



MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A REMOTE MEETING ON TUESDAY 5 October 2021.

Representatives:

New Brighton Ward

Councillor J McCarron
Councillor GK Mutch
Councillor J Morris
Councillor R Marsh
Councillor B Clarke

Argoed Ward

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

In attendance: Clerk Mared Eastwood

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr M Bradley, Cllr R Marsh, Cllr G Owen and Assistant Clerk Janet Jones

2. Co-option of Members

None to consider.

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Standing Orders

No changes to note. Revised standing orders have been published on the website.

5. Chair's Report

Cllr I Jolly advised that 70 locations have been found for the poppies – 20 in New Brighton and 50 in Bryn-y-Baal and Mynydd Isa.

Resolved: It was agreed that a couple of them would be re-located from New Brighton so that they may be displayed in Llong.

6. Clerk's Report

There has been a meeting with Flintshire officers about the 20 mph limit. This will be a permanent pilot scheme in Flintshire and all of Bryn Road/Chambers Lane, from New Brighton lights to Mold Road, Mynydd Isa will be 20 mph although, given the process, it may be done at different stages.

The CCTV cameras have been checked. One is to be returned to Revader as it is not recording properly, the other two have been re-directed, to cover the areas we are interested in seeing.

We now need volunteers to put up the poppies on lampposts. We have had permission to display them for the month of November.

A number of feedback comments have been received for the orchard and wildflower proposal. A second site visit has been arranged, to review the proposal in light of the comments.

A quote of £870 has been received to fix the fence in the Bonc.

Cllr F Hadfield-Jones has demonstrated the type of conferencing system that could be used to allow audio access only to the council meetings. The cost of the equipment is in the region of £450 and will need a phone number to go with it. It will be brought forward as an agenda item when the cost of the phone number is known.

Resolved: To research alternative options for the fence at the Bonc.

7. Financial Matters

a) The following payments and invoices were noted:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
505452	Amazon	Letterbox cage	21.99	Pd
E0600FXS8C	Microsoft	365 Business Standard	11.28	Pd
E0600FY0P6	Microsoft	365 Business Basic x 12	54.72	Pd
0112021	Michelle Jones Gardener	Planters and baskets	2540.04	
	ICO	Data Protection Fee	40.00	Pd
M129FB	BT	Telephone and internet	94.98	Pd
7710	Mega Electrical	NB Christmas tree repairs	156.00	
	ProVision Lighting	Street lamps (September)	418.99	so

b) Clerk explained that although the match-funding in the sum of £7,500 has previously been discussed and approved, it had not been minuted clearly.

c) The salary and other employment costs for September were noted.

d) The balance sheet as at 30.09.2021 was noted and the bank balances noted as follows:
NatWest Current – £3,936.59
NatWest Reserves- £55,922.36.

Resolved: All payments were noted and approved for payment.

The receipt of £7,500 match-funding from Argoed Recreational Charity was also noted and approved.

8. To approve the Minutes of meeting held on 7 September 2021

Resolved: Minutes of meeting dated 7 September 2021 were approved.

9. North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils

General discussion about benefits of joining this organisation.

Resolved: To join the organisation.

10. Notices of Motion

The consideration of dog-walking events was adjourned to the next meeting due to the absence of Cllr G Owen.

11. Playscheme Summer 2021

Clerk advised that the scheme had been well-attended this year but that there appears to be a misunderstanding in the number of weeks ordered. 4 weeks playscheme had been requested, to be split over the two sites as per usual practise, but 8 weeks playscheme have been delivered. This equates to £3,810.40 being invoiced rather than the £1,905 that was budgeted.

Resolved: To challenge the invoice and not pay anything towards the playscheme at this time.

12. Match-funding proposed play area scheme

The proposal put forward by Aura was considered, with general discussion about the age-group of the children who tend to use this park, near the Argoed Sports Association site.

Resolved: It was agreed that this proposal be accepted but that Aura be requested to put more teenage-focussed equipment in future proposals.

13. Fundraising Event

This item was adjourned due to the absence of Cllr R Marsh.

14. Zero Carbon Britain

Cllr M Shepherd advised that the Centre for Alternative Technology ("CAT") are running courses to assist Councils to reduce their carbon footprint – some villages are going for net-zero. Cllr J McCarron asked if any grants are available and Cllr H McGuill suggested that the appropriate chief officers at Flintshire County Council be contacted about the availability of grants.

Resolved: It was noted that the CAT courses are live, on-line courses.

That the Clerk is to write to Andy Farrow and Neal Cockerton at Flintshire County Council about the possibility of grants.

15. Christmas Lights and Switch-on

Clerk advised that a number of people had started to discuss Christmas and what the Council's plans are. It was noted that the Village of Light event last year was very successful, but the simultaneous 'switch-on' wasn't. It was considered that if a carol concert with the schools is allowed to be held, in relation to any Covid restrictions that may apply at the time, that this would need to be held on a school afternoon. Shangri-La switch their lights on the first Sunday of December. Clerk also advised that the feeder pillar in Mynydd Isa square needs some maintenance work as it floods each year due to being too low in the ground. A quote has been received from Mega for £1,350 plus VAT to do this work. Clerk also advised that quotes are being asked for from other contractors for the purchase and installation of Christmas lights, to check if Mega are being competitive.

Resolved: To donate £200 for the presents for the drive-by Father Christmas at Shangri-La

Organise a carol service if able to do so in light of any Covid restrictions.

Arrange for feeder pillar in Mynydd Isa square to be raised, as per Mega's quote.

Order three new lights, to be sited on Mercia Drive, by the car-park.

Order some solar powered lights for the weeping birch in front of Caffi Isa.

Noted and approved that a Christmas Tree has been pre-ordered.

16. Resurfacing of Heol Fammau Road

Cllr B Clarke advised that the state of Heol Fammau Road and Moel Gron is deteriorating and needs to be re-surfaced. It was noted that the pot-holes should not be filled in as this would put the road further down the list for re-surfacing.

Resolved: Councillors to give the Clerk a list of the roads they consider should be re-surfaced, for the Clerk to then liaise with the Streetscene Area Coordinator.

17. Planning Applications/Decisions

Planning application 063496 – the proposed new school. Whilst this proposal is generally considered to be excellent, Cllr GK Mutch raised a concern about the increased pressure on the already struggling sewage system. There will be hundreds more children on the site and it is a 6 inch pipe along Llewelyn Drive only.

Resolved: Clerk to write to Flintshire County Council, Welsh Water and the planners (Arup) with the concerns.

Planning application 063532 – no issues.

Planning application 063507 – circulated upon receipt but insufficient time to consider the application fully and make a decision.

Resolved: Invite comment from the residents' group and discuss it as a special agenda item at the Amenities Committee meeting on Wednesday, 20 October 2021

18. Police Report

None received this month.

19. Committee and Group Reports

Consideration of the minutes from the Amenities Committee meeting on 15 September 2021.

Resolved: Minutes of Amenities Committee dated 15 September 2021 approved.

Meeting concluded 08.40pm

Next meeting to be held 2 November 2021