

# Michaelston-y-Fedw Community Council

## Annual Report 2021-2022

### Council Organisation

The community council has 7 councillors, and all business is considered by the whole council. There are no sub-committees. The councillors elected in May 2017 were:

Councillor Mr C Walford  
Councillor Mr G Davies  
Councillor Mr L Meringolo  
Councillor Mr N Hallett

Councillor Mr D. Schofield  
Councillor Mr G Morgan  
Councillor Mrs J Taylor

Councillor Hallett was elected as Chair and Councillor Walford as Vice Chair for 2021-22.

In November 2021 Councillor Mrs. J Taylor resigned from the council. The vacancy was advertised and in January 2022 Mrs. L Cohen was co-opted as a council member by unanimous agreement.

The council has one employee, a part-time Clerk who is also the Responsible Financial Officer (both are legally required roles).

Contact details for all councillors and the Clerk can be found on the community council web page at <https://www.michaelston-y-fedw.com/michaelston-y-fedw-community-council>.

None of the councillors represents a political party. All councillors have carried out the role voluntarily with no financial recompense.

### Activities

The council has carried out numerous lobbying and consultative activities during the year, as well as taking direct action wherever possible. Activities this year have included:

- Considering and commenting on local planning applications submitted to Newport Council
- Lobbying Caerphilly Council to secure repairs to Michaelston bridge and Cefn Mably bridge, and to the road surface on the Caerphilly side of Michaelston bridge
- Working with officers from Newport Council and Natural Resources Wales to identify and trace fly-tipping culprits
- Participation in the Community Councils Partnership with representatives from Marshfield, Wentlooge and Coedkernew regarding matters of common interest, such as fly-tipping, speeding and anti-social behaviour
- Resolving a long-standing problem of water running down Began Road
- Planting a new hedge between the village hall car park and the church access lane
- Organising litter picks
- Lobbying Newport Council to resume winter road gritting which was discontinued in this area 3 years ago without warning. This is an ongoing dispute.

## Financial

The council's income is primarily from the precept levied on its behalf by Newport Council as part of the council tax. There is also a tiny amount of interest on bank account funds.

To enable Newport Council to include the precept in the council tax bills, the expenditure budget has to be agreed by early January for the financial year commencing at the beginning of April. The budget was prepared in December 2020 based on the community council's expectations at that time, but the Covid pandemic caused some priorities to be changed as the year went on.

Details of income and expenditure can be seen at Appendix A. The principal differences between planned and actual expenditures are as follows:

- Audit fees were planned at £450 based on previous years, but only £176 was invoiced. (The community council is legally required to have an "internal audit" carried out by a local accountant and an "external audit" carried out by Welsh Government. £176 was the planned expenditure for the internal audit, but Welsh Government has not yet invoiced for the external audit. The fees for external audit vary significantly from year to year, for no discernible reason, making it very difficult to budget properly. We have asked for explanations for the variations, but no convincing reasons have ever been provided.)
- £1,216 was spent on village hall maintenance against a budget of £500. This is because the £500 budgeted for the previous year was carried forward to this year and an additional contribution was made towards the refurbishment of the village hall.
- £500 budgeted for community events was not spent.
- The council is legally required to budget £150 pa per councillor for their expenses, a total of £1,050. This must be paid unless councillors decline it in writing. All of the councillors declined the payment.
- £1,007 was spent on office hardware and software against a budget of £120. The council's laptop had to be replaced because of the failure of the old one, and a monthly Zoom subscription was taken out to enable council meetings to proceed during lockdown.
- Sundries expenditure was £573 against a budget of £300, primarily due to the purchase of an additional defibrillator for the village (jointly funded with Myfi).

Appendix A

**Michaelston-y-Fedw Community Council  
Income & Expenditure 2021-22**

Income	
Precept	6,221.25
Interest	0.89
Other	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£6,222.14</b>

	Expenditure	
	Budget	Actual
Wages	1000	983.41
Audit fees	450	176.00
Stationery	80	-
Insurance	175	167.44
Donations	500	-
Cemetery maintenance	750	750.00
Rent	495	400.00
Maintenance of community hall	500	1,215.99
Community events	500	-
Web site & domain hosting	280	280.72
Councillors' wages	1050	
Info Commissioner registration	35	
Office software & hardware	120	1,007.56
Sundries	300	572.80
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>£6,235.00</b>	<b>5,553.92</b>

Summary	
Income	£6,222.14
Expenditure	£5,553.92
Surplus	£668.22

Funds at 1st April 2021	£7,244.43
<b>Current funds</b>	<b>£7,912.65</b>