



Cyngor Cymuned Argoed

Markham, Argoed,
Man-moel and Hollybush

Clerk/R.F.O. Gwyn L. James.
13, Cherry Tree Road,
Pontllanfraith,
Blackwood, Gwent.
NP12 2PY.

Tel. 01495 226038 / 07855 556483.
e-mail:- argoedcc@live.co.uk

Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 15th September 2014 at Hollybush Community Centre

1358 To sign the register and receive apologies

1358.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman K. Masson, G. Bineham, D. Briggs, A. Craddock, A. Jones, G. Lewis, H. Rowlands, J. Watkins, M. Williams and W. Williams

1358.2 Apologies were received from L. Gardiner.

1359 To receive a report from Phil Griffiths of Caerphilly County Borough Council. Phil gave the Council an update on the acquisition of the land at the former Markham Colliery site. Detailed negotiations were taking place between the vendor's solicitor and the Borough Council. The Borough Council has reserved the purchase price in its accounts to ensure that the money is available upon completion. Funding for the development of the site is yet to be sourced. It was possible that a joint bid will be made in partnership Blaenau Gwent Borough Council.

The countryside warden for the Argoed Community Council area is now also responsible for other areas within the County Borough Council.

A councillor raised the problem of off-road bikers and 4x4 drivers using the colliery site. Phil said that there is a shortage of funding to replace the barriers which have been damaged or removed. Caerphilly County Borough Council is liaising with the Police over the problem.

Another councillor raise the problem of motorised mini-bikes being driven on the roads to access the countryside in the Argoed Community area.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk write to the Police Commissioner raising our concerns and anxieties about the problem.

It was noted that a PACT meeting was due in few weeks and these issues could be raised at that meeting.

A councillor asked where the original funding for the development of the colliery site had gone. Phil explained that the funding from the Welsh Government would have been lost if had not been spent before 2013. The Borough Council

re-allocated the money to other re-development projects to ensure that it was spend. Phil added that Lottery Funding bids for the re-development had failed.

Phil added that the problems with off-road bikers of 4X4 drivers should be reported to the local police officer especially if it happens on the same day of the week.

Phil confirmed that once the site has been purchased by the Borough Council, notices will be placed stating that the land is in the ownership of the Borough Council.

The Chairman thanked Phil for attending the meeting.

1360 To receive a report from County Borough Councillor Leon Gardiner.
Leon's apologies had been previously accepted.

1361 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st July 2014 were agreed.

1362 Matters arising:-

1362.1 It was agreed that the design of the Community Council's website be discussed at the next meeting.

1362.2 It was agreed to invite Chris Evans MP to speak to a future meeting

1362.3 It was agreed to invite The Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council to speak to a future meeting

1362.4 Minute 1349.1 – the Police had been informed of the inconsiderate parking at the riding school.

1362.5 Minute 1352.1 – It was confirmed that the Post Office would not be re-located to the Sports Centre.

1362.6 Minute 1356.2 – It was reported that BT was now improving the broadband service in the Hollybush area.

1362.7 Minute 1356.4 – the DVDs were now available for purchase.

1363 Correspondence

1363.1 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

1363.2 Mid Valleys East Art Society – The accounts provided by the organisation showed an increase in balances of £803.26 during the year 2013/14. It was felt that the organisation had more than covered its running costs for the previous financial year and the Community Council would not make a financial contribution at this time.

1363.3 Gay Bineham declared an interest and left the meeting when Hollybush Community Centre's request for financial assistance was discussed.

1364 To receive the financial report from the Clerk

1364.1 The external auditor's report for the financial year 2013/14 had been received. It was noted that there were no issues in respect of which they proposed to qualify the accounts. The Council formally approved the Annual Return for 2013/14.

1364.2 The financial position of the Community Council as at 15th September 2014, showing a total balance of £16,903.17 was **accepted**.

Treasurer's Account	10,760.55	
Unpresented income/cheques	<u>-788.97</u>	9,971.58
Business Money Manager A/C		6,931.59
Bank Balances		<u>16,903.17</u>

1364.3 The schedule of payments provided by the Clerk was **agreed**.

1365 Delegates Reports

1365.1 Markham Primary School – it was reported that attendance had improved by 1.3% and the breakfast club was very successful. Concern was expressed about the cost to parents of school trips. It was agreed to raise this at the next governors meeting.

1365.2 Argoed Village Hall – it was reported that the centre was doing well

1365.3 Hollybush Community Centre – it was reported that the centre was doing well

1365.4 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – nothing to report

1365.5 Markham Community House and Leisure Centre – it was reported that the resource centre was moving out.

1365.6 Community Partnership – no meeting

1365.7 Access Forum – it was reported that due to Borough Council cut-backs, very little money was available for maintenance and projects.

1366 Local Reports

1366.1 Argoed – it was reported that a residence had recently been broken in to.

1366.2 Hollybush – it was reported that gas had now been installed to about 90% of the properties in the Hollybush area.

1366.3 Manmoel – it was reported that the village committee had planned events between now and Christmas 2014. The wind turbine construction had commenced. The villagers were considering reporting the Borough Council to the Ombudsman because of the way that the planning process had been carried out.

1366.4 Markham – it was commented that the Police presence in Markham was non-existent. They were failing to respond to calls within a reasonable time. Mini-motor bikers were using the playing field and the surrounding roads. Complaints made to the Borough Council were not being acted upon promptly. It was noted that a defibrillator may be purchased for the Sports Centre.

1367 Planning Applications

1367.1 14/0297/RET – Training Facilities at Gelli-Haf Bungalow, Rock Villas, Argoed – permission granted for development - noted

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council 20th October 2014