



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Argoed Community Council held on Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 7pm at Caffi Isa and via Teams

Present: Councillors Miriam Shepherd, Jon McCarron, Faron Hadfield-Jones, Paul Jewell, Rebecca Blanchard, Graham Palmer, Roy Marsh and Keith Mutch.

Absent: Councillor Hilary McGuill, Councillor John Holiday, Councillor Jack Morris, Councillor Rebecca Legge and Councillor Gwilym Owen

In attendance: Sharon Swift, Clerk and Janet Jones, Assistant Clerk

Visitors: County Councillor Mared Eastwood and Tim Eastwood

1. Apologies for absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Councillor McGuill who was unwell, Councillor Holiday who was away visiting family and Councillor Jack Morris who had other commitments.

2. Members Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest

A personal and prejudicial declaration of interest was made by Councillor Rebecca Blanchard in relation to item 14 and the planning application made by 1 Grays Road, Mynydd Isa as it backs onto her property and her husband has objected to it.

3. Ten Minute Public Participation Session

County Councillor Mared Eastwood spoke to Members about the fireworks funding application made by Argoed Sports Association. She explained that the budget was in existence and the precept setting process had allocated monies for a penitential contribution. She explained that she had had a meeting with Argoed Sports Association and explained that the Community Council had always been supportive of the event and hoped that they would be again. She also raised the matter of a Community Councillor joining the Committee.

4. Minutes of previous meetings

A copy of the minutes had been sent to all members prior to the meeting. Councillor Jolly proposed that the minutes of the Council Meeting of 2 September 2025 and the minutes of the Amenities Committee of 16 September 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Jewell. All members were in favour.

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Resolved – that the minutes of the Council Meeting of 2 September 2025 and the Amenities Committee of 16 September 2025 be approved and adopted and signed as a correct record.

5. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Assistant Clerk provided an update on reported police incidents in August 2025. Incidents had decreased from the previous month and crime levels were below average.

6. Matters Arising

Matters arising from previous meetings were considered:

Street lights – the Clerk had shared the response received from Flintshire County Council regarding the street lights that had been removed. Members said that this was unacceptable as the stretch from Bryn-y-Baal to New Brighton was a designated 'safe route to school' and the lack of lighting would make it difficult for the children walking home over the winter months. The Chair invited Councillor Eastwood to speak and she explained that the situation was the same across the County and Flintshire County Council did not have the resources to replace every one that had been removed. She suggested the Community Council should identify the critical ones they wanted installing and focus on these. Members asked the Clerk to write back to Flintshire County Council to express their dissatisfaction and also asked Councillor Eastwood to look into this matter too.

Meeting venue – Members agreed that meeting at Caffi Isa was agreeable and New Brighton Community Centre had enquired as to whether the Community Council could release the Wednesday evening for the youth club. Following a discussion Members asked the Clerk to confirm with Caffi Isa that a long-term arrangement would be agreeable prior to releasing the Wednesday evening. Councillor McCarron suggested that contact should also be made with the Argoed High School Business & Facilities Manager about using the school meeting room as a back-up. The Chair invited Councillor Eastwood to speak and she stated that the contractors Robertsons were moving into the old Mynydd Isa Primary School building.

Pump Bike Track – The Clerk explained to Members that the company contacted wanted an up-front fee of £750 to provide an estimated cost. Whilst this would be deducted from the scheme cost if chosen to go ahead, Members asked the Clerk to look into other providers too.

7. Police matters

This had already been considered as part of item 5.

8. Correspondence and Clerk report

The Clerk advised Members that the 2024-25 accounts have been audited and an unqualified audit opinion had been issued. The Clerk would monitor progress with the outstanding governance matters during the remainder of the 2025-26 financial year.

The Clerk had shared the report on the Summer Playscheme in 2025 prior to the meeting. Members agreed that it had been a success and discussed the cost estimate for 2026.

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Councillor Blanchard proposed that the Council have a six-week playscheme again in 2026. This was seconded by Councillor Jewell. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the Council advises Flintshire County Council that they want a six-week playscheme in 2026.

Councillor Shepherd raised the question of activities for the older children and the Clerk said she would make enquiries about this.

The Clerk advised Members that she was meeting the One Voice Wales Biodiversity Officer on 14 October with a view to obtaining some bulbs and wildflower seeds for Bryn-y-Baal Quarry, the Bonc and the Memorial Garden as well as appropriate signage.

9. Draft Council Complaints Policy

This will be carried forward to the November meeting.

10. Sabrina Fortune Paralympian Success

Members acknowledged the recent success of local Paralympian Sabrina Fortune and discussed ways of celebrating her success. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of congratulations from the Community Council and the location for the celebratory planter still needed to be agreed. The Clerk raised the matter of a more permanent recognition such as naming a sports facility after Sabrina and suggested this be considered further in due course.

11. Remembrance Preparations

Councillor Shepherd stated that preparations were underway and that there would be a bugler. The Clerk confirmed that the pathways and garden area would be tidied up by the gardeners over the next few weeks. The suggested PA system was discussed and the need for a stand and a cover in the event of bad weather. Councillor Hadfield-Jones proposed that the PA system and accessories be purchased. This was seconded by Councillor Jewell. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the PA system and accessories be purchased.

Councillor Palmer confirmed that he would arrange for the poppies to go up the next weekend and he was thanked for doing this.

12. Christmas preparations

Councillor Blanchard updated the meeting about progress with the Christmas lights switch-on event. There would need to be new houses for the display for 2026, which could form part of a competition involving the young people of the village. The need for additional lights as well as an appropriate electrical connection was raised by the Clerk and Councillor Blanchard. The Clerk explained that the cost would be met by the community events budget.

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Councillor Jewell proposed that the Christmas lights be purchased as well as the electrical installation. This was seconded by Councillor Jolly. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the Christmas lights be purchased and the electrical installation be arranged.

13. Budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation report

The Clerk present the budget outturn report and bank reconciliation at 30 September 2025. The bank reconciliation is summarised below:

	£
Balance at 1 April 2025	86,737
Add receipts	54,411
	141,148
Less Payments	24,889
Balance at 30 September 2025	116,259
Current account balance at 30 September 2025	2,560
Deposit account balance at 30 September 2025	113,699
Total bank balances at 30 September 2025	116,259

Councillor Shepherd proposed that the budget monitoring report and the bank reconciliation at 30 September 2025 be accepted and approved by the Community Council. This was seconded by Councillor Jolly. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation at 30 September 2025 be accepted and approved.

The Clerk raised the matter of whether Members wished any unclaimed Councillor allowances to be added to the grants budget. Members agreed that this had been the practice in previous financial years. Councillor Blanchard's allowance would be put into a Christmas Events Reserve. Councillor Jewell proposed that other unclaimed Councillor allowances be added to the grants budget. This was seconded by Councillor Mutch. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the unclaimed Councillor allowances be added to the grants budget.

The contribution to the fireworks requested by Argoed Sports Association was then raised by the Clerk. She explained that she had treated them in the same way as other organisations requesting financial support and had asked them to complete the grants form and provide the requested supporting evidence. They had refused. Members expressed disappointment at this but agreed that the fireworks was a good event for the community. The Clerk suggested that a Grants and Contributions Policy be put in place for 2026 and anyone seeking financial support would have to comply with the adopted policy.

Councillor McCarron proposed that a donation of £2,000 be made to the fireworks event. This was seconded by Councillor Hadfield-Jones. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the Community Council make a donation of £2,000 to the fireworks event.

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14. Planning matters

Councillor Blanchard explained the situation about planning application FUL/000764/25 at 1 Grays Road, Mynydd Isa. She then left the meeting. Members discussed the application and expressed concerns about encouraging foxes into a domestic setting and the impact on birds and wildlife; the size of the development and the lack of parking available. Councillor McCarron proposed that the Community Council object to the planning application on the grounds raised. This was seconded by Councillor Mutch. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the Community Council object to planning application FUL/000764/25.

Councillor Blanchard returned to the meeting and was made aware of the decision.

15. Highways matters

No further traffic matters were raised.

16. Accounts for payment

The Chair read through the details of the payments that the Clerk was seeking Council approval for this month. All items presented for payment authorisation are detailed below:

Payee	Details	£
Payments made under delegated authority per Financial Regulations		
HH Print Ltd	Door sign at New Brighton Community Centre	150.00
Clerk	Reimbursement for 3 poppy wreaths	49.97
Salaries	Month 6 – Clerk & Assistant Clerk	741.77
Councillor shepherd	Councillor allowance authorised at AGM	166.40
HMRC	Month 6 – tax and NI	348.50
Clwyd pension Fund	Clerk pension backdated	936.33
	Total payments made	2,392.97
Payments needing to be made		
Flintshire County Council	Playscheme Summer 2025	4,406.00
AR Gittins & CR Bedford	Invoice ACC008 Watering September	480.00
AR Gittins & CR Bedford	Invoice ACC009 Mercia Square & Memorial Gardens	540.00
Wales Audit	Invoice 013554 – audit fee 2024-25	575.00
Caffi Isa CIC	Invoice ACC250209 – room hire 2 September 2025	55.50
Clerk	Home Bargains – cleaning supplies	5.27
Clerk	Reimbursement for poppy wreath	21.50
CANADA Copying	Photocopying	102.77
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting inspections July, Aug & Sept 2025	317.50
HMRC	Month 5 payment owing	41.60
	Total payments to be made	6,545.14
Payments made by direct debit		
Microsoft	Licences x 1	11.52
Microsoft	Licences x 15	82.80
	Total payments made	94.32

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Councillor Hadfield-Jones proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Palmer. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the payments detailed be authorised including those made under delegated authority and by direct debit.

The meeting closed at 21:00pm.

ACTION POINTS FROM 14 OCTOBER 2025 MEETING			
	Action to be completed	By whom	By when
A	Consider a Community Councillor joining the Argoed Sports Association Committee.	All	31 December 2025
B	Write to Flintshire County Council about the street lights not being replaced.	Clerk	31 October 2025
C	Liaise with Caffi Isa about a long-term arrangement to hold meetings.	Clerk	17 October 2025
D	Liaise with Argoed Hire School Business & Facilities Manager about use of the school meeting room.	Assistant Clerk	31 October 2025
E	Look into other pump bike track providers and obtain costings.	Clerk	14 November 2025
F	Advise Flintshire County Council that the Council wants a six-week playscheme in 2026 and enquire about provision for the older children.	Clerk	31 October 2025
G	Letter of congratulations to be sent to Sabrina Fortune.	Clerk	7 November 2025
H	Purchase PA system and accessories.	Clerk	31 October 2025
I	Purchase Christmas lights and arrange electrical installation.	Clerk	14 November 2025
J	Update grants budget to included unclaimed Councillor allowances.	Clerk	21 October 2025
K	Make a donation of £2,000 to the fireworks event.	Clerk	31 October 2025
L	Advise Flintshire County Council of the objections to the planning application made by 1 Grays Riad, Mynydd Isa.	Clerk	8 October 2025

Signed: _____

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARGOED
COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 7pm

Councillor Rebecca Legge made a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 14 planning application FUL/000764/25 relating to 1 Grays Road, Mynydd Isa as it backs onto her property and her husband has objected to it.

DRAFT

Signed: _____