

Canolfan y Cymuned
Mercia Drive
Mynydd Isa
Yr Wyddgrug
Sir y Fflint
CH7 6UH



Community Centre
Mercia Drive
Mynydd Isa
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6UH

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30 December 2021

To: All Members

You are hereby summoned to a remote meeting of the Community Council, to be held on
Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 7 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Co-Option of members
3. Declaration of interests
4. Standing Orders
5. Chair's Report
6. Clerk's Report
7. Financial Matters

a) The following payments and invoices to be noted:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
1763	DM Payroll	Payroll for first half year	67.50	pd
	ProVision		418.99	so
M130LU	BT	Telephone and internet (October)	94.56	dd
E0600GMUCD	Microsoft	365 Business Standard	11.28	dd
E0600GMY7C	Microsoft	365 Business Basic x 13	59.28	dd
Payment Voucher	S.M. Eastwood	Reimbursement for Councillor Training session	30.00	pd
M131P&	BT	Telephone and internet (November)	94.33	dd
ACCRH21	Caffi Isa	Hire of Council Suite for 2021	1,500.00	
	Loggerheads	12 ft Tree & delivery	95.00	
	Christmas trees			
Payment Voucher	Mared Eastwood	Table fixings and fast set concrete post mix	9.70	
0132021	Michelle Jones	Emptying and disposal of summer bedding	862.40	
0142021	Garening			
	Michelle Jones	Weed killer spraying in Square and Memorial Garden	250.00	
	Gardening			

Total			3493.04	
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- c) The salary and other employment costs for November were £1,816.90
 - d) Bank Balances as at 31 December 2021:
 - NatWest Current: £4,089.91
 - NatWest Reserves: £62,513.44
 - e) Budget review – preparation for Precept
 - Draft Precept request sent separately. – copy below.
 - f) To consider giving the Assistant Clerk access to internet banking.
8. To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 7 December 2021:

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

Representatives:

New Brighton Ward

Councillor J McCarron
 Councillor GK Mutch
 Councillor J Morris
 Councillor R Marsh
 Councillor M Bradley

Argoed Ward

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

In attendance: Clerk Mared Eastwood

1. Apologies
 Received from Cllr G Owen, Cllr B Clarke, Cllr F Hadfield-Jones, Janet Jones
2. Co-option of Members
 None to consider.
3. Declarations of Interest
 None.
4. Standing Orders
 No changes to note.
5. Chair's Report
 Cllr I Jolly advised that the poppies have now been removed from the lampposts, although not all of them had survived the storm at the end of the month.
6. Clerk's Report

A letter has been sent to the solicitors with regard to the registration of Y Bonc and the Quarry.

As advised by the Chair, the poppies that were left after the storm have been removed in accordance with the permission given by Flintshire County Council. Many thanks to those who have helped to remove them.

The Christmas lights have been switched on with various Christmas events happening in both New Brighton and Mynydd Isa Community Centres. The switch-on at Shangri La was a success.

We have been successful in our Bags of Help application for funding towards the proposed cooking workshops. The next stage will be to attract votes for the scheme when it is open for voting in January.

The litter-pickers from Keep Wales Tidy have been received and it is proposed that a launch event is held during the early months of next year, maybe with a scouting group.

Cllr H McGuill suggested that an event is held around Valentine's Day "Love your village".

7. Poppies for next year

Clerk advised that there had been a rumour that poppies are currently available for £2 each but enquiries have shown that this is not the case. There are currently no poppies in stock but we have been advised to contact the supplier in January. From the 70 poppies which were displayed this year, only 50% of them have survived intact after the storm, although around another 10 may be patched up, if needed. Both when displaying the poppies and removing them, members of the public did express their appreciation for the poppies.

Resolved: That the stock of poppies is replenished so that the Council has 100, subject to cost and budget. Authority to Clerk to use her discretion on this item.

8. Electric Power Points and Grants for Electric Cars

Clerk advised that an email had been sent to the Streetscene Chief Officer on the basis that any electrical points installed by the Council should complement those considered by Flintshire County Council, potentially filling in gaps. A response has been received to say that limited funding is being provided for Council fleet vehicles and to install charging points in 9 of the Flintshire owned car parks, which is currently being procured. She is not aware of any other funding streams at the moment, unfortunately.

Resolved: The response received was noted and looking for grants, etc for charging points will be ongoing.

To publicise on the Council's website that there are charging points at The Beaufort Park and that the Council is seeking to install a charging point within the community.

9. Festive Decoration – Review of Contract

Clerk reminded Council that a request had been made to review the costs charged by our electrical contractor for the Christmas lighting as it is a significant annual cost. On this basis, quotes had been sought to ascertain the competitiveness of our current contractor. The three quotations were discussed, the help Mega had given in erecting the Christmas tree and their general responsiveness was noted as was the call out fee of £180 for Deeco Lighting.

Resolved: To stay with Mega Electrical and to thank the other providers and let them know they have been unsuccessful this time.

10. Financial Matters

a) The following payments and invoices were noted:

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Total			3493.04	

Two invoices from Mega (£2,650 and ££1,443.60) were also noted, not listed as they had come in after the agenda was sent, and approved to be paid prior to formal authority to pay at the next meeting, together with the donation of £200 to Shangri-La.

c) The salary and other employment costs for October were noted as being £1,803.06.

d) The balance sheet as at 30.11.2021 was noted as follows:

Balance Sheet as at 30.11.2021	
Opening balances as at 31 March 2021	
NatWest Current	£6,163.29
NatWest Business Reserves	£23,742.12
VAT	£5,789.55
Interest received:	£2.51
Precept	£53,178.67
Other income:	<u>£790.00</u>
	£89,666.14
Less payments made:	-£40,441.73
	£49,224.41
Bank balances as at 30.11.2021:	
NatWest Current	£1,301.11
NatWest Reserves	£47,923.30
	£49,224.41

Resolved: All payments were noted and approved for payment.

11. To approve the Minutes of meeting held on 2 November 2021

Consideration of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2021.

Resolved: Minutes of meeting dated 2 November 2021 were approved.

12. Planning Applications/Decisions

General discussion about the planning applications that have been received.

Resolved: 063650 – no objections

13. Representative's Report

No report has been received from the police, but contact has been made by a PCSO to view the CCTV footage from the camera by the Bonc.

Resolved: Request was noted and full cooperation to be given to the police.

14. Committee and Group Reports

Consideration of the minutes from the Amenities Committee meeting on 24 November 2021.

Resolved: Minutes of Amenities Committee dated 24 November 2021 approved.

That the entire length of the fence to the dog-walking area at the Bonc be replaced and that Jones Brothers Leeswood Ltd be contracted to do the work.

That wildflowers are seeded in the Bonc as shown in the proposal.

That a salt refill is ordered for Mynydd Isa Community Centre and a new salt-bin, which has salt included, is ordered for New Brighton Community Centre.

Meeting concluded 8.05 pm

Next meeting to be held 4 January 2022

9. Planning applications/decisions

None received

10. Representative's Report:

None received.

11. Committee and group reports



Clerk and RFO

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please contact the Clerk so that a link may be sent to you.

ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRECEPT 2022/23

Wages and Salaries	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£18,267	£21,271	£23,150		£23,500

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on employment of Clerk and an Assistant Clerk, with an allowance of 2% for salary increases and potential increase for gaining the CiLCA qualification. Pension provision is included for both positions.

Staff Training and Travel	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£0	£0	£300		£300

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on no need to change this.

Payroll	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£111	£137.50	£150		£150

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on there being 2 employees and up to 14 councillors taking their allowance, the Chair to be paid in two instalments.

Staff Expenses	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£0	£0	£300		£150

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on remote meetings being held for a significant length of time going forward.

Councillor Allowances	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£2,220	£2,600	£3,350		£3,350
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on there being no increase in the allowances but up to 14 councillors accepting their allowance.					

Councillor Training	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£0	£30	£300		£300
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on up-skilling current councillors and training new ones.					

Councillor Travel and Conference	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£0	£0	£200		£200
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on last year's actual cost with possibility meetings may change after lockdown.					

Audit fee	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£300	£336	£800		£800
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on what was payable this year. This year's figure is low as no invoice has yet been received from Audit Wales (nor from BDO for last year).					

Insurance and Data Protection	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23	2022/23 Officer rec.
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				Council rec	
	£1,740	£1,411.91	£2,200		£1,500

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on increase in premium due to inflation and additional assets.

Legal and professional fees	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£350	£14	£1,000		£1,000

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on IT professional fees (website accessibility) and registration of remaining land in the Quarry.

Gardening Contractors	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£14,688.93	£13,500	£13,500		£13,500

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on improvements being made within the Quarry. Investment has been made in clearing the Quarry and this now needs to be maintained.

Planting	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£1,341.55	£1,558.16	£1,850		£1750

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on more bedding plants being required for the new features

Plant Containers	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
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	£499.20	£1,663.80	£3,500		£2,500
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on rolling programme of renewal, budget would cover cost of a new big planter and window boxes for some of the village entry signs.					

Hire of meeting room	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£1,500	£1500	£1,750		£1,750
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on there being a potential increase in the rent payable.					

Telephone and internet	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£1,018.12	£1,060.91	£1,200		£1,200
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on average cost plus slight increase.					

Photocopying	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£442.80	£441.41	£550		£550
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on past usage.					

Printing, stationery and office equipment	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£1,480	£839.81	£1000		£1200
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on there being two employees within the office, generating more printing, etc. Includes Microsoft 365 packages.					

Subscriptions	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£173	£231	£240		£240
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on membership of both SLCC and the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils					

CCTV	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£600	£3,900	£600		£600
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on an annual service. Last year's figures included the upgrade and installation of two new cameras.					

Playscheme	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£1,743.28	£1,905.20	£2,000		£2,000
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on a need for continuing organised outdoor activities for children, to mitigate the negative effects of lockdown.					

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Christmas Tree and Lights	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£2,665	£5,064.66	£5,000		£4,500

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on installation and storage of Christmas lights and possibly two new decorations.

Fireworks	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£0	£750	£750		£750

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on the hope that outside organised events will be allowed, Council contribution may influence the use of an insured and licensed organiser with a restriction on noise levels, which will appease those residents concerned with animal welfare as well as those residents wishing to attend a local organised event.

Argoed Recreation Charity (Y Bonc)	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£16,875.00 (£7,500.00) £9,375.00	£3,268	£0		£0

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on additional money being given to them during 2020/21. Ad hoc maintenance to be paid out of general budget.

Play areas	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000		£5,000

The Council recommendation:

The Officer recommendation is based on the availability of match-funding from Flintshire.

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Other maintenance costs Misc	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£425.40	£1,462.15	£500		£1,500
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on reasonable allowance.					

Poppies for lampposts Poppy wreaths	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£105.06	£230.85	£0		£560
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based buying 50 new lorry poppies at a cost of £10 per poppy, to be distributed throughout Mynydd Isa, New Brighton, Bryn-y-baal and Llong. And three poppy wreaths so there will be sufficient for Mynydd Isa, New Brighton and Mold.					

S137 Grants	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£2,000	£1,800	£3,000		£2,000
The Council recommendation:					
The Officer recommendation is based on maintaining usual spend.					

Street lighting energy	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£1,026.63	£1,119.96	£1,700		£1,700
The Council recommendation:					

The Officer recommendation is based on no increase is needed.					
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Street lighting inspection and maintenance	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£501.15	£1,058.32	£2200		£2,200

The Council recommendation:					
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The Officer recommendation is based on Check cost of inspecting one quarter of our lights plus £300 for ad hoc maintenance. Note lights need to be inspected by law every 6 years and this has lapsed therefore the number of yearly inspections needs to be increased to facilitate compliance.					
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Street lighting upgrade	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£5,027.88	£4,189.92	£5,050		£5,050

The Council recommendation:					
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The Officer recommendation is based on 12 monthly instalments of £418.99 to cover the cost of the 2018 upgrade.					
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Election Costs	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£0	£0	£0		£5,500

The Council recommendation:					
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The Officer recommendation is based on the estimate provided by the electoral office at Flintshire County Council. If the election is uncontested, the cost is anticipated to be in the region of £250.					
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Platinum Jubilee	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Council rec	2022/23 Officer rec.
	£0	£0	£0		£1,000

The Council recommendation:					
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The Officer recommendation is based on setting some funds aside for community celebrations.

86300

Total required for proposed budget:	£86300	
Total required for agreed reserves at 30%:	<u>£25,890</u>	£112,190
Less anticipated closing bank balances:	£32,626.24	£79,563.76

To maintain a precept with no increase, precept would need to be **£79,814**, this would positively impact on the amount kept in reserve based on the proposed budget above.

The current tax charge is £31.68 and each 1% increase would give an extra £798.14 in budget