

MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd OF JUNE 2014 AT 7 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MERCIA DRIVE, MYNYDD ISA.

PRESENT:

Councillor R Marsh (Chair)

Councillor M Jones

Councillor H McGuill

Councillor J Taylor

Councillor D Jenkins

Councillor Bragg

Councillor F Hadfield-Jones

Councillor C L W Bull

In attendance:

Mr R Hampson-Jones (Clerk)

1.017/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The following apologies were received:

Councillor C Stubbings, Councillor J Norwood

Absent: None

2.018/14 Use of recording Equipment

The Chair asked that all recording equipment and mobile phones to be switched off with the exception of the recording equipment used by the Clerk

3.019/14 Co-Option of Members

NONE

4.020/14 Standing Orders- Declarations of Interest.

None

5.021/14 Approval of Accounts for Payment

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Accounts for Payments May

Zurich Insurance	Insurance premium	£1673.96
Redbud Landscapes	Invoices 43-46	£ 720.00
EUK Host	Web Hosting Fee	£ 95.90
JDH Business Services	Internal Audit	£ 311.04
BT	Telephone & Internet	<u>£ 63.81</u>
	Total	<u>£2864.71</u>

Resolved: The payments were approved and signed by The Chair and Vice Chair

Quote:

CANDA Copying New quote for updated copier

Ricoh Aficio MPC 2003SP Digital Colour Copier 5 year Rental £124.17 per quarter

Copies Black @ 0.49p per copy Colour 4.57p Colour.

Resolved: The Clerk is to request another quote from a different source.

Statements of Accounts Copies of the Statements of Accounts have been presented to Council for approval.

Resolved: The Clerk is to forward the Statement of Accounts once reviewed by Cllr Bragg and the Chair.

Bank Mandates

The Clerk requested that the bank mandates should be updated

Resolved: The Chair Councillor Marsh and Councillor Jenkins should sign the mandates

6.022/14 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th of May 2014

Resolved: Minutes approved and accepted by the Council

7.023/14 Chair's Report

Chairman's Report May

1. The Post Office was due to open on the 9th of June it was then delayed until the 27th and later on the facility had been withdrawn.
Resolved: The Council will continue to review the situation and will provide support where necessary
2. SLCC conference was attended by the Clerk and The Chair of the Council and a report has been provided.(see Appendix C)
3. Application for the Best Kept Community has been submitted and planting of boxes is being carried this week.
4. Internal Audit has been carried and some comments made and has been signed off the report to be reviewed as mentioned under financial matters.
5. The Clerk was requested to contact E.G.Booker regarding a fallen tree on his land that could be suitable for the quarry as a natural play equipment.
Cllrs McGuill and Jones raised objections.
6. Residents of the new Brighton ward have approached the Council complaining about the seat at New Brighton and have presented a petition to the Clerk with 22 signatures complaining about the seat.
Resolved: The council had listened to the residents before the meeting and agreed that the matter will be reviewed in six months.
7. The Council has received a complaint from the residents of Rockcliffe House in the quarry which was presented to the amenities committee in May.
Resolved: The Clerk and the Vice Chair will draft a letter of reply to the residents.
8. Two letters have been sent one to Clwyd Health Council and one to Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board. Complaining about the closure of the surgery.. A letter has been sent to Cllr Attridge deputy leader of Flintshire CC regarding the path on Bryn Road towards the Argoed School.
Cllr McGuill requestedcopies of the letters.

- Diary Items.**
- a) County Forum June 12th Clerk to attend with Chair or Vice Chair
 - b) Flintshire CC Civic service 29th June Chair will attend
 - c) Connah's Quay Town Council Civic service 22nd June Chair will attend.
 - d) LDP meeting Wednesday 11th June at 7:30pm
 - e) Amenities Meeting Wednesday 18th June 6.00pm

Correspondence:

HSBC Bank Account Closure of Business account

Resolved: With mandates signed the Clerk is close the account

Unison Trade Dispute **Received**

B.R.A.N.D LDP Candidate Sites **Received**

NB Residents Petition of 22 residents **Received**

A presentation was given to Council before the meeting

Flintshire CC Match Funding Play areas **Received**

Clerk Informed Council that a match Funding amount of £5000 has been agreed.

The Ombudman Complaint Residents Rockliffe House

See Chairmans report point 7 **Received**

Argoed Sports Association Lease of garage **Received**

The Clerk and Vice-Chair to review.

Flintshire CC Re-location of Bus stop **Received**

Resolved: No action should be taken and members do not favour any Match funding.

9.024/14 Notice of Motions

The Council to consider having a meeting with the manager of the doctor's surgery regarding its future plans and the service to be provided to the community. **Cllr Jenkins**

The members felt that the current situation with the surgery was unacceptable with patients having to read on the door when the surgery is to be open. One member commented that the service was of a third world quality. The council felt that continuity was required even if the surgery was only open for two days a week. How patients were expected to get to the new surgery was also of concern especially if they are young old or disabled or unable to drive as no bus route goes past the new site. It was suggested that the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair should arrange a meeting with the practice manager as soon as possible.

Resolved: The Clerk to arrange a meeting with the practice manager.

10.025/14 PLANNING DECISIONS

See Appendix A for current outstanding items

11.026/14 REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

12.027/14 COMMITTEES. GROUPS

See Appendix B

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm

APPENDIX A Argoed Community Council
 Planning Applications May 2014

Application ref:	051424	
Application date	13/11/2013	
Location	Rock Bank Main Road New Brighton	
Development	Construction of 13 detached Houses and associated works	
Council's Decision	Objection	
Council's Comments	Objection on grounds of potential traffic problems, lack of amenities in the area and safety issues	
FCC Decision	no decision	
BY:		
Date		
Application ref:	051901	015983
Application date	18/03/2014	22/04/2014
Location	Tyddyn Wood Mold CH7 6TA	77 Park Avenue Mynydd Isa CH7 6XR
Development	Erection of 1st Floor bedroom Extension	Erection of single storey extension
Council's Decision	No Objection	No Objection
Council's Comments	No Objection	No Objection
Closing Date	08/04/2014	13/05/2014
FCC Decision	Approved	
BY:	Delegated Officer	
Date	09/05/2014	Target 04/06/2014

APPENDIX B**Minutes of Amenities Committee held on Wednesday at 6.00 pm
21st May 2014 at the Community Centre Mercia Square, Mynydd Isa.**

PRESENT.

Committee Members: Cllr R W Marsh, Cllr Norwood, Cllr D Jenkins, Cllr C Bull
Cllr McGuill

In attendance: Clerk Rhodri Hampson-Jones

Apologies: Cllr Taylor

Absent: None

Declaration of interests: none

Recording of Minutes: Committee members were advised that the minutes were not being recorded.

Minutes for April 16th were accepted by Committee**Planning of Planting out of plants For Competition**

Planting out would be done once all planters have been emptied. There is additional work in clearing old planters at the Bonc and Wylfa Hill as well as filling four additional planters outside Sainsbury's. Some concern was expressed at the progress but it was pointed out that Northop was in a similar situation. The Clerk stated that once the planters are emptied and are ready to be filled the plants will be ordered by the contractor. It was agreed that the contractor should carry on as instructed.

Planters: The Clerk informed the committee that two residents of New Brighton had approached him complaining about the new planter seat. He explained that Councillors had carried out a survey and there was support for having a seat and as a compromise the Council had decided to have a planter/seat. The committee felt that the planter should be reviewed once the plants are put in and the reaction is not a fair one until then.

Bryn Y Baal Quarry

The Chair of Committee had analysed initial costing and anticipated that the wetland area will cost approximately £200. He is trying to negotiate with Welsh Water to have a stand pipe facility in the quarry otherwise there would be a fee of £750.

A Councillor offered some purlin wood which could be used to create 2 solid benches in the quarry.

The Clerk had identified a fallen tree which would be suitable in the Quarry. The Committee asked him to contact the land owner.

The Clerk is to re-establish contact with the probation service in Wrexham to see if they could offer some help with the quarry and possibly clean up the remembrance garden.

The Chair stated that once plans of the development have been drawn up the residents around the quarry will be notified.

The Clerk was asked to talk to Flintshire CC regarding the surround in the square. Bughouses and bird boxes Cllr McGuill was unable to contact the scoutmaster and asked if the Clerk could write to him. She also informed the committee that free

pallets were available from a warehouse in Mold. A member said he would investigate and contact the Clerk.

Residents' letter to Ombudsman A letter from the ombudsman had been received detailing a complaint received by them from the residents of Rockliffe house. The complaint was mainly about lack of communication between the Council and the residents.

Recommendation: that a letter to the residents should be drafted by the Clerk and the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Next Meeting: 18th June

Meeting Terminated: 7:20 pm

Report of the SLCC & OVW Conference in Llandudno 15th May 2014

Dr Helen Patersons Chief executive of the County Borough of Wrexham and Chair of the National Assets Working group. She presented an informative talk about the transfer of assets from unitary authorities to community councils. Some members were concerned that the councils who were transferring assets to community councils felt that not enough information had been given to them, this prompted a response that they probably didn't have the information the community council wanted to carry out a "due Diligence".

Vicky Jacomb gave a presentation about insurances relating to implications to councils.

Huw Vaughan Thomas the Auditor general Wales gave a presentation on the effective financial governance of Community Councils. He stated that the audit regime is going to change in 2015/16 to improve the performance of councils in delivering their audit on time. Most of the problems seem to lay in South Wales.

Lyn Cadwallader presented an outline on the future of local authorities in Wales and how One Voice Wales provides support to individual councils when it is required. This support has been prevalent in the "asset dumping" by unitary authorities.

Question Time: The Auditor General was asked could he provide support where unitary authorities were unable or unwilling to provide sufficient information to carry out a due diligence. After two minutes his answer was no.

Afternoon Workshops

There were Four workshops the Chair went to the Devolution of Services workshop and the Clerk went to the Audit workshop

Devolution of services

This workshop talked about the unitary authorities devolving services to community councils. The found the seminar useful and he was able to participate calling on his experience in relation to the Daniel Owen Centre.

The Assets normally devolved are Community Centres, Parks, Leisure centres and toilets.

The workshop covered the pitfalls and the agendas of the unitary authorities. There were cases where no figures were available to assess the financial risk and what effect it would have on the communities' precept.

Audit Workshop

Internal Audit is changing in that Councils will dictate what audit should take place. The Clerk is surprised at this as hardly a councillor or clerk in the seminar understood principles of accounting or bookkeeping. Some questions asked were very basic. However the changes in 2015/16 are not frightening however the Clerk believes that the timing could be changed in relation to year end.