

ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 held at Markham Miners' Welfare.

2492 Presentation to Ryan Williams

2492.1 The Chairman welcomed Ryan Williams and his parents to the meeting. Ryan had successfully won the Gareth Bale Championship playing golf at the Celtic Manor in 2023. The Chairman spoke of Ryan's various successes playing golf during 2023 and presented him with an award to recognise his achievement.

2493 To sign the register and receive apologies

2493.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman John Mullen, Andy Bould Garry Lewis, Kath Naylor, Mary Parkes, Emma Williams and Walter Williams

2494 To receive a report from Gwent Police.

2494.1 No report was submitted.

2495 To receive a report from County Councillor Walter Williams.

2495.1 Cllr. Walter Williams informed the meeting that Caerphilly County Borough Council were introduce an appointments scheme for users of the Council's recycling centres. He also explained about the new kerb side recycling proposals that were to be implemented.

2495.2 He reported on discussions with Borough Council officers about the implementation of the 20 mph speed limit throughout the borough.

2496 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **agreed**.

2497 Matters arising

2497.1 Minute 2487.1 Bullying at Blackwood Comprehensive School - Cllr Mary Parkes asked for an update on the problem. Cllr John Mullen reported that a meeting had been held at the school about bullying. He said that no disciplinary panels had been called to investigate specific cases of bullying.

2498 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

2499 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

2499.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 showed a total balance of £12,797.02

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

2500 To receive the Clerk's budget proposals for 2024/25

2500.1 After a lengthy discussion about the level of precept to be charged, it was eventually **agreed** that the Precept for 2024/25 be set at £16.50 resulting in an estimated income of £14,664.71. This figure would produce a balanced budget based on the Clerk's estimated expenditure.

2500.2 The Council **agreed** to limit the budget for grant assistance under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to £2,000 for 2024/25

2500.3 It was **confirmed** that the Clerk's salary would continue to be paid at the hourly rate for SCP 9 in accordance with the N.A.L.C. National Agreement. It was noted that the NJC had not agreed the percentage increase for 2024/25

2501 Local Development Plan (LDP)

2501.1 The Chairman gave a brief update on discussions relating to the proposals. A response is awaited from Community Energy.

2502 Blackwood Comprehensive School

2502.1 The Chairman gave an update on the creation of a darts club within the Maths. Department.

2503 To receive an update on the Community Council's Facebook page.

2503.1 Cllr Mary Parkes reported that she was trying to create a contact list on the Council's Facebook page.

2504 Delegates Reports

2504.1 Markham Primary School – a Governors' meeting is due to be held later in the week.

2504.2 Argoed Village Hall – Cllr Garry Lewis reported that the "open doors" morning was very successful however, the grant which was helping to fund the event may well be stopped.

2504.3 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – no report

2504.4 Markham House and Leisure Centre – Cllr Walter Williams reported that several parties had been held over the Christmas period.

2504.5 Access Forum – no report

2505 Local Reports

2505.1 Argoed – Cllr Garry Lewis reported that the riders of electric scooters were causing problems in the village. He added that speeding traffic was still a problem on Penylan Road and the A4048.

2505.2 Hollybush – Cllr Andy Bould reported that liners for food waste recycling bins had not been delivered to all properties as promised by the Borough Council.

2505.3 Manmoel – Cllr Kath Naylor reported that the Christmas function in the Village Hall had been well attended and that a Cheese and Wine evening had been arranged for later that week. She added that pot holes on the main road were getting worse. Cllr Walter Williams agreed to report them to the Borough Council.

2505.4 Markham – Cllr John Mullen reported that the Darts academy Presentations had been held the previous week. The first Welsh Youth International had come from the Darts Academy. He also reported that the retaining wall at the end of Markham Terrace needed rebuilding and also trees at the same location needing cutting back. Cllr Walter William informed the meeting that a draft report had been produced regarding the roundabout on Abernant Road. A consultant’s Report was still awaited. Cllr Mary Parkes reported that she had managed to get a new Father Christmas.

2506 Planning Applications

2506.1 Case Number 23/0887/COU – Markham Pharmacy, 61 Abernant Road, Markham – change the use from a Pharmacy (A1 use) to a hot food takeaway (A3 use) and increase the ridge height and eaves for the creation of a staff room

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024