

CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN

HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Local Government and Elections

(Wales) Act 2021 (Section 52)

Annual Report

Year ending 31st March, 2023

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.

The administrative area of Halkyn Community Council covers the following villages: Halkyn, Moel Y Crio, Pentre Halkyn, Rhos Y Cae, Rhosesmor, The Nant, The Wern and The Windmill.

The population of the area is 2,533 (January 2023 Register of Electors).

During the reporting year Council meetings were held remotely from April 2022, whereafter from September meetings were held hybrid with the face to face venue being The Halkyn Parish Hall, Halkyn.

Council meetings are held on the third Monday of the month (no meetings held in August and December) and commence at 7.30pm. Non-scheduled meetings can be held in an emergency or possibly in relation to an urgent planning application – especially during the months of December and August. All 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 and press are welcome to attend all meetings. Residents are also able to address the Council Members for a reasonable period of time at the commencement of the meeting on matters appertaining to the community.

Should any resident, or press member wish to connect to a meeting by audio, please advise the Clerk to the Council by providing at least three days notice prior to the meeting date.

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 Colin D’Arcy as Chair of Council and Councillor David Roberts as Vice Chair.

Councillor attendances at meetings can be viewed in the minutes of meetings which are available on the Council web site. The following were Council Members during the 2022 / 2023 reporting period.

Councillor names and contact details

<p><u>Halkyn Mountain Ward</u></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><u>Pentre Halkyn Ward</u></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 no Freedom of Information requests were received.

Local Committees and Outside Bodies

Council Members who serve on Local Committees and Outside Bodies during 2022 / 2023

Name of Organisation	Councillor Representative
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Aberdo and Bryn Mawr Quarry Liaison	Councillor Howard Morris
Flintshire County Council – County Forum	Councillors' Colin D'Arcy / David Roberts
Halkyn Cemetery	Councillors' Brian Coleclough / Howard Morris / Wendy Sigsworth / Nicola Richardson /
Halkyn Parish Hall Trust	(All Council Members)
Halkyn Parish Hall Management Committee	Councillors' Howard Morris / Bob Robinson / Wendy Sigsworth
Hendre Quarry Liaison	Councillors' Howard Morris / Dylan Roberts
Joint Consultative Committee	Councillors' Brian Coleclough / Wendy Sigsworth
Pant Quarry Liaison	Councillor Howard Morris
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' Ray Faulder-Jones and / or Delyth Taylor
Rhosesmor Institute	Councillors' Bob Robinson / Wendy Sigsworth
Rhos Helyg School Governor	Councillor David Roberts

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: clerk@halkyn.org.uk Web site: www.halkyn.org.uk
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Council's objectives (2022 / 2023)

During this reporting year the key objectives of the Council were: *(Update in italics)*

- ❖ To place funds in ear-marked reserves towards Council Cemetery - Enhancement Scheme £10,000.00 (*Funds to be saved in ear-marked reserves over a period of three to five years*)
- ❖ Flintshire County Council; Street lighting Electrical testing at a cost of £2,048.00. *Awaiting Flintshire County Council to complete.*
- ❖ Continue with repairs to further bench seats. *Completed.*
- ❖ To upgrade Rhosesmor Play area - £10,000.00 (Match funding with Flintshire County Council) *This scheme will be finalised by Flintshire prior to the summer of 2023.*
- ❖ To continue to provide funding for:
 - Library Service at Halkyn Parish Hall. *Completed.*
 - Children's Summer Play Schemes in Pentre Halkyn and Rhosesmor. *Completed.*
- ❖ Additional:
 - *Refurbishment of bus shelter in The Windmill*
 - *Electrical repairs & new internal doors & roof repairs in Halkyn Parish Hall*
 - *Further refurbishment of metal bench seat / Notice board repairs*

Council's objectives - 2023 / 2024

During the 2023 / 2024 financial year, the Council have agreed the following priorities:

- ❖ To support and enhance the Community Council area for the benefit of the residents.
- ❖ To further place funds in ear-marked reserves towards Council Cemetery - Enhancement Scheme - £10,000.00 (Funds to be saved in ear-marked reserves over a period of three to five years)
- ❖ To continue to provide and repair street lighting to the community
- ❖ To continue to work with Flintshire County Council to provide upgraded play area facilities within the Community Council area (Match funding)
- ❖ To continue to provide funding for:
 - Library Service at Halkyn Parish Hall
 - Children's Summer Play Schemes in Pentre Halkyn and Rhosesmor
 - Local Committees and Groups, including local and national charities who support the community

(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 £61,056.00. 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 2022 / 2023 was £50,000.00. This amount is precept on residential properties within the community, and equates to a figure of £37.19 per household on a Band D property. There were 1,344 Band D household properties within the Halkyn Community area – as at January 2022.

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

Flintshire County Council £1,449.58
Police & Crime Commissioner £316.80
Halkyn Community Council £37.19

The Community Council's precept for 2023 / 2024 was set at £50,000.00 – there was no increase from the previous year.

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: £4,209.00 under Section 137 and £8,510.00 under various Local Government Acts.

Members Allowance

Payments (Allowances) to Members of Halkyn Community Council - 2022 / 2023
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 30th 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 the previous years return prior to the required date to the (IRPFW). A copy of the information can be viewed on the Council's web site at: www.halkyn.org.uk (public notices and financial). The return for this reporting year will be published on the above web page in due course.

Publication of audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2023, Halkyn Community Council publish its accounting

statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 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 2023, will be submitted to Wales Audit following confirmation at the May 2023 Council meeting. A copy of the Annual Return will thereafter be published on the Council's notice board and web site at: 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. This Council's plan can be found at: www.halkyn.org.uk (public notices and financial).

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 represent this Council at the County Forum meetings, which are generally held twice a year, together with representatives from all 34 Town & Community Councils in Flintshire. The Flintshire County Council did not arrange meetings during this reporting year.

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 (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 or by completing an on-line form at:

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. This Council's Training Plan can be found at: www.halkyn.org.uk (public notices and financial).

**This End of Year report was adopted by the Members of Halkyn Community Council,
on Monday 17th April, 2023 - Minute number: 6(D). 77/23**