

CYNGOR TREF CAERWYS

CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL



Local Government and Elections

(Wales) Act 2021 (Section 52)

Annual Report

Year ending 31st March, 2022

The Council

Community Councils were established under the Local Government Act 1972 and replaced the previous system of Parish Councils. There are over 730 Town & Community Councils in Wales, with over 8,000 Councillors.

The administrative area of Caerwys Town Council reaches the village of Afonwen, part of Babell, Pen Y Cefn and Caerwys Town itself. The population of the area is 1,003 (January 2022 Register of Electors).

During the reporting year all Council meetings have been held remotely due to the pandemic. Members of the community and press were able to connect. Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month (no meetings held in August and December) and commence at 7.30pm. From September, 2022 – meetings will re-commence in the Caerwys Memorial Institute. These meetings will be hybrid. Non-scheduled meetings are also held in an emergency or possibly in relation to an urgent planning application – especially during the months of December and August. These meetings will be publicly advertised.

The agenda for the meetings are advertised locally including the Council's web site a few days prior to the meeting. Residents of the community are welcome to address the Council Members for a reasonable period of time, generally at the commencement of the meeting, by providing three days notice. Should any resident wish to attend a meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Council.

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 eleven Members of the Caerwys Town Council, with Councillor Steve Wilson as Chair (Mayor) and Councillor Susan Broadaway as Vice Chair

(Deputy Mayor). Councillors' Howard R. Griffiths, Carole A. Harris, Michael W. Moriarty, Helen L. Priestley, Carole Stephenson and Steve Wilson did not seek re-election in May 2022. The majority of Councillors were long serving and committed to the Council area. Sadly Carole Stephenson passed away one month following her retirement from the Council.

Following the Town & Community Council elections in Wales held in May of this year, six candidates completed their nomination papers. Following the display of public notices, three residents have been co-opted to the Council. The Council have two vacancies.

Councillor names and contact details

Councillor Susan A. Broadaway (Ind) Telephone 01352 – 720897	Councillor Gwen Jones 01352 – 720886
Councillor Steve Copple (Ind) Telephone 01352 – 720876	Councillor Jayne Morris Telephone: 01352 – 721331
Councillor Andy Delooze * 07831 – 444848	Councillor Lesley Roberts * 07368 – 501456
Councillor Jonathan E. Duggan-Keen (Ind) Telephone 01352 – 720477	Councillor Judith Standing * 01352 – 720669
Councillor Lynette Edwards (Ind) Telephone 01352 – 720531	(Ind) – Independent (*Co-opted Members)

Freedom of Information Act

During this reporting year one Freedom of Information requests were received. The full information requested was provided within the required timescale.

Local Committees and Outside Bodies

Following the Welsh Town & Community Councils elections in May of this year, the Council Members who serve on Local Committees and Outside Bodies during 2021 / 2022 have changed from this reporting year. The following list is current to-date for year 2022 / 2023.

Name of Organisation	Councillor Representative
Caerwys Memorial Institute Management Committee	Councillors' Lesley Roberts & Judith Standing
Caerwys Town Hall Trustees	Councillor Andy Delooze
Flintshire County Council – Forum	Councillors' Susan Broadaway & Andy Delooze

FLUSH Committee (Public Conveniences)	Councillor Lynette M. Edwards
North Wales Association of Town and Larger Councils	Councillor Lynette M. Edwards
North Wales Police (Flintshire - Police and Community Consultative Group / Neighbourhood Watch)	Councillors' Susan Broadaway & Jonathan E. Duggan-Keen
Planning Sub Committee	All Members of the Council
West Flintshire Town & Community Working Group	Councillor Steve Cople
Ysgol Yr Esgob Caerwys - Governing Body	Councillor Gwen Jones

Contacting the Council

Contact details for the Clerk and Financial Officer to Caerwys Town Council

R. Phillip Parry, Ty Cornel, 51, St. Michael's Drive, CAERWYS, Flintshire, CH7 5BS.	Tel: 01352 720547 E-mail: town-clerk@caerwys.com Web site: www.caerwys-town.wales
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Council's objectives (2021 / 2022)

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

- Environmental:
 - Contract with the former Chair of Caerwys In Bloom, to improve and maintain the area of the Town Square and surrounding streets and play area.
 - Purchase of new wooden planters - installed in the Town Square at a cost of £1,024.00
 - Provision of extra flowers in both the planters and around the tree base
- Town Square:
 - To continue with the bus shelter cleaning
 - Painting of the Town Square bollards
 - Theme painting on the bus shelter (Christmas, Easter and Queen's Jubilee)

- To continue to fund the Christmas lights
- To discuss with Flintshire County Council repairs / resurfacing of the area
- Following the pandemic to arrange the annual litter pick. New hand held litter pickers and hi viz jackets purchased
- Installation of new solar lantern – Marian to Institute Walkway, at a cost of £660.00
- The re-commencement of the Children’s Summer Play Scheme. This was organised by Flintshire County Council, with the cost to the Town Council £1,428.00
- Providing financial assistance to the two meeting places in Caerwys; Town Hall £2,000.00 – for general running expenses and the Memoria Institute £1,776.00 - towards the installation of a new kitchen.
- Public conveniences – proving supplies and products for maintenance and upkeep, at a cost of £579.00
- Completion of new Town Council web site
- HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee:
 - Provided funding of £2,000.00 towards the historic celebrations in Caerwys
 - Commencement of a project to commemorate the Jubilee – to install a wooden harp, bench seating and planting of two trees and Queen’s Canopy plaque in an area adjacent to the B5122 road (entering Caerwys from the A55 area)
 - Planting of Queen’s Commemorative tree and plaque in Afonwen

Council’s objectives - 2022 / 2023

During the 2022 / 2023 financial year, the Council have agreed the following priorities:

- ❖ To continue with the environmental projects
- ❖ To continue to enhance the Town Square and surrounding areas
- ❖ To further discuss with Flintshire County Highways improvements to the Town Square road surface.
- ❖ The completion of the project to install pavements and other road safety improvements for pedestrians, together with the slowing of traffic on the B5122 road through the Town
- ❖ To fund weekly outdoor activity sessions for the youth of the Town on a trial basis with Aura Leisure (Flintshire County Council). If successful, to consider an annual service level agreement
- ❖ Multi Use Games Area: Match funding with Aura Leisure (Flintshire County Council) for repairs / upgrade, at a cost of £3,945.00

- ❖ To re-issue Work Orders to Flintshire Street Lighting (not completed due to the pandemic) for BS7671 street lantern inspections at a cost of £1,616.00 / removal of a wooden box from lantern pole in Town Square £80.45.
- ❖ To set up a sub-committee with a remit to enhance the Christmas lighting in the Town Square and immediate area
- ❖ Ear-marked funds towards the provision of: Town Mayor's name board; projector and screen equipment; IT courses and purchase of equipment for use by the community

(Funding for the above projects will be utilised from the annual precept and reserves)

Financial

Asset Register

The value of the Town Council's asset register totals £87,347.00. A copy of the register can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

Council budget

The Caerwys Town Council precept for the financial year 2021 / 2022 was £38,000.00. This amount is precept on residential properties within the community, and equates to a figure of £58.34p per household on a Band D property. There are 34 Town and

Community Councils in the County of Flintshire; with the highest being £75.40p. There are 651 Band D household properties within the Caerwys Community area - as at January

2021. The Band D household precept for the Caerwys Town Council area, is made up as follows:

- Flintshire County Council £1,394.50
- Police & Crime Commissioner £305.55
- Caerwys Town Council £58.34

Total £ 1,758.39

The Caerwys Town Council precept for the financial year 2022 / 2023 is £39,100.00. This amount is precept on residential properties within the community, and equates to a figure of £58.33p per household on a Band D property.

Financial Assistance

Each year, Caerwys Town Council considers requests for financial assistance to support the work of its local groups, organisations and charities. Grants are specifically made by

the Council in the interest of its local area and its residents. The Council allocates grants for financial assistance from the annual precept, in accordance with Section 137 (Local Government Act 1972) and other National and Wales Government Acts.

During the reporting year the Town Council granted a number of applications for financial assistance, which totalled: £3,025.00 under Section 137 and £5,777.00 under various Local Government Acts.

Members Allowance

Payments (Allowances) to Members of Caerwys Town Council - 2021 / 2022. In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, Community and Town Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their Members by 30th September following the end of the year to which the payment relates. The information must also be sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPFW) by the same date.

Caerwys Town Council provided this information to the (IRPFW) on 29th June, 2022, and was uploaded to the Council's web site at: www.caerwys-town.wales (public notices and financial).

Publication of audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2022, Caerwys Town 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 & Town Councils in Wales – Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2022, has been submitted to Wales Audit on the 9th June, 2022. A copy of the Annual Return was subsequently published on the Council's notice boards and web site at: www.caerwys-town.wales (public notices and financial). Following audit, the certificate and other documents will be uploaded to the web page.

Environmental (Wales Act) 2016 (S6)

Under the above Act a Public Authority in Wales must prepare and publish a biodiversity plan. Whilst the Town Council adopted a draft plan, the Council are working with Flintshire County Council, who are delivering a number of biodiversity projects across the County. This Council's biodiversity plan will be updated later this year and thereafter published.

Flintshire County Council

In 2014 the Town Council agreed to adopt the following: A Shared Community – Charter between Flintshire County Council and Town & Community Councils in the County. Two Councillors and the Clerk to the Council attend County Forum meetings, which are generally held twice a year, together with representatives from all 34 Town & Community Councils in Flintshire. During the pandemic these meetings have been suspended. It is hoped that the County will arrange a meeting before the end of 2022.

Planning Applications

The Town Council is not a planning authority and as such does not make final decisions on planning applications; this is the responsibility of Flintshire County Council. However, the Community Council is a statutory consultee and as such receives all planning

applications relating to the community. The Community Council do make their respective comments and suggestions on all planning applications, including requesting site meetings.

Details of the planning applications that this Council made comment upon, can be found in the monthly meeting minutes – on the following web site: www.caerwys-town.wales (minutes of meetings).

Street Lighting

The street lighting in the Caerwys Town Council area is administered jointly between the Town Council and Flintshire County Council. Whilst the majority of the street lights on the adopted housing estate roads are the responsibility of Flintshire County Council, the street lighting, generally sited on roadside wooden poles, are the responsibility of the Town Council.

To report a Town Council faulty street light, please contact the Clerk. Contact details for Flintshire County Council: 01352 701234, or e-mail the Street Scene Department on:

streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk or by completing an on-line form at:

www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Streetscene/Street-lighting.aspx

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 Councillors and Clerk, by the 5th November, 2022. This is in progress

This End of Year Report was adopted by Caerwys Town Council on Tuesday 27th September under minute number: 7(E). 189/22 - and will be reviewed in October of each year, or prior, if necessary.