



Cyngor Cymuned Argoed

Markham, Argoed,
Man-moel and Hollybush

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Minutes of Argoed Community Council meeting held on 15th December 2014 at Argoed Village Hall.

1392 To sign the register and receive apologies

1392.1 Community Councillors present: Chairman K. Masson, G. Bineham, A. Craddock, L. Gardiner, A. Jones, G. Lewis, H. Rowlands, J. Watkins, M. Williams and W. Williams

1392.2 Apologies were received from D. Briggs

1393 To welcome representatives from Argoed Residents for a Safer Community (ARSC)

The Chairman welcomed two representatives from the organisation. The group had been created because of the concerns of Argoed residents in the aftermath of the murder in the Sirhowy Arms Hotel. They were also concerned that a similar premises, which is only a mile or so away from Argoed, houses ex-offenders. They have met with Caerphilly County Borough Council and the Police. Representatives from Caerphilly County Borough Council understood the residents' concerns. ARSC confirmed that their only concern was the existence of the two properties that are housing ex-offenders.

The Chairman pointed out that prior to the murder no-one had ever raised concerns with the Community Council about the type of people staying at the Sirhowy Arms Hotel. ARSC said that no-one knew before that this type of person was staying there.

The Chairman asked if the Police had confirmed to ARSC the level of problems experienced at the Hotel. ARSC said that the Police had confirmed that it had received 150 calls in the last 12 months.

Leon Gardiner said that Caerphilly County Borough Council had refused planning approval for the Hotel but an appeal had over-turned the decision. ARSC confirmed that the Police had no influence over who is allowed to stay at the Hotel. Ex-criminals who have served their full time are not supervised.

A councillor said that he had been told that Caerphilly County Borough Council has plans for 7 more similar establishments. He has heard that the Colliers Arms is going to be a similar establishment.

The ARSC representatives were invited to attend the ARTA meetings to discuss common concerns about the types of premises being established within the Argoed area.

The Chairman thanked the ARSC representatives for attending the meeting.

- 1394 To receive a report from County Borough Councillor Leon Gardiner.
 1394.1 Leon reported that Caerphilly County Borough Council is having to make a tough decision about how much the Council Tax will have to increase next year. The Council has to save a further £40m!
 Leon also mentioned planning concerns regarding the caravan park and the recycling centre and Manmoel Road. He also commented on rubbish being dumped on the land near the Markham roundabout.
 1394.2 A councillor asked whether the former Markham Colliery site was now owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council. Leon said he would check with the appropriate officer.

1395 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th November 2014 were agreed.

1396 Matters arising:-

- 1396.1 Minute 1383.2 – The Clerk was still trying to re-arrange the meeting with Keith Reynolds.
 1396.2 Minute 1383.3 – It was reported that no site visit has been arranged yet for the memorial garden at the bottom of Penylan Road.
 1396.3 Minute 1383.4 – Road sign at Manmoel village – Clerk to chase up with Caerphilly County Borough Council.
 1396.4 Minute 1388 – Website – it was pointed out that the front page was showing the wrong date for the next meeting. Agreed that the Clerk would resolve this.

1397 Correspondence

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

1398 To receive the financial report from the Clerk

1398.1 The financial position of the Community Council as at 15th December 2014, showing a total balance of £14,433.33 was **accepted**.

Treasurer's Account	9,028.94	
Unpresented income/cheques	<u>-1,528.18</u>	7,500.76
Business Money Manager A/C		6,932.57
Bank Balances		<u>14,433.33</u>

1398.2 The schedule of payments provided by the Clerk was **agreed**

1399 Delegates Reports

1399.1 Markham Primary School – It was reported that the School took part in a football match against Blackwood Primary School. The football strip worn by the Blackwood School was the one that had been paid for out of the money that the Community Council had given the Markham Miners' Welfare FC. The Community Council had been previously informed that this kit had been "kept by the children". Teachers and

pupils from Markham School could not understand how Blackwood Primary School had acquired the football strip. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Head of Blackwood Primary School advising her of the “history” behind the football strip. Walter Williams has been accepted as a new governor for Markham Primary School

1399.2 Argoed Village Hall – Leon confirmed that the memorial stone is to be re-positioned and then dedicated in the new year.

Garry reported that the Christmas Carols and Quiz Night had been a great success.

1399.3 Hollybush Community Centre - Gay Bineham reported that their Christmas dinner had been very successful.

1399.4 Joint Liaison Committee Meeting – No meeting

1399.5 Markham Community House and Leisure Centre – Ann Jones reported that it is “ticking over”

1399.6 Community Partnership – No meeting

1399.7 Access Forum – Garry reported that that requests have been received by CCBC to remove benches from the cycle path in the Argoed area. The Rights of Way budget has been dramatically reduced.

1400 Local Reports

1400.1 Argoed – It was reported that water on Penylan Road was freezing and creating a hazard to pedestrians.

1400.2 Hollybush – nothing to report

1400.3 Manmoel – Village Hall held a Christmas Party.

1400.4 Markham – The residents are complaining that there are not enough lights on the Christmas tree.

1400.5 There have been a series of attempted break-ins in Markham village

1401 Planning Applications

1401.1 14/0792/FULL – former Argoed Primary School Woodville Terrace, Argoed – change of use to a single dwelling

1401.2 14/0725/FULL – Penylan Caravan Park – erect two 50Mw axis wind turbine generators - **opposed** the application

1401.3 14/0740/RET – 16 Penylan Road, Markham – retain decking and panels

Signed.....Chairman of Argoed Community Council 19th January 2015