



Cyngor Cymuned Argoed

Markham, Argoed,
Man-moel and Hollybush

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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 15th January 2018 at Manmoel Village Hall.

1770 To sign the register and receive apologies

1770.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman M. Williams, A. Davies, K. Mills, G. Lewis, J. Watkins and W. Williams

1770.2 Apologies were received from Cllrs. A. Jones and H. Rowlands

1771 To receive a report from the Police

1771.1 PCSO Jeff Dugmore had apologised for not being able to attend the meeting. He confirmed that the surgery was due to be held in Markham Community House on 16th January 2018.

1772 The Chairman welcomed Rhiannon Passmore, the A.M. for Islwyn, to the meeting.

1772.1 Mrs Passmore thanked the Community Council for inviting her to speak to the meeting. She spoke of the meeting that she had recently attended regarding the former Markham Colliery Site. She felt that the site was ideal for a carbon-neutral housing development or "eco village". A feasibility study was needed to establish whether the site was viable.

1772.2 She spoke of the huge strain on the National Health Service caused by an ageing population. Local Government was finding it increasingly difficult to provide all the services the public wants. She added that reorganisation or collaborative working arrangements were needed to reduce "back-office" costs.

1772.3 Cllr Garry Lewis referred to recent comments made by Nicola Sturgeon and asked if the Welsh Assembly would follow.

Rhiannon said that the assembly was not going to give a knee-jerk reaction.

1772.4 The Chairman asked about the Assembly's proposals for the NHS especially in light of the recent problems with emergency services.

Rhiannon said that a shortage of beds in the general wards is causing a backlog in the A&E departments which then results in Ambulances being delayed at hospitals.

Cllr John Watkins spoke of the Markham Colliery site and the various broken promises in the past about its redevelopment. He felt that the site was perfect for renewable energy and housing. Cllr Walter Williams added that LINC were due to visit the site the following week.

It was suggested that the Community Council invite Allan Davies the Assembly Member for Housing to a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked Rhiannon for attending the meeting and hoped that she could attend more meetings in the future.

1773 To receive a report from County Councillor Walter Williams.

1773.1 Cllr. Walter Williams informed the meeting that Caerphilly County Borough Council was looking at 4.5% increase in the Council Tax. The proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was due to be reviewed by Scrutiny Committee later that week. He said that Council cuts over the last 5 years hadn't significantly affected front line services but the cuts were now going to impact on front line services such as Leisure. He informed the meeting that another wind turbine was being proposed for the Penyfan Pond area. A public meeting was due to be held in the Welfare Club regarding the planning application for a Pharmacist in Markham.

1774 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th December 2017 were **agreed**.

1775 Matters arising:-

1775.1 Minute 1765.3 – damaged seats on cycle path - the Clerk confirmed that he had written to Mr Griffiths and was awaiting a reply.

1775.2 Minute 1767.1 – trees along the Argoed section of the cycle path - the Clerk confirmed that he had written to Mr Griffiths and was awaiting a reply.

1775.3 Former Markham Colliery Site – Cllrs Walter Williams and Garry Lewis had attended a meeting at Ty Penallta with LINC to discuss the possibility of the provision of social housing on the site. There were currently 6 projects in Wales and the organisation was keen to look at other possible projects. A meeting with LINC was arranged on Thursday 25th January. It was **agreed** that the Community Council would pay the room hire charge of £20.00

1776 The schedule of correspondence provided by the Clerk was received and the required actions **agreed**.

1777 To receive the financial report from the Clerk.

1777.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 15th January 2018 showed a total balance of £32,901.12

1777.2 The above balance includes £17,000 from the Argoed Community Benefit Fund.

1777.3 The Community Council **agreed** to set the Precept for 2018/19 at £14.50 per band D property. This would result in an estimated income of £12,368.00

1777.4 Based on the estimated income of £12,368.00, the Council **agreed** the Clerk's proposed Budget for 2018/19 showing anticipated expenditure of £12,464.00. This would result in a deficit of £86.00

1777.5 The financial report produced by the Clerk was **agreed**.

1778 Delegates Reports

1778.1 Markham Primary School – Cllr Walter Williams reported that school Christmas concert had been a great success.

1778.2 Argoed Village Hall – Cllr Walter Williams informed the meeting that he had been confirmed as the representative of Caerphilly County Borough Council on the Management Committee for the Hall

1778.3 Hollybush Community Centre – no report

1778.4 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – no report

1778.5 Markham House and Leisure Centre – no report

1778.6 Access Forum – no report

1779 Local Reports

1779.1 Argoed – the Chairman reported that various pavements needed sweeping. Cllr Walter Williams confirmed that he would speak to the relevant Caerphilly County Borough Council officer about this.

1779.2 Hollybush – Cllr Keith Mills reported that bins had not been collected

1779.3 Manmoel – Cllr Arthur Davies thanked Cllr Walter Williams for arranging to get the old Manmoel animal pound cleaned up.

1779.4 Markham – no report

1780 Planning Applications

1780.1 17/1051/NOTF – Hollybush Woodland, Pont Gwaith Yr Haearn Farm Lane, Hollybush – construct new tracks to facilitate felling of infected larch trees. - noted

1780.2 17/1057/FULL – Barn at Argoed Fawr Farm, Argoed Fawr Farm Lane, - change of use to existing barn to residential dwelling. - noted

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council 19th February 2018