

# CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN

## HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



### Local Government and Elections

### (Wales) Act 2021 (Section 52)

### Annual Report

### Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022

### The Council

Community Councils were established under the Local Government Act 1972 and replaced the previous system of Parish Councils. There are over 730 Town & Community Councils in Wales, with over 8,000 Councillors.

Within the Halkyn Community Council area there are five villages; Halkyn, Pentre Halkyn, Rhes Y Cae, Rhosesmor and The Nant. The population of the area is 2,357 (January 2022 Register of Electors).

During the reporting year all Council meetings have been held remotely due to the pandemic. Members of the community and press were able to connect. Council meetings are held on the third Monday of the month (no meetings held in August and December) and commence at 7.30pm. From September, 2022 – meetings will re-commence in the Halkyn Parish Hall. These meetings will be hybrid. Non-scheduled meetings are also held in an emergency or possibly in relation to an urgent planning application – especially during the months of December and August. These meetings will be publicly advertised.

The agenda for the meetings are advertised locally including the Council's web site a few days prior to the meeting. Residents of the community are welcome to address the Council Members for a reasonable period of time, generally at the commencement of the meeting, by providing three days notice. Should any resident wish to attend a meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Council.

### Complaints

During the reporting year there were no complaints made against the Council, to either the Flintshire Standards Committee or the Wales Public Services Ombudsman

### Councillors

During the reporting year there were thirteen members of the Halkyn Community Council, with Councillor Brian Coleclough as Chair and Councillor Colin R. D'Arcy as Vice Chair.

Councillors' Colin Barker and John Thomas did not seek re-election in May 2022. Both Councillors were long serving and committed to the area they served.

Following the Town & Community Council elections in Wales held in May of this year, nine candidates completed their nomination papers. Following the display of public notices, four residents have been co-opted to the Council.

**Councillor names and contact details**

<p><b><u>Halkyn Mountain Ward</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Ray Faulder-Jones 07730 662000 (Welsh Conservative)</p> <p>Councillor Howard Morris 07740 922190</p> <p>Councillor David Palmer 01352 780634 *</p> <p>Councillor David G. Roberts (Vice Chair of Council) 01352 781448</p> <p>Councillor Dylan H. Roberts 01352 741482 (Independent)</p> <p>Councillor Bob Robinson 01352 780775 (Independent)</p> <p>* denotes co-opted</p>	<p>Councillor Wendy Sigsworth 01352 780394 *</p> <p>Councillor Delyth Taylor 01352 781630 *</p> <p><b><u>Pentre Halkyn Ward</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Brian Coleclough 01352 780271</p> <p>Councillor Glyn B. Coleclough 01352 780271</p> <p>Councillor Colin R. D'Arcy (Chair of Council) 01352 780630</p> <p>Councillor Jean Davies 01352 711339 (Welsh Conservative)</p> <p>Councillor Nicola Richardson 01352 780353 *</p>
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**Freedom of Information Act**

During this reporting year one Freedom of Information requests were received. The full information requested was provided within the required timescale.

**Local Committees and Outside Bodies**

Following the Welsh Town & Community Councils elections in May of this year, the Council Members who serve on Local Committees and Outside Bodies during 2021 / 2022 have changed from this reporting year. The following list is current for year 2022 / 2023.

Name of Organisation	Councillor Representative
Aberdo and Bryn Mawr Quarry Liaison	Councillor Howard Morris

Flintshire Local Access Forum	Councillor Vacancy
Flintshire County Council – County Forum	Councillor Colin D’Arcy / Vacancy
Halkyn Cemetery	Councillors’ Brian Coleclough / Wendy Sigsworth / Nicola Richardson / Vacancy
Halkyn Parish Hall Trust	(All Council Members)
Halkyn Parish Hall Management Committee	Councillors’ Howard Morris / Bob Robinson / Wendy Sigsworth
Hendre Quarry Liaison	Councillors’ Dylan Roberts / Howard Morris
Joint Consultative Committee	Councillors’ Brian Coleclough / Wendy Sigsworth
Pant Quarry Liaison	Councillor Vacancy
Pant y Pwll Dwr (Cemex) Quarry Liaison	Councillor Howard Morris
Pentre Halkyn Community Centre	Councillors’ Brian Coleclough / B. Glyn Coleclough / Howard Morris
Planning Sub-Committee	(All Council Members)
Police Community Consultative Group	Councillors’ Vacancy or Delyth Taylor
Rhosesmor Institute	Councillors’ Bob Robinson / Vacancy / Wendy Sigsworth
Rhos Helyg School Governor	Councillor David Roberts
Tiger Tim Liaison Committee	Councillor Vacancy

### **Contacting the Council**

Contact details for the Clerk and Financial Officer to Halkyn Community Council

R. Phillip Parry, Ty Cornel, 51, St. Michael’s Drive, CAERWYS, Flintshire, CH7 5BS.	Tel: 01352 720547 E-mail: <a href="mailto:clerk@halkyn.org.uk">clerk@halkyn.org.uk</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.halkyn.org.uk">www.halkyn.org.uk</a>
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### **Council’s objectives (2021 / 2022)**

During this reporting year the key objectives of the Council were:

- To install speed awareness signage in Pentre Halkyn. Three signs have been installed with a five year maintenance agreement with Flintshire County Council, at a cost of £6,858.00
- Halkyn Play Area – new play area equipment. Completed at a cost of £10,000.00
- The re-commencement of the popular Friday Library Service held in the Halkyn Parish Hall. The Library has remained closed during the first year of the pandemic and opened towards the end of this reporting year. The budget for the running of the Library service with Flintshire County Council is £4,500.00.
- The re-commencement of the Children’s Summer Play Scheme. This was organised by Flintshire County Council, with the cost to the Community Council £2,857.80
- Installation of new Village name signs in Pentre Halkyn – at a cost of £651.00
- To update and repair Council property:
  - New roof on Bier House in Halkyn – at a cost of £2,900.00
  - New notice boards in Halkyn and Rhes Y Cae – at a cost of £2,378.00
  - Repairs to notice boards in Pentre Halkyn and Rhosesmor – at a cost of £1,090.00
  - Repair to bench seat in Council Cemetery – at a cost of £495.00
  - Halkyn Parish Hall: Installation of new oil tank safety container £3,311.00 / New oil tank £1,180 / Remove old tank and install new tank £380.00

### **Council’s objectives - 2022 / 2023**

During the 2022 / 2023 financial year, the Council have agreed the following priorities:

- ❖ To place funds in ear-marked reserves towards Council Cemetery - Enhancement Scheme £10,000.00
- ❖ Flintshire County Council; Street lighting Electrical testing at a cost of £2,048.00
- ❖ Continue with repairs to further bench seats
- ❖ To upgrade Rhosesmor Play area - £10,000.00 (Match funding with Flintshire County Council)
- ❖ To continue to provide funding for:
  - Library Service at Halkyn Parish Hall
  - Children’s Summer Play Schemes in Pentre Halkyn and Rhosesmor
- ❖ To provide financial grants to Village Community Committees / Groups to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

(Funding for the above projects will be utilised from the annual precept and reserves)

## **Financial**

### **Asset Register**

The value of the Community Council's asset register totals £59,791.00. A copy of the register can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

### **Council budget**

The Halkyn Community Council precept for the financial year 2021 / 2022 is £50,000.00. This amount is precept on residential properties within the community, and equates to a figure of £36.90 per household on a Band D property. There are 34 Town and Community Councils in the County of Flintshire, the average Band D precept for the County is £47.83 with the highest being £75.40. There are 1,355 Band D household properties within the Halkyn Community area – as at January 2021.

The Band D household precept for the Halkyn Community Council area, is made up as follows:

- Flintshire County Council £1,394.50
- Police & Crime Commissioner £305.55
- Halkyn Community Council £36.90

Total £ 1,736.95

The Community Council's precept for 2022 / 2023 was set at £50,000.00 – there was no increase from the previous year. The Band D property charge will be £37.19.

### **Financial Assistance**

Each year, Halkyn Community Council considers requests for financial assistance to support the work of its local groups, organisations and charities. Grants are specifically made by the Council in the interest of its local area and its residents. The Council allocates grants for financial assistance from the annual precept, in accordance with Section 137 (Local Government Act 1972) and other National and Wales Government Acts.

During the reporting year the Community Council granted a number of applications for financial assistance, which totalled: £1,640.00 under Section 137 and £3,330.00 under various Local Government Acts.

### **Members Allowance**

Payments (Allowances) to Members of Halkyn Community Council - 2021 / 2022  
In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, Community and Town Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their Members by 30<sup>th</sup> September following the end of the year to which the payment relates. The information must also be sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPFW) by the same date.

Halkyn Community Council provided this information to the (IRPFW) on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, and was uploaded to the Council's web site at: [www.halkyn.org.uk](http://www.halkyn.org.uk) (public notices and financial).

### **Publication of audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2022, Halkyn Community Council publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 together with any certificate, opinion, or report issued, given or made by the Auditor General.

The Community & Town Councils in Wales – Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2022, has been submitted to Wales Audit on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022. A copy of the Annual Return was subsequently published on the Council's notice boards and web site at: [www.halkyn.org.uk](http://www.halkyn.org.uk) (public notices and financial). Following audit, the certificate and other documents will be uploaded to the web page.

### **Environmental (Wales Act) 2016 (S6)**

Under the above Act a Public Authority in Wales must prepare and publish a biodiversity plan. Whilst the Community Council adopted a draft plan, the Council are working with Flintshire County Council, who are delivering a number of biodiversity projects across the County. This Council's biodiversity plan will be updated later this year and thereafter published.

### **Flintshire County Council**

In 2014 the Community Council agreed to adopt the following: A Shared Community – Charter between Flintshire County Council and Town & Community Councils in the County. Two Councillors and the Clerk to the Council attend County Forum meetings, which are generally held twice a year, together with representatives from all 34 Town & Community Councils in Flintshire. During the pandemic these meetings have been suspended. It is hoped that the County will arrange a meeting before the end of 2022.

### **Planning Applications**

The Community Council is not a planning authority and as such does not make final decisions on planning applications; this is the responsibility of Flintshire County Council. However, the Community Council is a statutory consultee and as such receives all planning applications relating to the community. The Community Council do make their respective comments and suggestions on all planning applications, including requesting site meetings.

Details of the planning applications that this Council made comment upon, can be found in the monthly meeting minutes – on the following web site: [www.halkyn.org.uk](http://www.halkyn.org.uk) (minutes of meetings).

### **Street Lighting**

The street lighting in the Halkyn Community Council area is administered jointly between the Community Council and Flintshire County Council. Whilst the majority of the street lights on the adopted housing estate roads are the responsibility of Flintshire County

Council, the street lighting, generally sited on roadside wooden poles, are the responsibility of the Community Council.

To report a Community Council faulty street light, please contact the Clerk. Contact details for Flintshire County Council: 01352 701234, or e-mail the Street Scene Department on:

[streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk) or by completing an on-line form at:

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Streetscene/Street-lighting.aspx](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Streetscene/Street-lighting.aspx)

### **Training plans**

Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Section 67 - all Town & Community Councils in Wales are required to produce a training plan for Councillors and Clerk, by the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. This is in progress

**This End of Year report was adopted by the Members of Halkyn Community Council, on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 - Minute number: 6(D). 171/22**