

CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN

HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Local Government and Elections

(Wales) Act 2021 (Section 52)

Annual Report

Year ending 31st March, 2024

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 2,297 (January 2024 Register of Electors).

During the reporting year all Council meetings were held hybrid with the face to face venue being the Halkyn Parish Hall.

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 David Roberts as Chair of Council and Councillor Howard Morris as Vice Chair. One Councillor Jean Davies formally tendered her resignation due to ill health during the early part of 2024. The vacancy has been advertised.

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 2023 / 2024 reporting period.

Councillor names and contact details

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

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 2023 / 2024

Name of Organisation	Councillor Representative
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 - 2023 / 2024

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

(Update in italics)

- ❖ To support and enhance the Community Council area for the benefit of the residents. *The Community Council continue their support to the community, with many examples listed below.*
- ❖ 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). *Continuing.*
- ❖ To continue to provide and repair street lighting to the community. *Continuing.*
- ❖ To continue to work with Flintshire County Council to provide upgraded play area facilities within the Community Council area (Match funding). *During this reporting year the Community Council have provided funds towards projects in the Pentre Halkyn play area at £10,000.00 and Rhosesmor play area at £14,500.00.*
- ❖ To continue to provide funding for:
 - Library Service at Halkyn Parish Hall. *This continued.*
 - Children's Summer Play Schemes in Pentre Halkyn and Rhosesmor. *Whilst the Rhosesmor playscheme was successful with a good number of children attending, unfortunately, the Pentre Halkyn play scheme was poorly attended.*
 - Local Committees and Groups, including local and national charities who support the community. *The Council have provided financial assistance – details in the finance section below and as recorded in the minutes of meetings.*
- ❖ During this financial year the Community Council also completed the following:
 - *Were proactive in reporting concerns to Flintshire Street Scene, such as pot holes, fly-tipping and other highway related concerns, including public footpaths*
 - *Continued to work with Flintshire Bio-diversity Officers, including others, to enhance bio-diversity within the Community Council area*
 - *Community Award: The Council held their first Community Award, whereby residents were able to nominate residents who had provided a service to the community on a voluntary basis. The worthy recipients were: (1) Mrs. Jean Roberts – for over 40 years service in providing a voluntary car scheme (2) Mr. David Wright (Editor of the Halkyn Mountain News, together with members of the Team) for their editorial, production and delivery of the quarterly editions of the Halkyn Mountain News to over 2,000 properties. Flowers together with commemorative framed certificates were presented to the above*
 - *Purchased and installed two wall mounted LED television sets in Halkyn Parish Hall. A large wall mounted television in the main Hall can be utilised by the local Groups and Committees for their presentations and lectures. A smaller wall mounted television set in the committee meeting room, which is utilised by the Council and others booking this room. This has resulted in the Council being an almost paperless environment. Both sets have HDMI cable connections.*
 - *Provided an advertising sign for the Rhosesmor Community Shop*

- *Advertising banner for the Halkyn Mountain Cinema Group*
- *Advertising banner for the Scarecrow Community event*
- *Financial assistance to village groups in Pentre Halkyn and Rhosesmor towards their King's Coronation celebration*
- *New notice board for Ysgol Rhos Helyg*
- *Funded repairs to Halkyn Parish Hall*

Council's objectives - 2024 / 2025

During the 2024 / 2025 financial year, apart from the general powers and lawfully required duties, the Community Council have agreed the additional following priorities:

- ❖ To continue 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
- ❖ The Community Council will continue to be proactive in reporting concerns to Flintshire Street Scene, such as pot holes, fly-tipping and other highway related concerns, including public footpaths
- ❖ Training budget (Councillors & Clerk)
- ❖ To continue to provide funding for:
 - Library Service at Halkyn Parish Hall
 - Children's Summer Play Schemes in Rhosesmor
 - Local Committees and Groups, including local and national charities who support the community
 - Further enhancement to Children's play areas (Match funding with Flintshire County Council), with an emphasis on accessible play equipment, including picnic tables

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

Financial

Asset Register

The value of the Community Council's asset register totals £63,276.00. 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 2023 / 2024 was £50,000.00. This amount is precept on residential properties within the community, and equates to a figure of £36.67 per household on a Band D property. There were 1,363 Band D household properties within the Halkyn Community area – as at January 2023.

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

Flintshire County Council £1,521.33
Police & Crime Commissioner £333.09
Halkyn Community Council £36.67

The Community Council's precept for 2024 / 2025 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: £4,250.00 under Section 137 and £4,100.00 under various Local Government Acts.

Members Allowance

Payments (Allowances) to Members of Halkyn Community Council - 2023 / 2024
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 2024

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2024, Halkyn Community Council publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 2024 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 15th April, 2024 - Minute number: 6(D). 78/24