



Cyngor Cymuned Argoed
Markham, Argoed,
Manmoel and Hollybush

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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 23rd June 2025 held at Manmoel Village Hall.

Next Meeting: 14th July 2025 held at Hollybush Community Centre at 7pm.

250156 TO RECORD ATTENDEES AND RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Community Councillors Present: Mary Parkes, Walter Williams, Emma Williams, Helen Williams & Katherine Naylor

Apologies For Absence: Andy Bould and John Mullen

250157 THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12/05/25

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2025 were issued prior to meeting by Cherrie Edwards. Minutes were discussed and agreed by committee.

250158 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No update from Gwent Police on the replacement for Jeff Dugmore.

No recent minutes from the Community and Town Council Liason Committee. Cherrie Edwards to look into sourcing minutes to be reviewed at next meeting.

Cherrie Edwards to gain access and signatory to the account. Cllr Emma Williams to be added as a signatory also. This was agreed by all committee members in attendance.

Cllr Mary Parkes to put a post on facebook near Christmas to notify residents of the Christmas Lights and the division of the lights between wards. Cllr Emma Williams to draft post.

Cllr Katherine Naylor expressed that Manmoel would benefit from additional christmas tree lights, this was agreed by the committee to fund.

250159 AGM

2024 - 2025 Committee Dissolved.

Cllr Mary Parkes thanked the committee for her time as Chairman and asked the community members if all were happy to remain on the committee. All members present agreed. Clarification from John Mullen and Andy Bould required. Cherrie Edwards to email both members to confirm.

Committee was asked to vote on roles and committees, the following positions were agreed for 2025-2026:-

1. Mary Parkes - Charmain
2. Emma Williams - Vice-Charmain
3. Walter Williams & Cherrie Edwards Markham Primary School
4. John Mullen - Community and Town Council Liaison Committee
5. Walter Williams - Access Forum
6. Walter Williams - Markham Community House and Leisure Centre
7. Helen Williams - Markham Playgroup
8. Cherrie Edwards - Argoed Community Hall

250160 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR WALTER WILLIAMS

Cllr Walter Williams provided update. Recently attended a scrutiny committee in regards the closure of Cefn Fofrest Leisure Centre, it has been agreed that the leisure centre will remain open although on a reduced hours basis, opening from 4pm. This will have implications on Markham Primary School and their swimming lessons for pupils. Swimming lessons are now being held at Heolddu Leisure Centre. This change will now see Markham Primary School incur increased costs in bus travel.

Cllr Walter Williams also provided an update on recycling changes. The council are proposing to change recycling in the borough, which will see the refuse recycling collection change to a 3 weekly collection, the implementation of new recycling bins and bags. The cease of garden waste collection from October to February each year. Cllr Katherine Naylor asked whether recycling centres would still take garden waste during the month in which the waste collections are ceased. Cllr Walter Williams confirmed that residents would still be able to take garden waste to the local recycling centres.

There is discussion of disabled waste collections being added for disabled residents. Walter Williams stated that the Welsh Government are looking to impose a £2m fine on the authority if they do not implement the new recycling procedures.

250161 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM GWENT POLICE

No Report.

250162 TO RECEIVE THE CLERKS/R.F.O'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cherrie Edwards provided a breakdown of income and expenditure to date. Balance looks healthy and the committee are contemplating the purchase of additional christmas lights.

Cllr Emma Williams requested that Cherrie Edwards provide a copy of the budget and breakdown of costs in order to see where funds are allocated to date and what funds are available to spend. Cherrie Edwards to provide this at next meeting. Cllr Emma Williams requested that we use a pie chart and has kindly offer to support Cherrie Edwards to create this in readiness for the next meeting.

250163 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR JOHN MULLEN ON BLACKWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

No Report.

250164 CORRESPONDENCES

Contract for Cherrie Edwards, presented and signed by Chairman Cllr Mary Parkes.

250167 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Cllr Mary Parkes stated the page is continually updated and resident that would like posts added are welcome to contact Cllr Mary Parkes with notifications.

250168 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DELEGATES.

250168.1 MARKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Walter Williams noted that the school are looking for another LA representative. Cherrie Edwards expressed interest in this role. Was agreed by the committee for Cherrie to undertake this role starting September 2025

There is a new disabled lift being installed inside the building to assist pupils getting from the junior level to the infants level. There is a possibility of a wheel user starting at the primary in the near future. The lift is to be funded by a Welsh Government grant.

Decorating works will be undertaken during the 6 weeks holidays to refresh walls within the school.

Nettles/Bramble overgrowth has been reported by Cllr Walter Williams to the cleansing team.

CCBC have secured a grant to cleanse the whole borough. This works will start in

October once the grass cutting season has finished.

Cllr Walter Williams has reported the overgrowth of brambles at Sunnyview as per a resident request.

250168.2 ARGOED COMMUNITY HALL.

Cherrie Edwards advised there was no update provided by the hall this time around. Will contact again in readiness for next meeting. Cllr Emma Williams noted that there have been additional events posted on the Argoed Community Hall page.

250168.3 COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL'S LIAISON COMMITTEE.

No Report.

250168.4 MARKHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE AND LEISURE CENTRE.

Cllr Walter Williams advised that the Blackwood and District British Legion will be hosting a VJ day at Markham Lesuire Centre on the 15th August 2025. This will be a fun filled day for all to attend, there are plans to have a 1940's dress theme, display of old cars, a memorial board, tea coffee and food, games and activities also. It is likely that we will receive a request for a donation to support the event in due course.

250168.5 ACCESS FORUM

No Report. Cllr Walter Williams confirmed there has been no meetings.

250168.6 MARKHAM PLAYGROUP

Cllr Helen Williams updated that the playgroup has been successfully running for 30 years. The playgoup offers flying start, childcare offer and private placements. The playgroup employes 6 members of staff who are all local people. The playgroup recently underwent a Estyn Inspection which was successful with a glowing report. Cllr Helen Williams stated that the goal for te playgroup this year was to engage better with parents, which has been successful to date.

The playgroup has had an extension in the opposite room and are now able to offer 27 places for morning session, 27 places for the lunch session and 27 places for the afternoon session.

Markham Welfare Association has provided funding to Markham Playgroup to enable them to create and independent learning area outside of the classroom area for a child fantastic assest.

The playgrououp directly feeds into Markham Primary School with 20 children moving onto Markham Primary School this September. There is a fantastic relationship with Markham Primary School who also feed the playgroup for wrap around children. Cllr Helen Williams noted that the school often visit the setting to introduce themselves in readiness for transistion and vice versa for the playgroup with wrap around children.

Cllr Helen Williams noted that the children have been undertaking visits within the village, notably the cenotaph for VE day. Also the chip shop and onestop as part of their learning experiences.

250169 LOCAL REPORTS

250169.1 ARGOED WARD

Cherrie Edwards noted that again there has been several accidents on Penylan Road due to speeding.

250169.2 HOLLYBUSH WARD

Cllr Walter Williams noted that he has received complaints from residents of Hollybush in regards to speeding through the village. This includes cars and also 20T lorries. Cllr Walter Williams contacted Gwent Police who advised that this is not a police matter and that of the speed department based in pontypool. Cllr Walter Williams contacted these direct who have advised that they are very limited on availability of staff and speed vans.

250169.3 MANMOEL WARD

Cllr Katherine Naylor noted that coffee morning at the hall is still going well and is well attended. The budget is looking good to date. They have been hosting numerous events to raise funds. Recently held a poems and pint night that was very succesful, with entertainment from Katherine and friends. Cllr Katherine Naylor confirmed that there are future events planned for the Autumn.

The association are looking to purchase a new gate for the village hall.

250169.4 MARKHAM WARD

Cllr Emma Williams noted that she has received a letter from Revend Nick Holloway explaining the chapels position in relation to the Salavaged Creations termination of use of the chapel. No action required from the committee.

Cllr Helen Williams noted that the lane behind Bryn Road has recently resurfaced. There is however still a mattress that needs collecting.

Concerns were raised in regards to the rubbish at the rear of No 4 Bryn Road.

250170 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

250171 NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held at Hollybush Community Centre on the 14th July 2025 at 7pm.

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council