

YSCEIFIOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED YSCEIFIOG

Minutes of the Meeting held 14th April 2025 at Ysceifiog Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Rowlands- Chairman

Councillor J. I. Davies

Councillor I. Kendrick

Councillor N.M. Davies

Councillor P. Griffiths

Councillor D. Rees

Councillor A. Weatherall

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor C. Caldwell

Councillor A. Davies

Councillor A. Parsley

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Councillor S. Copple

Mr. A. Roberts – Clerk to the Council

38/25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN RELATION TO THE BUSINESS ON THE COUNCIL'S MEETING AGENDA

The Chairman welcomed two members of the public who were in attendance. They raised an issue regarding the public bus services No 14. The bus currently travels to and from Mold stopping at Bronant, Lixwm. Many of the bus user's live at the top end of Lixwm making the journey home with shopping very taxing. Members reported that a few years ago an additional bus stop sign had been erected by the Transportation Department near the Crown Inn.

It was also reported that given the loss of banking facilities at Holywell, Mold was the priority destination. However, the current flexi bus services did not service Mold from Lixwm.

County Councillor S. Copple agreed that he would make enquiries with the Transportation Manager as to the possibility of the route extension.

39/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared in respect of the business on the meeting agenda.

40/25 MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor A. Weatherall and seconded by Councillor I. Kendrick the minutes of the meeting held the 17TH March 2025 were approved as a correct record.

41/25 STREETSCENE SERVICES

A) HIGHWAY REPAIRS ISSUES

Fisheries Hill, Ysceifiog – Mynydd Llan, Babell. Road surface is in very poor state of repair.

Highway outside the Fox Inn, Ysceifiog. Surface water is running on to the forecourt area.

Confirmation had been received from the Highway Authority that the request for give way markings at the junction with Babell Road had been included on the schedule.

B) PUBLIC FOOTPATH LIXWM

Councillor P. Griffiths reported that a fence had been erected over the public footpath from the rear of the Crown Inn, Lixwm.

C) LIXWM C.P. SCHOOL

Further to minute No 29 C. Councillor A. Rowlands reported that the school had taken delivery of four traffic bollards. Following the placement, it appeared that drivers were adhering to the parking restrictions zone.

The school had written a letter of thanks to the Council for its kind support. It was agreed that the Council would meet 50% of the cost being £375.00.

42/25 PROCUREMENT OF STREET LIGHTING ENERGY VIA WELSH GOVERNMENT.

Further to minute No 30/24. H the Clerk advised that no response had been received.

43/25 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A) One Voice Wales Wrexham and Flintshire Area Committee Meetings

Town and Community Councils had received a questionnaire regarding the format and future attendance of the committee meetings. Attendance by many councils was proving to be difficult.

Member reported that their preference would be remote meetings with topics on the agenda being more parochial.

B) External Audit Fiscal Year 2024/54

The Council has been informed that it would be a subject to a triennial full audit. The Clerk advised that he would be issuing the statutory public notice setting out the time frame for the audit.

C) Internal Audit Fiscal year 2024/25

J.D. H. Business Services Ltd, the Councils appointed internal auditor had advised that the audit would be commenced on the 17th April 2025.

44/25 MEMBER'S REPORTS

A) County Councillor S. Copple provide an extensive detailed report on a number of issues that he had been engaged with over the past month. The Clerk advise that a copy of the report had been despatched to all members of the Council.
(Appendix A attached to the minutes)

B) Councillor A. Rowlands advised that the current seconded Headteacher of Lixwm C. P. School would be returning to Cilcain School.

45.25 PROVISION OF COUNCIL WEBSITE.

The current council website has been developed and maintained by Cllr A Parsley since 2011. Cllr Parsley has advised that this arrangement will cease from October 2025. The Council is required to provide and maintain a website with information appertaining to the council business and procedures.

Cllr Parsley and the Clerk attended a meeting with the council I. T. Administrator Phillip Jones, Holywell Computers to discuss options.

Four alternative website providers were considered, of these two were discarded based on cost or support being provided.

The council is requested to approve the engagement of P. Jones to assist with the selection and transfer of the current website. Further meetings would then take place with the preferred web hosting companies with a view to bringing further recommendations for council consideration and approval.

Cost implications- Currently the web hosting fees are £300. per annum. The anticipated future cost will be up to £500 per annum.

RESOLVED:

That P. Jones Holywell Computers be engaged to assist the Council with the website selection and establishment.

46/25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

1436) Information Commissioners Office - Fees	£52.00
1437) Scottish Power Ltd – Street Lighting Energy Fees	£574.92
1438) H.M. Revenue & Customs – PAYE (May)	£348.67
BACS) A. Roberts -Postage	£13.60
BACS) A. Roberts Microsoft Fees (March)	£61.32
BACS) A. Roberts Clerk’s Salary & Establishment Allowance	£965.93
BACS) A. Roberts Microsoft Annual Business Subscription Fees	£138.24
BACS) One Voice Wales – Annual Subscription Fees	£235.00

47/25 DURATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and was closed at 8.45pm. The Chairman advised that the next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 19th May 2025, at Berthen Chappel, Lixwm for 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

APPENDIX A

LIXWM /YSCEIFIOG NOTES FEB/ MARCH/APRIL 25

Notes for 24th February

That the 2025/26 Council Tax be set based on a 9.5% uplift in the County Council charges, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report: Page 9 (b) (c) That the continuation of the policy of not providing a discount in the level of 2025/26 Council Tax charges for second homes and long-term empty homes be endorsed. Also, where exceptions do not apply, to charge the Council Tax Premium rate of 100% above the standard rate of Council Tax for designated long-term empty dwellings and 100% for second homes from 1st April 2025, in accordance with the decision of Council in September 2024; and That approval be given for designated officers to issue legal proceedings and appear on behalf of the Council in the Magistrates' Court for unpaid taxes.

A report (agenda item 8) was received to seek approval of the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26, following endorsement by the Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet. Councillor Paul Johnson moved the recommendation as outlined within the report which was seconded by Councillor Richard Jones. When put to the vote the recommendation was supported. RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 be approved

Main notes for 18th March

This was a special meeting to review work left over from a previous meeting, this covered subjects such as.

National Park

that the Chief Executive seeks clarification from Welsh Government on how a new National Park would be funded, to assess the implications for the finances of this Council and report back to Council before the final consultation takes place. 2. That the Environment & Economy OSC invites National Resources Wales to send a representative to discuss the feasibility of action being taken to create biodiversity rich wetlands in upstream areas of the Rivers Dee and Alyn in order to promote downstream flood resilience so that this can be considered as a possible project for the new National Park. 3. Council recommends that representatives of wards within the existing National Landscape and those who represent wards which could be included within the new National Park identify possible projects, in their wards, which could be funded by the new National Park. This will enable those Flintshire Cabinet Member(s) who are involved in the new National Park Governance to hit the ground running in pressing for support for Flintshire communities. New

Work ethic of members

to condemn the behaviour of those councillors who voted to close meetings before all business had been finished.

Local development plan

that work should start immediately on the replacement Local Development Plan; ● that Cabinet should develop and publish a strategy for enhanced community involvement in the plan process no later than Summer 2025; ● that the request for candidate sites should be commenced no later than Q4 2025, and ● that a draft plan should be ready for a vote on depositing with the Welsh Government no later than Q1 2028

Main notes of 3rd April 25

- (a) That Council notes the content of the Policy and Practice document and Council Size Policy and provides its feedback on the consultation document

The Council size methodology is based on the following principles: ● Council size should not be less than 30 members but not normally more than 75 members ● Population ● Population sparsity ● Deprivation ● Rurality ● Recommended 10% change cap. Taking these principles into consideration, it is proposed that the electoral review for Flintshire will return between 59-69 councillors. Currently Flintshire has 67 councillors. As part of the response the Commission asks that the Council set out our preferred number of councillors within the allocated range.

That seats on committees be allocated in accordance with political balance as shown in appendix A. 2 That any changes to nominees be notified to the Democratic Services Manager as soon as possible

Council is requested to approve the updated Code of Corporate Governance for adoption as part of the Council's Constitution. This was agreed The changes were many and mostly minor and included training needs, transparency and stakeholder management, the report was approved

That Claire Blanchard be appointed to the Governance and Audit Committee until 30th April 2026

Notice of motion concerning the use of medicinal cannabis

The council resolved to

Flintshire County Council resolves to: Ensure all council premises have a safe indoor space for CBPM users in accordance with the Equality Act, and that neither council employees nor visitors are discriminated against; Ensure all Flintshire licensees are aware of CBPMs and their legal status; Provide training to relevant officers on CBPMs, how they differ from illegal cannabis, and how to

avoid discrimination under the Equality Act; Ensure that proposed by-laws to reduce smoking and nicotine-vaping near schools and public places are drafted in a way as not to inadvertently preclude use of CBPMs; Ensure that ongoing and future Equality Impact Assessments consider CBPM users; Write to the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner of North Wales Police to determine what information or training is given to police officers to ensure they are aware of the legality of CBPMs:

The chair of the council held a charity event locally and raised a considerable amount.

In general, there is a more communicative atmosphere in the chamber which is an improvement on recent meetings.

Local Matters Assisting residents with housing issues, including blocked drains and damaged fences and missed bin collections