



Argoed Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Argoed
Markham, Argoed,
Man-moel and Hollybush

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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 21st December 2020 using MS Teams

2077 To sign the register and receive apologies

2077.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman A. Davies, A. Bould, G. Lewis, D. Moore, J. Moore, J. Mullen, M. Parkes, J. Watkins, and Walter Williams

2077.2 Apologies were received from M. Barton and Mike Williams

2078 To receive a report from County Councillor Walter Williams

2078.1 Cllr. Williams informed the meeting that he had met PCSO Jeff Dugmore recently regarding various issues including quad bikes at Manmoel.

2078.2 Markham Surgery is closed temporarily due to staff shortages caused by staff self-isolating with Covid19.

2078.3 The Caerphilly County Borough Council Scrutiny Committee has deferred any decision on charges for public carparks.

2078.4 Caerphilly County Borough Council will possibly look at Manmoel Crossing Orchard.

2078.5 Flooding has caused cables to become unearthed at the bottom of the lane from Hafodyrsclawdd Farm to Manmoel Crossing. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Countryside Department of Caerphilly County Borough Council and also Openreach.

2079 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th November 2020 were **agreed.**

2080 Matters arising:-

2080.1 Minute 2070.2 – speeding on Penylan Road. The Clerk advised the meeting that he now received a reply from Chris Evans MP. An attached letter from Caerphilly County Borough Council included a link to the GoSafe website which the Clerk had failed to open. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Caerphilly County Borough Council requesting that a 20 mph speed limit be introduced on Penylan Road and also a speed camera be installed. It was further noted that the speed cameras on the A4048 appeared not to be working.

2080.2 Minute 2075.1 – Selection Boxes – the Clerk thanked Cllr Walter Williams for arranging for the purchase of the selection boxes. It was noted that Cllrs Mary Parkes and John Mullen were involved in the distribution of presents to children

in the area. The Chairman reported that selection boxes had been distributed to all children in the Manmoel Village.

2080.3 Minute 2075.4 – It was reported that the free Christmas Tree was eventually installed in a private garden in Markham.

2081 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

2081.1 Item 2081.7 – Air Ambulance Wales - it was agreed to donate £100 to the charity.

2082 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

2082.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 21st December 2020 showed a total balance of £25,286.66. The financial report and schedule of cheques produced by the Clerk was **agreed**.

2082.2 To consider the Financial Statement as at 21st December 2020. The Clerk provided a detailed list of variances to the original budget which had been set at the Council meeting on 17th January 2020. The list of variances was **agreed** by the Council.

2082.3 To consider the Auditors report relating to the 2019/20 Annual Return.

The Clerk reported that the Auditors had raised two issues. The Council considered the issues raised and **agreed** the following actions.

- Trust Fund Disclosure Notice – Required action - The Clerk will ensure that all boxes on the Annual Return are completed correctly.
- Minutes not on Council website – Required action – The Clerk will ensure that the Council complies with its legal requirements regarding the publishing of Council minutes.

2083 To receive an update on the Community Council's Facebook page.

2083.1 Cllr Mary Parkes reported that over 680 people had visited the Facebook page over the last week or so.

2084 Delegates Reports

2084.1 Markham Primary School – Cllr Garry Lewis reported that the school had closed a week early and there would be a staggered re-start in the new year.

2084.2 Argoed Village Hall – Cllr. Garry Lewis reported that the cooker had been repaired.

2084.3 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – no report

2084.4 Markham House and Leisure Centre – Cllr. Walter Williams reported that football and athletics had started up but had now stopped due to the latest restrictions imposed by the Welsh Government. He also reported that there were problems with the central heating system at the centre.

2084.5 Access Forum – no meeting.

2085 Local Reports

2085.1 Argoed – no report.

2085.2 Hollybush – it was reported that trail hunting with hounds had recently started. The re-surfacing of the main road in August had been washed away by the recent heavy rain.

2085.3 Manmoel – no report

2085.4 Markham – Cllr. John Mullen suggested that the Council consider organizing a Tidy Gardens Competition in 2021 and also get the school and playgroup involved. He also mentioned re-opening Rights of Way and improvement works to them. Cllr John Watkins referred to the forestry that had been felled last year which had affected the Cydcoed Project planting and whether that could be included in any improvement works.

Cllr Mullen requested that the Clerk write to Caerphilly County Borough Council to ask that the grit bin on the hairpin bend on Abernant Road be re-instated. Cllr. Walter Williams explained that Caerphilly County Borough Council does not instal grit bins on roads which are on a gritting route. Cllr Mary Parkes added that a grit bin was needed on James Street Markham.

The meeting recorded its thanks to Cllr Walter Williams and Mr. David Briggs for ensuring that the Christmas lights were installed on the tree at Markham Institute.

2086 Planning Applications - none

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council 18th January 2021