

ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 held at Hollybush Community Centre.

2466 To sign the register and receive apologies

2466.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman John Mullen, Andy Bould, Garry Lewis, Kath Naylor, Mary Parkes, Emma Williams and Walter Williams

2467 To receive a report from Gwent Police.

2467.1 No report was submitted.

2468 To receive a report from County Councillor Walter Williams.

2468.1 Cllr. Williams reported that he was on a Task and Finish Group examining various options relating to recycling. The Group had visited a recycling centre in Abertillery to observe Blaenau Gwent Council's operations.

2468.2 The meeting at Manmoel Village Hall with Martyn Popham from Cenin had taken place with 11 residents from Manmoel in attendance.

2469 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were **agreed**.

2470 Matters arising

2470.1 Minute 2458.1 – Markham Christmas Tree – the Clerk confirmed that new lights had been ordered and would be installed before 1<sup>st</sup> December.

2471 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

2471.1 Item 2471.1 – Clerk's Salary – the wrong figure had been quoted.

2471.2 Item 2471.4 – The Chairman proposed that the Council recognise the achievements of one of the young Markham residents who had done very well representing Wales in the sport of Golf. It was **agreed** that the Chairman should purchase an appropriate gift and a presentation be made before the January 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

2471.3 Item 2471.5 – Markham Darts Academy – a letter of thanks for the Council donation had been received from the Darts Academy. All councillors will be invited to a presentation of awards early next year.

2472 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

2472.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 showed a total balance of £17,470.51

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

2472.2 The Clerk reported that he was experiencing problems with the Council's printer and outlined the various options and an estimated cost of less than £400. It was **agreed** that the Clerk purchase a new printer.

#### 2473 Local Development Plan (LDP)

2473.1 The Chairman gave a brief update on discussions he had had with Rhiannon Passmore about the document he had produced.

2473.2 Cllr Garry Lewis felt that his original idea for extracting hot water from the former colliery site to heat green houses, etc. should be treated separately from the Chairman's proposals.

2473.3 The Chairman said that Rhiannon Passmore felt that the plan should be bigger to stand more chance of being accepted – Cllr Lewis's idea was too small.

2473.4 Cllr Lewis disagreed with this view.

2473.5 Cllr Mary Parks was concerned about reports coming from America about the storage of Hydrogen – risks of polluting water courses and also risks of explosion.

2473.6 The Chairman said that he would get a report from Mr. Gareth Farr about the future use of the former Markham Colliery Site.

#### 2474 Blackwood Comprehensive School

2474.1 The Chairman reported that the Estyn report was good.

2474.2 Cllr Mary Parks said that she was aware of complaints from parents about problems with bullying in the school and asked that the Chairman raise these concerns with the Head.

#### 2475 To receive an update on the Community Council's Facebook page.

2475.1 Cllr Mary Parkes said that she had received requests for items to be included on the Council's Facebook page but felt that they were inappropriate.

#### 2476 Delegates Reports

2476.1 Markham Primary School – Cllr Walter Williams reported that he had attended a Governors meeting last week. Four Christmas Concerts were being organised.

2476.2 Argoed Village Hall – no report because Cllr Lewis had to leave the meeting early.

2476.3 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – no report

2476.4 Markham House and Leisure Centre – Cllr Walter Williams reported his idea of having an Argoed Community Council meal at the centre would not work. A brief discussion took place about alternative ideas. The Chairman said he would see if a meal could be arranged in December.

2476.5 Access Forum – Cllr Walter Williams reported that Phil Griffiths had retired and Kevin Eadan Davies had taken over. Bridal Pathways needed to be cut back.

2477 Local Reports

2477.1 Argoed – no report

2477.2 Hollybush – Cllr Andy Bould reported that the Christmas Lights were up but one could not be fitted because of overgrown trees. A discussion ensued about the inconsistencies of the new 20 mph speed limits throughout the County Borough area. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Caerphilly County Borough Council about the apparent inconsistencies.

2477.3 Manmoel – Cllr Kath Naylor said that a Christmas concert had been held in the Chapel last week. She spoke of the terrible state of the road side verges in Manmoel due to tipping. Cllr Walter Williams agreed to investigate.

2477.4 Markham – Cllr Walter Williams spoke of the Armistice Remembrance Service which had been held at Markham War Memorial. The Poppy Wreath cost of £20 was **agreed**. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Caerphilly County Borough Council requesting an update on the proposals for the Abernant Road roundabout.

2478 Planning Applications

2478.1 Case Number 23/0727/HH – Bryn Gwyn, New Road, Argoed – erect two storey rear extension with associated retaining wall

2478.2 Case 23/0710/RET – Land at Grid Ref 317645 200219, New Road, Argoed – retain and complete construction of two dwellings with accompanying outbuildings, new garage and associated works

2479 Case 23/0703.NCC – Fernbank, The Laurel, Rock Villas, Argoed – vary condition of planning consent to add new utility room to rear of new extension

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council

18<sup>th</sup> December 2023