



CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN / HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Halkyn Community Council, Held in the Halkyn Parish Hall, On Monday the 16th January, 2023, at 7.30pm.

No Council meeting was held in December

1(A). 01/23 PRESENT

Councillor Colin R. D’Arcy (Chair)
Councillor David G. Roberts (Vice Chair)
Councillor Brian Coleclough
Councillor B. Glyn Coleclough
Councillor Howard Morris
Councillor David Palmer
Councillor Bob Robinson
Councillor Wendy Sigsworth

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 02/23 APOLOGIES

Councillor Jean S. Davies
Councillor Ray Faulder-Jones
Councillor Nicola Richardson
Councillor Dylan H. Roberts
Councillor Delyth Taylor

1(C). 03/23 ABSENT

None

2. 04/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

- Concerns received from a resident in Pentre Halkyn, in relation of unacceptable parking in the area of the allocated bus stop – opposite the village shop. The buses block the road when stopping for passengers as the vehicles are unable to park in the allocated space. This is a danger for both passengers and pedestrians.

The Clerk advised that the concern had been forwarded to County Councillor Simon Jones to bring to the attention of Highways.

3. 05/23

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest Declared

4. 06/23

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 21ST NOVEMBER 2022

- (i) Halkyn Community Council
- (ii) Halkyn Parish Hall Trustees & Management Committee

Both above Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Wendy Sigsworth and seconded by Councillor Howard Morris and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 07/23

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) **Minute no: 5. 218/22 (2) (page 2)** – in relation to parking restrictions in The Nant. The Clerk recollected Members to the information provided in the November 2022 Council meeting, that the Police had asked the County to further review their decision not to consider parking restrictions. The Clerk advised that this may take many months whereby the matter would remain in the pending file.
- (2) **Minute no: 5. 218/22 (3) (page 2)** – in relation to a one way system in Buxton Lane, Pentre Halkyn. The Clerk recollected Members to the information provided in the November 2022 Council meeting, whereby the County would seek funding for a specialist camera system to be installed to locate the home addresses of vehicle users. This would identify whether the road users were local or other. The Clerk advised that the Highway Officer had stated this request would be placed on a waiting list due to the cost of the survey; the matter would remain on the pending file.
- (3) **Minute no: 5. 218/22 (4) (page 2)** – in relation to speed monitoring tubes in Pentre Halkyn. The Clerk advised that the County were still awaiting the monitoring results from the North Wales Police.

6(A). 08/23

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received, that was required to be either advised to, or dealt with by the Members:

- (1) The Clerk advised, that the following criminal offences had been reported to the North Wales Police, that had occurred within the Halkyn Community Council area:

Halkyn: 1 x Criminal damage / 2 x Drugs / 1 x Violence (The Catch): 1 x Violence

Pentre Halkyn: 3 x Anti social behaviour / 3 x Violence

Rhes-Y-Cae: No offences reported.

Rhosesmor: No offences reported.

- (2) Welsh Government: Notification in relation to the appropriate sum under Section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137 Expenditure limit for 2023 / 2024 – will be £9.93.
- (3) Flintshire County Council: Bilingual link to the Welsh Government Inspectors Report in relation to the adoption of the County Local Development Plan to year 2030.
- (4) Flintshire County Council: Guidance received from the County Legal Advisor, in relation to Councillors declaring personal interests. The Clerk advised Members of the full contents of the advice received.

The following correspondence was forwarded by e-mail to Members:

- ❖ Screenshot of local Facebook page: Removal of glass-bank from the Blue Bell car park. County Councillor Simon Jones provided information as to the reasons for the removal
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Notice of road closure on the 3rd January, in area of Pant Y Goff
- ❖ HyNet: Notification relating to application S56 DCO – HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline
- ❖ Welsh Government: Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic products (Wales) Bill; Passed on the 6th December 2022
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: County budget & Council services for financial year 2023 / 2024
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Feedback on visits to Town & Community Councils
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Consultation in relation to Draft Well-being Plan – 2023 / 2024
- ❖ Hwb Natur – Pentre Bychan Nature Hub

6(B). 09/23

CLERK'S REPORT

- (a) The Clerk advised Members in relation to the following deposit to the Council's bank account:
 - £16,666.67 - Flintshire County Council: Third precept payment for financial year 2022 / 2023
- (b) The Clerk advised that the notice board sited at the entrance to the Halkyn Parish Hall – the door to the Council's locked side cannot be opened. The Council's joiner had been asked to visit.
- (c) The Clerk recollected to Councillors their decision to provide to the Pentre Halkyn Junior Football Club, the sum of £4,000.00, towards the purchase and installation of a new secure perimeter fence for the football club field. The Club to-date have received pledges of funding from Flintshire County Council £7,000, with the Club providing £5,000.00. A new updated quotation has been received which increases the cost to £21,275.00 plus VAT, whereby the Club are unable to fund the remainder of the cost. The Flintshire Local Voluntary Council are currently assisting the Club to seek further funding outlets.

The Clerk advised that due to the lengthy period since the original quotation was received by the Football Club the cost has increased. The Football Club are seeking the views of the Community Council to increase the current allocated funding.

Members agreed the following: Councillors felt they were unable to make a decision at this time, as they would wish to receive updated financial details, as the e-mail sent to the Clerk was dated early December. The Clerk to also enquire in relation as to whether the Club have received any further funding / pledges.

STREET LIGHTS

- (d) The Clerk advised that the following street light had been reported out of order by a resident: The lane running behind the Church in Rhosesmor (photograph supplied) - whereby the lighting unit arm had dislodged from the wooden pole. Now repaired.

6(C). 10/23

TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE: QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 2022

The Clerk, as Financial Officer, provided Members with a copy of the Quarterly Statement of Accounts, as at the end of December 2022, together with copies of the Council Bank account statements. The Clerk further provided Members, with a breakdown in relation to the budget headings, which included income and expenditure to-date.

Members agreed the following: Approved the Statement of Accounts, whereby the document was agreed to be signed by the Chair of Council – Councillor Colin D’Arcy.

6(D). 11/23

(I) TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND APPROVE: BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 / 2024

- (1) No increase to the current precept for the forthcoming financial year - to remain at £50,000.00. The Clerk advised, that the Band D property charge would be £36.67, a reduction of £0.52p (-1.4%) for Band D properties within the Council area. The reduction is due to an increase in Band D properties from 1,334.58 to 1,363.63.
- (2) Earmarked Reserves £37,000.00 / General & Ring-fenced reserves £19,595.70 / To transfer £1,761.35 from the 2023 / 2024 budget to General Reserves (included in above figure).
- (3) The Chair of Council Colin D’Arcy, to sign the estimates for the end of the financial year 2022 / 2023, including the precept requirement for 2023 / 2024.
- (4) The Clerk to advise Flintshire County Council, in respect of the Community Council’s financial requirements (precept) for 2023 / 2024.

6(D). 12/23

(II) TO FURTHER REVIEW: STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

The Clerk recollects Members to previous discussions in relation to the street lighting energy supply and in particular, the increase in cost and information received from a Government Procurement Officer.

Members agreed the following: The street lighting energy supply contract to remain on file until such time as the energy market stabilises.

6(E). 13/23

TO CONSIDER: QUOTATIONS FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Clerk advised that whilst this was listed for review to Council's contracts, the Council did not hold contracts above the limit under the financial regulations that required a review. Therefore, there was no necessity to discuss.

6(F). 14/23

TO RECEIVE: UPDATED BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY

The Clerk recollected Members to the updated Bio-diversity Policy that had been sent prior to the Council meeting for perusal.

Members agreed the following: Thanked the Clerk for the updated policy.

6(G). 15/23

TO CONSIDER: APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR – END OF YEAR AUDIT 2022 / 2023

The Clerk advised that this is an annual agenda item in January of each year. The Clerk further advised, in relation to the appointment process for the Council's Internal Auditor.

Members agreed the following: To re-appoint JDH Business Services Ltd., as the Council's Internal Auditor for the end of year 2022 / 2023 accounts.

6(H). 16/23

TO CONFIRM RENEWAL: HSBC BANK STANDING ORDERS / BACS

The Clerk advised Members, that under the Financial Regulations, the payments made by Bank Standing Order and fixed monthly payments by BACS, were required to be re-confirmed every two years. Presently, the following payments are made, as follows: Standing Order: Scottish Power. BACS payments: Quarterly payments to HMRC in January, March, July & October / Fixed monthly payments - Clerk's salary, allowance and quarterly cemetery administration.

Members agreed the following: Confirmed, the above payments.

6(I). 17/23

TO REVIEW & UPDATE COUNCIL BANK SIGNATORIES

The Clerk advised that following the 2022 Council elections the HSBC Bank account signatory mandate required confirming. The Clerk provided Members with the current names of signatories.

Members agreed the following: To remove retired Councillors.

6(J). 18/23

CLERK'S ANNUAL APPRAISAL – 2022

The Clerk advised, and the Chair of Council - Councillor Colin D'Arcy confirmed, that the Clerk's annual appraisal had been completed for year 2022.

6(K). 19/23

STREETSCENE SCHEDULE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk advised in relation to the following concerns that had been reported to StreetScene, since the last Council meeting:

- (1) Road travelling from the Blue Bell towards Pant Y Goff: The road is covered in slippery mud. Request for the area to be cleaned.
- (2) Footpath on B5122 road in Halkyn – travelling uphill from St. Mary’s Church towards the cattle grid – a tree branch has fallen blocking the footpath.

Members brought the following concern to the meeting:

- Concern was expressed in relation to horses on the A5026 road in The Nant – which joins with the A55, whereby around 12 horses walk side by side – which completely blocks the road to vehicles. A number of local residents are concerned that there is not enough room to pass safely and if they did attempt, then the motorist could possibly be in breach of the law for passing a rider on horseback too closely.

The Clerk advised that as the above concern is not Street Scene, he would initially make contact with the North Wales Police seeking guidance if horse riding side by side is legal on a highway, and if not, are the Police able to provide appropriate advice to the riding school.

7. 20/23

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

- (i) Councillor Howard Morris provided a report following a Cemex Quarry Liaison Committee meeting which was held recently. Items discussed included the dust concerns which were raised at the Councils meeting in October 2022.
- (ii) Councillor David Roberts provided a report following a meeting of the Flintshire County Forum. Items discussed included Ukraine refugees update; Local Development Plan; independent review of ethic code and framework; power of competence; match funding for play areas included in 2023 / 2034 budget; new planning portal.

8. 21/23

COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS (COUNCILLOR MISS. JEAN DAVIES & COUNCILLOR SIMON JONES)

The Clerk advised that in the absence of both County Councillors there were no reports.

9. 22/23

TO FURTHER DISCUSS: WAYS TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II (CLLR WENDY SIGSWORTH) (ADJ FROM OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING)

Councillor Wendy Sigsworth recollects to Members a previous discussion whereby this Council would consider an annual award for voluntary service to the community. Possibly an award to commemorate the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Members discussed a number of suggestions for an award criteria and format for an annual presentation.

Members agreed the following: To set up an Annual Community Award. The Clerk to produce a draft Public Notice for the next edition of the Halkyn Mountain News. To further discuss at the February Council meeting.

10. 23/23

TO DISCUSS: PAINTING OF THE WHITE MARKER STONES ON HALKYN MOUNTAIN – INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF MISSING STONES (CLLR NICOLA RICHARDSON)

As Councillor Nicola Richardson had sent her apologies, the item was discussed in general.

Councillor David Palmer advised that he had completed some background work, whereby a few concerns could be raised; the area of land where the stones are sited is not County Council adopted Highway and the Clerk has advised that the Grosvenor Estate had previously advised the Council that their records indicate the stones were not placed by the Estate.

Members discussed the Health & Safety and liability aspects; possible painting of existing stones but not to replace or site new stones.

Members agreed the following: Thanked Councillor David Palmer for offering to speak directly with Flintshire Street Scene – and to report back at the February meeting.

11(A). 24/23

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications had been received:

- (1) FUL/000633/22 – for proposed conversion of outbuilding into dwelling, at The Granary, Pant Y Goff, Halkyn.

Comment by Council: No objection to the application, as long as planning policies and planning guidance notes are complied with.

- (2) DET/000744/22 – for proposal: discharge of condition 14 of application 054768 - at Pant Y Pwll Dwr Quarry, Buxton Lane junction, Pentre Halkyn / to the ranch junction, Brynford.

Comment by Council: No objection to the application, as long as planning policies and planning guidance notes are complied with.

- (3) FUL/000763/22 – for the erection of 3 no dwellings (renewal of planning permission number: 050282) – Land on Village Road, Pentre Halkyn.

Comment by Council: No objection to the application, as long as planning policies and planning guidance notes are complied with.

(The above three applications were sent to Members for consultation in-between meetings, due to statutory time limits for observations from County Planning).

11(B). 25/23

Members formally confirmed the above decisions.

11(C). 26/23

The following planning application(s) were considered by Members at the meeting:

- No applications received from Flintshire Planning

11(D). 27/23

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions received from Flintshire County Council:

- ❖ No planning decisions received from Flintshire Planning

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>DECEMBER 2022 - PAYMENTS</u>			
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for November) Payments dated: 01/12/2022			
	<u>Payments for consideration by two Councillor bank signatories - to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Society of Local Council Clerks. Quarter share of Clerk's membership renewal with other Councils	74.00		74.00
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment due: 16/12/2022	7.40		7.40
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (November - Street Lighting Electricity Account payment due: 21/12/2022	216.83	10.84	227.67
	The above payments for December 2022 – were authorised by two Councillor bank signatories			
	<u>JANUARY 2023 PAYMENTS</u>			
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for October) (Quarterly payment for Cemetery administration – October, November & December) Payments dated: 03/01/2023			
	BACS: H. M. Revenue & Customs. Clerk's PAYE & Clerk & Council NI - October, November & December. Payment dated: 07/01/2023	951.72		951.72
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment due: 15/01/2023	5.80		5.80
	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (December - Street Lighting Electricity Account. Payment due: 17/01/2023	216.83	10.84	227.67
	Deeco Lighting (Street light repairs in Rhosesmor (new bracket)	280.00	56.00	336.00

	Halkyn Parish Hall (Library room hire September to November £357.50 / Council meeting room hire September to November £30.00)	387.50		387.50
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13. 29/23

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<p><u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u></p> <p>Holywell Leisure Centre (Application for annual grant) Adjourned from November meeting (Section 19 - 3 LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)</p>	£500.00

14. 30/23

Members agreed the payments of the above accounts and financial support as listed.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

**SIGNED BY THE
CHAIRMAN.....**

**DATE OF
APPROVAL.....**