



CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN / HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Halkyn Community Council,
Held Virtually by Video and Telephone Conference,
On Monday the 9th December, 2024, at 7.00pm.**

No Council meeting was held in November

1(A). 207/24

PRESENT

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

1(B). 208/24

APOLOGIES

Councillor Brian Coleclough
Councillor Jennifer E. Parry

County Councillor Frances Lister (Flintshire County Council)

1(C). 209/24

ABSENT

None

1(D). 210/24

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – HALKYN PARISH HALL

The Chair of Council, Councillor Howard Morris welcomed Andy Wood – Chair of Halkyn

Parish Hall Management Committee to the Annual General Meeting – between the Parish Hall Trustees (Community Councillors) and the Parish Hall Management Committee.

- **Separate Minutes taken for this particular meeting**

2. 211/24

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

No attendance at meeting by public, no questions, comments or representations received prior to meeting.

3. 212/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest Declared.

4. 213/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OCTOBER, 2024

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Matthew Lister and seconded by Councillor Colin D'Arcy and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 214/24

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) Community Councillor Vacancy:** The Clerk confirmed that the following Public Notices had been displayed and dated the 1st November: Community Council notice boards in Halkyn and Rhosesmor; Council's web site; public notice in the recent edition of the Halkyn Mountain News. The closing date for Expressions of Interest – 12 Noon on Monday 13th January, 2025.
- (2) Community Award Presentation:** Councillor Howard Morris provided the following update to the presentation to John and Vicky Thomas: Due to circumstances the presentation had not taken place but would be arranged before Christmas.
- (3) Request for Bus Shelter in Halkyn:** The Clerk advised that he had made contact with the Grosvenor Estate who had confirmed the following: Whilst the Estate would have no objections to a bus shelter, the Estate believe that the area of land is not within the ownership of the Estate.

Discussion in relation to the funding of a bus shelter, with County Councillor Simon Jones reiterating that the County have stated they do not have the funds in the current year's budget to provide a bus shelter. General discussion in relation to the provision of a bus shelter, including the ownership aspect of the land, which is thought to be County adopted highway due to the hard standing in the bus stop area.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to write to the County Council to enquire if the County would consider installing a bus shelter in the area with the Community Council, in principle, providing the funding depending on cost. The Clerk to also enquire in relation to the asset register, insurance and future maintenance aspects. County Councillor Simon Jones to be copied into the correspondence.

(4) **Convex Mirror:** Councillor David Palmer advised that unfortunately due to a number of urgent commitments a site meeting with Neil Balderstone (Grosvenor Estate) had not taken place. This will be arranged in the New Year.

(5) **Footpath on Halkyn Mountain:** Councillor David Palmer advised that unfortunately due to a number of urgent commitments a site meeting with the Flintshire County Footpath Officer had not taken place. This will be arranged in the New Year.

Pending Matters:

The Clerk advised, that the following matters remain in the pending file:

- (i) **Street Lighting Electricity Supply:** There had been no update received from the Welsh Government Procurement Department. The Clerk has sent a reminder e-mail enquiring as to the present position.
- (ii) **Land Registry:** Still awaiting a registration completion certificate to correct name and address of Halkyn Parish Hall.

6(A). 215/24

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:

Berth Ddu: 1 x Anti social behaviour

Halkyn: No offences reported

Pentre Halkyn: 1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Vehicle crime

Rhes-Y-Cae: No offences reported

Rhosesmor: 1 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x Bicycle theft

- (1) Flintshire County Council: Information in relation to the 2025 Summer Play Scheme. The Clerk recollects to Members that last year's play scheme was held over a six week period in Rhosesmor. The County requested a form to be completed confirming this Council's agreement for year 2025.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to complete the form confirming this Council's agreement for a six week summer play scheme in Rhosesmor.

- (2) Welsh Government: Notification that the appropriate sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 Expenditure limit for 2025 / 2016 – had been increased from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector. The Clerk advised that the actual figure for this Council would be placed on the 2025 / 2026 accounts spreadsheet, and in particular, following notification by the County Returning Officer as to the number of residents entered within the electoral register which will be made public in January 2025

- (3) Grosvenor Estate: The newly appointed Estate Agent Neil Balderstone (Mineral and Environmental Manager) for the Halkyn area would be pleased to attend a meeting of the Community Council.

Members agreed the following: To invite Neil Balderston to the February 2025 Council meeting.

- (4) **Flintshire County Council:** Notification of the following road closures:

- (i) At Pentre Halkyn for one day on 1st December in area of Village Road – between its junctions with B5123 Springfield Hill and Bryn Emlyn
- (ii) At The Nant from 19th November for three days, in area of Lleprog Lane junction to Lygan Y Wern A5026 – between its junctions with Nant Road and A5026
- (iii) At Pentre Halkyn from 14th January, 2025 for 3 days, in area of Corner House access road – adjacent to A55 underpass and between its junctions with A5026 and Lleprog Lane

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

- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Flintshire Connects consultation. Members to complete survey on a personal basis and forward to others
- ❖ North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner: Yearly survey named ‘Have your say on funding for policing in North Wales’ Members to complete survey on a personal basis and forward to others
- ❖ Estuary Car Scheme: Information on services provided
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Budget information for 2025 / 2026
- ❖ One Voice Wales: Fire Service presentation forwarded to Members following attendance at a OVW meeting by Councillor Gareth Sharp
- ❖ Natural Resources Wales: Update to the proposed new National Park in Wales together with Public drop-in dates
- ❖ North Wales Fire & Rescue Service: Consultation for keeping communities safe. Members to complete survey on a personal basis and forward to others
- ❖ One Voice Wales: Virtual joint seminar with OVW and Society of Local Council Clerks to discuss key topic areas for Town & Community Councillors in Wales. Members to advise the Clerk should they wish to attend the virtual seminar
- ❖ North Wales Police: Cuppa with a PCSO on Thursday 28th November between 10.30am and 12 Noon, at Betty Berkins Coffee Shop in The Nant

6(B). 216/24

CLERK’S REPORT

- (a) The Clerk advised that Aura Leisure and Libraries had ceased trading whereby their functions had been taken over in-house by Flintshire County Council. This Council had previously signed a Service Level Agreement with Aura Leisure for the Friday library service held at the Halkyn Parish Hall, which was effective until the end of March 2025. A new contract had been received from Flintshire County Council which included identical

contract details as per the Aura contract – to commence from 1st November to 31st March 2025. To ensure the continuance of the library to remain open to residents, the Chair and Vice Chair had agreed the Clerk to sign the Service Level Agreement, in particular, as the contents were identical and no increase to the charges.

Members agreed the following: Confirmed the new Service Level Agreement with Flintshire County Council to the 31st March, 2025

- (b) The following Councillors had attended the virtual Code of Conduct training provided by Flintshire County Council in October: Councillors' Colin D'Arcy / Howard Morris / Nicola Richardson / Wendy Sigsworth.

The Clerk recollects Members to an e-mail dated the 11th November forwarded from the County Solicitor which attached the slides from the above referred to Code of Conduct training together with a link to the virtual training session. The Clerk enquired as to the names of Councillors who had not attended the virtual training sessions, but had perused the slides and watched a recording of the training session. The Following Councillors confirmed:

Brian Coleclough / Glyn Coleclough / Matthew Lister / David Palmer / David Roberts / Bob Robinson / Delyth Taylor

- (c) The Clerk advised that he had attended the following courses: (1) Flintshire County Council Code of Conduct training (2) Funding, Grants & Precept setting facilitated by One Voice Wales

- (d) National Joint Council for Local Government Services: The Clerk advised that the Local Government Services pay award for 2024 had been agreed in October, which included Clerk's to Councils in Wales with a 2.5% increase in salary scales backdated from 1st April, 2024. The Clerk further advised, that he would calculate the back pay and provide the figures to Members at the January 2025 Council meeting.

6(C). 217/24

PRECEPT AND FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2025 / 2026

The Clerk advised, that this exercise was to enquire with the Members of the Council, if there were any items of expenditure extra to the present allocation in the 'Earmarked Reserves' to be included in the next financial year. A copy of the current ear-marked reserves was provided to Members.

Members agreed the following: (1) Rhosesmor Play area (Large Picnic table) - £1,000.00 (2) Bus shelter in Halkyn - £5,000.00 (3) Burial grant for children - £809.00 (Received from Welsh Government) (4) Cemetery upkeep & future work / Council buildings - £5,000.00 (5) Training budget (Councillors & Clerk) - £2,000.00 (6) Other possible ring-fenced and general reserves – to be agreed in January 2025 budget setting.

6(D). 218/24

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

- No update in relation to previously reported concerns had been received from Street Scene.

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (1) A5026 Road travelling from The Nant towards Hillcrest. The area known as Paradise Pride the road is flooding. It is suggested that the cause may be due to the work that has been carried out in the adjoining field
- (2) B5123 Road Pot holes in area travelling down the hill from Rhosesmor to the A541 junction in Rhydymwyn. Could the whole section of road be inspected please, in particular, there are two large pot holes in the area of the sand & gravel quarry – on left hand side of the road (travelling downhill)
- (3) Rhes Y Cae road travelling from Halkyn – a number of pot holes

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

7. 219/24

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

- **Police Liaison Meeting:** Councillors' Delyth Taylor and Matthew Lister advised of their attendance at the first face to face meeting with the local Police Inspector (South Flintshire) and Town & Community Councils in the area, which was held at Mold Police Station. Whilst a number of topics and issues were discussed, the following were included:
 - ❖ Recorded crimes, in particular, anti social behaviour and burglaries
 - ❖ A number of primary schools have been identified whereby Officers will visit to discuss offences
 - ❖ Data protection and information available to be disclosed
 - ❖ Number of Officers (Police Offices and Police Community Support Officers) stationed within the South Flintshire area

8. 220/24

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

County Councillor Simon Jones advised in relation to the following:

- (1) Vision Support: Correspondence forwarded from County Councillor Simon Jones seeking if the Community Council wished to receive an awareness of the services offered by Vision Support
- (2) Welsh Government funding available to local food schemes (Community Councillors to forward to any Group / Committee in the various village areas)
- (3) Speed Indicator Signage in Pentre Halkyn. The County Council have applied for funding to the Welsh Government to either recalibrate or replace the speed indicator signage within the County. The speed signage in Pentre Halkyn is included.

Councillor Jones discussed with Members the five year maintenance contract for the speed indicator signage that this Council had paid upfront to the County Council. Should the Community Council wish to request the maintenance agreement to be extended due to the signage not being functioning, the Clerk could formally write to the County with a request.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to write to the County Council requesting an appropriate extension to the maintenance contract.

- (4) In contact with Street Scene in relation to the water running down the road near to the Red Lion in Rhosesmor. A survey will be carried out (Following update received: The survey identified that a gully that discharges through a hedge into a field was severely silted. The County will investigate the process of whose responsibility it is to clear the blockage)
- (5) White line road markings: The following areas have been listed for the white lines to be re-painted: Casino interchange A55 underpass in The Nant / Junction of B5123 and A541 (bottom of hill from Rhosesmor) in Rhydymwyn. Councillor Jones advised that the Casino interchange had been recently re-painted but not the junction in Rhydymwyn.

Members agreed the following: Councillor Jones to urgently request the re-painting of this busy and dangerous junction.

- (6) Councillor Jones provided details to Members to his successful annual food bank collection in the Pentre Halkyn area with 77.5 kilograms of food collected, which was donated to the Mold Foodbank.
- (7) Bus shelter in Halkyn (See Minute number 5. 214/24 (3) on page 2 above)

9(A). 221/24

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications had been received:

- (1) Application number: FUL/000845/24 – for first floor rear extension, at Bluebell Cottage, Halkyn

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

- (2) Application number: FUL/000857/24 – for variation of condition numbers 2 & 3 attached to planning permission Ref: 0003312/24, at Orsedd, Rhosesmor (Condition 2 – Relocation of 3 holly trees, side door, garage door, cladding & roof / Condition 3 – external material)

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

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

9(B). 222/24

Members formally confirmed the above decisions.

9(C). 223/24

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

- Application number: Ful/000865/24 for proposed erection of a holiday let chalet, at Abbots Hey, Ffordd y Graig, Lixwm.

Comment by Council: Whilst the Council have no objection to the application in principle, as long as planning policies and planning guidance notes are complied with, however, the Council have reservations as to the safety aspect in relation to the access from the highway to the proposed chalet.

**9(D). 224/24
PLANNING DECISIONS**

No decisions received from Flintshire County Council

**10. 225/24
APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>November</u>			
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for October) Payments dated 01/11/2024			
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment dated: 15/11/3024	5.00		5.00
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (October - Street Lighting Electricity Account: Payment dated 18/11/2024	477.01	23.85	500.86
	<u>Payments for confirmation and consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	<u>December</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for November) Payments dated 02/12/2024			
	Society of Local Council Clerk's (Quarter share of membership renewal)	105.00		105.00
	Caerwys Computer Clinic: Renewal of Council's web site and domain name	250.00		250.00
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment due: 16/12/2024	5.00		5.00

**11. 226/24
APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u>	
	Wales Air Ambulance (Application for annual grant) (Section 137 LGA 1972)	£500.00

	Nightingale House Hospice, Wrexham (Application for general grant) (Section 137 LGA 1972)	£500.00
--	--	---------

12. 227/24

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.....**