

MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2020 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MERCIA DRIVE, MYNYDD ISA.

Representatives:

New Brighton Ward

Councillor J McCarron (Chair)

Councillor G K Mutch

Councillor R Marsh

Argoed Ward

Councillor J Holiday

Councillor I Jolly

Councillor H McGuill

Councillor Miriam Shepherd

Councillor Faron Hadfield-Jones

In attendance: Clerk Rhodri Hampson-Jones, Assistant Clerk Mared Eastwood

Annual General Meeting

13.Apologies

Received from Cllr B Clarke, Cllr A Henry, Cllr R Blanchard

Cllr J Taylor and Cllr J Norwood have resigned their positions.

14.Election of Chairman 2020/21

In light of the current Coronavirus situation, the current chair, Cllr J McCarron has expressed an interest in carrying on and the current vice-chair, Cllr I Jolly has also agreed to retain his current position. It is proposed that the current incumbents hold their positions.

Resolved: That Cllr J McCarron be elected as Chair for the municipal year 2020/21.

15.Chair's Report

The council as a whole seems to have done well again this year. We've received good feedback about the plants that have just gone in an, with regard to the defibrillators, we're just waiting for the second box to be installed at The Griffin.

With regard to Covid-19, we have coped well with the restrictive measures that we've had to accommodate and I thank you all for your support.

16.Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved: That Cllr I Jolly is elected as Vice-chair for the municipal year 2020/21.

17.Code of Conduct

This was last reviewed in 2018 and there is no change to it.

Resolved : The Code of Conduct is accepted

18.Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Due to social distancing restrictions, appropriate steps will be taken to have these signed, in accordance with social distancing restrictions, as soon as possible.

19.Chairman's Allowance

Resolved: It was agreed to maintain the Chairman's allowance at the same level of £1,250.

20.Councillor's Remuneration Fees

The Assistant Clerk will distribute forms to members and ask how they wish the allowance to be paid/not paid/distributed.

21.Appointment of Members to serve on Council committees and groups

Resolved: That the current status quo is retained and the representatives on each committee/group stay as they are.

That, given we are now 2 further members down, the vacancies continue to be advertised.

22.Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Resolved: To check the standing orders in relation to Flintshire County Council Standards Committee.

Member representatives remain the same for 2020/21

23.Standing Orders

It was noted that there have been no changes to the Standing Orders

24.Declaration of interests to be signed

Cllr F Hadfield-Jones declared a personal interest in agenda item 13(b) and did not vote on this item.

The Clerk and the Chair thanked Cllr Hadfield-Jones for the enormous amount of time he has given to the Council in setting up computers and video links to enable the council to meet through the use of a video link.

25.Financial Matters

Resolved:

a. The following accounts for 2019/20 were approved:

Argoed Community Council		April 2019 to	March 2020	
Acc	Description	Amount`	Budget	
3200	PRECEPT	74651	74651	0
3500	other income	1150		1150
3998	Interest received	40.52		40.52
		75841.52	74651	1191
4100	Wages	21691.37	20391.84	-1300
4103	Staff Employer's NIC& Pension	4014.74	7106.34	3091.6
4105	Staff Training	484.2	100	-384.2
		26190.31	27598.18	1408
5010	Community Caretaking	9972.5	10000	27.5
5100	Rent	1025.2	1500	474.8
5101	Lighting energy	1413.57	1700	286.43
5103	Lighting repairs	7187.93	8750	1562.1
5200	councillors' Allowance	2340	2750	410
5220	Travel and Conference	82	0	-82
5222	COUNCILLORS TRAINING	180	700	520
5250	Grants s137	2000	2600	600
5300	Audit	250	600	350
5302	legal &Professional Fees	529.31	800	270.69
5310	Photocopying	475.92	550	74.08
5311	Printing and Stationery	119.5	200	80.5
5320	Insurances	1694.03	1700	5.97
5321	Telephone	401.92	500	98.08

5322	Internet Charges	444.55	500	55.45
5390	Other Administration costs	524.62	0	-524.6
5500	Christmas tree and Lights	2160	1800	-360
5501	PLANTING	1089.45	1200	110.55
5510	Playscheme	1100	2000	900
5530	Other Maintenance costs	1057.2	500	-557.2
5591	PROJECTS	5580		-5580
5592	PLAY AREAs	5000	5000	0
5593	CCTV	1000	400	-600
	ARGOED REACREATIONAL			
6980	CHARITY	5087.42	5000	-87.42
7360	Bank Interest Payable	30		-30
		50745.12	48750	-1995
	Net Income/(Expenditure)	-1093.91	-1697.18	603.3

b. The following accounts for payments April and May 2020 were approved:

Salary costs April and May 2020		£4,027.64	
Evergreen Northop	Moles at Y Bonc	£125.00	
Snapfast lighting assets		£837.98	
Amberol Hanging Baskets – New Brighton		£517.75	
Amazon	2 laptops	£805.98	
Michelle Jones	Community Gardener	£1750.00	
Follyfields plants and hanging baskets		£1520.35	
Kaspersky (paid by clerk)		£39.99	
FHJ Computer Support	Setting up remote accessing.	£420.00	
Flintshire County Council	Electricity	£186.66	
Zurich Insurance		£1,700.85	
	Total Payments	£11,932.20	

It was noted that the costs of the community gardener included the work done this year in the Quarry, that the laptops were for the positions of Chair and Vice-chair, to be returned to the Council when they vacated those positions.

8 new hanging baskets have been bought for New Brighton but, due to the varying sizes of the lampposts, new brackets will need to be bought.

It was also noted that the community gardener will also be undertaking the watering of the new baskets, as they possess the necessary health and safety qualification.

It was suggested that as Y Bonc is currently closed due to coronavirus, the Council should consider refurbishing the sponge flooring now. A quote of £18,000 to resurface the black areas within Y Bonc has recently been received. Mold Recreational Charity ("MRC") currently has a balance of £15,000 and just needs the balance of £3,000 for this work to go ahead now.

Resolved: That the work to resurface the black sponge areas in Y Bonc be commissioned now. That the balance required of £3,000 be obtained from reserves, to be paid back into reserves over the next few years by way of a reduced contribution to ARC.

Meeting concluded 19.15pm

Next meeting to be held 7 July 2020

12. Chairman's Report.

- a) The clerk has declared that he wishes to resign on the 30th of September.
- b) Summer Playscheme may start again at a charge of £871.64 10x2 hour sessions i.e £43.58 per hour.

13. Notices of Motion

The Council to consider a block speed limit of 20 mph for the Argoed community as a Safe routes to school project.

The Council to consider a freedom of information request from Welsh Water in regard to sewage process along Bryn Road and Llewellyn Drive.

14. Representative's Report.

Cllr M Shephard will give a verbal report of the North Wales Wildlife Trust

15. Committee and group reports

a) Minutes of Amenities Committee.

Minutes of Amenities Committee remote meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 6pm.

PRESENT.

Committee Members: Cllr I Jolly, Cllr K Mutch, Cllr J Holiday.

In attendance: Clerk Rhodri Hampson-Jones; Assistant Clerk Mared Eastwood

8. Apologies: Cllr J McCarron, Cllr R Marsh, Cllr B Clarke, Cllr M
Shepherd

9. Declaration of interests

None.

10. Update on Gardening Contract

Michelle Jones has been unable to access the meeting, so the Clerk gave an update. Generally everything is ok, with plants being potted up in New Brighton also. There is still a couple of baskets to go up, but we are still awaiting brackets for them. The grass in the Square has also been cut, to help showcase the basket display. The shrubs around the community centre have been pruned, it is for StreetScene now to clear the waste, which has been left by the salt bin.

Generally commented that the planters and baskets are looking good.

With regard to the memorial garden, the Assistant Clerk advised that the arranged visit with the Burial Manager at FCC to discover the options for the garden has had to be postponed as FCC are restricting site visits. It is expected that this will be continued when the lock-down restrictions are eased.

11. Wats Dyke Park Update

More development is due for this year and the next phase should complete the provision of adult equipment. It has been noticed that the dog signs are facing the wrong way around and Cllr K Mutch will take responsibility for rectifying this.

12. Y Bonc Park

Clerk is to get a third quote in for the planned refurbishment works.

13. New Brighton Update

Assistant Clerk advised that s106 had been used and that equipment that was coming to end of life has been replaced, with a new individual roundabout added. This completes the work that is currently planned for the park. Other projects for the s106 money include a new dog-walking area, which will border the football pitch and a replacement fence behind the goal posts, which borders the carpark.

14. Letter to Rockcliffe

A letter has been drafted, which is now ready to go. Whereas the owners of Rockcliffe claim it is their gate, we have evidence that Argoed Community Council paid for it with a grant. The land registry plans need to be updated however, to include the two parcels of land which appear to be unregistered.

The wildlife plants that have been granted are due to be planted soon, with a meeting with Keep Wales Tidy arranged for 1 July 2020. Cllr K Mutch to join Cllr I Jolly and Cllr M Shepherd with the Assistant Clerk on the Quarry Working Group. It was noted that the Quarry needs to retain the appearance and physical characteristics of a meadow.

Recommended: **That we get the land not currently registered in our name to be registered in our name.**

15. Speed Limit for Villages

We have reviewed traffic speeds recently in light of requests for pedestrian crossings on Park Avenue as a lot of children cross that road on their way to school. It is noted that the average speed was 29 mph. At Sandycroft they have a limit of 20 mph and this would increase road safety in our area if Mynydd Isa was to have the same.

In addition, with lockdown it has been noticed that more children have been cycling on the roads, which have been quieter. A reduction of speed limit may build on these good habits and encourage children to use their bikes more.

Recommended: Find the requirements/criteria for getting a speed limit reduced.

16. Sewage plans for Llywellyn Drive

The current works do not appear in MacBryde's planning application and neither FCC Planning nor Welsh Water knew anything about them either. The planning conditions do stipulate that the new development needs to connect to the sewer system by way of Llys Gwynant and that the pumping station must also be upgraded. No homes may be occupied until this work has been completed.

There are concerns that the connection they are currently doing will exacerbate the problems already being experienced by properties on Llywellyn Drive with raw sewage coming through the garden manholes if there is a blockage at all.

Welsh Water has referenced two letters but are unwilling to provide copies, citing data protection.

Recommended: **That FCC be approached, to get copies of the two letters referenced by Welsh Water.**

Get an analysis of the S104 (connection to the existing sewers) relating to the planning application.

For the Council to consider a FOI request to Welsh Water to be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting

Meeting ended 7.15pm

Next meeting due to be held 15.07.2020

b) Notes of the HR Group

Meeting of the HR group 24th June 2020 regarding the situation of post Covid 19 and the effective working of the staff .

In attendance: cllrs McCarron, Jolly, Marsh, Hadfield-Jones and Mutch

The Clerk notified the group that he wishes to resign on the 30th of September and agreed with members that he will provide support in choosing a replacement Clerk.

The following procedures have been agreed in relation to the operational procedure for the office.

1. As staff are office based the staff should return to work in the office at the community centre adopting the Covid 19 distance ruling from the 29th of June. It has been agreed that the Clerk should attend the offices on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week and The assistant Clerk to work her hours on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Home working is no longer available.
2. A record of hours worked should be kept in the form of a time sheet and retained by the Clerk for reference.
3. Should the Assistant be required to attend a meeting at County Hall she should inform the Clerk and arrange to make up the time.
4. The Clerk will in future maintain the minutes of meetings releasing the Assistant to concentrate on other matters of the council but should be available to act in the absence of the Clerk.
5. Holiday records are to be maintained and kept by the Clerk and adequate time should be given in booking holidays.
6. The Clerk will on occasions be working out of hours and should adjust his office hours accordingly.
7. Any matters that requires the Clerk's or the assistant Clerk's attention should be added to the white board in the office stating the task to be completed.
8. At the beginning of lockdown you indicated that you would concentrate on raising policies for the council I would appreciate a list of the policies raised and copies of them so that I could distribute with the Agenda next week.

These matters were discussed so that the group has an understanding of the procedures relating to the working of the office since having two staff members.

