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Community Centre  
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3 January 2024

**To: All Members**

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Community Council, to be held on **Tuesday, 9 January 2024 at 7pm** at the Council Chambers within Mynydd Isa Community Centre.

Yours faithfully,

*Mered 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  
To receive the 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 (£)	
E0600Q9OTJ	Microsoft	M/soft 365 Business Basic x 13	76.44	Pd
E0600Q9LNE	Microsoft	M/soft 365 Business Standard x 1	12.36	Pd
3301	DM Payroll Services Ltd	Administration of payroll services	73.50	
	Amazon	Office supplies	18.97	Pd
Payment Voucher	Tesco	Extension lead and cleaning product	7.85	
2064	The Care-Taker	Installed Bea's Bench	35.00	
M156IW	BT	Telephone and internet	111.96	

b) Salary and other employment costs for December 2023: £3,161.63

c) Precept received: £26,904.67

d) Balance sheet as at 20 December 2023:

### **Balance Sheet as at 20.12.23**

Opening Bank balances as at 31.03.2023:

NatWest Current	£2,502.01	
NatWest Reserves	<u>£46,580.37</u>	
		£49,082.38

### Income

VAT	£6,705.89	
Interest received:	£558.88	
Precept:	<u>£53,809.33</u>	<u>£61,074.10</u>
Opening Balances plus income		£110,156.48

Less Payments made	<u>-£50,413.88</u>
	<b>£59,742.60</b>

Bank Balances at 20.12 2023

Natwest Current	£1,794.02	
Natwest Reserves	<u>£57,948.58</u>	
		<b>£59,742.60</b>

8. To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 5 December 2023

**MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A HYBRID MEETING ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2023 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MYNYDD ISA COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**Representatives:**

**Argoed Ward:** Cllr Farron Hadfield-Jones, Cllr John Holiday Cllr Gwilym Jones, Cllr Ian Jolly, Cllr Hilary McGuill

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

**In attendance:** Clerk Mared Eastwood, Assistant Clerk Janet Jones.

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Jack Morris and Cllr Uzma Sikander.

2. Chair's Report

Chair advised that he attended the Remembrance Services at both New Brighton and Mynydd Isa, which had both been very well attended, despite the weather. Thanks to Cllr Miriam Shepherd for leading the service at Mynydd Isa.

3. Clerk's Report

Clerk advised that:

- The memorial services for Remembrance Day went well and both were well attended. Thanks to all those who assisted with the services.
- The Christmas trees and the lights are now all installed. The switch on at Shangri-La was very well attended.
- The new bench has now been delivered and needs to be installed.
- Moles have been seen at y Bonc and the mole man has been asked to attend.
- A quotation has been received for replacing the gate, either in wood or in metal as the cost given for fixing the gate is said to be costly. However, in light of the cost of a replacement, two local joiners have been asked to provide quotes to repair. The gate issue needs to be resolved prior to signs being ordered due to the fixings that are ordered for the signs.
- A resident of Moorcroft, New Brighton described the flooding issues experienced at his property for the second time in recent years due to the recent heavy rain.

**Resolved:** A letter to be sent to Welsh Water expressing dissatisfaction that the previous work to remedy that the non-return valve has been unsuccessful as the rainwater has mixed with raw sewage.

To write to Flintshire County Council and request that no further properties be connected to this network without the necessary works being undertaken to improve the drainage system in New Brighton first.

4. Co-option of Members

Clerk advised that a resident is still interested in being co-opted onto the Council but, due to a previous commitment that cannot be changed, is unable to attend this meeting.

5. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

6. Standing Orders

None to consider.

7. Financial Matters

a) Payments for authority to pay:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
M155E1	BT	Telephone and internet	116.96	pd
E0600PVN6U	Microsoft	M/soft Office 365 basic licences	76.44	pd
E0600PVN6T	Microsoft	M/soft Office 365 business licence	12.36	pd
463978	Canda Copying	Photocopying	32.94	
463619	Canda Copying	Rental of photocopier	99.60	
27.11.23	John Griffiths	Removal of tree stump and installing pipe for Christmas Tree	£450.00	
04122023	Michelle Griffiths	Bedding and baskets	737.40	
04122023	Michelle Griffiths	Shrubs in Square and Memorial Garden, waste removal.	956.40	
51875874	Glasdon	Commemorative Bench	841.69	

b) Grants paid as agreed:

Name	Amount (£)
Argoed High School	78.00
Ysgol Mynydd Isa	78.00
Almost Home Dogs	78.00
North Clwyd Animal Rescue	78.00
Flintshire Foodbank	156.00
NB Bowling Club	300.00
MI Fuchsia Society	300.00

c) Contributions to community events paid as agreed:

Name	Amount (£)
Argoed Sports Association (Fireworks)	1,000.00
Shangri-la (Christmas event)*	300.00

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

The salaries and bank balances were noted.

That arrangements be made for two councillors to attend the office to review the accounts.

The Assistant Clerk be given internet banking access, subject to the usual credit check.

The date of the Precept meeting be 9 January 2024 as the Precept request is to be lodged with Flintshire County Council by 25 January 2024.

That the possibility of assisting Shangri-La more with the Christmas light event should be positively considered.

8. To approve the Minutes of meeting held on 7 November 2023  
Minutes of the meeting of 7 November 2023 were approved.

9. Representatives Report

It was reported that there has been positive feedback with regard to Bea's bench, which is currently in the foyer, awaiting installation.

Cllr John Holiday reported that Speedwatch is currently on hold due to the risk of animosity being shown due to the 20mph limit. They are keen to be active and will return to duties as soon as they are given the go ahead that it is deemed safe to do so.

10. Notices of Motion

None received.

11. Planning Applications for consideration:

General discussion around the merits of each planning application.

Resolved: 974/23 – Object due to it having insufficient bathroom facilities.

987/23 – Object due to it extending beyond the building line.

971/23) – Okay provided CADW is involved due to its listed status.  
972/23)

12. Christmas Dinner

General discussion over date and venue.

**Resolved: Table be booked at The Griffin, Mynydd Isa. Each member to pay for themselves.**

Meeting ended 8.30pm

Next meeting: 9 January 2024

9. Representatives Report

To receive any reports from representatives from outside bodies.

10. Notices of Motion  
None received.

11. Committee or working group minutes.

To approve the minutes of the Amenities Committee dated 15 December 2023:

**Minutes of Amenities Committee hybrid meeting held at Mynydd Isa Community Centre on Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 6pm.**

**PRESENT**

**Committee Members:** Cllr Faron Hadfield-Jones, Cllr Ian Jolly, Cllr Keith Mutch, Cllr Miriam Shepherd

**In attendance:** Clerk - Mared Eastwood, Assistant Clerk – Janet Jones

1. Apologies:

Cllr John Holiday, Cllr Roy Marsh, Cllr Jack Morris, Cllr Uzma Sikander

2. Declaration of Interests.

None.

3. Christmas Tree site at New Brighton

Clerk advised that a quotation had been received from a local contractor to dig out the stump, concrete a pipe in the site and cover with a manhole. Contractor is also able to complete this work prior to the Christmas tree being delivered at the end of November. The other contractor that had been approached had not responded with any quotation.

**Resolved: Update noted and quotation of £450 agreed, given the time-scales.**

4. Bench on the Square

Clerk advised that the bench has been ordered. It will be delivered ready assembled, but separate arrangements will need to be made for its installation.

**Resolved: The update was noted.**

5. Milestones

Cllr Ian Jolly advised there is no update to report at this time.

6. Signage at y Bonc and the Quarry

Assistant Clerk advised that quotations had been received from two suppliers for four signs, two at each site. Wording to read 'This gate must be kept closed' and 'Users of this Park do

so at their own risk. Argoed Community Council will not accept responsibility for damage, accident or loss.'

The signs will also need to be displayed in Welsh and the options will be to either have both languages displayed on one sign (Welsh first) or have separate signs for each language. There was a general discussion about the signs being in two languages and it was noted that Wales is a bilingual country, it is important to understand that Wales has two languages and it is the duty of the Community Council to promote the Welsh language and put it first.

The Quarry main gate has a rotten slat and quotations are being obtained for either repair or replacement with either a new wooden or metal gate.

**Resolved: Clerk to advise Rockcliffe that this is under consideration.**

**Meeting ended 6.25pm**

**Next meeting 15 November 2023**

12. Planning Applications for Consideration:

**PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION - Ref No: COU/001037/23**

**PROPOSAL: CONVERSION OF EXISTING 4 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW INTO TWO SEPARATE BUNGALOWS AND SMALL EXTENSION TO THE FRONT.**

**LOCATION: 140, CRESTWAY, Park Avenue, Bryn Y Baal, Mold, CH7 6TR**

Is a Departure from the Development Plan	<b>N</b>
Affects a Right of Way	<b>N</b>
Accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment	<b>N</b>

13. Precept Budget Proposal

To consider the following Precept budget proposal:

## ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRECEPT BUDGET 2024/25

<b>Allocated Reserves:</b>	
Milestones	£2,700
Street Light Inspections (every 6 years)	£1,000
New Brighton signs	£1,500
Biodiversity project	£250
Tesco Bags of Help	£500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,950</b>

<b>Wages and Salaries</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£20,285	£25,979	£26,000	£26,520	
The Officer recommendation: Recommendation allows for a 2% increase in all salary costs and no pension credit that may be applied.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Staff Training, Travel and Expenses</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£450	£450	
The Officer recommendation: Not to decrease usual figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Payroll</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£135	£135	£150	£150	
The Officer recommendation:					



The Council recommendation:					
<b>Councillor Allowances</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£900	£960*	£3,300	£3,384	
The Officer recommendation: To allow for 14 councillor allowances @ £156 and a Chair allowance of £1,200 *Adjusted for allowances re-allocated to grants budget.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Councillor Training</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£300	£300	
The Officer recommendation: To not decrease last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Councillor Travel and Conference</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£200	£200	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Audit fee</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£410	£1,074	£1,500	£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>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£1,478	£1,544	£1,500	£1,600	
The Officer recommendation: To allow for increase in insurance premium.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Legal and professional fees</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£0	£0	£1,000	£1,000	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Gardening Contractors</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£12,996	£13,499	£13,500	£14,000	
The Officer recommendation: There has been no change to the contracts but in anticipation of more planters.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Planting</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£1,726	£1,490	£2,000	£2,250	
The Officer recommendation: This allows for an increase in prices and for anticipated new planters to be filled.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Plant Containers</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£2,442	£2,028*	£2,500	£2,500	
The Officer recommendation: Maintain last year's figure, to continue with rolling programme of replacing the older planters. *Includes anticipated purchase of 5 new planters and a new dog-waste bin.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Hire of meeting room</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£2,783*	£4,000	£4,000	£5,000	
The Officer recommendation: *includes new technology for hybrid meetings. Increase to allow for increase in rent.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Telephone and internet</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£1,846*	£400	£1,400	£1,600	
The Officer recommendation: *Note unauthorised deduction has been used as credit following year. To maintain last year's figure, allows for some increase in monthly payments.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Photocopying</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£485	£453	£575	£575	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Printing, stationery and office equipment</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£1,015	£1,150	£1,100	£1,250	
The Officer recommendation: To allow for an increase in costs.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Subscriptions</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£231	£177	£240	£240	
The Officer recommendation: To maintain last year's figure.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>CCTV</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£0	£700	£700	£750	
The Officer recommendation: To allow for a possible increase in costs.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Playscheme</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£2,053	£2,127	£2,500	£3,500	
The Officer recommendation: We currently have 4 weeks, split over two sites. Expect to be asked to have either 3 or 6 weeks this summer and have also made provision towards funding a 'buddy'					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Christmas Tree and Lights</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£4,213	£2,750	£2,750	£4,750	
The Officer recommendation: Infrastructure is now in place but will be exploring expansion with Shangri-La lights.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Fireworks</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,500	
The Officer recommendation: To increase contribution to reflect general increase in costs.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Argoed Recreation Charity (Y Bonc)</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£2,495	£0	£0	£2,500	
The Officer recommendation: To cover incidental costs in maintenance.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Play areas</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£6,000	£8,509	£5,000	£2,500	
The Officer recommendation: To benefit from match-funding, should it be available.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Other maintenance costs Misc and general amenities</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£120	£3,000*	£1,500	£3,000	
The Officer recommendation: *Includes bike stands and garage door and provision for new quarry gate and signs. Recommendation to reflect general spend.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Poppies for lampposts Poppy wreaths</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£353	£435*	£400	£400	
The Officer recommendation: *Includes anticipated purchase of Tommies, Maintain budget for replacement poppies.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>S137 Grants</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£3,050	£2,724*	£2,000	£2,000	
The Officer recommendation: Maintain last year's recommendation. *Includes councillor allowances added to grants budget					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Street lighting energy</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£859*	£3,460	£2,700	£3,500	
The Officer recommendation *Covers Jan – September 2022. Recommendation to accommodate current charging rate.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Street lighting inspection and maintenance</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£3,466*	£1,556	£2,000	£2,000	
The Officer recommendation: *Includes the 6 yearly inspection. Recommendation allows for ad hoc maintenance and more to be put into allocated reserve for 6 yearly inspections.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Street lighting upgrade</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£4,199	£2,449	£4,200	£0	
The Officer recommendation: Payments now completed, nothing outstanding.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Jubilee/Coronation Costs/Community Events</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£293	£2,149*	£1,500	£2,500	
The Officer recommendation: To facilitate community events and commemorations.  *Includes the cost of two commemorative benches					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Election</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£410	£0	£0	£0	
The Officer recommendation: No election planned for this year.					
The Council recommendation:					

<b>Biodiversity</b>	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Officer rec	2024/25 Council rec.
	£0	£0*	£250	£250	
The Officer recommendation: *£250 moved to allocated reserves. Recommendation to facilitate more bio-diversity friendly features and/or events.					
The Council recommendation:					

**Total estimated budget: £89,948**

**Total budget 2023/24: £91,915**

**Total proposed budget 2024/25: £91,669**

Total required for proposed budget: £91,669.00

Total required for allocated reserves: £5,950.00

Total required for agreed reserves at 30%: £27,500.00

£125,119.00

Less anticipated closing bank balances: £51,286.00

£73,833.00

To maintain a precept with no increase, precept would need to be **2,543.48 x £31.68 = £80,577.45**; 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 **£805.77** in budget.