

ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 held at Manmoel Village Hall.

2507 To sign the register and receive apologies

2507.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman John Mullen, Andy Bould, Kath Naylor, Mary Parkes, Ellis Porter and Walter Williams

2507.2 Apologies were received from Garry Lewis and Emma Williams

2508 To agree to co-opt a new member for the Markham Ward.

2508.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr Ellis Porter to the meeting as the new member for the Markham Ward.

2508.2 Cllr Porter signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct.

2508.3 The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Porter will be required to take part in several councillor training sessions which can all be completed remotely.

2509 To receive a report from Gwent Police.

2509.1 The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jeff Dugmore and his colleague from Oakdale to the meeting.

2509.2 Jeff reported on issues such as pigs in the road; road traffic accidents on A4048; parking disputes; damage to vehicles; off-road bikers and shoplifting in Markham. He also reported that Prizes had been awarded for the best decorated houses over the Christmas period.

2510 To receive a report from County Councillor Walter Williams.

2510.1 Cllr. Walter Williams informed the meeting that Caerphilly County Borough Council was proposing to increase the Council Tax by 6.9% in 2024/25. This would equate to £1.20 per week increase on a band A property. The Borough Council will have to make £46m savings over the next two years.

2510.2 He added that all the new 20 mph speed signs had now been installed.

2510.3 He had attended a meeting with the new doctor that is taking over the Markham surgery. Initially, only morning surgeries will be held 5 days a week.

2511 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were **agreed**.

2512 Matters arising

2512.1 Minute 2495.1 – Appointments at Recycling Centres – this will not be implemented immediately. A 12 week consultation will be carried out with users.

2512.2 Minute 2505.4 – Cllr Walter Williams updated the meeting on the roundabout at Abernant Road. He read out a report produced by Caerphilly County Borough Council which considers various options including additional pedestrian crossings, kerb-splitter islands and the creation of a traditional junction to replace the mini roundabout.

2513 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

2513.1 Item 2513.5 letter from Cllr Emma Williams regarding recent problems experienced in relation to the Markham Miners' Institute refurbishments. Her letter explained that she had received a lot of verbal abuse about the refurbishments carried out at the Institute and particularly the removal of the old snooker tables. There was also an ongoing dispute between the Institute and the Club about various issues. The Chairman of the Council explained that the Chairman of the Club had asked him and Cllr Walter Williams to mediate and arrange an informal meeting with the Trustees of the Institute and had tried to contact Cllr Emma Williams to arrange this meeting. He added that his intentions were honourable and in no way was he trying to interfere in the running of either organisation.

The Clerk made it clear that neither The Chairman nor Cllr Walter Williams represented the Council in these actions as the Council had not discussed and resolved to get involved and furthermore, it had no powers to get involved in the running of either organisation.

Item 2513.7 – in his absence, Cllr Garry Lewis had provided a written report on various activities that been held at Argoed Village Hall.

Item 2513.8 – Letter from Mr Huw Jones accepting appointment as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2023/24

2514 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

2514.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 19th February 2024 showed a total balance of £11,694.27

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

2514.2 The Chairman gave a verbal report on the allocation of his £400 Chairman's Allowance to various organisations within the Argoed Community Council area.

2515 Local Development Plan (LDP)

2515.1 The Chairman gave a brief update on discussions relating to the proposals. A response is awaited from Community Energy.

2516 Blackwood Comprehensive School

2516.1 The Chairman reported that a new Deputy Head is to be appointed. He added that the Estyn report had been good. It was sad to note that the Police Liaison Officer for the school is to stop due to lack of funding.

2517 To receive an update on the Community Council's Facebook page.  
2517.1 Cllr Mary Parkes reported that she was preparing a history of the villages to be included on the Facebook page.

2518 Due to one of the Councillors feeling unwell, the meeting was closed early.

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council

18<sup>th</sup> March 2024