



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