



MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A REMOTE MEETING ON TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021.

Representatives:

New Brighton Ward

Councillor GK Mutch
Councillor B Clark
Councillor J McCarron
Councillor R Marsh
Councillor M Bradley

Argoed Ward

Councillor I Jolly (Chair)
Councillor J Holiday
Councillor H McGuill
Councillor M Shepherd

In attendance: Clerk Mared Eastwood, Assistant Clerk Janet Jones

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr J Morris, Cllr F Hadfield-Jones

2. Co-option of Members

The applications of a resident to be co-opted onto the Council was considered. The applicant left the meeting after his statements was read out and was invited back to the meeting to hear the decision that had been reached.

Resolved: To welcome Mr Gwilym Owen and to co-opt him onto Argoed Community Council. Clerk to arrange a suitable time and date for him to meet and sign the acceptance of office.

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Standing Orders

The proposed changes to the standing orders, which will accommodate the hybrid meetings required going forward were considered.

Resolved: To adopt the proposed changes.

5. Chair's Report

Cllr I Jolly advised on the installation of the dog waste bin at Bryn-y-Baal Quarry, which appears to have been well received by the community. Due to its popularity, the collections have been moved from a fortnightly to a weekly basis. In addition, the new mole man has managed to catch the mole, hopefully it is just the one that has been causing the mole hills at the Bonc.

6. Clerk's Report

Clerk advised that this agenda item will replace the former action tracking. Work that has been undertaken by the Clerk's office since the last meeting include moles at Y Bonc, wasps at Y Bonc, the ongoing insurance claim, Microsoft licences, meetings with gardening contractors, installation of hanging baskets at New Brighton, consultation on

wildflowers behind Elite Studios, consultation on proposed new school, advice given on defibrillators, review of ASA garage licence, FOI request.

7. Financial Matters

Payments for authority to pay:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
14001453	Plantscape	Window boxes	329.76	pd
132198481	KSN	LG Monitor	127.99	pd
M1277S	BT	Telephone and Internet (July)	93.96	dd
20877	Amberol	Brackets for additional hanging baskets	63.36	pd
M128BE	BT	Telephone and internet (August)	93.96	dd
02b2ed32095b	ICO	Data protection fee	40.00	
426905	Canda Copying	Colour photocopying	42.05	pd
426904	Canda Copying	B+W photocopying	106.38	pd
E0600F9LHT	Microsoft	Office 365 Business Standard (July)	11.28	dd
E0600F9XUL	Microsoft	Office 365 Business Basic (July)	64.75	dd
E0600FLWWL	Microsoft	Office 365 Business Basic (August)	11.28	dd
E0600FLNSM	Microsoft	Office 365 Business Basic (August)	62.97	dd
	SLCC	Annual membership fee	166.00	
	ProVision Lighting	Street lamps (July)	418.99	so
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TX095502	Flintshire County Council	Street lighting monthly inspections April-June	264.58	

Resolved: a) All payments were noted and approved for payment.

Prospective costs of Mega for doing maintenance work at New Brighton Christmas Tree and the letter cage were noted.

b) The salary and other employment costs were noted.

c) The receipt of the second instalment of precept (£26589.23) was noted.

d) The bank balances were noted.

e) Clerk advised that if Councillors do not give an alternative instruction by 17 September 2021, their allowances will be paid to them directly in full.

f) Cllr H McGuill and Cllr K Mutch confirmed that they have scrutinised the accounts, with no major issues found. Suggestion has been made regarding referencing invoices, which has been enacted by the Clerk already.

8. To approve the Minutes of meeting held on 6 July 2021

Resolved: Minutes of meeting dated 6 July 2021 were approved.

9. Notices of Motion

Cllr Keith Mutch expanded on his notice of motion, advising that he rides his bike around the village and is often nearly knocked off by drivers parked on Mercia Drive opening car doors. This is particularly frustrating given the proximity of the carpark. Parking on the road in this way creates congestion and cars are often parked across the dropped kerb. In order to stop this parking, his notice of motion is to ask for double yellow lines on Mercia Drive in the vicinity of Sainsburys.

There was a general discussion around the issue, which was agreed to be a problem. Cllr H McGuill suggested an amendment that an H box be painted next to the dropped kerb, to facilitate accessibility.

Resolved: In favour of the amendment and that an H box is requested to be painted by the dropped kerb.

Cllr J McCarron expanded on his notice of motion advising that, in light of the recent claim, it may be prudent to create signage for our publicly used spaces to warn residents that paths may be uneven/ungritted etc and that they are to proceed at their own risk. Clerk advised that no sign will exclude liability if personal injury is caused by negligence.

Resolved: Signs to be procured.

Cllr I Jolly expanded on his notice of motion by saying that the Bonc was given under the Enclosures Act and includes the access road, which leads to the rear of the Bonc and to the dog-walking area. Both the neighbouring properties have been sold now and we need to write to them to ensure they are aware of the Council's ownership of the access road.

Resolved: To instruct solicitors to write to them on our behalf and assist with the registration of the outstanding pieces of land at the Bonc (and the Quarry).

Cllr I Jolly expanded on his notice of motion by suggesting that 'Argoed.gov.uk' be registered as a domain name. It is much shorter than 'Argoedcommunitycouncil.gov.uk' and may encourage people to use it more. Initial enquires have been made to see whether 'Argoed.cov.uk' may be registered and the cost involved.

Resolved: The link sent by HCI Data to be distributed amongst members and this item brought back at the next meeting.

10. Climate Change

Cllr M Shepherd requested an update as to what the Council is doing with regard to climate change. Clerk and Assistant Clerk advised that the old, wooden community planters are being replaced in a rolling programme by containers made from recycled plastic and which have a water reservoir, to help conserve water. Successfully campaigned to be part of the 20mph pilot scheme. The new school will be carbon neutral and active travel is being reviewed, to encourage more walking and cycling to school. More wildflowers and trees are to be planted. Initiatives which could be considered are solar powered street lights, solar panels for the Mynydd Isa Community Centre roof, appointment of an energy champion, encouragement of shopping local, effective waste management, encourage more recycling.

Resolved: Ask for community feedback about the potential provision of allotments and/or raised beds to grow vegetables.

11. New Brighton Directional Signs

Clerk advised that costs have been received for some directional signs in New Brighton. The installation costs are fixed, regardless of which signs are installed, but two options have been given - Ardal Hamdden/Recreation Area or Ardal Hamdden Pentre Cythraul/New Brighton Recreation Area. New Brighton Community Centre and New Brighton Bowling Club have said that they will each contribute £300 and are requesting match-funding from Argoed Community Council. Their preferred option is to have Pentre Cythraul/New Brighton on the signs, at a total cost of just under £1,020.

There followed a general discussion around the need for the signs and their placement.

Resolved: Clerk to advise that Argoed Community Council will match-fund £300 and procure the signs. Match-funding will increase to £340 is New Brighton Community Centre and New Brighton Bowling Club will increase their contributions to this amount also, thereby allowing the full cost of the preferred option to be covered.

12. Poppies

Clerk advised that the Council needs to advise Streetscene when the poppies are to be put up and taken down and which lampposts will be used, to obtain their formal consent. Agreement also needs to be reached on how many wreaths are to be displayed this year.

Resolved: Poppies to be displayed on the lampposts for the month of November. Cllr I Jolly to assist the Clerk in deciding which lampposts are to be used but to focus on Chambers Lane, Mercia Drive, Mold Road, Bryn Road and Moel Fammau Road.

Three wreaths to be available this year – for Mynydd Isa, New Brighton and Mold.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions

General consideration of planning applications 063343, 063219 and 063287.

Resolved: No objection to 063343, subject to there being sufficient parking facilities within the curtilage of the property.

No objection to 063219 or to 063287.

14. Representative's Report

PCSO Ryan Thomas reported prior to the meeting commencing as follows:

Whilst there have been issues, this summer has been better with regard to ASB reports, compared to previous years. There is someone racing through the village, with no helmet, and any further information that residents can give in respect of this will be welcome.

Cllr H McGuill reported that some residents are experiencing problems accessing 101, with one resident waiting in excess of 2 hours. PCSO Ryan Thomas explained that if the call-handler is very busy, they can't forward the call straight away. However, one notified, the PCSO will respond as soon as possible, the time it takes will depend on what they are doing when the call comes through and where they are. He said the police preferred residents to use Live Chat rather than 101. Cllr H McGuill asked how long before they contacted officers if residents use this service as she believed it could end up just being a recording system and not an action one. PCSO Ryan Thomas will

check the process if webchat is used and report back to Council and he'll raise the 2 hour wait as an issue on 101.

PCSO Ryan Thomas reported that there have been complaints of speeding from New Brighton to Mold Road via Chambers Lane. He will go with the speed gun and will also get GoSafe involved.

Cllr J Holiday commented that hazardous parking on Park Avenue and other areas continues to be a problem. PCSO Ryan Thomas confirmed that if you cannot get past on pavements, this is classed as obstructive parking. However, the ability to fine this has been taken away from PCSOs and can now only be done by PCs. There is a flier that the PCSOs use and this has been working. He will patrol again with the fliers and will those drivers who continue to offend will get a face-to-face visit from the PCSOs.

Cllr H McGuill requested that they patrol Wats Dyke Avenue again, at the end of the school day.

PCSO Ryan Thomas advised that there is a community alert system in place now – it's a new service whereby residents can receive notifications of issues in the area. Also, they can log CCTV, etc so that the database can be expanded.

15. Committee and Group Reports

None to note.

Meeting concluded 20.50 pm

Next meeting to be held 5 October 2021