



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Argoed Community Council held on Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7pm via Teams

Present: Councillors Miriam Shepherd, Jon McCarron, Faron Hadfield-Jones, Roy Marsh, Ian Jolly, John Holiday, Paul Jewell, Rebecca Legge, Jack Morris, Graham Palmer and Keith Mutch.

Absent: Councillor Hilary McGuill and Councillor Rebecca Blanchard

In attendance: Sharon Swift, Clerk

Visitors: Residents Brian Hallsworth and Ken Houghton

1. Apologies for absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Councillor McGuill who was unwell and Councillor Blanchard who had work commitments.

2. Members Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.

3. Ten Minute Public Participation Session

The Chair welcomed residents Brian Hallsworth and Ken Houghton to the meeting. The Chair explained that the Community Council had been told by Flintshire County Council that there was funding available for a bus shelter on Mold Road (Chester direction) but it required match funding to be provided by the Community Council. The residents explained that there was a need for bus shelters on both sides of the road. The Clerk explained that the 2026-27 budget and precept was being decided by Members this month and projects that the Community Council wished to complete in the ward would be considered. The Clerk also explained that Flintshire County Council and Argoed Community Council were not in a position to fund shelters on both sides of the road, but it would form part of the Community Council's longer-term plans.

The Chair thanked them both for attending, advised them that the Community Council would let them know the outcome of budget discussions and they left the meeting.

Signed: _____

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 December 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and this was seconded by Councillor McCarron. All members were in favour.

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

5. Report from County Councillor

Councillor Eastwood was not present at the meeting.

6. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Holiday explained that Community Speedwatch had restarted with two sessions a week on the basis that the outside temperature was above 8 to 10 degrees for personal safety reasons.

7. Matters arising

The Chair went through the actions from the previous meeting. The Clerk explained that some matters were still outstanding due to the amount of work that had to be completed on preparing the budget documents.

The signs for the Bonc and Bryn-y-Baal Quarry will be ordered shortly, and the outstanding correspondence would be dealt with. The Chair reminded the Clerk that the bottom part of the trellis on Bryn Road needed repairing.

The Clerk had circulated the response about the Traffic Regulation Order for the new school site. Members expressed their disappointment at the lack of involvement and that parking issues would continue. The Clerk agreed to see if Streetscene representatives could attend a meeting so that they could discuss it further.

Councillor Palmer mentioned the allotments and the creation of a committee to progress this further and the Clerk agreed to put this matter on the agenda for February.

8. Police matters

There was no police report. The Clerk explained that PCSO Drew Darlington had moved on to be a police officer so contact would be made with the South Flintshire Inspector to clarify who the PCSOs were for the ward.

Councillor Hadfield-Jones proposed that the press and public should be excluded from the Council meeting for the next agenda item because of the confidential nature of items to be discussed. This was seconded by Councillor McCarron. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the press and public be excluded from the Council meeting agenda item 9.

Signed: _____

9. HR & Councillor matters

10. Correspondence and Clerk report

The Clerk had shared any relevant correspondence with Members already and there were no other matters that needed to be raised.

11. Draft Council Privacy Notice

On the advice of the Clerk this agenda item was postponed due to needed to agree the precept.

12. Precept 2026-27

The Clerk had circulated detailed budget and precept options as part of the agenda for the meeting. The Finance Working Group met the previous evening, and the Clerk explained the process of compiling the budget as well as also considering potential projects to undertake.

Councillor Jewell, as Chair of the Finance Working Group, went through what the Group had considered the previous evening. He explained the detailed work that had been undertaken by the Clerk to prepare the base 2026-27 budget, including cutting the budget back as much as possible.

Signed: _____

Councillor Jewell highlighted some project areas that had been discussed and explained that the Finance Working Group had decided that the bus shelter should be prioritised because:

- The shelter had been discussed for over 10 years.
- Residents had been in contact about the need for a bus shelter; and
- Flintshire County Council has offered match funding.

The Clerk explained that match funding was available if the bus shelter work took place by 31 March 2026. Therefore, the cost could be met from general reserves and replaced by the expenditure forming part of the 2026=27 budget and precept requirement. Councillor Jewell explained that other projects had been considered and the following acknowledged:

- The Community Council would consult residents about a pump bike track and then submit a Lottery Grant application.
- The Christmas lighting location would be reviewed for Christmas 2026 and they would be relocated to maximise the impact.
- A six-week playscheme would continue.

Members acknowledged that they had not raised the precept for five years and had absorbed cost increases and employer National Insurance increases by using general reserves. They knew that a precept increase was needed for 2026-27 on order to maintain the same services but it was a very difficult decision to approve.

Members asked the Clerk to re-visit the budget options and then an Extraordinary Meeting to finalise the 2026-27 budget and precept requirement would take place on 27 January 2026. The reserves would be formally reviewed as part of this process, although levels had been considered as part of the Finance Working Group meeting.

13. Bank reconciliation and financial reports

The Clerk had circulated presented the budget outturn report and bank reconciliation prepared on 31 December 2025. The bank reconciliation is summarised below:

	£
Balance on 1 April 2025	86,737
Add receipts	82,457
	169,194
Less Payments	54,796
Balance on 31 December 2025	114,398
Current account balance on 31 December 2025	4,028
Deposit account balance on 31 December 2025	110,370
Total bank balances on 31 December 2025	114,398

The reports were not considered by Members but formed part of the 2025-26 outturn presented by the Clerk as part of 2026-27 precept setting.

Signed: _____

14. Planning matters

Members discussed the planning application FUL/001078/25. This was a retrospective approval relating to single storey rear and side extensions and alterations to 19 Llewelyn Drive, Bryn-y-Baal.

Members discussed the application and had no objections but requested confirmation that the two extensions to the house would be rendered (or a suitable alternative) because as it currently stands (in breeze blocks) it is not in keeping with other properties in the area.

15. Highways matters

No other highways matters were raised.

18. Accounts for payment

The Clerk presented the payments that she 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		
AB Gittins & CR Bedford	Invoice ACC012 – fruit trees and Vale Road park	560.00
Mega Electrical NW Limited	Invoice 11412 – Mynydd Isa Christmas lights	1,656.00
Mega Electrical NW Limited	Invoice 11413 – New Brighton Christmas lights	1,092.00
MLandscapeUK	Invoice 22 – quarterly work at the quarry	590.00
Councillor Legge	Councillor Allowance	208.00
Staff	Salaries – month 9	2,909.80
HMRC	Month 9 – tax and NI	1,395.33
Clwyd Pension Fund	Month 9 contributions	841.79
	Total payments made	9,252.92
Payments needing to be made		
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting inspections Oct, Nov & Dec 2025	317.50
DM Payroll Services	Balance of fee for 2025-26	137.40
Staff	Salaries – month 10	1,421.09
HMRC	Month 10 – tax and NI	528.89
Clwyd Pension Fund	Month 10 contributions	349.93
	Total payments to be made	2,754.81
Payments made by direct debit		
Microsoft	Licences x 1 December 2025	11.52
Microsoft	Licences x 15 December 2025	82.80
	Total payments made	94.32

Councillor Shepherd proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Legge. 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.

Signed: _____

ACTION POINTS FROM 14 JANUARY 2026 MEETING			
	Action to be completed	By whom	By when
A	Arrange for trellis to be repaired.	Clerk	13 February 2026
B	Arrange for FCC representatives to attend a meeting so that members can discuss the Traffic Regulation Order further.	Clerk	6 February 2026
C	Allotments to be on February agenda.	Clerk	2 February 2026
D	Advise Councillor McGuill about leave of absence.	Clerk	6 February 2026
E	Submit comments on planning application FUL/001078/25 to Flintshire County Council.	Clerk	15 January 2025
F	Make payments.	Clerk	31 January 2026

Signed: _____