



**MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A HYBRID MEETING ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2024 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MYNYDD ISA COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**Representatives:**

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

**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 Gwilym Jones, Cllr Uzma Sikander

**2. Chair's Report**

Chair advised:

- that there had been a short ceremony, attended by the family and members of the community, to mark the installation of 'Bea's Bench', which was felt to have been well received.
- he wished his nominated charities/organisations to be Caffi Isa and the local Lions, who installed and maintain the defibrillator on Mynydd Isa Community Centre.

**3. Clerk's Report**

Clerk advised that an invitation for nominations for councillors to sit on the Standards Committee at Flintshire County Council has been received.

**Resolved: Cllrs Miriam Shepherd and Ian Jolly be nominated to attend.**

**4. Co-option of Members**

There was consideration of the applications of two residents to join Argoed Community Council.

**Resolved: Unanimously in support of Paul Jewell and Rebecca Blanchard being co-opted onto the Council and a warm welcome was extended to them both.**

5. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jon McCarron declared a personal interest only in agenda item 13.

6. Standing Orders

None to consider.

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	

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

**The precept, salaries and bank balances were noted.**

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

Minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2023 were approved as amended – reference to main quarry gate.

9. Representatives Report

The PCSO's report was read, with nothing of significance to report. It was queried whether the PCSOs are re-starting Cuppa with a Coppa and it was pointed out that there are still parking issues on Park Avenue with inconsiderate drivers causing visibility issues on the corner with Ellesmere Drive.

Cllr John Holiday gave an update to advise that Go Safe are now monitoring speed limits and advising drivers on misdemeanours.

**Resolved:** To arrange a meeting outside of the community council meetings in order to discuss issues with the local PCSOs.

10. Notices of Motion

None received.

11. Committee or working group minutes.

Consideration of the minutes of the Amenities Committee dated 15 December 2023.

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Amenities Committee were approved as amended – the date of the next meeting to be recorded as being 17 January 2024.

**12. Planning Applications for Consideration:**

General discussion about the merits of the application.

**Resolved:** COU/001037/23 – approved subject to there being sufficient off-road parking.

**13. Precept Budget Proposal**

Clerk gave an explanation of each line of the draft proposed budget:

**Precept Breakdown 2024-25**

**Allocated Reserves:**

Milestones	2,700.00
Street Light Inspections (every 6 years)	1,000.00
New Brighton signs	1,500.00
Biodiversity projects	250.00
Tesco Bags of Help	<u>500.00</u>
<b>Total allocated reserves:</b>	<b>5,950.00</b>

**Budget Lines:**

Detail	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimated	2023/24 <u>actual</u>	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Rec
Wages and Salaries	20,285.00	25,979.00		26,000.00	26,520.00
Staff Training, Travel and Expenses	0.00	0.00		450.00	450.00
Payroll	135.00	135.00		150.00	150.00
Councillor Allowances	900.00	960.00		3,300.00	3,384.00
Councillor Training	0.00	0.00		300.00	300.00
Councillor Travel and Conference	0.00	0.00		200.00	200.00
Audit fee	410.00	1,074.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
Insurance and Data Protection	1,478.00	1,544.00		1,500.00	1,600.00
Legal and professional fees	0.00	0.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Gardening Contractors	12,996.00	13,499.00		13,500.00	14,000.00
Planting	1,726.00	1,490.00		2,000.00	2,250.00
Plant containers	2,442.00	2,028.00		2,500.00	2,500.00
Hire of meeting room	2,783.00	4,000.00		4,000.00	5,000.00
Telephone and internet	1,846.00	400.00		1,400.00	1,600.00
Photocopying	485.00	453.00		575.00	575.00
Printing, stationery and office equipment	1,015.00	1,150.00		1,100.00	1,250.00
Subscriptions	231.00	177.00		240.00	240.00
CCTV	0.00	700.00		700.00	750.00
Playscheme	2,053.00	2,127.00		2,500.00	3,500.00
Christmas Tree and Lights	4,213.00	2,750.00		2,750.00	4,750.00

Fireworks	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,500.00
ARC	2,495.00	0.00		0.00	2,500.00
Play areas	6,000.00	8,509.00		5,000.00	2,500.00
Other maintenance costs	120.00	3,000.00		1,500.00	3,000.00
Poppies for lampposts/poppy wreaths	353.00	435.00		400.00	400.00
S137 Grants	3,050.00	2,724.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Street lighting energy	859.00	3,460.00		2,700.00	3,500.00
Street lighting inspection and maintenance	3,466.00	1,556.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Street lighting upgrade	4,199.00	2,449.00		4,200.00	0.00
Jubilee/Coronation/Community events	293.00	2,149.00		1,500.00	2,500.00
Election costs	410.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Biodiversity	0.00	0.00		250.00	250.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>75,243.00</b>	<b>83,748.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>86,215.00</b>	<b>91,669.00</b>

**Resolved: to ask for a precept of £80,577.45 to avoid any increase and maintain agreed reserves of 30%.**

Meeting ended 8.40pm  
Next meeting: 6 February 2024