



MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A HYBRID MEETING ON TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2023 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MYNYDD ISA COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Representatives:

Argoed Ward: Cllr Faron Hadfield-Jones, Cllr John Holiday, Cllr Ian Jolly, Cllr Roy Marsh, Cllr Hilary McGuill, Cllr Gwilym Owen

New Brighton Ward: Cllr Rebecca Legge, Cllr Keith Mutch, Cllr Jon McCarron, Cllr Miriam Shepherd, Cllr Uzma Sikander

In attendance: Clerk Mared Eastwood, Assistant Clerk Janet Jones, Mark Edwards (Flintshire County Council), Sam Tulley (Flintshire County Council), PCSO Lucy Davies

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Jack Morris.

2. Chair's Report

Chair advised that he'll be attending the Flintshire Chair's civic service on 23 July 2023 and that there are several residents present in the building, interested in agenda item 7.

3. Clerk's Report

- The bench that has recently been removed from Mynydd Isa Square come within the remit of Caffi Isa as it's within their lease. There is no objection from them however, if Argoed Community Council wishes to replace the bench but caution that it may need to be moved, depending on how the centre will be refurbished.
- A new consultation on Dog Control in Public Spaces has been launched, links to the consultation have been publicised.
- The summer bedding has now been picked up and a planting date has been arranged – we could do with some more volunteers though.
- A site visit has been conducted to explore how the match-funding for play areas may be allocated, further details will follow.

4. Co-option of Members

None to consider.

5. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

6. Standing Orders

None to consider.

7. Update on Heol Fammau Petition

Mark Edwards and Sam Tulley gave a question and answer update as follows:

Questions and Answers – Streetscene Area Coordinator 06.06.2023

1 Will Heol Fammau and surrounding estates be resurfaced this year?

We are still in the process of finalising our annual programme, however the currently allocated budget will be spent on A and B roads which are in poor condition and are of strategic importance to the county.

The council has a limited budget for resurfacing and unfortunately there is insufficient funding available to deal with the backlog of repair. We very much share the frustration around the condition of some roads, particularly in urban housing estate roads across the county that require treatment.

2 How are roads prioritised for resurfacing or treatment and will the petition received by Streetscene help in prioritising?

Streetscene area coordinators provide condition scores on the road in their areas based on the deterioration of the surface. Technicians will then assess the roads in worse condition for consistency and then using the matrix scoring to achieve a rank order. This matrix ensure consistency across the county and considers such things as the number of vehicles that use the road, proximity to schools, public spaces, public buildings, and overall condition. Unfortunately, the petition and the intention behind it, does not allow us to depart from the established policy for highway asset maintenance and the need to ensure that we gain the maximum benefit from the limit funding available.

4 Can You give commitment that these roads will be resurfaced next year?

No commitment can be given to any road in next year's programme, as the process of surveying and conditions scoring will need to take place again to look at deteriorate and impact of winter weather. The roads on next year's programmes will be subject to overall condition, matrix scoring and available funding.

5 If Road cannot be resurfaced what will happen to them to keep them safe?

All roads will be inspected on a regular basis and any defects will be repaired in line with Streetscene policy.

6 Why have we not used money on resurfacing and not on 20mph scheme?

20mph scheme is a WG initiative, and monies allocated to local authorities to roll out these schemes has been ringfenced, the Council cannot spend this budget elsewhere.

7 Can FCC apply for more funding for resurfacing?

The grant funding schemes available via Welsh Government in relation to highways are for active travel and not for maintenance works, and therefore, currently, we are not able to acquire any further budget beyond the limited resources currently available. WG have

previously provided a Highway Refurbishment Grant, and a condition of this grant was that we provided status report each year, however this funding has not been made available in recent years.

8 Which roads are going to be resurfaced in Flintshire?

Works are currently underway to finalise this year's programmes and will be available on FCC's website once completed.

9 Will the footpaths in within the Argoed have any treatment this year?

The limited capital budget available has been allocated to carriageway treatments, and no budget allocated to footway resurfacing. Any defects that meet our intervention criteria within our safety inspection policy will be rectified.

10 Heol Fammau is a rat run due to speed humps can these be removed?

Traffic calming is in place on Chambers Lane to reduce traffic speeds nearby, and on routes to schools. It is unlikely that we could justify removing these features and this would be subject to available funding.

Other Questions asked: -

If we have a mild winter will there be any opportunity to resurface with left over budget?

Winter maintenance budget is ringfenced and claimed from WG.

Why doesn't more taxpayers' money go to resurfacing?

The Council's budget and finance are not set by Streetscene, they are set by WG and the Council's budget setting process. Streetscene can only deliver its services with the money allocated. Further information regarding how the budget is allocated can be found on FCC's website.

Where does Heol Fammau and other roads in Mynydd Isa score on the matrix ranking order?

FCC only have a small budget for resurfacing and will prioritise scoring on A, B and C roads to ensure that we gain the maximum benefit from the limit funding available. The estate roads current position on the matrix is irrelevant for next year's programmes, as the whole process will start again with condition surveys taking place across the network following the winter period. This ensures that general deterioration, and deterioration caused during the winter months are assessed prior to prioritisation.

Do FCC monitor utility companies as they have just finished works on Heol Fammau footpath?

FCC inspector will carry out a full inspection within 2 weeks.

A resident spoke on behalf of the persons present. He produced photos showing the state of the roads and explained that he had been a resident on the estate for over 50 years and during that time Llys Wylfa and other roads have been resurfaced but not his estate. In monetary terms, he has calculated that the council tax that has been collected from residents of the estate amounts to approximately £20 million and there is now a group of residents who think the estate roads should be resurfaced. He also asked what control Flintshire County Council has over utilities companies as they have just finished works on Heol Fammau path.

8. Financial Matters

a) Payments for authority to pay:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
	ProVision	Street lighting upgrade	418.99	So
M149P9	BT	Telephone	116.08	Pd
E0600NHCQP	Microsoft	M/soft365 Business Basic x 13	70.20	Pd
E0600NH7PG	Microsoft	M/soft365 Business Standard x 1	11.28	Pd
ACCRH23	Caffi Isa	Room hire – office and chambers	4,000.00	
31052023	Michelle Jones Gardening	Winter/summer bedding work	1,233.40	
3830	Follyfield Nurseries	Summer bedding	1,470	
EF050623	Plantscape	Wicks for planters and hanging baskets	33.60	

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

The salaries and bank balances were noted.

It was noted that the Clerk is working on the audit documents for 2022/23.

9. To approve the Minutes of meetings held on 2 May 2023

Consideration of the minutes of the meetings held on 2 May 2023.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting dated 2 May 2023 were approved.

10. Notices of Motion

None received.

11. ASA Representative

Cllr Jon McCarron explained that some time ago, the Council decided to stop sending a representative to the ASA committee. Since that time however, he feels that the Council is out of sync with the ASA committee and feels now is the time to review this decision and consider whether to re-join.

Resolved: That Cllr Jon McCarron be the proposed representative to attend the ASA committee meetings and that the Clerk writes to establish when the next meeting is.

12. Best Kept Communities

General discussion around possible alternatives to the Best Kept Community competition, which sadly will not be running this year. Suggestions included starting an inter-area competition and asking residents to send in photos to be put on the website. It was commented that as not everyone has IT resources, alternative methods will also need to be considered.

Resolved: To promote images of the ward on the website, but not as a competition. Item to be put on the Amenities agenda for action.

13. Planning Applications

Consideration of planning applications OUT/000330/23; FUL/000350/23 and LDC/000456/23

**Resolved: OUT/00030/23 – no objection
FUL/000350/23 – no objection
LDC/000456/23 – no objection**

14. Representatives Report

PCSO Lucy Davies attended on behalf of the police and advised:

- They are targeting potential anti-social behaviours. Two hot-spots have been identified – Mercia Drive and the top of Mold Road. The aim is to put things in place now, to target the 12 to 15 year olds. For example, Aura has been getting involved and they are looking for any land that could be used for functions and places to put on activities for the young people.
- Parked cars have been an issue.
- Young people in the derelict bungalow have been reported but not been there when the police have visited.
- Nitrous Oxide containers have also been reported.

Cllr John Holiday provided a report on behalf of Speedwatch and advised that one of their members has had a medical issue which has curtailed their activities but it is hoped they will be able to resume usual duties in the near future.

15. Committee and group reports

The minutes of the Amenities Committee dated 15 May 2023 were considered.

Resolved: Minutes of the Amenities Committee dated 15 May 2023 are approved.

The Clerk advised that due to her new role within Flintshire County Council there is an ongoing requirement to attend various meetings. With the consent of the HR working group, her working pattern has been varied so that she will be working two full days, on Mondays and Thursdays, with the hope that disruption to her working pattern will be minimised. The variation will be reviewed in a few months' time. The Assistant Clerk will retain her current working pattern, to ensure the office is staff at regular times.

Resolved: The variation in the Clerk's working pattern was noted and agreed. The Clerk to keep a record of the hours worked.

Meeting concluded 8.20pm
Next meeting to be held 4 July 2023