

Michaelston y Fedw Community Council

Annual Report 2023-2024

Foreword

The Community Council serves the community of Michaelston y Fedw, a small village of 180 residents in a rural setting where most villagers know each other. This shapes to some extent how we communicate with the electorate. Following the Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 we have held hybrid meetings whereby residents can choose to join our monthly meetings (1st Wednesday of each month except August). We resumed a newsletter this year although there has been little response to date, probably due to the fact that we are a small community who know each other. The newsletter will be continued on an ad hoc basis depending on need.

Membership

All councillors were elected on 5th May 2022. During the past year we have also co-opted a Youth Representative, Sam Cohen.

Elected representatives are:

Councillors Louise Cohen, Gareth Davies, Dr Nigel Hallett (chair), Lorenzo Meringolo, Dr Christopher Rowlands, David Schofield, Christopher Walford (vice-chair).

Kirsty Best resigned from her role as Clerk to the Council in January and was replaced by the previous postholder, Lawrence Russell. Both individuals have given sterling service in the role, and we wish to record our thanks to them.

Three city councillors, Rhian Howells, Trevor Watkins and Allan Screen, represent Michaelston y Fedw and other contiguous wards on Newport Council. They attend our Community Council meetings by rotation and have provided excellent support for various issues we have raised with them over the past year (see below).

Finance

The council is legally required to pay councillors (amounting to a total for the year of £1050) although they can choose to opt out of receiving this payment. This is the course of action chosen by Michaelston's councillors. Neither do members claim expenses, preferring to focus all income on applications for the community benefit.

Income

Precept: £6996.40

Interest: £16.24

Other: £21

Expenditure

Wages £1116.70

Audit fees £352.00

Stationery £55.39

Insurance £257.60

Rent £600

Community Events £700.00

Web site/ £443.05

domain hosting

Office software £19.99

Sundries £69.97

Natwest expend £69.99 (old debits for GDPR registration etc)

Total spend £3684.69

Council has identified several expenditure items, e.g. new projector, which will ensure our annual budget is substantially spent, allowing for a carry-over contingency.

Current funds: Natwest £284.48; Metro £10,622.70. **Total: £10,907.18**

Liaison and Partnerships

The partnership forum for community council chairs (four local CCs) meets quarterly to discuss issues of common interest. This group also seeks regular meetings with the police on community policing issues and with Natural Resources Wales on issues such as flooding and fly-tipping.

The Liaison meeting between Newport City Council and all Newport authority Community Council chairs meets quarterly and is a useful vehicle communicating activities, planning and development issues within the authority to CCs.

Planning

The Council receives sight of all planning applications made to Newport Council for the village and surrounding area. We are also invited to respond with comments to such applications. As long as they are beneficial to the community and not obviously detrimental, we tend to support such applications. One such application which we felt unable to support because of its detrimental effect on the local road system was the Crematorium submission for Penylan Hill.

Councillor Training

Training on Planning requirements has been undertaken for five councillors this year.

Achievements

Perhaps most notably, after several years of campaigning, the Council, with the support of City Councillors, has succeeded in getting the speed limit through the village reduced to 20mph. This should be implemented in the coming months.

Councillors have actively campaigned to get fly-tipping reduced (our village security system has been of enormous help here), to resolve flooding issues by Michaelston bridge and to urge the city council to deal with road issues such as potholes and tree maintenance. We have also organised regular litter picks which have been well-attended.

Nigel Hallett (chair)