signs in Cilcain. Email from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer). Chair reported that the matter was ongoing. Clerk passed additional Flintshire CC dog signs on to Cllr Ian Hughes at the meeting.
- p104 Litter bin request near Plas Newydd, Cilcain. Email from a Cilcain resident (Mr Facer). Response received from Mr Hickie.
- p104 December CCC meeting agenda item 2) 11/12. Email from a resident (Mr Facer). Chair making progress with preparing a report. Matter ongoing.
- p104 Mountain Road, Cilcain. Item had been discussed earlier and plan in place.
- p104 Cilcain cemetery gate. A plan is in place for dealing with the gate.
- p104 Loggerheads Road, Cilcain. Cllr J V Worthington reported that the temporary visibility improvements (funded by Welsh Water) at the Brithdir Mawr Rd junction started work that day. Cllr Parr enquired which route the Contractors wagons would take. Cllr Worthington indicated that the wagons would access the site from the Loggerheads direction.
- p104 Wrexham Flint Area Meeting. Chair reported that Minutes of the meeting had been sent to all Council Members.
- p104 Mandatory training plans. All members had been given a copy of the training plans available from One Voice Wales. Members who want to attend any of the sessions to inform the Clerk.

Members noted that Flintshire CC has arranged a 'free' mandatory training session for all Community Council Members. Only one session will be available. The course is an updated version of the session held last year by Flintshire CC's Gareth Owens On-Line session scheduled for the 16 April 2026.

The Chair reminded members of the need to have a training plan in place, whereby the Council is able to demonstrate that members have participated in a range of the available training sessions. The training Plan will be part of the chair's annual report in the may 2026 AGM.

p105 Cilcain Village Hall buildings insurance. Item included in the correspondence section of the Agenda.

8.0 SURFACING OF CILCAIN CAR PARK.

Cllr Ian Hughes to compare the submissions. Members agreed to give permission for the Chair and Vice V Chair to authorise proceeding with the surfacing work. Authority also given for the existing gates and metal gate pillars to be removed, together with the Notice Board.

9.0 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Ref No: FUL/000158/26
Proposal: Application for variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 060784
Location: Y Fron, Mountain Road, Cilcain, Mold, CH7 5P
Cilcain CC - has **no objection** to the application

2. Ref No: FUL/000140/26
Proposal: Change of use of existing redundant agricultural barn into two agricultural workers dwellings with associated garaging and storage
Location: Ysgubor Goch, Pen Line Road, Cilcain, Mold, CH7 5N
Cilcain CC - **strongly and fully supports** the application.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1)13/02 Planning Enforcement 331/24 - Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn - New Shed. Request for an update on the current enforcement position sent to Flintshire CC.

- 2) 15/02 Request for clarification, Village Hall Insurance cover. Email sent to the Council's Insurance Company (Zurich) to seek clarification regarding the possible implications of one of the rooms in the village Hall being used as a cafe.

- 3) 16/02 Suggestion for a litter bin near the Cowpar memorial seat (cul-de-Sac road between Pedair y Groesffordd and Plas Newydd). Email from Flintshire Streetscene to indicate that there is currently no litter problem at this location.
- 4) 16/02 Rhydymwyn automatic trash grille - Update received from Defra regarding scheduled completion repair date.
- 5) 16/02 'Use of maps to highlight road defects'. Email from Cllr Michael Parr to all Council Members regarding pothole repairs. Email forwarded to Mr Neil Hickie at Flintshire Streetscene on 17 Feb 2026.
- 6) 17/02 Response to a Freedom of Information request. Response sent to a Cilcain resident (Mr Dave Facer) following his Freedom of Information request dated 21Jan 2026.
- 7) 17/02 Use of maps to highlight road defects. Response from Flintshire Streetscene regarding the use of maps to report highway issues.
- 8) 18/02 Apology to Councillor Ian Hughes from a Cilcain resident (Mr Dave Facer). A copy of an email from Mr Dave Facer to Cllr Hughes apologising for making the recent unsubstantiated allegations against Cllr Hughes.
- 9) 20/02 Cilcain Community Council - Request for clarification about the Village Hall. Insurance cover - Response received from Zurich.
- 10) 21/02 'Authority to use my name'. Email from a Cilcain resident (Mr Dave Facer). Mr Facer had copied his email to all Council members.
- 11) 21/02 'Response to CCC email received 17/2/16 replying to my Freedom of Information request on 21/1/26'. Email from Cilcain resident (Mr Dave Facer) - A copy of this email had been forwarded to all members of the Council by Mr Facer.
- 12) 21/02 Freedom of Information correspondence with a Cilcain resident (Mr Dave Facer). Email from the Chairperson to all Council Members to update Members on the current position.
- 13) 23/02 Planning Enforcement 331/24 - Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn - New Shed. Update from Flintshire CC's Planning Enforcement Officer.
- 14) 24/02 Highway issues in Hendre. Email from Chair to Flintshire Streetscene to report three highway related items needing attention in Hendre.
- 15) 25/02 Items included on the 16 February 2026 Council Agenda. Email from a Cilcain resident (Mr Dave Facer) referring to items on the 16 February 2026 Council Agenda. A copy of this email had been forwarded to all members of the Council by Mr Facer.
- 16) 27/02 Report from Cllr Gareth W Hughes forwarded to Flintshire Streetscene:

- (i) Series of potholes at The Graig, Nant Alyn Rd
 - (ii) Hedge protruding on to highway, Nant Alyn Road
- Clerk to remind Mr Hickie to include the items on the next Action Plan.

- 17) 04/03 Cilcain Bowling Club and Public Toilets - Freedom of Information request from a Cilcain resident. Clerk to respond within the prescribed time limit.
- 18) 05/03 Freedom of Information response. Email sent from Cilcain CC to a Cilcain resident (Mr D Facer) to respond to Mr Facer's email dated 21February 2026. (See correspondence item No 11 above).
- 19) 08/03 'Response to your email dated 5th March 2026'. Email from a Cilcain resident (Mr Dave Facer) referring to the explanation sent by the Community Council's Chairperson on the 05 March 2026. Chair reported - correspondence ongoing.
- 20) 09/03 Information received - Pensioners Afternoon Tea Sessions for Gwernaffield, Pantymwyn and surrounding areas. Mold Golf Club - Mondays 12.00 - 14.00. Position discussed. Clerk to enquire if there is an updated poster available.
- 21) - - Flintshire Streetscene Action Plan had been discussed earlier in the Council Meeting.

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

12. **DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD NESAF - DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 20 April 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 - (March 2026)

(i)	A E (sal + fixed exp) for February 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)	138.03
(iv)	AE - web fee	18.00
(v)	Scottish Power Street Lighting energy - Additional standing charge of £32/ month is now being made by Scottish Power. £32 / month.	132.11
(vi)	Cilcain Clean and Lock - Senedd donation for toilet maintenance. Please note that the Senedd donation has been received into Cilcain CC Bank account.	500.00
(vii)	Flintshire C C - Invoice received for the Cilcain play area renovation work scheduled for this financial year. Payment to be made on completion of work. (£5,500)	-- --
(viii)	One Voice Wales - Training sessions - attendance of Council's chairperson at on-line sessions £42 x 1 (£42.00 fee minus £42.00 credit) = £0 to pay	0.00

Please Note: Payment for the above items being made by BACS - authorised by the following two signatories.

Chairman Vice Chair (or 2nd Councillor)

2. RECENT CORRESPONDENCE INVOLVING 'FOI' AND 'GDPR'.

(INTERNAL REVIEW)

In accordance with the FOI process, if the requester is not satisfied with the responses, an internal review can be instigated. The Chair requested an internal review as part of this process, to enable a full review of the correspondence and to seek feedback and comments from all Members present.

The items discussed were of a confidential nature and the notes detailing the discussion will not be minuted.

- (i) All Members confirmed that they were in receipt of the correspondence and were up to date with the Freedom of Information request and replies which had recently taken place between CCC and a local resident.
- (ii) After a lengthy discussion, all Members agreed that the Chair's replies had been true and accurate and felt that nothing more could be added to address the initial FOI request.

- (iii) A decision was made and agreed by all Members, that the Chair would send a final response to the resident, confirming that a confidential internal review had occurred and stating the outcome of the review.

3. CURRENT COUNCIL BANK BALANCE.

Please note that the closing balances in the Council's Bank Accounts on 09 March 2026 were:

Current Account: £42,753

Deposit Account: £286

Chair Clerk Date