



MINUTES OF THE ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AS A HYBRID MEETING ON TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2024 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MYNYDD ISA COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Representatives:

Argoed Ward: Cllr Faron Hadfield-Jones, Cllr John Holiday, Cllr Paul Jewell, Cllr Ian Jolly, Cllr Jack Morris, Cllr Hilary McGuill, Cllr Gwilym Owen

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

In attendance: Clerk Mared Eastwood, Assistant Clerk Janet Jones

1. Apologies
Received from Cllr Roy Marsh
2. Chair's Report
The Chair gave the following report:

It is a pleasure to present this council's annual report which records that which has been undertaken during this period.

This council aims to work with the community and partners to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of our community to ensure that our locality continues to be a pleasant and welcome place for people of all ages to live because they will feel safe, have opportunities to be physical and mentally healthy and to socialise and work in a quality environment.

This report aims to give a taste of the work of the community council during the year.

About our Council:

The Council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own which is quite separate from that of members. Any decisions taken by the Community Council are the responsibility of the whole body, and it is irrelevant if any Member agreed or disagreed with any proposal. A Community Council can legally raise money through the Precept – a levy which residents pay through council Tax. It has a range of powers which allows it to

spend this public money on the services which it provides. This may include provision of Playing Fields, Playgrounds, Public Parks, and Community Centres.

Council's Precept for 2023/2024 being £80,714 based on band D properties. The number of electors in the wards being a total of 4,672 persons. The geographical of Argoed Community Council is in Flintshire, North Wales the nearest town being Mold which is a busy market town and shopping centre.

The Community Council has a duty to ensure that the rules for the administration of the Council are adhered to: It must appoint a Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Clerk and RFO (often this position is combined). It must also appoint an independent and competent internal Auditor, hold an Annual Meeting of Council, and keep records of council business conducted.

This Council has several broad ranging responsibilities and powers which, dependent on finance and other resources, enable to carry out improved facilities for its community.

Service that Council Provides

- Provision of the Councils website
- Provision of hanging baskets and planters in the community
- Provision of Christmas trees and festive lights and involvement in Christmas activities
- Consultation on planning matters effecting the Wards, including Local Development in the area.
- Provision of financial support to Flintshire County Councils Summer Play- Scheme
- Provision of grants to various groups and organisations.
- Provision and maintenance CCTV cameras.

Rules that are followed:

The Community Council has adopted the Code of Conduct, and a declaration of interests are kept for each member.

Council have recently agreed to sign up to the new Civility and Respect Pledge.

Meetings: Held by hybrid at the Community Centre, the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Also details of council events and news can be found on the website.

Council Sub - Committees: Amenities', Grants, H.R.

These Sub-Committee discussions take place prior to full council meetings, then information, suggestion is put before the full Council.

Many of our ambitions have been achieved and new issues are in hand.

- The Quarry continues to be regularly maintained, vegetation on the cliff face has now been cleared.
- Six new planters have been ordered, and the plants.
- Two new replacement benches have ordered one for Bryn Y Baal Road, together with a dog waste bin, the other bench, with plaque in memory of Councillor Bea Clarke is sited in Mercia Square.
- The fence around the football pitch in Wats Dyke Park is now completed.
- The recycling of pill packets and crisp packets has proved very successful with the residents, numerous bags now awaiting collection.

- There is still one vacancy on this council that can be filled by co-option to obtain a full quota.

I have enjoyed my year of Chairmanship and my thanks to everyone in helping to make this council enthusiastic, successful and law abiding.

3. Clerk's Report

Clerk advised that:

- the new bench and dog bin were due to be installed the following day.
- A solicitor has been appointed to deal with the registration of the Quarry.
- The insurance policy had been arranged.
- Planters are in the process of being placed and planted.
- Signs for Wats Dyke Park are being progressed but the fenced area is not within the PSPO
- After the garage being cleared a number of miscellaneous items have been found. Volunteer councillors are needed to review these items to see if they are obsolete or worth keeping.
- Chair of Argoed PTA invited to give details of the upcoming celebration of Argoed High School and the new school. Event being held on 13 July 2024 and all past and present pupils, teachers, etc being invited to attend. The headteacher is giving a speech at 12 noon.

4. Co-option of Members

None to consider.

5. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

6. Standing Orders

None to consider.

7. Financial Matters

a) Clerk gave details on the expenditure incurred as listed below:

Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Amount (£)	
E0600S521E	Microsoft	M/soft 365 Business Basic x 13	76.44	Pd
E0600S55DQ	Microsoft	M/soft 365 Business Standard x 1	12.36	Pd
M1613N	BT	Telephone and internet	126.27	
#4928	JDH Business Services Ltd	2023/24 Internal Audit	580.80	
01.06.2024	Michelle Jones Gardening	Summer bedding expenses	700.06	
#3848	Follyfield Nurseries	Summer bedding	1671.30	
LCO03177	Clear Councils	Local Councils Insurance Policy	1,495.33	

- b) Salary and other employment costs for May 2024 given as £1,757.44
- c) Bank balances were listed as at 30 April 2024 as follows:
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|-------------------|-------------------|
| NatWest Current: | £5,359.47 |
| NatWest Reserves: | <u>£93,000.04</u> |
| Total | £98,359.51 |
- d) Clerk advised that the internal audit has been received and the internal auditor has made the following comments:
- The annual return for Argoed Recreational Charity for 2022/23 has been submitted but not within the Charity Commission deadlines.
 - The gardening contract should be reviewed as per the financial regulations.
 - The cash book should record the organisation a payment is made to.

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

The salaries and bank balances were noted.

The auditor's comments and that the gardening contract is already in the process of being reviewed was noted. The report of the Internal Auditor was considered, noted and approved.

8. To approve the Minutes of meetings held on 7 May 2024
Consideration of the minutes of the meetings held on 7 May 2024.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting dated 7 May 2024 were approved.

9. Notices of Motion
None received.

10. Planning Applications
None received.

11. 20mph Consultation
Cllr Faron Hadfield-Jones advised that the Council has been very supportive of the 20mph but, with the fresh consultation being open, a review is needed of what, if any, roads should be returned to 30mph. Comments were made regarding the number of children crossing Mold Road, Mynydd Isa to get to school and also that more pelican crossings may be preferable so that the road could be returned to 30mph.

Resolved: The arterial roads are considered to be Mold Road, Mynydd Isa; Mold Road, New Brighton and the main road through Llong.

Clerk to advise the consultation that Mold Road, Mynydd Isa and Mold Road, New Brighton should be returned to 30mph.

12. Representatives Report

Clr John Holiday advised that Speedwatch is active again. All the hotspots are being done two or three times a week. There was one incident of a motorist going 61mph down Alltami Road.

Resolved: Report was noted.

13. Committee and group reports

It was noted that the Grants Committee and Amenities Committee due to meet next on 19 June 2024.

Meeting concluded 7.55pm
Next meeting to be held 2 July 2024

DRAFT