

ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Gwyn L. James, Clerk and RFO

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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 15th February 2021 using MS Teams

2098 To sign the register and receive apologies

2098.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman A. Davies, A. Bould, G. Lewis, D. Moore, J. Moore, J. Mullen, M. Parkes, J. Watkins, Mike Williams and Walter Williams

2098.2 Apologies were received from M. Barton.

2099 To receive a report from County Councillor Walter Williams

2099.1 Cllr. Williams reported that the Borough Council Budget meeting was due to meet soon. The Council was continuing to give free school meals to children during the school holidays.

2099.2 He referred to the Welsh Government taking over the rail franchise in Wales.

2099.3 The Markham surgery had been giving Covid19 vaccinations for local people. Concerns were expressed that the surgery had run out of vaccine. Cllr Williams said that anyone missed out should contact the NHS helpline. There were concerns about the mental health of residents as a result of the stress caused by worrying about the coronavirus.

2100 Report from PCSO Jeff Dugmore.

2100.1 Jeff reported that three CSOs had left the area and would not be replaced until March.

2100.2 The reported crime figure for the Argoed area were amongst the lowest in the area. Off-road vehicle use in the Manmoel area had caused problems recently. An new initiative was planned for the near future to catch off-road vehicle users.

2100.3 Councillors commented on a bad road accident that had recently happened at the top end of Penylan Road. Three other accidents had recently been reported in the Argoed area.

2100.4 Some councillors felt that there had been an increase in vandalism during the "lock-down" and also an increase in the use of off-road vehicles on the cycle paths and in the woodlands.

2101 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th January 2021 were **agreed**.

2102 Matters arising: -

2102.1 Minute 2095.1 – Cllr Garry Lewis had not been able to establish the numbers of children at Markham Primary School who had access to IT equipment at home.

2102.2 Minute 2096.1 – Vehicles parked on A4048 near junction with Penylan Road – PCSO Jeff Dugmore agreed to investigate. A

2102.3 A discussion ensued about the problems that disabled people were experiencing because they were not able to park their cars outside their own homes. It was suggested that a sign and blue & white cone could be placed outside the property of the disabled resident. One councillor reported that he had purchased a polite notice requesting that the public leave a parking space outside the property for the disabled driver and this had proved to be effective. It was suggested that the Community Council purchase these signs and then make them available to disabled residents who needed a parking space outside their home. The service could be advertised on the Council's website.

2103 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

2103.1 Item 2103.6 – Supply of new Christmas figurines. It was agreed that the Clerk send the information to all councillors prior to the next meeting for discussion.

2104 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

2104.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 15th February 2021 showed a total balance of £21,177.17

2104.2 The financial report and schedule of cheques produced by the Clerk was **agreed**.

2105 To receive an update on the Community Council's Facebook page.

2105.1 Cllr Mary Parkes reported that an Easter Egg run through the villages was being advertised. It was agreed that a forthcoming Children's Competition could be advertised on the Council's Facebook page.

2106 Delegates Reports

2106.1 Markham Primary School – Cllr Garry Lewis reported that an Governors meeting had been held since the last Community Council meeting. The School was due to re-start on February 23rd.

2106.2 Argoed Village Hall – Cllr. Garry Lewis said that there was nothing to report. It was questioned whether the Quiz Nights were to be re-started. Garry replied that until the Covid19 restrictions are lifted, there are no plans to organize an Quiz Night.

2106.3 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – no meeting

2106.4 Markham House and Leisure Centre – no meeting

2106.5 Access Forum – no meeting.

2107 Local Reports

2107.1 Argoed – It was reported that gritting on Penylan Road had been inconsistent. It was also reported that the Countryside walks in the Argoed area were suffering from a lack of maintenance.

2107.2 Hollybush – It was reported that a beech tree had fallen at the access to the former Markham Colliery Site. Cllr Andy Bould offered to remove and cut up the tree if the owner of the land could be identified. Cllr Bould also reported that the surface of the A4048 through Hollybush was breaking up due to the weather that had recently been experienced. He added that there were a lot of potholes which needed filling.

2107.3 Manmoel – The Chairman reported that Caerphilly County Borough Council had done an excellent job in keeping the Manmoel road open during the recent snow.

2107.4 Markham – Cllr John Mullen provided a draft outline for a proposed “Best Kept Garden” Competition. He suggested that it be advertised in late March/early April and the judging would take place in August. It was agreed that the Clerk forward information to all councillors prior to the March meeting for discussion. Concerns were expressed about parking problems on Abernant Road that would be caused as the result of a proposed housing development.

2108 Planning Applications - none

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council 15th March 2021