

ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Gwyn L. James, Clerk and RFO

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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 20th September 2021 using MS Teams

2168 To sign the register and receive apologies

2168.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman Mike Williams, Garry Lewis, John Mullen, Mary Parkes, John Watkins and Walter Williams
Apologies were received from Mike Barton, Andy Bould and Arthur Davies.

2169 To receive a report from County Councillor Walter Williams

2169.1 Cllr. Williams said that he had met with the Police recently. A 50% increase in crime had been recorded in the Markham Village.

2169.2 Cllr. Williams confirmed that every Borough Councillor would be allocated £4,640 from the Empowerment Fund. Applications must have a minimum value of £1,000. Charities and local organisations are allowed to apply for funding. Individuals and private companies cannot apply. He said that a meeting was due to take place the following Tuesday to confirm further details. The closing date for the first round of applications was 31st October.

2169.3 The Highways Department of Caerphilly County Borough Council has sent Cllr. Williams an email regarding Traffic Regulation Orders. It included reference to the possibility of painting yellow lines on Penylan Road. Cllr John Watkins felt that speed bumps were still needed and also chicanes. Reference was also made to yellow lines on Woodland Terrace and Banalog Terrace.

2170 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th July 2021 were **agreed**.

2171 Matters arising - none

2172 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

Item 2172.4 Christmas Decorations – It was **agreed** to accept the quotation from Elsbury Plant to replace all the existing Christmas Tree lighting with new LCD lighting at a cost of £3,860 + VAT

The Clerk explained that the Public Lighting Department of Caerphilly County Borough Council had carried out a survey of all the street lighting columns along the A4048 from south of the Village Hall to the north end of the village. CCBC had confirmed that only one additional lighting column was suitable for use to display Christmas lighting (IE 709). It was **agreed** to add this to the schedule.

It was also **agreed** to have the lights switched on as close to the 1st December as possible.

2173 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

2173.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 19th July 2021 showed a total balance of £24,475.37

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

2173.2 Revised Contract of Employment for Clerk of Argoed Community Council. The Clerk explained that Audit Wales had requested a copy of the Contract of Employment for the Clerk. The Clerk explained that he could not find a copy of the original document which would have been issued in 2006. The Council **agreed** to issue the new Contract of Employment to the Clerk.

2174 Local Development Plan (LDP)

2174.1 Cllr John Mullen presented a document outlining two projects which he proposed should be included in the LDP.

2174.2 A discussion ensued about the document and it was finally **agreed** that all councillors submit observations on the document to the Clerk and also bring forward any more ideas to be included.

2174.3 It was also **agreed** to further discuss the document at the October meeting.

2174.4 Cllr John Mullen was congratulated by his fellow councillors on producing the excellent document.

2175 To receive an update on the Community Council's Facebook page.

2175.1 Cllr Mary Parkes reported that there had been an increased interest in the Community Council's Facebook page.

2176 Delegates Reports

2176.1 Markham Primary School – Cllr. Garry Lewis reported that COVID19 was widespread in the school and teachers were struggling to cope.

2176.2 Argoed Village Hall – it was reported that Aberbargoed Ladies Choir were using the hall for rehearsals. Other activities were also taking place. It was hoped that a quiz night could be organised in the near future.

2176.3 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – no meeting

2176.4 Markham House and Leisure Centre – Cllr. John Mullen reported that bookings were coming back to the Centre. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was moving events to the Markham Centre because it is being used as a vaccination centre.

2176.5 Access Forum – Cllr Walter Williams said it had met recently. It had been reported that NRW had spent money on Cwmcarn Scenic Drive. Cllr. Williams had asked when they would be spending money in the Argoed Community Council area.

2177 Local Reports

2177.1 Argoed – nothing to report

2177.2 Hollybush – nothing report

2177.3 Manmoel – nothing to report.

2177.4 Markham – Cllr. John Mullen reported that the Darts Academy had started for 8 to 16 year old youngsters in Markham Miners' Welfare.

2178 Planning Applications

2178.1 21/0790/FULL – Land at Gelynos Avenue, Argoed, - erect 4 pairs of three bedroom semi-detached dwellings

2178.2 21/0861/FULL – The Willows, 18 Greenfield Terrace, Argoed – demolish existing detached garage and construct new garage adjoining side of existing house.

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