



CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN / HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Halkyn Community Council,
Held in the Halkyn Parish Hall,
On Monday the 20th May, 2024, at 7.30pm.**

Annual Council Meeting

1(A). 89/24

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON FOR THE PERIOD 2024 / 2025

Councillor Howard Morris was proposed and seconded, as Chair of Council. There were no further nominations. Councillor Morris accepted the nomination.

Members agreed the following: Councillor Howard Morris be appointed as Chair of Council for the period 2024 / 2025.

The retiring Chair of Council, Councillor David Roberts thanked both the Councillors and Clerk for their support during his year of office.

1(B). 90/24

SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (CHAIR OF COUNCIL)

Councillor Howard Morris signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was duly witnessed by the Clerk.

The new Chair of Council Howard Morris, thanked Councillors for his appointment.

1(C). 91/24

SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR - MATTHEW LISTER)

Councillor Matthew Lister signed his Declarations of Acceptance of Office, following an uncontested election in the Pentre Halkyn Ward of Halkyn Community Council. The Declaration was witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

The Chair of Council welcomed Councillor Lister to the meeting.

2(A). 92/24

PRESENT

Councillor Howard Morris (Chair)
Councillor Delyth Taylor (Vice Chair)

Councillor Brian Coleclough
Councillor B. Glyn Coleclough
Councillor Colin R. D'Arcy
Councillor Matthew Lister
Councillor David Palmer
Councillor Nicola Richardson
Councillor David G. Roberts
Councillor Bob Robinson
Councillor Wendy Sigsworth

County Councillor Simon Jones (Flintshire County Council)

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

2(B). 93/24
APOLOGIES

Councillor Dylan H. Roberts

County Councillor Frances Lister (Flintshire County Council)

2(C). 94/24
ABSENT

None

3. 95/24
APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE PERIOD 2024 / 2025

Councillor Delyth Taylor was proposed and seconded. There were no further nominations.
Councillor Morris accepted the nomination.

Members agreed the following: To appoint Councillor Delyth Taylor, as Vice Chair for the year 2024 / 2025

4. 96/24
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH MAY, 2023

The Clerk advised Members, that the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were formally proposed, seconded and agreed at the 19th June, 2023 meeting; under Minute number: 4. 127/23.

Members agreed the following: Re-affirmed the above decision.

5. 97/24
NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES – 2024 / 2025

Members received prior to the meeting a copy of the current list of Liaison, Local Committees and Outside Bodies for year 2023 / 2024.

Members agreed the following: (1) Councillors' David Palmer and Nicola Richardson appointed as the Council's representatives on the Halkyn Parish Hall Management Committee, to replace Councillors' Howard Morris and Bob Robinson (2) Councillor Matthew Lister appointed as the Council's representative on the Police Community Consultative Group, replacing Ray Faulder-Jones (3) The remainder of the current list to continue for year 2024 / 2025.

General Council Meeting

6(A). 98/24

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

Standing Orders were suspended:

The Chair of Council welcomed Mr. Andy Dunbobbin (North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner) to the meeting.

Mr. Dunbobbin thanked the Council for hosting his visit and advised of his role and duties as a Police Commissioner. The role includes the appointment of a Chief Constable, budget setting (£six million in North Wales). The role involves the Commissioner sitting on cross-party groups and is non-political. Sets the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan.

Councillors discussed the following with the Commissioner:

- The lack of Police Consultative liaison meetings following the pandemic. The Commissioner will address this concern with the local Inspector. The meetings should be held at least every six months
- Concern with the high number of reported criminal offences that occur in the Halkyn Community Council area, including off-road bikers. The Commissioner was shown on screen the latest crime figures for the Council area. The Commissioner will arrange for the Rural Crime Team to provide the Council with a presentation
- Non-attendance at Council meetings by the appointed PCSO for the area. The Commissioner will arrange for attendance of a PCSO at Council meetings, at least every quarter
- Visits to schools. The funding for school liaison offers is ceasing. Arrangements can be made for Police representatives to attend schools and Governors meetings

Mr. Dunbobbin was thanked by the Chair and Council Members for his attendance and informative presentation.

6(B). 99/24

Standing Orders were restored:

6(C). 100/24

THE CLERK ADVISED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONCERNS RECEIVED:

- (i) Concern received from local resident in relation to the condition of the cattle grid on the B5123 road in Berth Ddu, and in particular, the noise aspect and looseness of the metal railings. The resident had reported the concern to the County Council on a number of occasions, but had received no reply.

The Clerk had advised the resident that the concern had been raised by the Community Council with the County Council on more than one occasion, whereby the County had informed the Community Council that a repair quotation was being considered.

(ii) The resident also raised a complaint in relation to the refuse collection service and in particular, the removal and non-replacement of a bin. The Clerk had advised the resident that this concern was in the remit of the County Council and had copied County Councillor Simon Jones into the reply.

7. 101/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were Declared:

- (1) Councillor Brian Coleclough: Minute number 17. 117/24 on page 10 below
- (2) Councillor David Robers: Minute number 16. 116/24 on page 10 below

8. 102/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH APRIL, 2024

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Glyn Coleclough and seconded by Councillor David Roberts and formally agreed by the Members present.

9. 103/24

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) **Halkyn Parish Hall:** The Clerk advised that unfortunately, no progress had been made. Whilst Flintshire County Council have still not issued the certificate in relation to the name and correct address, the Land Registry identify verification process is causing a difficulty. The process requires certain professions to certify a copy of their personal passport to be sent to the Land Registry, like wise for the Clerk. Hannah Blythyn MS is unable to provide her copy passport due to government security. Ms. Blythyn has written to the Land Registry seeking that this difficult process is reviewed.
- (2) **B5123 Road – Overhanging tree branches:** The Clerk advised that there had still been no reply from the property owner, despite a copy of the letter sent in May.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to send a copy of the letter to Street Scene, seeking that they endeavour to make contact with the property owner to alleviate the concern.

- (3) **Traffic Mirror adjacent to B5123 road in Halkyn:** The Clerk advised that there had been no reply from the Grosvenor Estate. The Clerk had sent a reminder.
- (4) **Public notice on bridleway in Berth Ddu:** The County Footpath Officer had advised the following: ‘The Public Signs have been erected by the Access Team which prohibits illegal offroad access by motorbikes and 4 x 4 vehicles using this bridleway. A landowner who has a legitimate right of access to their property, such as land along the bridleway will not face a fine’
- (5) **Community Award - Timeline:** The Clerk advised that a Public Notice will appear in the next edition of the Halkyn Mountain News in relation to the Community Award. Notices have been placed on all the Council’s notice boards. The closing date for nominations is 12 noon on Monday 8th July, whereafter the nominations will be considered by Council on Monday 15th July.
- (6) **Hendre Tarmac Quarry Liaison Meetings:** The Clerk advised that he had made contact with the Hendre Quarry Manager, who has now placed the contact details for both

Councillors Howard Morris and Dylan Roberts on the list of attendees for the liaison meetings.

10(A). 104/24
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: 2 x Anti Social behaviour / 1 x Other theft / 2 x Violence

Pentre Halkyn: 4 x Anti Social behaviour / 2 x Violence

Rhes-Y-Cae: 1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Violence

Rhosesmor: 1 x Anti social behaviour

- (2) Groundworks North Wales: Funding for Communities. The information advised that funding was available for various projects which included primary schools in Flintshire. The Clerk had forwarded the correspondence to the Head teacher at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Berth Ddu.
- (3) Flintshire County Council: Notification of uncontested election in the Pentre Halkyn Ward of Halkyn Community Council. Name of Candidate: Matthew Lister / Home address: The County of Flintshire / Description: Welsh Labour.

Councillor Brian Coleclough requested the Clerk seek the names of the ten residents who requested an election to be held. The Clerk advised that he would write to the Flintshire County Returning Officer.

- (4) Flintshire County Council – Aura Leisure: Notification of annual match-funding scheme for improvements to children’s play areas 2024 / 2025. The report identified the Halkyn Play Area as being in need of investment. The Clerk recollected Members that contained in the ear-marked reserves a sum of £10,000.00 – towards the Rhosesmor play area with an emphasis on accessible equipment. The ear-marked reserves also contained £1,000.00 for picnic tables for the Rhosesmor play area. The Clerk advised that the match-funding monies cannot be utilised for play areas not identified for improvement.

Members agreed the following: (1) The Clerk to seek from the Play Officer details as to the requirement for upgrading the Halkyn play area (2) The Clerk to discuss with the Play Officer the provision of an accessible item of play in the Rhosesmor play area (3) The Clerk to obtain quotations for two picnic tables for the Rhosesmor play area.

- (5) Request received from Ron Bailey on behalf of Lord Don Foster (House of Lords) seeking that this Council support a Bill to improve the safety of lithium batteries – as used in e-bike and e-scooters, including their disposal. The Bill is supported by a number of national organisations, including Electrical Safety First, National Fire Chiefs, Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and Royal Society for Public Health.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to reply to Mr. Bailey to confirm this Council’s support to a Bill to improve the safety of lithium batteries.

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

- ❖ One Voice Wales: Invitation to Councillors to register and attend a one hour workshop on the subject of ‘Cost of Living Crisis’.
- ❖ One Voice Wales: List of various courses available for Councillors to attend. Councillors to contact the Clerk to arrange booking.
- ❖ North Wales Fire & Rescue Service: Annual public consultation on continuing to prevent and respond to emergencies. Members to complete on a personal basis.

10(B). 105/24

CLERK’S REPORT

- (a) The Clerk advised Members in relation to the following deposits to the Council’s bank account:
- £16,666.67 - Flintshire County Council: First precept payment for financial year 2024 / 2025
 - £1,663.99 – Flintshire County Council: Cemetery grant.
 - £976.79 - HM Revenue & Customs: VAT Refund for financial year 2023 / 2024
- (b) Halkyn Parish Hall: Following information received from Chair of Parish Hall Trustees: (i) New treasurer appointed (ii) Accounts with auditor (iii) Cadwyn Clwyd advised as to successful grant to re-furbish the Parish Hall kitchen (work is in progress) (iv) Various items to be paid for by the Community Council - as agreed in budget setting process in January, 2024.
- (c) Cemex – Pant Y Dwr Quarry: Notification to the next Quarry liaison meeting to be held on 20th June. Information forwarded to Councillor Howard Morris as this Council’s representative on the quarry liaison committee.
- (d) The Clerk advised that Councillor Wendy Sigsworth had attended the Halkyn Women’s Institute 90th Birthday celebration. Councillor Sigsworth provided a card on behalf of the Community Council which contained significant happenings / information since 1934. Councillor Sigsworth provided further information.

10(C). 106/24

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (SECTION 85 (1)) VACATION OF OFFICE BY FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS BY COUNCILLOR RAY FAULDER-JONES

The Clerk advised to correspondence received from Councillor Ray Faulder-Jones, which stated the following: Due to a new employment appointment the role takes up most of my time and unfortunately, I don’t have enough time to commit fully to my role as a Community Councillor. It is only right that I tender my resignation with immediate effect, to allow somebody with more time to give to the Council. I would like you to pass on my thanks to the other Councillors for their hard work and dedication, and of course to the Clerk for all his support’.

Members agreed the following: (1) Accepted the resignation of Ray Faulder-Jones and asked the Clerk to write and thank Mr. Faulder-Jones for his service as Councillor to this community (2) The above agenda item was withdrawn (3) The Clerk to notify the Returning Officer of the resignation.

10(D). 107/24

TO RECEIVE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT: YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The Clerk recollected Members to a copy of the recently received Internal Audit report for year ending March 2024 - that had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Council noted the following comments in the report: Conclusion - On the basis of the internal audit work carried out, which was limited to the tests indicated above, in our view the council's system of internal controls is in place, adequate for the purpose intended and effective.

The Council also noted the comment in relation to reserves. The Clerk advised that unfortunately, the internal auditor had not requested an updated copy of the actual ear-marked reserves breakdown for year 2024 / 2025, which identifies two items at £10,000.00 (Aura Leisure / FCC Match-funding) and an outstanding Work Order for £5,000.00 (Street Lighting inspections) that was over three years old. These aforementioned figures takes the Community Council's general reserves to well within the guidelines. Whilst the total were included in the budget setting process in January 2024, the Council will further update the ear-marked reserves during the quarterly reviews.

Members agreed the following: Accepted the Internal Audit report and thanked the Clerk for the financial aspect of his duties over the past year.

10(E). 108/24

COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES: ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Clerk advised Members that Sections in the above document named: Accounting Statements for 2023-24, Annual Governance Statement and Additional disclosure notes had been completed by the Clerk prior to the return being presented to the Internal Auditor. The Council Approval and Certification Section was now required to be formally approved by Council and thereafter for signature by both the Chair and Clerk.

Members confirmed the following: The Council Approval and Certification Section of the Annual Return, to be signed by both the Chair and Clerk.

10(F). 109/24

STREETSCENE SCHEDULE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk advised in relation to the following concern(s) that had been reported to StreetScene, since the last Council meeting:

- No matters of concern had been received and reported since the last Council meeting.

The Clerk provided the following update from Mr. Neil Hickie (StreetScene) Officer

- Faulty gate as Berth Ddu bus shelter. Street Scene forwarded the concern to the Transportation Officer
- Repair to the Cattle Grid on B5123 road in Berth Ddu is scheduled for repair on Friday 3rd May
- No further update received in relation to other outstanding concerns

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (1) B5123 Road with A541 junction in Rhydymwyn: Tree branches obstructing visibility on the Rhydymwyn side
- (2) Rhes Y Cae (unnamed road) From the top area of Rhys Y Cae to the former shop – overhanging hedge at first house on left hand side causing difficulty for passing vehicles (Concern reported on more than one occasion to Street Scene by residents)
- (3) Berth Ddu: Pot holes on Shone's Lane
- (4) Berth Ddu: Graffiti still not removed from bus shelter – as previously reported
- (5) Rhosesmor children's play area. Could a litter bin be installed please

The Clerk advised that the above concerns would be brought to the attention of StreetScene.

11. 110/24

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

There were no reports specific to the Local Committees and Outside Bodies schedule, or Council Members who had attended meetings on behalf of the Council.

12. 111/24

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS (COUNCILLORS' SIMON JONES & FRANCES LISTER)

County Councillor Simon Jones advised in relation to the following:

- ❖ Cattle grid in Berth Ddu. Following repair work to the grid a local resident is still concerned with the noise aspect. The County will further investigate. Councillor Jones has requested sound registering equipment be installed to monitor the noise
- ❖ Pot holes have either been temporarily filled or fully repaired. Councillor Jones advised as to the resources schedule for the area
- ❖ Provided details from a recent Rural Crime Team Police exercise across the Halkyn Mountain in relation to off-road bikers. Soil samples taken and other information collated
- ❖ Footpath in Pentre Halkyn near County housing accommodation; notice to cut hedge issued
- ❖ Speeding vehicle concerns in Rhosesmor in area of the Village Hall. Go-Safe asked to visit the location

13(A). 112/24

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application was considered by Members at the meeting:

- Application number: 000242/24 – Installation of roof insulation and over-cladding of the existing roofs and associated works to facilitate the development, at Tiger Tim, Rhosesmor

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

13(B). 113/24

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council:

- (i) Application number DET/000218/24: Discharge of Conditions 2 & 3 FUL/753/23, at Trem Yr Afon, Pant Y Goff, Halkyn. Approved
- (ii) Application number FUL/000186/24: Construction of 2 storey and single storey extensions, at Ty Cerrig, Parc Bychan, Rhydymwyn. Approved

14. 114/24

TO DISCUSS: CONCERNS WITH EASTBOUND SLIP ROAD AT CASINO JUNCTION (CLLR BRIAN COLECLOUGH)

Councillor Brian Coleclough expressed his concerns to Councillors in relation to the A5026 Road - Casino Junction with A55 at The Nant.

This particular slip road is the scene of many accidents, which generally closes the road and causes inconvenience. In April for instance, there were two accidents on the 2nd and 16th – there are many other accidents that are not reported. The A55 Road is higher than the slip road which appears to be the main cause of concern – and ultimately reduces the visibility of drivers gaining access to the A55. The slip road is also of a short length.

Councillor Howard Morris advised, as a haulage contractor whilst driving a lorry on this slip road to gain access to the A55 the mirror visibility is of no concern, but when his family vehicle is used it is difficult to see in the mirrors the vehicles travelling towards him on the A55 prior to joining the road.

Councillor Coleclough advised, that he would be pleased to meet on site with Mr. Ken Skates MS (Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport).

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to write to Mr. Ken Skates MS seeking a site meeting at this particular road junction. The invitation to be copied to: Hannah Blythyn MS & Police Inspector Iwan W. Jones (Flintshire South).

15. 115/24

TO CONSIDER: SEEKING QUOTATIONS TO RE-PAINT COUNCIL PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE BIER HOUSE (CLLR NICOLA RICHARDSON)

As Councillor Nicola Richardson had left the meeting the Clerk advised, that Councillor Richardson wished the Council to consider the re-painting of Council property known as The Bier House.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to source a quotation for consideration at the June Council meeting.

16. 116/24

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for April) Payments dated: 01/05/2024			
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment dated: 16/05/2024	5.80		5.80
	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Clear Councils Insurance Ltd (Council's Insurance policy renewal)	888.41		888.41
	Councillor David Roberts (Retiring Chair of Council	400.00		400.00

	allowance £400.00 Declaration of Interest: Minute number 7. 101/24 on page 4 above)			
	JDH Business Services Ltd (Internal Audit)	308.00	61.60	369.60
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (April - Street Lighting Electricity Account payment due: 20/05/2024)	461.85	23.09	484.94
	Councillor Matthew Lister (Councillor Allowance)	52.00		52.00
	Councillor Bob Robinson (Councillor Allowance)	208.00		208.00

17. 117/24

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u>	
	Caerwys Agricultural Show (Application for annual grant) (Section 144 of the LGA 1972)	£250.00
	Rhes Y Cae & Moel Y Crio Sheep Dog Trials & Show (Application for annual grant) (Section 144 of the LGA 1972) Declaration of Interest: Minute number 7. 101/24 on page 4 above)	£1,000.00
	Halkyn United Junior Football Club (Application for funding towards pitch improvements and catering facilities) (Section 19 - 3 (b) LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)	£1,400.00

18. 118/24

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.....**