

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

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clerk@argoedcommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Community Centre  
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Mynydd Isa  
Mold  
Flintshire  
CH7 6UH

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4 January 2023

**To: All Members**

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Community Council, to be held on **Tuesday, 10 January 2023 at 7pm** at the Council Chambers within Mynydd Isa Community Centre.

Yours faithfully,

*Mared Eastwood*

Clerk and RFO for Argoed Community Council

**The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting and members of the public and press are welcome to attend, either by attending the meeting in person or remotely by way of Teams. If you wish to attend remotely, please contact the Clerk so that a link may be sent to you.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies  
To receive any apologies.
2. Chair's Report  
To receive the Chair's report.
3. Clerk's Report

4. Co-option of members

To consider the co-option of any potential new members.

5. Declaration of interests

To receive any declaration of interests in the agenda items.

6. Standing Orders

To consider any revision to the Standing Orders and/or Financial Regulations.

7. Financial Matters

a) Payments for authority to pay:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
	ProVision	Street lighting upgrade	418.99	So
M1445&	BT	Telephone	151.03	Dd
E0600LHHZO	Microsoft	M/soft365 Business Basic x 13	70.20	Pd
E0600LHEKJ	Microsoft	M/soft365 Business Standard x 1	11.28	Pd
328644884	Amazon	Disposable cloths	9.99	Pd
GB25OSW1LAEUI	Amazon	Graffiti remover x 3	44.40	Pd
WEB15145	HCI Data Limited	Website	102.00	
8800	Mega Electrical	Christmas lights New Brighton	1,302.00	
8801	Mega Electrical	Christmas lights Mynydd Isa	1,182.00	
INV 8	MLandscapeUK	Quarry	490.00	
INV 9	MLandscapeUK	Argoed Park	580.00	

b) Salary and other employment costs for December 2022: £2,642.78

c) Precept received: £26,604.67

d) Bank Balances as at 31.12.2022:

NatWest Current: £3,494.03

NatWest Reserves: £71,940.52

8. To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 6 December 2022

**MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A HYBRID MEETING ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2022 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MYNYDD ISA COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**Representatives:**

**Argoed Ward:** Cllr Faron Hadfield-Jones (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ian Jolly (Chair), Cllr John Holiday, Cllr Gwilym Owen

**New Brighton Ward:** Cllr Jon McCarron, Cllr Rebecca Legge, Cllr G Keith Mutch, Cllr Miriam Shepherd,

**In attendance:** Clerk Mared Eastwood, one resident.

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Hilary McGuill, Cllr Roy Marsh, Cllr Jack Morris, Cllr Uzma Sikander. Assistant Clerk Janet Jones

2. Chair's Report

Chair, together with other representatives, had attended the awards ceremony for the Best Kept Communities Competition. He was pleased to advise that both Mynydd Isa and New Brighton had achieved silver status for their entries. There were a number of gold awards and this is something for the Council to work towards.

3. Clerk's Report

- Preparations for winter – a letter has been received from Streetscene and a contact name (Clerk's) has been given to receive any updates and weather warnings from them. A community involvement kit has also been requested, which compiles of snow shovels, risk assessment and manual instructions, should volunteers. Streetscene were keen to stress that any volunteer snow-clearing will be in addition to the work done by Streetscene, not instead of.
- Christmas – the lights are now all on. The tree for Mynydd Isa was delivered safely and was much easier to erect this year, after the preparation work that was undertaken last year. Clerk will keep under review the number of times the contractor will need to be called out this season, to evaluate the effectiveness of the electrical works that was undertaken in the spring. The tree in New Brighton, which was transplanted by volunteers, appears to be bedding in well and it is hoped that this one will survive better than the last attempt. The volunteers are thanked for their hard work in transplanting the tree for the community.
- Poppies – the saga has continued in that the second box of poppies, which should have been included in the last delivery, cannot be found anywhere. The Poppy Shop currently don't have any lorry poppies in stock and so have issued a refund to represent the missing poppies. Most of the poppies displayed this year have been returned to the office and there has been only one instance of damage, which is encouraging. When they are all returned, it is proposed that new cable ties are bought now so that they may all be packed away together, ready for next year.

- Laurels in Argoed play park – the contractor has started to cut these back and has advised that no green waste has been left on site. However, he was unable to complete the work in one day and will arrange to return.
- Path in Y Bonc – the contractor has commenced the work to repair the path in Y Bonc and remove the bamboo.
- Best Kept Community competition – Mynydd Isa and New Brighton have both been awarded silver for the entries this year. Previously, the judges have mainly concentrated on the flower displays. This time, more emphasis was put on volunteer involvement and combating loneliness, etc. With this in mind, the evidence to support future entries will be reviewed as there are many volunteers who do work in the community.
- Budget – preparation work now needs to be done for the precept meeting. Members are kindly requested either to visit in the morning, when the Assistant Clerk is present, or keep any visits in the afternoon quite short. Two members are requested to visit the office to check the accounts and Streetscene has also advised that the Council may expect an increase of around 132% in the cost of street lighting electricity.

4. Co-option of Members  
None to consider.

5. Declarations of Interest  
None.

6. Standing Orders  
No changes to note. Clerk advised that a proposal will be brought to Council at the next meeting – to allow invoices to be paid prior to the next available meeting when either the budget or a quotation has been considered by Council or Committee and approved.

**Resolved: Proposal noted and agreed in principle.**

7. Financial Matters

a) The following payments and invoices were noted and authorised:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
	ProVision	Street lighting upgrade	418.99	So
	BT	Telephone and internet	tba	Dd
E0600L35LG	Microsoft	M/soft365 Business Basic x 13	70.20	Pd
E0600L39HC	Microsoft	M/soft365 Business Standard x 1	11.28	Pd
TY096056	Flintshire County Council	Street lighting April - June	289.65	Pd
TY096057	Flintshire County Council	Street lighting July - September	289.65	Pd
3817	Follyfield Nurseries	Winter bedding	647.78	Pd
	Argoed Sports Assoc'n	Fireworks donation	1,000.00	Pd

	Shangri-La	Christmas donation	200.00	Pd
212022	Michelle Jones Gardening	Aug – Dec: Borders in and around the Square, central feature in Memorial Garden	520.00	
222022	Michelle Jones Gardening	Aug – Dec: Removal of summer bedding and planting of winter bedding and daffodils.	2,374.00	
232022	Michelle Jones Gardening	Aug – Dec: Hanging baskets	1,494.00	
001025	Loggerheads Christmas Trees	Christmas Tree – Mynydd Isa	102.00	
451872	Canda Copying Ltd	Rental of photocopier	99.60	
452242	Canda Copying Ltd	Photocopies	42.25	

b) There continues to be a dispute with BT due to the unauthorised sum of money that was taken by direct debit. BT have given a credit, against which they are paying future invoices, but a full refund has been requested – this is public money that should be within the Council’s account. Should the issue continue beyond 8 weeks, a complaint will be made to the Ombudsman.

c) The salary and other employment costs for November 2022 were noted as £1,491.58

d) Bank Balances as at 31.10.2022 were noted as:

NatWest Current: £5,645.15

NatWest Reserves: £54,776.97

**Resolved: That the payments listed be approved to be paid.**

**The issue with BT, salaries and bank balances were noted.**

8. To approve the Minutes of meetings held on 1 November 2022  
Consideration of the minutes of the meetings held on 1 November 2022.

**Resolved: The minutes of the meeting dated 1 November 2022 were approved.**

9. Policies

Clerk advised that there are three policies: Social Media, Training and Development and Biodiversity which needed review and approval.

**Resolved: Subject to the words “and local farmers” being added in the Biodiversity Policy, all three policies were approved and adopted.**

10. Notices of Motion

None to consider.

11. Planning Applications/Decisions

None received.

## 12. Representative's Report

The following PCSO report had been received:

Sorry I won't be able to make the meeting this evening, I finish at 6pm today.

I have done a quick search for the area and there is nothing really to note. However, there are a few things that I am aware of,

The Book shop community centre- issues with youths causing a nuisance in the area and staff- I have increased patrols in the area, I wonder if Mared has any CCTV of the youths involved.

Cuppa with a Copper- This was very successful, and it was lovely to see the café as busy as it was. I do need to book another event soon.

Argoed school parking- Cllr Hilary has emailed me asking to attend at the school, a number of patrols have been conducted, no major issues really, I've asked a few parked vehicles to move on. as you can imagine, this didn't go down well.

**Resolved: Report noted**

## 13. Committee and Group Reports

The minutes of the Amenities Committee dated 16 November 2022 were considered.

**Resolved: The minutes be approved and the recommendations agreed.**

Meeting concluded 7.55pm

Next meeting to be held 10 January 2023

## 9. Draft Precept

To consider and approve the Precept for the 2023/24

### **ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRECEPT 2023/24**

<b>Wages and Salaries</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£18,783.77	£24,087.76	£23,500	£26,000	
The Officer recommendation: This year a 1.75% increase has been given on the pay and there has also been an increase in our NI contributions. Recommendation allows for a 2% increase in all salary costs and no pension credit that may be applied.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Staff Training and Travel</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£450	£450	
The Officer recommendation: Not to decrease usual figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Payroll</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£205*	£130	£150	£150	
The Officer recommendation: *this included transition from one payroll provider to another. Covers the new fee as advised by the payroll provider.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Staff Expenses</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£0	£0	
The Officer recommendation:					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Councillor Allowances</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£2,580	£2,700	£3,350	£3,300	
The Officer recommendation: To allow for 14 councillor allowances and a Chair allowance of £1,200					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Councillor Training</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£30	£0	£300	£300	
The Officer recommendation: To not decrease last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Councillor Travel and Conference</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£200	£200	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Audit fee</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£336	£410	£800	£1,500	
The Officer recommendation: There are two external auditor fees yet to be invoiced and there will also be an internal auditor invoice.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Insurance and Data Protection</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1411.91	£1,448.01	£1,500	£1,500	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain figure – insurance premium was agreed for 3 years.					
The Council recommendation:					



<b>Legal and professional fees</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£14	£0	£1,000	£1,000	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Gardening Contractors</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£8,300.84	£10,300	£13,500	£13,500	
The Officer recommendation: There has been no change to the contracts.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Planting</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£2,994.48	£1,726.40	£1,750	£2,000	
The Officer recommendation: This allows for an increase in prices but not for new planters to be filled.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Plant Containers</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1,996.56	£2,442.70	£2,500	£2,500	
The Officer recommendation: Maintain last year's figure, to continue with rolling programme of replacing the older planters.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Hire of meeting room</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1,500	£2,783.18*	£1,750	£4,000	
The Officer recommendation: *£1,200 was paid from reserves, to equip the room for hybrid meetings. Clerk has been notified of rent increase, effective from April 2023.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Telephone and internet</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1,044.88	£1,080	£1,400	£1,400	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure, allows for some increase in monthly payments.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Photocopying</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£431.87	£496	£550	£575	
The Officer recommendation: To allow for an increase in costs.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Printing, stationery and office equipment</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£781.01	£1,047	£1,000	£1,100	
The Officer recommendation: To allow for an increase in costs.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Subscriptions</b>	2021/22 Actual	2021/22 Estimated	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Officer rec	2022/23 Council rec.
	£231	£231	£240	£240	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>CCTV</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£4,100	£600	£600	£700	
The Officer recommendation:  To allow for a possible increase in costs.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Playscheme</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1,905.20	£2,053.60	£2,000	£2,500	
The Officer recommendation: Increased costs are expected.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Christmas Tree and Lights</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£5,064.66	£2,484	£4,500	£2,750	
The Officer recommendation: Based on an increase in prices and maybe needing two trees next year.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Fireworks</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£750	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Argoed Recreation Charity (Y Bonc)</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£3,268	£2,495	0	£2,500	
The Officer recommendation: To cover incidental costs in maintenance.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Play areas</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£5,000	£6,000	£5,000	£5,000	
The Officer recommendation: To benefit from match-funding, should it be available.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Milestones</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£2,700	£2,700	
The Officer recommendation: These are reserved funds from councillor nominated donations.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Other maintenance costs Misc</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1,688.59	£100	£1,500	£1,500	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Poppies for lampposts Poppy wreaths</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£210	£402	£560	£400	
The Officer recommendation: To purchase 30 lorry poppies and 4 wreaths.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>S137 Grants</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1,200	£2,900*	£2,000	£2,000	
The Officer recommendation: *some grants paid from reserve funds from previous budget. Maintain usual figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Street lighting energy</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£1,119.96	£1,158.60	£1,700	£2,700	
The Officer recommendation is based on an estimated increase in energy costs of 132% (as notified by Flintshire County Council)					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Street lighting inspection and maintenance</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£3,410.45	£3,201.42*	£2,200	£2,000	
The Officer recommendation: *£2,000 of which was from reserved funds. Recommendation allows for average inspection and maintenance costs and 1/6 of statutory inspection costs, to be reserved on an annual basis.					
The Council recommendation: *check 1/6 of inspection costs to be put aside					

<b>Street lighting upgrade</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£4,189.92	£4,199	£5,050	£4,200	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain current standing order.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Jubilee/Coronation Costs</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£277.60	£1,000	£1,500	
The Officer recommendation: For the Coronation celebrations/commemorations.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Election</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£410.74	£5,500	£0	
The Officer recommendation: No election planned for this year, 2 spaces on Council available for co-optees.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Groundworker Grant Project (Tesco's Bags of Help)</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£500	£500	
The Officer recommendation: The grant has been awarded for a specific purpose.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Biodiversity</b>	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimated	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Officer rec	2023/24 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£0	£250	
The Officer recommendation: To introduce more bio-diversity friendly features and/or events.					
The Council recommendation:					

**Total estimated budget: £76,164.01**

**Total proposed budget: £91,915**

Total required for proposed budget:	£91,915	
Total required for agreed reserves at 30%:	<u>£27,574.50</u>	£119,489.50
Less anticipated closing bank balances:	£54,687.32	<b>£64,802.18</b>

To maintain a precept with no increase, precept would need to be **2,547.81 x £31.68 = £80,714.62**, 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 £807.15 in budget.

<https://www.sustainable-furniture.co.uk/standard-a-frame-picnic-bench>

[https://www.festive-lights.com/outdoor-rope-light-motif-bells-with-stars?gclid=CjwKCAiAk--dBhABEiwAchlwkf1t3jOYzsbGHHo8BGapleiuLsF8iye22gL4K3IGqd5LZ9oQo5z9BoCo94QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.festive-lights.com/outdoor-rope-light-motif-bells-with-stars?gclid=CjwKCAiAk--dBhABEiwAchlwkf1t3jOYzsbGHHo8BGapleiuLsF8iye22gL4K3IGqd5LZ9oQo5z9BoCo94QAvD_BwE)

10. Notices of Motion  
None received.

11. Planning applications/decisions

Application reference number FUL/000787/22

Erection of rear extension at 120, Mold Road, Mynydd Isa, Mold CH7 6TF

Application reference number FUL/000759/22

Erection of rear single storey extension at 87, Moorcroft, New Brighton, CH7 6RX

12. Representatives Report

To receive any reports from representatives from outside bodies.

13. Committee and group reports

- a) To consider and approve the Amenities Committee minutes dated 21 December 2022  
Meeting was cancelled as not quorate.

- b) To consider the Police Report  
None received.