



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
www.argoedcommunitycouncil.org.uk
e-mail:- argoedcc@live.co.uk

Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 19th September 2016 at Markham Miners' Welfare Hall.

1610 To sign the register and receive apologies

1610.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman M. Williams, S. Blakeman, A. Jones, G. Lewis, H. Rowlands and W. Williams

1610.2 Apologies were received from L. Gardiner, John Watkins and Keith Masson

1611 To receive a representative from the Police: PCSO Jeff Dugmore had provided a written report.

1611.1 The last "Your Voice" meeting had identified problems with youths congregating and playing music in the undercover area to the front of Markham Club. This had now been resolved.

1611.2 Youths had been knocking doors in Commin Close on several occasions. This had been dealt with and ASBOs had been issued.

1611.3 PCSO Dugmore provided updates on various other incidents in the ward.

1611.4 With Halloween approaching, the PCSOs have looked at diversionary tactics such as giving prizes of cinema tickets for competitions; best fancy dress; best painting; pumpkin carving etc.

1612 To receive a progress report on the former Markham Colliery Site from Mr Phil Griffiths of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

1612.1 Mr Griffiths reported that so far, no grant applications made to the Welsh Government had been successful. He had visited the Assembly offices to discuss the reasons why all previous applications had been refused. The Borough Council was re-submitting a grant application in November. Garry Lewis was in the process of submitting a lottery grant application under the category of "People and Places".

Mr Griffiths said that James Bower was still working part time at the colliery site and also elsewhere within the borough. The woodland above Hollybush was being felled and also Japanese Knotweed was being treated within the area. The Police were continuing with the Landscape Toolkit. They were also conducting joint operations with other organisations.

The Chairman asked him about the "no motor vehicles" signs for the colliery site. Mr Griffiths confirmed they were on order. He also confirmed that all vandals caught would be prosecuted.

The Chairman asked if the level of grant application was high enough. Mr Griffiths confirmed that the latest application was for £500,000. He added that

the Welsh Government had been approving grant applications for much bigger schemes.

1613 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th July 2016 were agreed.

1614 Matters arising:-

1614.1 Minute 1600.1 – Cllrs Garry Lewis and John Watkins were wrongly recorded as in attendance.

1614.2 Minute 1604.1 – Cllr Walter Williams reported that the Doctors had lost their appeal against the Chemist opening in Markham.

1614.3 Minute 1609.4 – vehicles parking on Abernant Road/Crescent were still causing a problem.

1615 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

Item 1615.5 – it was agreed to write to CCBC complaining about the short deadline for submitting applications

Item 1615.6 – it was agreed to support the alternative constituency boundary proposals submitted by Chris Evans MP

Item 1615.8 – it was agreed to invite P.C.C. Jeff Cuthbert to a future meeting.

Item 1615.9 – the list of issues from Cllr John Watkins had been referred to Mr Phil Griffiths of CCBC

1616 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

1616.1 The Clerk reported that the External Auditors, BDO had decided to amend the Accounts for 2015/16 for the following reasons: -

The accounts should have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis instead of an income and expenditure basis. This had resulted in boxes 3,7,8 and 11 of the annual return being amended. This therefore meant that the year-end balance was now £10,242. The auditors had also stated that the room allowance paid to the Clerk should be treated as salary costs. This resulted in boxes 3 and 4 of the annual return being to be amended.

1616.2 The Auditors had drawn to the attention of the Council

- the importance of adequate budget monitoring during the year;
- the review of risk assessment to be carried out every financial year;
- the letter of appointment issued to the internal auditor to specify the scope of the assignment.

1616.3 The Council accepted the External Auditor's comments and **agreed** to carry out the recommendations contained in the report.

1616.4 The financial position of the Community Council as at 21st September 2016, showing a total balance of £18,642.59.

Treasurer's Account	12,204.85	
Unpresented income/cheques	<u>-501.97</u>	11,702.88
Business Money Manager A/C		6,939.71
Bank Balances		<u>18,642.59</u>

1616.5 The financial statement included budget monitoring information which showed projected variations on the following items: -

- Stationery – overspend of £142.60 due to purchasing more stationery items than originally estimated
- Other Income – increase of £325.26 received in respect of printing and stationery
- Interest - £5.00 reduction in income because the estimate of £10 was too high

1616.6 The Council accepted the Clerk's report and **agreed** to the variations to original budgets.

1616.7 The schedule of payments provided by the Clerk was **agreed**.

1617 Delegates Reports

1617.1 Markham Primary School – It was reported that Cllr Garry Lewis had been re-elected Chairman of the Governors. It was noted that Cllr Leon Gardiner was no longer the Caerphilly County Borough Council's representative on the governing body.

1617.2 Argoed Village Hall – The Chairman reported that the Hall was doing well.

1617.3 Hollybush Community Centre – Cllr Stephen Blakeman reported on the recent AGM. The Committee had discussed the problems of poor lighting at the centre and also the maintenance of the grounds surrounding the centre.

1617.4 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – no report

1617.5 Markham House and Leisure Centre – Cllr Hilary Rowlands reported that the Gym membership was increasing and a Jazz Band competition had recently been held there.

1617.6 Access Forum – no meeting

1618 Local Reports

1618.1 Argoed – It was reported that the access road to the rear of the east side of Penylan Road was being treated as a dumping ground for rubbish.

1618.2 Hollybush – Cllr Stephen Blakeman said that the sign to the south of the village was due to be replaced. He suggested that the Community Council organise a public meeting be held at one of the Community Centres/Village Halls and the Council invite the Assembly Member; Member of Parliament; Police and Crime Commissioner; CCBC Cabinet Members with a view to getting to know our Councillors and elected members. This was agreed in principle but the Community Council needs to consider further.

1618.3 Manmoel – Cllr Stephen Blakeman reported that a Cheese and Wine night was being organised on 25th November. New carpets and blinds were being fitted in the village hall. He also spoke of a "History of the Area" evening with Madeline Gray as the guest speaker.

1618.4 Markham – Cllr Walter Williams had attended Ty Duffryn regarding Armistice Day Services/Marches. It was reported that a wardrobe had been dumped to the rear of Bryn Road in Markham.

1619 Planning Applications

1619.1 16/0600/FULL – Land adjacent to 66 Bryn Road, Markham – erect a four bedroom detached dwelling

1619.2 16/0652/COU – Tir Capel Farm, Llanerch Lane, Manmoel – convert existing storage barn to domestic dwelling

1619.3 16/0620/FULL – Land adjacent to 26 Gelynos Avenue, Argoed – construct 3 three bedroom dwellings – the Council objected to this development

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council 17th October 2016