



## **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 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Markham Miners' Institute

1476 To sign the register and receive apologies

1476.1 Community Councillors present: Vice Chairman D. Briggs, A. Craddock, A. Jones, G. Lewis, K. Masson, H. Rowlands and J. Watkins.

1476.2 Apologies were received from Councillors G. Bineham, L. Gardiner, W. Williams and M. Williams

1476.3 It was noted that there were 6 members of the public present. The Clerk provided them with copies of the minutes of the previous meeting and advised them that they could not take part in the meeting without prior approval of the Clerk or Chairman of the Community Council.

1477 To receive a report from the Police.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Carl Williams to the meeting. Inspector Williams said that there was an average of 10-15 crimes per month in the Blackwood area. 64 crimes have been reported in the area since April 2015. Anti-social behaviour has dropped when compared with the same period last year. The Police structure has been reorganised. 187 officers have been lost from Gwent Police which equates to a 12-13% reduction in staff. Frontline staff i.e. "bobbies on the beat" have been increased but specialist units have unfortunately been lost.

Councillors raised their concerns about various issues including the fact that police officers are rarely seen walking around the villages and also the 101 telephone line has not been working. Inspector Williams said that the cut backs did not allow him to have police walking the streets on a regular basis and he also confirmed that he was monitoring the 101 telephone service. A "tasking team" consisting of 4 PCSOs has been created and will respond when needed.

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Inspector Williams asked what specific priorities the Community Council wanted addressed by the next time he attends our meeting. It was felt that criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and off-road activities were the main areas of concern. Also it was felt that more exchange of information was needed between the Police and Caerphilly County Borough Council. Inspector Williams stated that it was his aim to attend our meetings at least quarterly.  
The Chairman thanked Inspector Williams for the attending the meeting.

1478 To receive a report from Cllr Leon Gardiner. Cllr Gardiner had previously given his apologies.

1479 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were agreed.

1480 Matters arising:-

1480.1 Minute 1467.4 – 20 mph speed limit outside Markham Primary School. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Caerphilly County Borough Council calling for this to be implemented.

1480.2 Minute 1470.2 – Markham Colliery Site – the Clerk confirmed that Caerphilly County Borough Council will be placing signs at the entrance to the site banning the use of off-road motor bikes 4x4s.

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1480.4 Minute 1460.2 – The Clerk had spoken to a member of staff from Caerphilly County Borough Council who confirmed that the missing chevrons on road to Manmoel will be investigated. The Borough Council will not be replacing the missing bollard on the triangular piece of land at the entrance to the village but a white line will be painted on the road bordering the land. The Clerk had repeated the request that a "slow – children" sign be painted on the road between the Manmoel Village Hall and the entrance to the park

1481 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

1481.4 MUGA lighting – the Clerk advised the meeting that the electricity had now been turned off and he will request that SWALEC removes the meter.

1481.7 E-mail from Argoed Residents for a Safer Community. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a small number of representatives from both organisations meet to discuss common aims. It was agreed that Cllrs Keith Masson, Garry Lewis and David Briggs would represent Argoed Community Council. Cllr Keith Masson agreed to liaise with Lisa Watkins to arrange a suitable date and time.

1482 To receive the financial report from the Clerk

1482.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015, showing a total balance of £13,124.63 was **accepted**.

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Unpresented income/cheques	<u>-722.36</u>	6,191.08
Business Money Manager A/C		6,933.55
Bank Balances		<u>13,124.63</u>

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1483.2 Argoed Village Hall – no report

1483.3 Hollybush Community Centre – no report

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Unpresented income/cheques	<u>-722.36</u>	6,191.08
Business Money Manager A/C		6,933.55
Bank Balances		<u>13,124.63</u>

1482.2 The schedule of payments provided by the Clerk was **agreed**

### 1483 Delegates Reports

1483.1 Markham Primary School – Cllr Garry Lewis informed the meeting that the school was now out of scrutiny. The Governors have seen significant improvements in the school since the appointment of the new head.

1483.2 Argoed Village Hall – no report

1483.3 Hollybush Community Centre – no report

1483.4 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – meeting due on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015

1483.5 Markham Community House and Leisure Centre – it was reported the new manager had been appointed.

1483.6 Access Forum – no meeting

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1484.1 Argoed – Cllr Garry Lewis reported that the memorial garden at the bottom of Penylan Road had been restored.

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### 1485 Planning Applications

1485.1 Solar power installation on land north of Penyfan Pond – notice of application – the Clerk informed the meeting that a representative of the company had been in touch with him and had provided a draft Deed outlining funding arrangements which would be implemented subject to the Community Council supporting the planning application. It was agreed that the Clerk request from Caerphilly County Borough Council details of traffic assessments, noise surveys and wildlife surveys, etc.

1485.2 15/0400/FULL – Long Barn Pen-Deri Farm Lane, Argoed – erect single storey garage and tool storage shed

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015



## **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 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Markham Miners' Institute

1476 To sign the register and receive apologies

1476.1 Community Councillors present: Vice Chairman D. Briggs, A. Craddock, A. Jones, G. Lewis, K. Masson, H. Rowlands and J. Watkins.

1476.2 Apologies were received from Councillors G. Bineham, L. Gardiner, W. Williams and M. Williams

1476.3 It was noted that there were 6 members of the public present. The Clerk provided them with copies of the minutes of the previous meeting and advised them that they could not take part in the meeting without prior approval of the Clerk or Chairman of the Community Council.

1477 To receive a report from the Police.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Carl Williams to the meeting. Inspector Williams said that there was an average of 10-15 crimes per month in the Blackwood area. 64 crimes have been reported in the area since April 2015. Anti-social behaviour has dropped when compared with the same period last year. The Police structure has been reorganised. 187 officers have been lost from Gwent Police which equates to a 12-13% reduction in staff. Frontline staff i.e. "bobbies on the beat" have been increased but specialist units have unfortunately been lost.

Councillors raised their concerns about various issues including the fact that police officers are rarely seen walking around the villages and also the 101 telephone line has not been working. Inspector Williams said that the cut backs did not allow him to have police walking the streets on a regular basis and he also confirmed that he was monitoring the 101 telephone service. A "tasking team" consisting of 4 PCSOs has been created and will respond when needed.

The question of off-road bikers was raised and the apparent inability of the Police to adequately deal with it. Inspector Williams said that a feasibility study into the purchase of a drone is being carried out. The deployment of drones has been very effective in other parts of the country. He felt that a proper site for the off-road bikers and 4x4s was needed. PC Simon James is a landscape officer specifically employed to deal with off-road bikers and 4x4s. Inspector Williams stressed how important it was to report all incidents of off-road bikers and 4x4s.

Inspector Williams asked what specific priorities the Community Council wanted addressed by the next time he attends our meeting. It was felt that criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and off-road activities were the main areas of concern. Also it was felt that more exchange of information was needed between the Police and Caerphilly County Borough Council. Inspector Williams stated that it was his aim to attend our meetings at least quarterly.  
The Chairman thanked Inspector Williams for the attending the meeting.

1478 To receive a report from Cllr Leon Gardiner. Cllr Gardiner had previously given his apologies.

1479 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were agreed.

1480 Matters arising:-

1480.1 Minute 1467.4 – 20 mph speed limit outside Markham Primary School. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Caerphilly County Borough Council calling for this to be implemented.

1480.2 Minute 1470.2 – Markham Colliery Site – the Clerk confirmed that Caerphilly County Borough Council will be placing signs at the entrance to the site banning the use of off-road motor bikes 4x4s.

1480.3 Minute 1470.4 – suspected pollution of the Sirhowy River. The Clerk reported that Natural Resources Wales are to inspect the river and its tributaries to establish whether activities on the eastern side of the valley are polluting the river. The Clerk confirmed that the activities in the woodland near Dyer's Dip are being investigated by the Protected Trees officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council. The burn-out car in the river near Manmoel Crossing has been removed but NRW are ensuring that no pollutants have got into the river.

1480.4 Minute 1460.2 – The Clerk had spoken to a member of staff from Caerphilly County Borough Council who confirmed that the missing chevrons on road to Manmoel will be investigated. The Borough Council will not be replacing the missing bollard on the triangular piece of land at the entrance to the village but a white line will be painted on the road bordering the land. The Clerk had repeated the request that a "slow – children" sign be painted on the road between the Manmoel Village Hall and the entrance to the park

1481 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

1481.4 MUGA lighting – the Clerk advised the meeting that the electricity had now been turned off and he will request that SWALEC removes the meter.

1481.7 E-mail from Argoed Residents for a Safer Community. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a small number of representatives from both organisations meet to discuss common aims. It was agreed that Cllrs Keith Masson, Garry Lewis and David Briggs would represent Argoed Community Council. Cllr Keith Masson agreed to liaise with Lisa Watkins to arrange a suitable date and time.

1482 To receive the financial report from the Clerk

1482.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015, showing a total balance of £13,124.63 was **accepted**.

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