

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



**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 6th MAY 2025**

LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI A PONTBLYDDYN

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 6th MAY 2025.

PRESENT

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

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council and Mrs S. Roberts - member of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors A. Bond, R. Hughes, S. Owen and M. Thomas.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 1st April 2025 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor G. Sherwood and seconded by Councillor L.C. Richardson that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

12. 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.

13. CEMETERY

a) Cemetery Extension

The Clerk advised that there would be further re-seeding on the new extension, following this the grave markers would be put in place.

b) Cemetery

The Clerk reported that the residents of the Community were very pleased with the condition of the Cemetery. However, the dog fouling incidences remained in spite of a notice being put up stating 'No Dogs Allowed'. A suggestion was made to install CCTV cameras on site, but Councillors pointed out that this would need to be monitored on a full-time basis. It was agreed by all Councillors that Mr Aled Davies and his team be asked to monitor the Cemetery for dog fouling when on site.

14. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) A541 Pontblyddyn and Pontblyddyn Crossroads and Village – e-mail correspondence addressed to Councillor J.E. Saul had been received from Mr Lee Shone, Transport Strategy Manager, Streetscene & Transportation, Flintshire County Council. In His e-mail, Mr Shone stated that he would like to clarify that the previous response (from Mr Stanford) was not intended as a casual analysis, but rather an explanation based on the application of assessment process utilised by the Welsh Government for the purpose of grant allocation. The information provided followed a review in accordance with Welsh Government guidance, which determines funding eligibility for local road safety schemes. Figures shared in this previous response reflect data officially recorded by the police and are consistent for determining intervention. Whilst it is accepted in broader commentary that not all incidents are captured within this dataset, it remains the primary accepted basis for scheme assessment and funding application/location. To ensure consistency and fairness across all locations in the County, the same process is applied uniformly. In regard to the rise in collision numbers referenced by Councillor J.E. Saul, it is important to note that none of the data periods reviewed, when compared to other locations across the county, met the criteria required to support a funding application. As such, Pontblyddyn cannot be prioritised ahead of sites with higher recorded personal injury collisions. Regarding the Hollybush Junction improvements, Mr Shone stated that he would reiterate that the scheme was developed and funded under the Local Transport Fund programme, aimed specifically at improving journey time reliability on strategic public transport routes. While they are aware that Pontblyddyn is situated on a bus route, this alone does not determine eligibility for that funding stream. In relation to the existing speed camera and lane modifications previously introduced outside the village, these measures were implemented following a distinct set of safety concerns and proven collision history involving multiple fatalities. The solution in that location was targeted and evidenced, based on specific site conditions and outcomes, and is not directly transferrable to other nearby areas without a supporting evidence base. On the subject of the new 20mph legislation, the reduced limit has only recently come into effect, and its long-term impact will be reviewed in due course. As enforcement responsibility rests with North Wales Police and GoSafe, Flintshire County Council continue to work in partnership with them to monitor compliance and support any action they deem appropriate. Finally, regarding Councillor J.E. Saul's request for comparative route analysis — Mr Shone will review what current, relevant data is available for dissemination in line with Council protocols and Data agreement (in relation to Collision data) and provide this in due course, where appropriate.

Councillor J.E. Saul advised that he would reply to this e-mail. All Councillors thanked Councillor Saul for his work on this matter.

b) Water coming down the lane next to Prince of Wales, Leeswood – Mrs S. Roberts, a resident of Parc Derwen, Leeswood attended the meeting and presented a petition which had 450 signatures. The Chairman, Councillor D. Foster accepted the petition, and the Clerk would forward this to Ms Katie Wilby, Head of Streetscene & Transportation, Flintshire County Council. Mrs Roberts informed that the water issue at its extent now had started from November 2023 and was related to a pipe that runs down the side of the Prince of Wales. She further advised that she had contacted Becky Gittins MP about this matter. Councillor R. Thomas suggested that this Council also approach Hannah Blythyn MS and Carolyn Thomas MS regarding this issue. All Councillors agreed. The Clerk advised that she would e-mail Ms Katie Wilby and copy in Land and Estates at Flintshire County Council, the Member of Parliament and two Senedd Members. Councillors expressed their concern at the length of time this matter had been going on for.

c) Water running across the road from Bryn-y-Ffynnon Farm, Leeswood – no further information had been received relating to this issue.

d) Stryt Cae Rhedyn/Bryn Estyn, Leeswood – no further information had been received relating to the issue of the broken drain in the area of Bryn Brith on Stryt Cae Rhedyn, Leeswood.

e) Potholes in the Community – these were still being worked on by Flintshire County Council.

f) 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 – no information has been received as to whether this issue has been attended to by Flintshire County Council.

g) Dog Bin, outside Wylfa Farm, Leeswood – this was still awaiting repair.

h) Erosion of the road on both sides on Dingle Road, Leeswood – Councillors advised that no work on this road had been carried out.

i) Phoenix Park, Leeswood – no further information had been received relating to this issue.

15. 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.

16. MILLENNIUM CLOCK AND TOWER, BELL'S CORNER, LEESWOOD

Councillor J.E. Saul advised that Mega Electrical would attend site to inspect the light on the Millennium Clock.

The tree on Bell's Corner near the Millennium Clock had not been attended to.

17. REINDEER LODGE, BLACK MEADOWS, LEESWOOD

Councillor G. Sherwood advised that he had been unable to inspect the public footpaths in this area. All Councillors agreed that this item be put on the Agenda for the next monthly meeting of this Council.

18. COMMUNITY FESTIVE LIGHTS

Councillor J.E. Saul advised that the cost of adding fixtures and fittings to lamp posts would be in the region of £500. The purchase of additional festive lights would take the cost over £1,000. All Councillors agreed that it would be nice to extend the festive lights display but the cost is prohibitive.

19. VE80 – CENOTAPH, LEESWOOD – 8TH MAY 2025

A short service of Remembrance has been organised by Miss Cheryl Francis. This is to take place on Thursday 8th May 2025 at the Cenotaph, Leeswood at 3.30pm. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Miss Francis for organising this.

20. ONE VOICE WALES – INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER

Members had been circulated e-mail correspondence from Tracy Gilmartin, Office Manager, One Voice Wales. One Voice Wales currently has a vacancy for an independent Member to sit on their Audit Committee. This independent Member should be from one of their member Councils but should not currently sit on the National Executive Committee. The Audit Committee performs an important role in preserving the internal control environment of One Voice Wales. It is responsible for scrutinising their financial, audit and risk related activities. Key attributes include financial awareness including ability to read and understand accounts and financial reports, understanding of sound corporate governance, the ability to question and scrutinise constructively and an independent mind. Nominations should be forwarded to Paul Egan by 30th May 2025. This correspondence was accepted.

21. RED CROSS SOCIETY – FREE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Elin Evans, Community Education Co-Ordinator – North Wales, British Red Cross. In her e-mail Ms Evans explains that her role is to deliver (free) educational workshops to people of all ages across North Wales. She was able to find our email address via Flintshire County Council's 'Town and Community Council's Information' webpage, and her aim is to get as many adults, young people and children here in North Wales willing, able, and confident to help in a First Aid Emergency– which includes doing CPR and using a defibrillator. The e-mail goes on to say that Ms Evans is in touch to discuss the possibility of working with us to spread the word to our communities that she is available to deliver First Aid sessions, which includes the use of a defibrillator and doing chest compressions, and she wondered whether this would be of interest to us. Ms Evans would need an 'event organiser' to help her decide on a suitable venue in our

communities, a date and time, and to ensure that there would be between 5-15 people for the workshop. If more people express an interest, she could of course deliver more workshops to ensure that the people who want to learn are able to do so.

More information can be found on their website here: <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/community-education-workshops/first-aid-workshop-for-adults> and you may use this link to book a workshop: <https://outlook.office365.com/book/CommunityEducationNorthWales@brcsbrms.onmicrosoft.com/> (kindly select 'Adult's First Aid over 19 years, and scroll down a little to view my online calendar). Please note, the calendar only shows my availability between 9am-5pm, for workshops outside this time, please get in touch with me to arrange.

Councillors agreed that this may be an event to hold when the Sunshine Café was open. The Clerk is to forward the e-mail to Mr Rob Jackson.

22. ONE VOICE WALES/SLCC EVENT – ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales. One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) are arranging a remote joint event to be held on Wednesday 14th May 2025. This event is an especially important one for Councils given that it focuses on the ethical frameworks in England and Wales covering the following subject areas:

- Gain insights into civility, respect, and ethical standards in local councils
- Hear from legal experts, policy leaders, and council representatives
- Understand the role of monitoring officers and standards committees
- Learn about the impact of poor ethical behaviour on democracy
- Engage in discussions on tackling bullying and harassment

There will be speakers from the office of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Welsh Government, Monitoring Officers and from One Voice Wales and the SLCC. The cost to book a place is £65 plus VAT and the event is open to councillors and clerks. Mr Cadwallader concludes by stating that he would strongly encourage the council to take up this opportunity and subscribe to the event which he feels certain will enlighten all in attendance on the latest developments affecting the sector in relation to ethical frameworks. This correspondence was accepted.

23. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SUMMER YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Claire Morter, Education Practitioner, Flintshire Sorted – Young People's Drug & Alcohol Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council. In her e-mail Ms Morter explains that she offers information, education and support on substances and risk-taking behaviour

in Flintshire High Schools. She goes on to say that summer is fast approaching, and she is looking to plan some summer fun in the field's sessions, in the local area during the summer holidays and thought that **Phoenix Park** might be a good location to run free activities for young people. The fun in the field event's will be an open access for young people of high school age to attend and take part in engaging activities like football 1v1 inflatable panna cage tournaments, inflatable shoot out, street golf, rounders, cricket, badminton, crafts and more. They will also be offering food and refreshment to all the young people who attend. This event will be a multi-agency event and supported by NWP.

Inflatables and Stadia provide young people with a safe and accessible place to go that is a credible alternative to Crime and misusing substances.

Flintshire Sorted provides Young People with positive diversionary activities that allow them to explore their interests; raise aspirations, learn new skills, and socialise which aims to offer young people the opportunity gain drug education and information whilst also understanding the impact of ASB within the community.

The Clerk was to contact Ms Morter and inform that it would be necessary to contact Flintshire County Council regarding activities on Phoenix Park, Leeswood.

24. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Payee	Detail	Net	VAT	Total
Miss M Reynolds	Salary – April 2025	£1,034.41	£0.00	£1,034.41
Miss M Reynolds	Stationery	£48.84	£9.78	£58.62
Aled Davies Agricultural	Cemetery maintenance – March 2025	£626.00	£125.20	£751.20
Aled Davies Agricultural	Cemetery maintenance – April 2025	£806.00	£161.20	£967.20
Scottish Power	Street lighting – electricity	£1,322.10	£66.11	£1,388.21
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting – maintenance	£247.98	£55.00	£329.98
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance	Insurance 2025/2026	£1,428.17	£0.00	£1,428.17
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreaths VE80	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00
	Totals:-	£5,573.50	£417.29	£6,017.79

25. **BANK BALANCES**

At 28th February 2025 - deposit account - £62,874.26 and current account - £27,821.72.