



## MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A REMOTE MEETING ON TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021.

### Representatives:

#### **New Brighton Ward**

Councillor J McCarron (Chair)  
Councillor B Clarke  
Councillor GK Mutch

#### **Argoed Ward**

Councillor I Jolly (Vice-chair)  
Councillor J Holiday  
Councillor H McGuill  
Councillor Miriam Shepherd  
Councillor F Hadfield-Jones

**In attendance:** Clerk - Mared Eastwood, Janet Jones – Assistant Clerk

1. Apologies

Received from Councillor R Marsh, Councillor J Norwood, Councillor R Blanchard

2. Declaration of Interests

Personal interest in relation to the Councillor Allowances within the proposed budget.

3. Accounting Systems

Clerk advised that there are two methods of accounting that may be used when producing the annual return. The previous Clerk preferred the income and expenditure method whereas the receipts and payments method is the preferred option for the current Clerk. Both systems are acceptable and the Assistant Clerk also has experience with the receipts and payments method.

**Resolved: That the receipts and payments method of accounting be used going forward.**

4. IT update in the office

Clerk advised that a desktop processor within the office has become unreliable and needs replacing. A bigger screen is needed for the Assistant Clerk, to improve accessibility.

**Resolved: That a new desktop be purchased as per the link already sent to the Clerk and a new screen be purchased also.**

5. Precept

Clerk set out the options for the precept budget as per the documents that had been emailed previously.

**Resolved:** The Precept budget was agreed as per option 4, below, and that the precept is kept at £79768 with a reduction in reserves to £22,800 to accommodate this.

<b>Precept Breakdown 2021/22</b>				
<b>Detail</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Estimated</b>	<b>2020/21 Budget</b>	<b>Officer Rec</b>
Wages and Salaries	24880.51	20215	24050	23150
Staff Training	424.2	0	300	300
Payroll	0	176	0	150
Staff Expenses	0	0	300	150
Councillor Allowances	3350	1825	3350	3350
Councillor Training	180	0	300	300
Councillor Travel and Conference	82	0	400	200
Audit fee	600	760	600	800
Insurance and Data Protection	1694.03	1740.85	2200	2200
Legal and professional fees	501.31	420	673	1000
Gardening Contractors	9437.50	15310	12075	13500
Planting	1089.45	1595.24	2000	1750
Plant containers	0	599.04	0	3500
Hire of meeting room	1205.2	1500	1500	1750
Telephone and internet	813.34	1124.5	1000	1200
Photocopying	522.82	529.88	550	550
Printing, stationery and office equipment	242.95	1305	600	1000
Subscriptions	0	173	0	240
CCTV	1400	720	1400	5045
Playscheme	2200	1743.28	1500	2000
Christmas Tree and Lights	2160	3162	5000	5000
Fireworks	0	0	1000	750
ARC	5087.42	12608	5000	0
Play areas	10000	5000	10000	5000
Other maintenance costs	179.20	467.89	500	500
Poppies for lampposts/poppy wreaths	0	53.97	0	220
S137 Grants	2000	2000	3000	3000
Street lighting energy	1413.57	1026.6	1700	1700
Street lighting inspection and maintenance	500	501.15	500	2200
Street lighting upgrade	6489.61	5027.88	6500	5050
<b>Totals</b>	<b>76453.11</b>	<b>79584.28</b>	<b>85998</b>	<b>85555</b>

Meeting ended 8.35pm