



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Argoed Community Council held on Tuesday 7 April 2026 at 6:45pm at Caffi Isa and via Teams.

Present: Councillors Miriam Shepherd, Jon McCarron, Faron Hadfield-Jones, Ian Jolly, John Holiday, Rebecca Legge and Keith Mutch. Councillor Paul Jewell arrived late.

Absent: Councillor Roy Marsh, Councillor Jack Morris and Councillor Rebecca Blanchard

In attendance: Sharon Swift, Clerk and Councillor Mared Eastwood

The meeting commenced at 6:51pm.

1. Apologies for absence

The Clerk had received apologies from 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

There was a member of the public present, Nicole Haydock, who enquired about a food growing community project taking place in the Argoed ward. She referred to her attendance at a Community Council meeting on 7 March 2023 when she made a presentation. Councillor McCarron explained that the school playing fields at the two vacant schools in the ward were still part of the Education Estate and they had not been declared surplus. If they were declared surplus, they would form part of the Corporate assets of Flintshire County Council and for them to determine if they were required for another purpose.

Councillor Eastwood clarified to the visitor that Robertsons were currently located at Mynydd Isa Primary School and Wats Dyke Infants School may be required as a Welsh feeder school. Councillor Palmer confirmed that Argoed Community Council were in support of allotments being available for residents and there was a lot of support in the community for this too.

It was re-iterated to the visitor that Argoed Community Council was in support of allotments and a community garden being available in the ward but currently no land has been identified in order to proceed with this. Nicole Haydock left the meeting at 7:01pm

Councillor Paul Jewell joined the meeting at 19:01pm.

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4. Exclusion of Press and Public

Councillor McCarron proposed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 because the matters being discussed were both confidential and sensitive. The matter required the Clerk to also be excluded. This was seconded by Councillor Jolly. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the press, public and the Clerk be excluded from the meeting for discussion of a confidential matter.

The meeting returned to an open meeting and the Clerk and Councillor Eastwood returned.

5. Minutes of previous meetings

A copy of the minutes had been sent to all members prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised Members that the month was incorrectly stated as February on the actions on page 5 and Councillor Jolly stated it should state 4 March not 3 March. Councillor McCarron proposed that the minutes of the Council Meeting of 4 March 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting but include the date amendment and this was seconded by Councillor Jolly. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the amended minutes of the Council Meeting of 4 March 2026 be approved and adopted and signed as a correct record.

6. Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

Councillor Holiday explained that the Community Speedwatch was suspended due to another member of the group having had a fall. It would be several weeks before it returned.

7. Matters arising

The Clerk talked to Members about progress with the actions from previous meetings. Maintenance work has taken place at the Quarry and there is more work to be carried out. A short discussion took place between Members about how much of the quarry face should be exposed and the biodiversity benefits of the plants and vegetation. It was agreed that this should be considered by the Amenities Committee, including a site visit. The Clerk stated that the central feature in the Memorial Garden would be planted later this month.

The Chair explained that North East Wales Wildlife had donated a rowan tree and it was hoped that this could be planted in memory of the Assistant Clerk. The Clerk would seek permission and explore options for a plaque.

The Chair enquired about the bus stop and the Clerk stated an appointed contractor was due to start the work in May, but she would contact officers to confirm that this was still the timescale.

Signed: _____

The Clerk stated to Members that Darrel Jones from Flintshire County Council had explained that the New Brighton crossroads light sequence was due to be improved as part of the housing development in New Brighton. Councillor Eastwood also stated that there would be pedestrian crossings put in place to ensure a safe route to school. Given that the housing development is nearing completion, Members asked the Clerk to enquire when the lights and crossings work would take place.

8. Police matters

The Clerk stated that the police crime data on the internet is still relating to January 2026 which was considered at the last meeting. The Clerk said she would continue with her efforts to have a PPCSO attend a Council meeting and highlighted that evidence of smoking drugs had been found in Bryn-y-Baal Quarry. She would advise the police and ask them to proactively patrol this area.

9. Correspondence and Clerk report

The Clerk had shared any relevant correspondence with Members already. The work on the accounts and internal audit requirements is underway as well as reviewing the governance documents for the AGM. The Clerk explained that this is her priority at present.

The Clerk explained that it was Caffi Isa's 10th anniversary and there was a Community Funday on 24 April 2026 that the Community Council may wish to support. The Clerk explained that she would be there and would be sharing information about the Community Council as well as the consultation on the pump bike track proposal, with residents and visitors on the day. The Clerk suggested funding an activity for the children so that a lot of people would benefit, like face painting.

Councillor Hadfield Jones proposed that a budget of £250 be approved for an activity at the Caffi Isa Community Funday. This was seconded by Councillor McCarron. All members were in favour.

Resolved – Clerk to have a budget of £250 for the Caffi Isa Community Funday activity.

10. Annual Report 2025-26

The Annual Report for 2025-26 had been circulated with the agenda papers and was in a similar format to 2024-25. Councillor McCarron proposed that the Annual Report for 2025-26 be approved and published. This was seconded by Councillor Jolly. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the Annual Report 2025-26 be approved and published.

11. Annual Investment Strategy 2026-27

The Annual Investment Strategy for 2026-27 had been circulated with the agenda papers. The Clerk explained it was based on a standardised strategy document but then edited for the arrangements specific to Argoed Community Council. Councillor Jewell proposed that the Annual Investment Strategy 2026-27 be approved and published. This was seconded by Councillor Shepherd. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the Annual Investment Strategy 2026-27 be approved and published.

Signed: _____

12. Scheme of Delegation

The draft Scheme of Delegation had been circulated with the agenda papers. The arrangements were discussed and it was highlighted that all payments needed to be approved prior to payment, and the content on payments and authorisation needed to be more specific, with limits, as well as being mindful of the requirements of Financial Regulations.

The Clerk agreed to review the document further and bring it back to a subsequent meeting.

13. Concerns and Complaints Policy

The draft Concerns and Complaints Policy had been circulated with the agenda papers. The policy was discussed and Councillor McCarron highlighted that it would be useful for the stages to be clearly identified as well as having regard to escalation arrangements and the right of appeal.

The Clerk agreed to review the document further and bring it back to a subsequent meeting.

14. Vexatious Complaints Policy

The draft Vexatious Complaints Policy had been circulated with the agenda papers. Given that the Concerns and Complaints Policy was subject to a further review, this policy would be brought back at the same time.

15. Planning matters

Members discussed the following planning applications:

PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION - Ref No: FUL/000207/26
PROPOSAL: 2 STOREY SIDE EXTENSION. PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AS PART OF LARGER
EXTENSION 10 YEARS AGO. MODIFIED LAYOUT
LOCATION: 60, Park Avenue, Bryn Y Baal, Mold, CH7 6XS

A personal declaration of interest was made by Councillor Faron Hadfield-Jones in relation to planning application FUL/000207/26 because he knows the applicant.

Members had no objections to the application and there was sufficient off-road parking.

PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION - Ref No: FUL/000209/26
PROPOSAL: PROPOSED 2 STOREY SIDE EXTENSION
LOCATION: 13, Elm Walk, Mynydd Isa, Mold, CH7 6XZ

Members had no objections to the application and there was sufficient off-road parking.

The Clerk also advised Members that planning application FUL/000006/26 had been approved at officer level and the letter she had sent on behalf of the Community Council had not been responded to. She advised Members that she had already logged a formal complaint. Members discussed the difficulties they were experiencing with Planning and the sharing of information.

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Councillor Palmer proposed that the Clerk ask the Planning Officer to attend a Community Council meeting so Members could discuss their concerns. This was seconded by Councillor McCarron. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the Clerk ask the Planning Officer to attend a future Community Council meeting so Members can discuss their concerns directly.

Councillor Eastwood left the meeting.

16. Highways matters

Councillor Shepherd explained that a resident had asked her for the Community Council to ask for a pathway to be put in place on the large, grassed area between the service road and Bryn Road. At the Clerk's request a personal declaration of interest was made by Councillor Shepherd in relation to this request of a pathway because she is a personal friend of the resident. No other member thought that this was needed and therefore did not support Councillor Shepherds proposal.

The matter of the TRO and double yellow lines around the new school was raised with it now being formally approved. Councillor Ian Jolly made a personal declaration in relation to the TRO as he is affected directly by the agreed yellow lines. Members agreed that the parking situation had settled down, and yellow lines were not required. Members asked the Clerk to enquire about any right of appeal.

Councillor Jewell raised the difficulties he had experienced with the bus service, in that buses did not arrive when the timetable said they would. In addition, there were no names on the bus stops and signage generally poor and relied upon local knowledge. Councillor Jolly stated that the decision to change the service route because of the roadworks on Park Avenue had not been communicated to residents by way of posters on the buses or a notice on the Arriva website. The Clerk agreed to initially raise this matter directly with Arriva.

17. Accounts for payment

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

Signed: _____

| Payee | Details | £ |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Payments already made under delegated authority | | |
| AR Gittins & CR Bedford | Invoice ACC 013 – quarry and garden maintenance | 1,820.00 |
| Miriam Shepherd | Reimbursement – 40 lavender plants | 167.76 |
| Miriam Shepherd | Reimbursement – 20 rosemary plants | 111.84 |
| Caffi Isa CIC | Meeting room hire 4 March 2026 | 46.25 |
| Salaries, on costs and pension | Clerk – March 2026 | 2,131.55 |
| Flintshire County Council | Street lighting inspections quarter 4 2025-26 | 317.50 |
| Flintshire County Council | Street lighting energy for all of 2025-26 | 4,152.48 |
| | Total payments to be made | 8,747.38 |
| Payments made by direct debit | | |
| Microsoft | Licences x 1 April 2026 | 11.52 |
| Microsoft | Licences x 1 April 2026 | 82.80 |
| | Total payments made | 94.32 |

Councillor Jolly proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Jewell. All members were in favour.

Resolved – that the payments detailed be authorised including those made by direct debit.

The meeting closed at 9:03pm.

| ACTION POINTS FROM 7 APRIL 2026 MEETING | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|
| | Action to be completed | By whom | By when |
| A | Quarry maintenance to be considered by Amenities Committee. | Clerk | 30 April 2026 |
| B | Contact Flintshire County Council about planning a tree in the Memorial Garden. | Clerk | 30 April 2026 |
| D | Contact Flintshire County Council to confirm that bus stop work is due to start in May. | Clerk | 30 April 2026 |
| E | Contact Flintshire County Council to clarify when the traffic lights improvements and pedestrian crossings work in New Brighton will take place. | Clerk | 30 April 2026 |
| F | Advise the PCSOs about evidence of smoking drugs Bryn-y-Baal Quarry and request patrols. | Clerk | 30 April 2026 |
| G | Arrange community activity at Caffi Isa 10 th Anniversary Community Funday on 24 May 2026. | Clerk | 23 April 2026 |
| H | Publish the Annual Report 2025-26 and the Annual Investment Strategy 2026-27 on the Community Council website. | Clerk | 23 April 2026 |
| I | Advise Flintshire County Council of no objections to planning applications FUL/000207/26 and FUL/000209/26. | Clerk | 9 April 2026 |
| J | Invite the Planning Officer from Flintshire County Council to attend a Community Council meeting. | Clerk | 26 April 2026 |
| K | Enquire about any right of appeal regarding the TRO approved around the new school site. | Clerk | 30 April 2026 |
| F | Contact Arriva regarding the re-routing of the bus service and lack of bus stop signage. | Clerk | 30 April 2026 |

Signed: _____

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

Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 7 April 2025 at 6:45pm

Councillor Faron Hadfield-Jones made a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 15 and the planning application FUL/000207/26 because he knows the applicant.

Councillor Shepherd made a personal declaration of interest in relation to agenda item 16 and the matter of a pathway across the grass area on Bryn Road because she is a friend of the resident.

Councillor Ian Jolly made a personal declaration of interest in relation to agenda item 16 and the TRO because he is affected directly by the agreed yellow lines.

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Signed: _____