

CYNGOR CYMUNED YSCEIFIOG
YSCEIFIOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local Government and Elections

(Wales) Act 2021 (Section 52)

Annual Report

Year Ending 31st March 2023

The Council

Community Councils were established under the local Government Act 1972 replacing the previous system of Parish Councils.

The Council is a rural community with its boundaries abutting Caerwys Town Council, Brynford, Halkyn, and Nannerch Community Councils, the most populated communities being Lixwm and Ysceifiog. The number of persons listed on the current Register of Electors is 1048.

The Council normally meets on the third Monday of the calendar month commencing at 7.30pm with a recess during August and December alternating between Berthen Chapel, Lixwm and Ysceifiog Village Hall. Access for members of the public and press to attend these meetings remotely was maintained. All future meetings of the Council will be hybrid enabling members of the public to join remotely. On occasions non-scheduled meetings are required to deal with an issue that may require an immediate response. All such meetings are advertised within the statutory period.

The meeting agendas and minutes are displayed on the Council's six public notice boards 3 days prior to a meeting and draft minute posted on the Council Website (www.ysceifiog.org.uk) one week after the meeting. At the beginning of each Council meeting members of the public present are invited to address the meeting. Should any members of the public wish to attend the meeting virtually, they are asked please to contact the Clerk giving three days' notice.

Complaints

During the reporting year there were no complaints made against the Council, to either the Flintshire Standards Committee or the Wales Public Services Ombudsman.

Councillors

During the reporting year there were ten Members of the Community Council, with Councillor Nester M. Davies being appointed as Chairman and Councillor Ann Rowlands being appointed as vice Chairman.

Following the Town and Community Council elections in Wales held in May 2022, six candidates completed their nomination papers. Following the display of vacancy public notices, three residents have been co-opted to the Council. Currently the Council has one vacancy.

Councillor Names and Contact Details

Councillor Claire Caldwell*	Mobile 07817653890
Councillor John I. Davies	Telephone 01352 741843
Councillor Nesta M. Davies	Telephone 01352 741597
Councillor Phillip R. Griffiths	Telephone 01352 781188
Councillor Isobel Kendrick	Telephone 01352 780076
Councillor Andrew Parsley	Mobile 07810894171
Councillor David J. Rees*	Telephone 01352721067
Councillor Ann Rowlands	Mobile 07824447584
Councillor Abby Weatherall*	Mobile 07979885984

(*Denotes Co-opted Members)

Freedom of Information Act

During the reporting year one Freedom of Information request was received.

Representation on Committees and Outside Bodies

Each municipal year the Council appoint Members to represent the Council on committees and outside bodies. Following the retirement and appointment of new Members the appointed list for the year 2022/23 has been amended. The following list is the current list as appointed in May 2022.

Aberdo Quarry Liaison Committee	Councillor J. I. Davies
Flintshire County Council Local Access Forum	Councillor A. Rowlands
Flintshire County Council Forum	Councillor N. Davies, & P. Griffiths
Halkyn Common Joint Consultative Board	Councillor N. Davies
Lixwm C.P. School Governors	Councillor A. Rowlands
North Wales Police	Councillor D. Rees
One Voice Wales	Councillor C. Caldwell & P. Griffiths
Pant-Y-Pwll Dwr Quarry Liaison Committee	Councillor J. I. Davies
Parochial and Planning Committee	All Members of the Council
West Flintshire Town & Community Council's Working Group	Councillor A. Parsley & Councillor A. Weatherall

Contacting the Council

Contact details for the Clerk and Financial Officer to Ysceifiog Community Council.

Alan Roberts,

Crecas Cottage, Carmel Hill, Pantasaph, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 8NZ

Telephone: 01352 349849

E-mail: clerk@ysceifiog.org.uk

Web site: www.ysceifiog.org.uk

Council Objectives (2022 / 2023)

During the reporting year the key objectives of the Council were:

- **Wellbeing:**
- To continue supporting community groups and schemes which provide support and facilities for residents within the community.
- Financial support of £2,000 provided to Ysceifiog Village Hall for essential building repairs.
- Support of Children's Summer Playscheme providing 3 weeks of free access supervised play opportunities for Children aged 5-12 at Lixwm play area. Contribution of £1,540.
- Upgrading of Children's equipped play areas. Participating in Flintshire County Council match funding programme to improve existing play facilities. Contribution of £5,000.
- Providing financial support for the annual Christmas Lunch Club for the senior citizens of the community. Grant of £700.
- **Environment:**
- Completion of program to upgrade all amenity street lighting maintained by the Council to LED's reducing energy usage and future energy usage by 50%.
- Providing support for environmental projects such as the creation and maintenance of an orchard at Lixwm. Village gardening clubs at Lixwm and Ysceifiog.
- Collaborating with the Ramblers Association, and Flintshire County Council, Rights of Way Department, to improve and maintain the public footpaths network within the community.
- **Community**
- Provision of illuminated Christmas tree at Lixwm. £830.

Council Objectives – 2023-2024

For the ensuing municipal year, the Council will continue to make the following priorities.

- To continue collaborating with community groups on environmental improvement projects.
- To work with Flintshire County Council, Highway Department to introduce traffic calming measures along Lixwm village road.
- To provide match funding working with Aura Leisure, Flintshire County Council for improvements to Children’s fixed play areas.
- To provide financial support for Open Access Playscheme delivered by Flintshire County Council.
- Working with Flintshire County Council, Streetscene Services to undertake and complete (deferred due to Covid 19 pandemic) the inspection for BS7671 amenity street lighting safety audit.
- To provide a housing unit for a portable defibrillator for the community of Ysceifiog.
- To provide and trial another solar amenity streetlight.
- Environmental (Wales Act) 2016 (S6) All Public Authorities in Wales are required to prepare and publish a biodiversity plan. The Council adopted its plan in September 2023
- Expenditure for the above objectives and projects has been budgeted within the Council budget for the year 2022/23.

Financial:

- ❖ **Asset Register**

The Council is required to maintain an up-to-date asset register for all the assets in the ownership of the Council. The asset register is submitted to the Councils Internal and External Auditor each fiscal year. The value of total assets held by the Council is £105,479. A copy of the register can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

❖ **Council Budget**

Ysceifiog Community Council precept for the fiscal year 2022/2023 was £28,621.00. The precept is levied on all residential properties in the community which equates to a figure of £41.58 per household on a Band D property. The County of Flintshire has 34 Town and Community Councils: the average Band D property being £49.02.

There are 688 Band D residential properties within the community area of Ysceifiog, as notified by Flintshire County Council – as of January 2022. The Band D precept for the Community Council area of Ysceifiog equates to the following: -

- Flintshire County Council £1,449.58
- Police and Crime Commissioner £316.80
- Ysceifiog Community Council £41.58

Total £1,807.96

The Ysceifiog Community Council precept for the fiscal year 2023/24 is £30,767. This equates to a figure of £44.74 per household on Band D property.

❖ **Financial Assistance**

Ysceifiog Community Council has powers to award grants for financial assistance in accordance with Section 137 (Local Government Act 1972) and other National and Wales Acts. Each fiscal year the Council makes a budgetary allocation within its budget for this purpose.

The Council considers grant applications received to support work of its local groups, organizations, charities, and community facilities which benefit residents of the community.

During the reporting year Ysceifiog Community Council granted several applications for financial assistance, which amounted to £1,400.00 under Section 137 and £4,686 under other powers.

❖ **Members Allowance**

Payments (Allowances) to Members of Ysceifiog Community Council - 2022/23. In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, Community Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their Members by the 30th of September following the fiscal year end, to which the payment relates.

In accordance with the regulation requirements the information was sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and posted on the Council's web site at: www.ysceifiog.org.uk

❖ **Publication of Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2022/23**

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulation 2014 (as Amended) requires that by the 30th of September 2023, Ysceifiog Community Council publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 together with any certificate, opinion, or report issued, given, or made by the Auditor General.

The Community and Town Council in Wales – Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023, has been submitted to Wales Audit on the 28th of June 2023. A copy of the Annual Return was subsequently published on the Council's notice boards and web site at: www.ysceifiog.org.uk .

Following the completion of the audit, the certificate and other documents have been posted on the Council's web site.

Environmental (Wales Act) 2016 (S6)

In the 2022 Annual Report the Council advised that: -

Whilst the Council is aware of the above Act and the requirements for Public Authority in Wales to prepare and publish a biodiversity plan. The Council has not completed or adopted its draft plan for this reporting year. However, the Council continues to work within the remit of the act

and has made it an objective to adopt and publish the plan this ensuing year. The Council adopted a plan in September 2023. A copy of which can be viewed on the Council website.

Flintshire County Council

In 2014 Ysceifiog Community Council agreed to adopt the following: A Shared Community – Charter between Flintshire County Council and the 34 Town and Community Councils in the County. Two representatives appointed each year together with the Clerk attend the County Forum meetings normally held twice a year. For the reporting year only one meeting has taken place. The Council has requested that the agreed schedule number of meetings be rescheduled as soon as possible.

❖ Planning Applications

Flintshire County Council is the Planning Authority and has the responsibility for making final decisions on planning applications. However, Ysceifiog Community Council is a statutory consultee and as such is invited to make observations on all planning applications made within its community. Observations made by the Council follow the current Planning Authority policy and guidelines.

All applications received and considered by the Council are recorded in the monthly meeting minutes of the Council copies of which are posted on the Council web site: www.ysceifiog.org.uk

❖ Street Lighting

The street lighting in Ysceifiog Community Council area is maintained jointly by Flintshire County Council and the Community Council. Whilst the County Council maintains the majority being metal columns located in residential estates. The Community Council currently maintains fifty-two lighting units. These units are located on existing power telegraph poles.

During recent years, the Council has upgraded these units to LED's improving lighting quality, reducing energy usage, and maintenance costs.

Lighting equipment faults can be reported to the Clerk of the Council or Flintshire County Council: 01352 701234

streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk

Training Plans

Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Section 67- all Town & Community Councils in Wales are required to produce a training plan for Councillor's and their employees, by the 5th of November 2022. The Council considered a training plan and policy, formally adopting it in January 2023.

This End of Year Report was adopted by Ysceifiog Community Council on Monday 20th November 2023 under minute number 91/23 and will be reviewed in November of each year, or prior, if required.