



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Argoed Community Council held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 7pm via Teams.

Present: Councillors Jon McCarron, Faron Hadfield-Jones, Hilary McGuill, Roy Marsh, Ian Jolly, John Holiday, Graham Palmer and Keith Mutch

Absent: Councillor Miriam Shepherd, Councillor Rebecca Legge, Councillor Jack Morris, Councillor Paul Jewell and Councillor Rebecca Blanchard

In attendance: Sharon Swift, Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Councillor Shepherd and Councillor Legge who were unwell, Councillor Blanchard who had work commitments and Councillor Jewell who had other commitments. Councillor McCarron agreed to Chair the meeting.

2. Members Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.

3. Precept 2026-27

The Clerk had prepared further budget options following the discussion at the meeting on 14 January 2026. These had been shared with Members prior to this meeting. The discussion resumed on the budget and precept requirement for 2026-27, taking account of the specific and general reserve levels which the Clerk had provided.

The Clerk clarified that the budget options included the match funding of a bus shelter and approval of the budget and precept would encompass the approval of the bus shelter project. Expenditure had been reduced on play area match funding because significant sums had been spent in 2025-26 on improvements at the Bonc and at Wats Dyke. In 2026-27 consulting with the community on a pump bike track will take place and then an application to the National Lottery for grant funding will be made. Grounds maintenance work will prioritise work on the Bonc and Bryn-y-Baal Quarry as these assets are the responsibility of Argoed Community Council. Councillor McGuill stated that the Community Council needed to spend more in 2026-27 on Christmas lights and therefore this should be included in the budget. Councillor McGuill pointed out that she had sent details to the Clerk.

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The Clerk explained that a decision had not been made by the Community Council to purchase more Christmas lights. At the Finance Working Group meeting it was agreed that the locations of the lights should be reviewed before deciding to purchase any more. It was not just the cost of buying more lights as there would be additional costs for installation, taking down and storage. In addition, checks would need to be made about what lights were suitable for the streetlight posts and this would need to involve Mega Electrical and Flintshire County Council. Members agreed that asking for an inventory of what lights Mega held should be requested and Christmas lights could then be discussed at a future Amenities Committee Meeting.

The five budget options prepared by the Clerk calculated the Band D precept and the increase from the previous financial year. Members spent some time considering if a precept rise could be avoided. The Clerk explained that the Community Council had borne the cost of price rises for five years and employer National Insurance increases and general reserves had been used but long term this could not continue as general reserve levels were decreasing.

Precept Option 3 was then discussed, which had budgeted expenditure of £100,583 and a precept of £87,983 would be levied. The remaining income needed would be met from bank interest, a VAT refund and an estimated £10,000 from general reserves. The precept of £87,983 was a precept Band D charge of £34.12 (£31.68 in 2025-26) for 2026-27. The percentage precept increase is 8.91%. Based on a Band D property this was 7.70% increase from 2025-26 or £2.44 a year or £0.0469 a week. Precept Option 3 included the bus shelter project which Flintshire County Council had made available the funds to match fund.

Councillor Mutch proposed that the 2026-27 precept (Option 3) of £87,983 (as per the precept spreadsheet) be approved for 2026-27, being a precept Band D charge of £34.12 which was an 7.70% increase from 2025-26, £2.44 a year or £0.0469 a week, based upon a Band D property. This was seconded by Councillor Marsh. All members were in favour, however both Councillor McGuill and Councillor Hadfield-Jones abstained from the vote.

Resolved – that the 2026-27 precept of £87,983 be approved and therefore a precept Band D charge of £34.12 (7.70% increase or £0.0469 a week on 2025-26 be approved.

The Clerk completed the precept form and Councillor McCarron counter signed it.

Councillor Mutch left the meeting.

4. Planning matters

Members discussed two planning applications:

Planning application FUL/001021/25. This was a change of use from agricultural land to an affordable gypsy and traveller transit site at Bryn Y Pys Farm, Well Street, Buckley.

Members discussed the application and noted that it was not far away from the field where a previous application had recently been refused at an appeal hearing. Members agreed that their previous observations and concerns applied, and they objected on this basis.

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Councillor McCarron proposed that the application be objected to and reference be made to the previous correspondence submitted to the appeal hearing. This was seconded by Councillor Hadfield-Jones. All members were in favour.

Resolved – the Community Council objects to planning application FUL/001021/25.

Planning application FUL/000006/26. This was for a change of use from a C2 hospital to a C2A secure residential institution at Cygnet Delfryn House, Argoed Hall Lane, Mold.

Members discussed the application and they had matters needing clarifying regarding the categories of people who were going to be residing there before they could support or object to the application.

Councillor McGuill proposed that the Clerk write to Flintshire County Council for more information on what the categories of residents would be and to request an extension until clarification was received. This was seconded by Councillor Marsh. All members were in favour.

Resolved – Clerk to request further information about categories of residents.

5. Accounts for payment

The Clerk presented the payments that she was seeking Council approval for. All items presented for payment authorisation are detailed below:

Payee	Details	£
Payments needing to be made		
Flintshire County Council	Play area match funding	10,909.00
Mega Electrical NW Limited	New Brighton lights removal and storage	1,020.00
Mega Electrical NW Limited	Mynydd Isa lights removal and storage	1,068.00
	Total payments to be made	12,997.00
Payments made by direct debit		
Microsoft	Licences x 1 January 2026	11.52
Microsoft	Licences x 15 January 2026	82.80
	Total payments made	94.32

Councillor Hadfield-Jones proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Jolly. 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 19:49pm.

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ACTION POINTS FROM 27 JANUARY 2026 MEETING			
	Action to be completed	By whom	By when
A	Submit precept form to Flintshire County Council.	Clerk	28 January 2026
B	Advise Flintshire Country Council about the Council agreement to match fund the bus shelter.	Clerk	2 February 2026
C	Submit objection to planning application FUL/001021/25.	Clerk	2 February 2026
D	Request clarification on planning application FUL/000006/26.	Clerk	2 February 2025
E	Make payments.	Clerk	6 February 2026

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