



CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN / HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Halkyn Community Council,
Held in the Halkyn Parish Hall,
On Monday the 17th March, at 7.30pm.**

**1(A). 47/25
PRESENT**

Councillor Howard Morris (Chair)
Councillor Delyth Taylor (Vice Chair)
Councillor David Case
Councillor Brian Coleclough
Councillor B. Glyn Coleclough
Councillor Colin R. D'Arcy
Councillor Matthew Lister
Councillor David Palmer
Councillor Jennifer E. Parry
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). 48/25
APOLOGIES**

County Councillor Frances Lister (Flintshire County Council)

**1(C). 49/25
ABSENT**

None

**2. 50/25
PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS**

The Clerk advised the following had been received:

- Road safety concern in Rhosesmor: The Clerk had been advised by a resident of the Village to concerns with overgrown hedges which have been reported directly by the resident to

Street Scene. The resident was concerned that the overgrown hedges were completely obstructing views for both pedestrians and vehicles and made the area dangerous. The correspondence further advised, that two road traffic accidents had occurred recently due to the lack of visibility, with one hedge also concealing a pavement. Photographs of the offending hedges were provided and shown on screen to Members.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to forward the original concern to County Councillor Simon Jones to follow up with Street Scene.

3. 51/25

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest Declared.

4. 52/25

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH FEBRUARY, 2025

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Brian Coleclough and seconded by Councillor Matthew Lister and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 53/25

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) **Request for a Bus Shelter in Halkyn:** Councillor Simon Jones advised that he had received no further contact from the County.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to place in the pending file until further contact is received from the County Transport Officer.

- (2) **Convex Mirror:** Councillor David Palmer advised that there had been no further progress.
- (3) **Footpaths on Halkyn Mountain:** Councillor David Palmer advised that a site meeting appointment had been arranged but was cancelled. Awaiting for another date to be arranged.
- (4) **Inconsiderate parking of vehicles in Pentre Halkyn:** The Clerk advised that the PCSO had visited but the vehicles were not parked.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to further make contact with the PCSO as the vehicles are a danger to other road users, especially during darkness.

- (5) **Attendance by PCSO at Council meeting:** The Clerk advised that the PCSO had been provided with the dates for the Community Council meetings for the remainder of the year. Unfortunately, the PCSO and colleague are not able to attend the April and June meetings, but will advise the Clerk of their attendance during a later month when their rotas permits.
- (6) **Street Lighting Electricity Supply:** The Clerk advised that following the request to Hannah Blythyn MS for assistance in relation to receiving a reply from the Welsh Government Procurement Office, a reply had been received stating, that Mark Drakeford (Cabinet Secretary) would reply in due course. There had been no reply prior to this meeting.

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 Criminal damage / 1 x Violence

Pentre Halkyn: 2 x Anti social behaviour / 1 x other crime / 1 x other theft / 2 x Public order / 1 x Vehicle crime / 3 x violence

Rhes-Y-Cae: 1 x Anti social behaviour

Rhosesmor: 2 x Violence

- (2) Gwella Leisure on behalf of Flintshire County Council: Match funding scheme for 2025 / 2026. The County are seeking if this Council wished to fund improvements to the Rhes Y Cae children's play area.

Members agreed the following: Prior to reaching a decision, the Clerk to seek from the Play Design Officer, the following information – as (i) and (ii) together with two concerns at (iii) and (iv):

- (i) The Council Members wish to be made aware which equipment requires replacing, or other - and does it have to be in this particular year
 - (ii) The number of children's play areas within the Flintshire area
 - (iii) Concern was expressed that the ground area underneath the swing disc is uneven and could cause injury to a child. Could the area be inspected
 - (iv) Sheep are seen regularly in the play area, can the surround fence and or gate be made more secure.
- (3) One Voice Wales: Membership for 2025 / 2026. The Clerk advised that the annual request for this Council to become a member had been received at a cost of £551.50 with a 50% discount for the first year.

Members agreed the following: Not to join.

- (4) Halkyn Mountain News: The Clerk readout to Members an e-mail received from the Editor of the Halkyn Mountain News, which advised of their resignation due to actions of others. The mail also advised of a further resignation.

Members were advised that a public meeting was to be held to arrange new volunteers.

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

- ❖ Democracy and Boundary Commission: Policy and Practice document in relation to the 2026 Electoral Review Programme

- ❖ North Wales Police Crime Commissioner: Crime plan over the next three years
- ❖ Welsh Blood Service: Give Blood / Save Lives
- ❖ Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Determination number 7 in relation to allowances for Town & Community Councillors in Wales
- ❖ Welsh Government: Local Government and Housing Committee Role, Governance and Accountability of the Community & Town Council sector
- ❖ National Federation of Women's Institute – Wales: Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- ❖ Welsh Parliament: Local Government and Housing Committee Role: Governance and Accountability of the Community and Town Council sector
- ❖ Pentre Halkyn Annual litter Pick: To be held on Saturday 22nd March commencing from the Community Centre at 10.00am to 12 noon

6(B). 55/25

CLERK'S REPORT

(a) Councillor Training:

- (i)** In accordance with a Wales Measure Act, the Vice Chair of Council Councillor Delyth Taylor has been booked to attend a virtual Chair of Council training module
- (ii)** One Voice Wales training modules dates: The Clerk recollected to Members that the dates had been recently forwarded for their perusal. This Council holds a financial training budget.
- (iii)** Councillor David Case has been booked to attend the new Councillor induction and code of conduct courses

- (b) Rhes Y Cae Village Hall Management Committee:** The Clerk advised that that Hall Committee had written to express their thanks for the 70 chairs that this Council had purchased and donated to the Hall. The Clerk read out the e-mailed comments, with a photograph shown on screen of the chairs in situ.

Members agreed the following: Re-confirmed their previous decision to donate the chairs to the Rhes Y Cae Village Hall.

6(C). 56/25

TO CONSIDER UPDATING: MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL IN WALES – TO 2024 VERSION

The Clerk recollected Members to the updated 2024 Financial Regulations that had been sent to Members by e-mail prior to the meeting, whereby the current version was updated in 2019.

Members noted the guidance notes that the template was a model for Councils of all sizes to use to develop their own financial regulations, suitable for the size of the Council and its activities it undertakes. Also noted in Section 5 (i) not to force any Council to change what they do.

Members perused the full document on screen with the Clerk recollected that the financial spending limits were amended last year, including the quotation limits due to difficulties in obtaining quotations. Members discussed in detail the authorisation of accounts made at both

Council meetings and payments made in-between meetings by on-line banking, standing orders and direct debits.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to update the 2024 Financial Regulations as agreed during the meeting. To provide the updated copy prior to the April Council meeting to a Subcommittee of Councillors' Brian Coleclough, Glyn Coleclough, Bob Robinson and Wendy Sigsworth - for these Councillors to peruse the draft updated Financial Regulations and report to Council at the April meeting.

6(D). 57/25

HALKYN PARISH HALL TRUST –TRUSTEES MEETING

The Clerk recollected to Members that this is a quarterly agenda item and advised the following:

- (1) Halkyn Parish Hall – Non Domestic Rates for 2025 / 2026: The Clerk advised that the Rates Bill for year 2025 / 2026 had been received as follows: Gross charge £3,237.60 / Discretionary relief – Charity (20%) £647.52 credit / Mandatory relief – Registered Charity (80%) £2,590.08 credit. Net liability for year £0.00. The Clerk confirmed, that he had forwarded to the Chair of the Halkyn Parish Hall Management Committee the above information.
- (2) Charity Commission: The Clerk advised that recently retired Councillor Dylan Huw Roberts requires removing as a Trustee, together with Councillors' David Case and Jennifer Parry to be added as Trustees.

Members agreed the following: Confirmed the above and the Clerk to update the Charity Commission web site.

6(E). 58/25

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) Pot holes: B5123 Road in area of St. Mary's Church, Halkyn (travelling down hill)
- (2) Pot holes: Middle Mill Lane, Halkyn (Bluebell end)
- (3) Pot holes: Near to Pump House, Rhosesmor
- (4) Overhanging tree branches: Pentre Halkyn to Rhes Y Cae Road (Appear to be growing out of quarry side)
- (5) Litter: Bryntirion Road, The Nant

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

7. 59/25

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.

8. 60/25

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

County Councillor Simon Jones advised in relation to the following:

- (a) Off-road bikes. Following Police presence on the mountain a number of illegal activities were identified and culprits apprehended. A number of 4 x 4 vehicles are a cause of concern
- (b) Drop-in session held in Rhys Y Cae with Councillor Fran Lister were successful. Other sessions will be arranged in the other villages
- (c) Following an inspection with County Councillor Glyn Banks and Street Scene Officer Neil Hickie in the area of Halkyn Mountain, the Halkyn to Rhys Y Cae road will be committed to be included for repair once central government funding is received
- (d) The reduced speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in the Rhys Y Cae area is to be finalised soon and includes the road travelling alongside the children's play area
- (e) Two vehicles parked in the Pentre Halkyn area are not SORN or taxed and insured. Action will be taken for their removal
- (f) Request made at the drop-in session for a bench seat to be sited near to the Rhys Y Cae Village Hall. The Clerk advised that if the area is County adopted highway planning permission may be required, or if private land the landowner would have to agree.

Members agreed the following: Councillor Jones to seek from the requester of the bench seat further details and seek that they write to the Community Council directly.

9(A). 61/25

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application had been received:

- Application number: FUL/000149/25 – for installation of Air Source Heat Pump, at 13, Bryn Y Foel, Rhosesmor.

Comment by Council: Whilst the Community Council have no objection to the application, as long as planning policies and planning guidance notes are complied with, it is noted the approximate distance between adjacent houses, whereby, this Council would suggest a condition requiring an acoustic enclosure or screen to abate the effects of noise pollution.

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

9(B). 62/25

Members formally confirmed the above decision.

9(C). 63/25

The following planning applications were considered by Members at the meeting:

- (1) Application number: FUL/000202/25 – for proposed extension & remodel of existing house, replacement garage and new stable, at Bryn y Gwynt, Moel y Crio

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

- (2) Application number: FUL/000185/25 – to convert vacant barn to residential dwelling, at Pantauhriion, Rhosesmor

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

9(D). 64/25

PLANNING DECISIONS

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

- (a) Application number: DEM/000053/25 – for proposed demolition of a disused structure, at Tiger Tim, Rhosesmor. Approved.
- (b) Application number: SCO/000178/25 – for North-West extension to existing quarry, at Pant Y Pwll Dwr Quarry. Scoping Opinion Issued.

10. 65/25

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made / due – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for February) Payments dated: 03/03/2025			
	BACS: H. M. Revenue & Customs. Clerk's PAYE & Clerk & Council NI - payment dated: 07/03/2025	1,300.91		1,300.91
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (February - Street Lighting Electricity Account payment due: 17/03/2025	432.00	21.60	453.60
	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Caerwys Town Council: Quarter share of photocopier hire £55.00 / Quarter share of Microsoft 365 Business £28.80	83.80		83.80
	R. P. Parry (Clerk) Travelling expenses from March 2024 to March 2025 (as per detailed auditor schedule)	232.30		232.30
	R. P. Parry – Clerk (Re-imburement of computer	466.95	30.99	497.94

	security software – as per receipts – £154.95 plus VAT £30.99 – Total £185.94 / H M Revenue & Customs (Additional Home Working Allowance - for 2024 – 2025 - £312.00 (Not taxable) Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment due: 18/03/2025 Halkyn Parish Hall (Hire fees – weekly library £302.50 and Council meeting £10.00) <p style="text-align: center;">(All invoices listed have been ‘examined, verified and certified’ by the Clerk)</p>			
		5.00		5.00
		312.50		312.50

11. 66/25

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted
	<u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u> Marie Curie (Great Daffodil Appeal) (Section 137 LGA 1972)	£500.00

12. 67/25

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.....**