

**THE REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 5th AUGUST 2025**

LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 5th AUGUST 2025.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Foster, Chairman (in the Chair),
Councillors M. Brown, J. Caruana, S. Owen, L.C. Richardson, J.E. Saul, G. Sherwood, M. Thomas and R. Thomas.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council and Mrs Sharon Roberts a resident of the Community.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors J. Atkinson, A. Bond, R. Hughes and D. Rule.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

40. MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 24th June 2025 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor L.C. Richardson and seconded by Councillor J. Caruana that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors who had been present at that meeting were in agreement.

41. POLICE LIAISON

It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk should write to the South Flintshire Inspector and request the contact details for the PCSOs that covered Leeswood and Pontblyddyn. The Clerk is also to request a report of current criminal activity in the Community.

42. CEMETERY

- i) Clay Store – the establishment of the clay store has now been completed.
- ii) Tidy up piece of grassed area at the end of the road – this work has now been completed.
- iii) Path from corner of the road into the Cemetery – a site meeting with Mr Aled Davies had taken place at the Cemetery on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 6.30pm. A vote on the acceptance of the quotation for this work had taken place through email contact between the Councillors and Clerk. Councillor J.E. Saul queried this and requested to know if the majority vote was achieved as per the quorate of this Council. The Clerk confirmed that this majority as per the quorate of the Council had been achieved in the acceptance of the quotation from Mr Aled Davies of £2,969 + VAT. Councillors J.

Atkinson and L.C. Richardson asked why this was being questioned and pointed out that they had responded to the Clerk's correspondence relating to this matter.

iv) Fence repairs at the top of Plot 6 – the Clerk advised that Mr Aled Davies and his team had now undertaken this work.

v) Tree removal at the Churchyard – the dangerous tree that required immediate attention in the Churchyard has now been removed by Mr Aled Davies and his team.

43. LEESWOOD ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that there were a number of interested individuals who wished to rent the vacant allotment plots. A meeting between Mr Bryn Williams, the landowner and the Clerk was to take place the following week if convenient.

44. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) A541 Pontblyddyn and Pontblyddyn Crossroads and Village – Councillor J.E. Saul reported that he has replied to the e-mail from Mr Lee Shone, Transport Strategy Manager, Streetscene & Transportation, Flintshire County Council, which had been brought to the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2025. All Councillors thanked Councillor Saul for his work on this matter.

b) Water coming down the lane next to Prince of Wales, Leeswood – Mrs Sharon Roberts was in attendance, she advised that she had received no update on the situation in regard to the running water coming down the lane next to the Prince of Wales. Mrs Roberts told Members that Flintshire County Council had conducted further investigations, and the Water Board was now to come out and investigate. She pointed out that winter was approaching and it seemed that this issue had now been going on for so long with nothing being done to improve the situation. Councillors agreed that this was unacceptable. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Ian Williams of Streetscene, Flintshire County Council and he had once again confirmed that this was now with the estates department who dealt with land drainage and Streetscene would be working in partnership with them. Further, the Clerk advised that following her reaching out to Ms Becky Gittins MP, Ms Hannah Blythyn MS and Ms Carolyn Thomas MS on behalf of this Council no satisfactory response had been received other than Ms Carolyn Thomas MS directly contacting relevant Officers at Flintshire County Council. Councillor G. Sherwood proposed that National Resources Wales could be asked to investigate this issue. This was seconded by Councillor J. Caruana with all Councillors in agreement. The Clerk was to email Ms Carolyn Thomas MS and request an update.

c) Water running across the road from Bryn-y-Ffynnon Farm, Leeswood – Mr Ian Williams of Streetscene had advised that all drainage investigations had now been completed.

d) Stryt Cae Rhedyn/Bryn Estyn, Leeswood – Mr Ian Williams of Streetscene had advised that all drainage investigations had now been completed.

e) Big dip in the left-hand lane of the highway in the area of the bridge as you approach the Pontblyddyn Crossroads from the Penyffordd direction – Mr Ian Williams of Streetscene had informed that resurfacing on this bridge was to take place.

f) Erosion of the road on both sides on Dingle Road, Leeswood – Councillors advised that no work on this road had been carried out. No information has been received relating to the progress on this matter.

g) Phoenix Park, Leeswood – Mr Ian Williams of Streetscene had reported that work on Phoenix Park had taken place, and a route cutter had been used.

On all items listed above, a site meeting between Mr Ian Williams of Streetscene, Flintshire County Council and the Chairman also Vice-Chairman of this Council was to be arranged by the Clerk.

45. SCOTTISH POWER – EXIT FROM INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MARKET

Following an inspection of the streetlights. Councillor G. Sherwood advised that this Council had fourteen non-LED remaining. The schedule had been forwarded to the Clerk. It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk look at the invoices from Flintshire County Council to establish the cost of replacement from sodium to LED and calculate the total cost for the remaining streetlights to be converted.

46. MILLENNIUM CLOCK AND TOWER, BELL’S CORNER, LEESWOOD

The Clerk advised that Smith of Derby had been out for their annual service of the Millennium Clock. She also informed that Smith of Derby had been told that an electrician had been out to fix the light.

The tree on Bell’s Corner near the Millennium Clock has still not been attended to. The Clerk has now approached Mr Aled Davies of Aled Davies Agricultural Contracting Ltd requesting him to attend the site and assess whether he and his team were able to cut back the tree.

47. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – COMMUNITY REVIEW 2025

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence and supplementary notice received from Lynn Phillips, Team Leader – Democratic Services, Electoral Services, Flintshire County Council, advising that the County Council is currently reviewing community areas and community electoral arrangements in the County. This review aims to ensure the electoral arrangements for each town or community council provide effective and convenient local government. A review of community areas includes proposals for alterations of boundaries between community council areas, amalgamating two or more community council areas into one, or separating an existing community council area into two or more. A review of community electoral arrangements includes proposals to review ward boundaries within a community council area, the warding of a previously unwarded community council area, the de-warding of a community council area currently separated into

wards and changes to councillor numbers. Before formulating draft proposals, the Council is inviting people to submit comments. Representations should be made no later than Tuesday, 30 September 2025.

48. WELSH GOVERNMENT – DIGITAL HEALTH OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Members had been circulated with a copy of a report on the digital health of town and community councils issued by the Welsh Government. Also circulated was a written statement from Jane Bryant MS, Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government.

49. NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Andy Roberts, Regional Strategic Development Planning Officer, Ambition North Wales. In his e-mail Mr Roberts explains that the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) is a regional government body established to improve economic well-being through enhanced collaboration and strategic planning across North Wales. It brings together six Local Authorities and the Snowdonia National Park Authority to address key regional priorities. The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee has agreed to adopt the brand of Ambition North Wales. CJC's were established following the implementation of Regulations by Welsh Government in April 2021 and have two statutory duties, to: Prepare a Strategic Development Plan and Prepare a Regional Transport Plan. In addition, CJC's have a non-statutory duty, to enhance and promote the economic well-being of their area. Since 2019 Ambition North Wales has been delivering the North Wales Growth Deal - a £1 billion investment to the region's economy, £240m of which is funded by the Welsh Government and UK Government. Now, with its added responsibilities as a CJC, Ambition North Wales has produced a Regional Transport Plan covering the period 2025-30, which is in the final stages of approval. The CJC is now beginning work on the third element of its remit, production of a **Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for North Wales**. The first stage in this process is for the CJC to prepare a **Delivery Agreement** for the SDP. This has two main parts to it: a Statement of Community Involvement which sets how the plan will be produced and who will be involved and how; and a detailed timetable that sets out how long it will take to prepare the plan, following all of the stages set out in Welsh Government regulations and guidance. Welsh Government has identified types of consultees in the Strategic Development Plan Regulations who the CJC should attempt to engage with, **and your organisation is one of those consultees**. A request was being made that this Council considers engaging in the forthcoming SDP process starting with the Delivery Agreement.

Councillor G. Sherwood pointed out that once the Flintshire LDP has expired, there will be a change to the Strategic Development Plan and an LDP lite for Flintshire. This Strategic Development Plan is to cover bigger developments and be more generalised.

Councillor J.E. Saul referred to the Flintshire local flood risk management strategy 2025 and urged Councillors to undertake the questionnaire. The link is available on this Council's website.

50. ONE VOICE WALES PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT NOTE – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES: TIMETABLE OF ACTIONS

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from David Collins, Governance and Policy Practice Development Officer, One Voice Wales. Also circulated is a copy of the Practice Development Note: Members' Allowances: Timetable of Actions.

51. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PLANTERS

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Harry Owen, Nature Recovery Project Officer, Access and Natural Environment, Planning, Environment and Economy, Flintshire County Council. In this e-mail Mr Owen advises that he is making contacting from the Biodiversity team at Flintshire County Council. Flintshire County Council are taking action for pollinators across the County. The County Council want to support pollinating species in towns and communities by helping to create pollinator friendly planters and they have grant funding to help do this.

52. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

a) Free transport on school bus to Castell Alun High School, Hope – Councillor M. Thomas advised on the difficulty of obtaining free transport on the school bus to Castell Alun High School, Hope because as per Flintshire County Council, the child was not attending the nearest appropriate High School which in this case is the Alun School, Mold. The Clerk pointed out that there had been issues over a number of years regarding the 'nearest appropriate High School' and when this was first established there had been a clear cut off point which was the Leeswood Community Centre. It seemed to change year on year and despite the reasoning that it was distance this seemed to be false as neither of the High Schools had moved. All Councillors agreed that the Clerk should email Flintshire County Council in support of the child being given free School transport to the High School of their choice.

b) Flintshire County Council, plans for new Catholic School – Councillor J.E. Saul informed that as part of the Flintshire County Council's school modernisation programme, investment has been identified in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham and Welsh Government with the proposal being to amalgamate several schools and create a new a school. This latest proposal seeks to close St Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Saltney, St David's Catholic Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, both located in Flint and open a new 3-18 all through Catholic school. Following an assessment of all existing sites, the proposed new school will be developed on the

existing sites of St Richard Gwyn and St Mary's in Flint. Councillor Saul expressed great concern that very young children within our Community/locality would be bussed to a 'Super School' many miles away from their homes. All Councillors agreed that this was a matter of concern for the parents of children of Primary School age and would support that St. David's Catholic Primary School in Mold remained open.

c) Closing of public toilets located at Mold Bus Station – Councillor M. Brown brought it to the Council's attention that Flintshire County Council plan to close the public toilets at Mold Bus Station on 8th September 2025 unless a viable alternative is found. All Councillors expressed their objection to this as public toilets are vital to those who visit towns. It was proposed by Councillor G. Sherwood and seconded by Councillor J. Caruana that a letter be sent to Flintshire County Council objecting to the closure of the Mold Bus Station toilets. All Councillors in agreement.

d) Asset Manager/Cemetery Manager software – Councillor G. Sherwood reported that he had attended the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference held on 2nd July 2025. There was some information about Asset Manager and Cemetery Manager software which he believed would be of interest to this Council. This would be put on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Community Council.

53. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Payee	Detail	Net	VAT	Total
Miss M Reynolds	Salary – July 2025	£1,034.41	£0.00	£1,034.41
Aled Davies Agricultural	To cut Church grounds and remove dangerous tree.	£1,735.00	£347.00	£2,082.00
Aled Davies Agricultural	To excavate and build Clay Store	£980.00	£196.00	£1,176.00
Aled Davies Agricultural	Woodchip path in Cemetery extension	£2,969.00	£593.80	£3,562.80
Aled Davies Agricultural	To remove clay from fence, erect fence and supply new posts	£420.00	£84.00	£504.00
Aled Davies Agricultural	June Cemetery maintenance + posts and chain + top soil	£1,764.00	£352.80	£2,116.80
Aled Davies Agricultural	July Cemetery maintenance + Allotments grass cutting	£1,306.00	£261.20	£1,567.20
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting – monthly inspections April to June 2025	£274.98	£55.00	£329.98
Scottish Power	Street lighting energy – paid by DD	£1,336.79	£66.84	£1,403.63
Viking Direct	Stationery	£249.07	£37.35	£286.42
	Totals: -	£12,069.25	£1,993.99	£14,063.54

54. **BANK BALANCES**

At 29th June 2025 - deposit account - £62,393.86 and current account - £32,505.77.