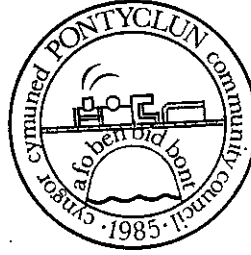


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
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 Talygarn, Pontyclun,
 Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10 May, 1995.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle (Chairperson), Mr T J Burton, Mrs V A Cale, Mr G Davies, Mr R O Edwards, Mr T R J Flood, Mrs M M Griffiths, Mr G M Moir, Mr R G Norman and Mr M Rea

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Retiring Chairman's Report

The retiring Chairperson, Councillor Cyril G Bendle, summarised the highlights of his term of office. He was particularly glad to have had the opportunity to represent the Community Council at the public service to mark the presentation of the M B E to Mr David Speed of Brynsadler. He had, too, been grateful to have been associated with a number of other public events where he had represented the Council. On a practical level he felt honoured that the new Community Centre and car park for Pontyclun had been completed during his term of office. He thanked all Members of the Council for their support and guidance.

The report was noted.

3. Election of Chairperson 1995/96

Two Members of the Council, namely Councillor C G Bendle and Councillor T R J Flood were proposed and seconded for the office of Chairperson of the Community Council for 1995/96.

On the matter being put to the vote each Member had five votes. The retiring Chairperson exercised a casting vote in favour of himself. Councillor Burton challenged the legality of a retiring Chairperson exercising a casting vote in favour of himself.

The Clerk advised that the matter was covered in the Local Government Act, 1972, where, if the person presiding at the start of the Annual Meeting had not been re-elected as a councillor since he was made chairperson, he only had a casting vote on the election of a new chairperson. If the person presiding had been re-elected as a councillor then that person had an ordinary vote and a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That Councillor C G Bendle be appointed as the Community Council's Chairperson for 1995/96
 - (ii) That a copy of the appropriate section from the Local Government Act, 1972, be forwarded to Councillor M Rea.

4. Election of Vice Chairperson 1995/96

Three Members of the Council, namely Councillors T R J Flood, Mrs M M Griffiths and R G Norman, were initially proposed and seconded for the office of Vice Chairperson of the Community Council for 1995/96. Councillor Mrs Griffiths subsequently asked that her name be withdrawn.

On the matter being put to the vote each candidate received 5 votes. The Chairperson exercised a casting vote in favour of Councillor R G Norman.

- RESOLVED: That Councillor R G Norman be appointed as the Community Council's Vice Chairperson for 1995/96.

5. Address by the Clerk

The Clerk introduced himself to the newly elected Members of the Council. He emphasised that he was politically neutral and would treat all Members with courtesy and consideration. The Clerk advised that although the post of Clerk was part time Members were free to contact him at his home at any time either in person or by telephone. In the event that the Clerk was not at home an answerphone service would take Members telephone queries. The Clerk would contact the appropriate Member as soon as possible.

The Clerk advised the Council that the months of April, May and June were traditionally extremely busy months. In addition to "routine" Council work, it was necessary to close and balance the Council's accounts for the previous financial year prior to annual audit by the District Auditor. Additionally, statutory PAYE returns to the Inland Revenue and DSS, and VAT claims to the Customs and Excise needed to be completed. If returns to the Inland



Revenue and DSS were not made within given deadlines the Council would incur financial penalties. Similarly, if the Council's financial records were not presented to the District Auditor in a prescribed way the Council would have to meet an extra charge by the auditor. As a result of the once yearly work being accorded a higher priority, some "routine" work of the Council received a lower priority during the busy months.

The Clerk reminded the Council that at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday, 14 May, 1995, an inter denominational church service would take place in the Bethel Baptist Church Centre, Pontyclun, to mark the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in Europe. The service had been arranged at the request of the Community Council. The Clerk expressed the wish that as many Members as possible support the service.

The Clerk's address was noted.

6. Chairperson's Allowance

(Councillor C G Bendle declared an interest and took no part in the Council's deliberations. An entry was made in the Register of Disclosures)

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson's Allowance for 1995/96 be £612.00, that is, an increase of 2% on the Chairperson's Allowance for 1994/95.

7. Appointment of Members and representatives

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made:

(a) Finance Committee

The Chairperson together with Councillors G Davies, R O Edwards, T R J Flood, G M Moir and R G Norman

(b) Borough Council/Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee

Councillor M M Griffiths together with the Clerk

(c) Straying Animals Working Party

Councillor T J Burton

(d) East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

Councillor G Davies together with the Clerk

(e) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

Councillors T J Burton and G M Moir. In the event that either Member is unable to attend a meeting, Councillor M Rea is the substitute Member.



- (f) Age Concern - Taff Ely
Councillors T J Burton and R O Edwards
- (g) Purolite Joint Liaison Committee
Councillor T J Burton. In the event that Councillor Burton is unable to attend a meeting the substitute Member is Councillor M Rea.
- (h) Purolite Standing Conference
Councillor Mrs M M Griffiths
- (i) Taff Ely Police Consultative Committee
Councillor T J Burton
- (j) Governing Body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant
Councillor Mrs M M Griffiths

8. Calendar of meetings for 1995/96

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That consideration of the calendar of meetings for 1995/96 be deferred pending clarification of what alternative days were available for holding Community Council meetings.
 - (ii) That until such time as the Council decides to hold its meetings on a day other than a Wednesday the status quo remain and the next meeting of the Community Council be on Wednesday, 7 June, 1995, at 8.00 p.m.

9. Chairperson's business

The Chairperson, Councillor C G Bendle, reiterated his, and the concerns of previous chairpersons, at the lack of a chain of office. Embarrassment had been experienced on several occasions, especially at formal functions, when the absence of any civic regalia had led to the public failing to identify the Chairperson of the Community Council. The embarrassment became acute at functions where chairpersons of other local authorities were present wearing their chains of office.

The inhibiting factor had always been the cost of purchasing a chain of office. Recent quotations for the supply of a chain had been received from specialist suppliers but it seemed that the minimum cost would be around £500.

There followed a lengthy discussion when it was suggested that other, less expensive, civic regalia might be appropriate. Reference, too, was made to



an earlier approach to Mrs M Leeke of Leeke's of Llantrisant where it had been suggested that the Leeke family might be favourably disposed to donating a chain of office to the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor M Rea would approach Mrs M Leeke to establish whether the Leeke family would be prepared to donate a chain of office to the Community Council.

10. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 April, 1995

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 5 April, 1995, be approved as an accurate record.

11. Matters arising

(a) Footway lighting in backlanes

The Council considered the correspondence which had taken place with Mr Keith Russell over the possibility of the installation of footway lighting at the rear of Cerdin Avenue, Llwynfen Road, Derwen Road and Palalwyf Avenue. It noted, too, that the Clerk had written to the County Engineer and Surveyor seeking his comments on the proposal. While Mr Russell was commended for his efforts in sounding out local feeling on the proposal it was stated that a view had been expressed by one of affected residents that if the scheme went ahead it was feared that the illuminated lanes might act as congregating points for youths in the evenings.

RESOLVED: That the Council await the observations of the County Engineer and Surveyor and that the Clerk keep Mr Russell informed of developments.

(b) Sponsored Walk in aid of kidney research

The Clerk reported that the Community Council initiated sponsored walk in aid of kidney research on the morning of Sunday, 20 March, 1995, had raised £682.58 up to the time the cheque was delivered to the Kidney Research Unit Foundation. Experience in previous years had shown that sponsorship monies continued to be paid into the bank account for several weeks after the cheque had been handed over. These additional monies were added to the sponsorship monies received for the following year's walk.

The report was noted.



(c) Dog control measures

The Council noted the letter dated 21 March, 1995, from the Chief Environmental Services Officer of the Borough Council outlining the steps taken to control dog fouling in public places in the Borough.

The Council welcomed the positive steps being taken by the Borough Council to control dog fouling although several Members felt that the signs which had been erected, publicising the existence of the dog control byelaws, were too small and in many cases had been erected too high.

Councillor Moir commented that the effect of the new byelaws had already been noticed in Miskin where pavements were significantly cleaner.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the Clerk contact the Borough Environmental Services Officer asking whether the signs publicising the existence of the new byelaws could be made bigger and given more prominence by being erected at a lower height.
 - (ii) That the Clerk contact the Borough Environmental Health Officer asking for a list of the sites where signs are to be erected in Groesfaen.

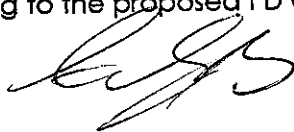
(d) Disturbances and nuisances at dilapidated buildings at the rear of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor R G Norman was pleased to be able to report that the dilapidated garage at the rear of premises in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, which had been the source of significant nuisances for residents of Station Terrace and Stuart Street, Pontyclun, had been demolished.

The matter was noted.

(e) Hendy Quarry, Miskin - Proposed I D O Conditions

Councillor R G Norman referred to the comments made by Councillor T J Burton at the Council's meeting on 5 April, 1995, where Councillor Burton claimed that he had been "gagged" because he had not been provided with the bundle of documents relating to the proposed I D O Conditions at the Hendy Quarry.



Councillor Norman stated that although Councillor Burton had been provided with the bundle of documents in plenty of time for the next meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee, Councillor Burton had not offered any comments on the proposed conditions at the meeting of the Liaison Committee.

Councillor Burton commented that he had a right to receive information on the proposed IDO Conditions at the Hendy Quarry. Whether he chose to speak on that information, or remain silent, at the Liaison Committee was a matter for his discretion.

The matter was noted.

(f) Pontyclun Fish Bar

Councillor R G Norman reported that the application for the renewal of the late opening licence had been deferred by the Borough Council pending the receipt of further information from the police.

Councillor Flood advised the Council that the proprietor of the Fish Bar had stated that he had not necessarily wanted to apply for the renewal of his late licence but felt under some pressure to apply as a retaliatory measure since other premises in the locality were remaining open beyond their authorised hours.

The matter was noted.

(g) Environment Week, 1995

Councillor Mrs M M Griffiths sought clarification on the significance of Environment Week, 1995.

It was explained that in Spring each year all community councils within the Borough of Taff Ely were invited to make a contribution to Environment Week by organising an event of environmental significance. In previous years the Community Council had participated by organising local litter picks. The events did not attract any grant aid.

Councillor Mrs Griffiths asked for information on any environmental works which had been carried out and had attracted grant aid. The Clerk responded that a major environmental scheme had been undertaken in the Ivor Woods, Brynsadler, under the former Community Programme. Considerable woodland management had been achieved

under the auspices of the Forestry Commission. In addition, an annual grant was received from the Mid Glamorgan County Council for maintenance work carried out to public rights of way. The grant amounted to around £600 to £700 per annum.

Councillor Mrs Griffiths also asked for clarification of the reference to parks and open spaces in the Borough Council's Environmental Health Officer's letter of 21 March, 1995. Councillor R G Norman replied that the recently introduced byelaws for the control of dog fouling applied only to footpaths, footways, grass verges, gutters and carriageways. The restrictions which had been introduced in Borough Council owned parks and open spaces did not carry force of law.

(h) Fence along river bank - Maelog Close

Councillor T R J Flood expressed his disappointment that work by the Borough Council to erect a fence along the bank of the river Ely had been discontinued. He pointed out that there was a very real danger of children falling into the Ely and believed that it was proper for the Borough Council to take action before an accident occurred. It was clarified that work was discontinued as a result of pressure from local residents who maintained that the fence should not be erected without consultation with residents.

12. South Wales Constabulary - Policing resources

The Council discussed the letter of 26 April, 1995, from Superintendent Sullivan at Pontypridd who wished to clarify the Force's position on policing levels following the improvement in the financial position of the South Wales Constabulary.

At 31 March, 1995, the Force had approximately 150 vacancies for officers. During the following 12 months it was anticipated that there would be a further 100 officer vacancies as the result of natural wastage. It was important for the public to understand that the Force was currently filling its vacancies. It was not recruiting additional officers. As far as the Taff Ely Division was concerned there were five vacancies. There was no information on when these vacancies would be filled. It was likely to be some time before the Division was back to its normal staffing level.

The information was noted.

13. Draft Taff Ely Local Plan

The Council considered the letter dated 11 April, 1995, from the Chief Planning Officer, which gave the Borough Council's response to the comments of the Community Council on the Draft Taff Ely Local Plan.

As several Members of the Council had no knowledge of the earlier views submitted by the Community Council the Clerk outlined the background to each of the 10 points on which comment was passed.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the letter be noted
 - (ii) That the Clerk obtain a further copy of the Draft Taff Ely Local Plan for Councillor M Rea

14. Planning applications contained in notifications for Weeks Ending 24 and 31 March and 14 and 21 April, 1995

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Borough Council:

Application No 95/0192/10

That the Community Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (a) A six foot high wall would not be in keeping with development in the vicinity
- (b) The proposal would be visually offensive

Application No 95/0169/10

That the Community Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (a) Commercial development should not take place in a residential area.
- (b) The proposal would lead to an increase of traffic in a rear lane.
- (c) The proposal would result in residents experiencing nuisance through noise and pollution

The Council expressed its wish of encouraging new commercial enterprises in the Community and requested that the Borough Council give every assistance to the proprietor in re-locating his business.

Application No. 95/0211/01

(The Clerk distributed a copy of a letter from Mr G Clear of "Hillside" Mwyndy, Pontyclun, who sought the Community Council's support in opposing the application for planning consent. The letter had been received too late for inclusion with the Agenda papers.)

9. 

That the Community Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (a) The sign is considered to be too large
- (b) The sign is incongruous in a semi-rural environment
- (c) The sign is a distraction and therefore a potential hazard to passing motorists.

(The Council also instructed the Clerk to write to the Borough Council asking whether there was an obligation on the proprietor of Castle Car Sales to obtain planning consent for the erection of the numerous yellow signs on the grass verge of the A4119 advertising Castle Car Sales)

Application No. 95/0219/10

That, bearing in mind the history of mining in the vicinity of Cefn yr Hendy, the Borough Council be urged to make any consent for development conditional upon the applicant having satisfactorily completed site investigations.

Application No. 95/0135/10

That, bearing in mind the additional usage of the premises resulting from the proposed extension, the Borough Council be requested to make consent for the development conditional upon the applicant extending the car park at the premises and for that car park to be made up to normal highway standards.

Application No. 95/0184/13

That the Council is opposed to the proposed development on the grounds that:

- (a) It is outside the Local Plan
- (b) The proposed access on to the A4222 would be hazardous
- (c) The proposal constitutes an intrusion into the countryside.

15. Victim Support

The Council considered an invitation to send a representative to the Annual General Meeting of Victim Support in Pontypridd on 19 May, 1995.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson, Councillor C G Bendle, be nominated to attend the meeting.



16. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix No 7 to the Council's Agenda.

17. Reports from Members

(a) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

Councillor G M Moir reported that he attended the April meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee. He reported that Dr Gandy, from the Planning Department of the Mid Glamorgan County Council had resigned his post with the County Council to take up an appointment in opencast mining. His successor was Ruth Amundsen.

During the week before the Liaison Committee meeting there had been a significant increase in the number of complaints from Miskin residents about vibrations from blasting. Councillor Moir raised the matter at the Liaison Committee. He was informed that the quarry had received a very large order for stone to be used for the Cardiff Bay development. Mr Davies, the quarry manager, forecasted that at the current rate of stone extraction all work on the western face of the quarry, the face which gave rise to most complaints, would be completed within a year. Councillor Moir commented that while residents could look forward to a degree of respite in the long term, the short term was likely to be an extremely trying time for Miskin residents.

The report was noted.

(b) Footpath from Heol y Coed to Lon yr Awel

Councillor R G Norman reported that the footpath on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate linking Heol y Coed with Lon yr Awel had been refurbished by the Borough Council.

The report was noted.

(c) Subsidence - Cefn yr Hendy

Councillor R G Norman reported that the property on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate which had been affected by subsidence had been demolished. However, bearing in mind the extent of mining in the vicinity, there were worries that further cases of structural damage caused through subsidence might occur.

The report was noted.



(d) Tunnel collapse

Councillor R G Norman reported that there had been a collapse of the tunnel located in the woods below the Cefn yr Hendy Estate. The tunnel had been disused for many years and had given access to some of the mine workings in the vicinity. It was understood that the tunnel was in the ownership of the Land Authority for Wales and that organisation was in discussion with the Borough Council about making land available for an extension of the Windsor Field. In view of the problems associated with the land it was unlikely that the Windsor Field extension would take place.

The report was noted.

(e) Off street parking

Councillor R G Norman informed the Council that the next area in Pontyclun to be identified for improved off street parking was in Clun Avenue. It was proposed to create 3 separate bays which would be similar to the parking bays in Brynamlwg, Pontyclun. It was proposed that the base of the bays would be constructed with interlocking blocks which, while providing a firm base, would still allow grass to grow.

The report was noted.

18. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Re - siting of 30 m.p.h. sign, Groesfaen

Councillor M Rea asked if there was any indication of when the County Council would be re - siting the 30 m.p.h. sign to the agreed position the west of its present location.

The Clerk responded that he had no information on when the re - siting would take place but he would pursue the matter with the Mid Glamorgan County Council.

(b) Community Council Elections, 4 May, 1995

Councillor G M Moir expressed his concern at the delay by the Taff Ely Borough Council in notifying all affected parties of the results of the Community Council elections on 4 May, 1995. Councillor Moir believed that it was not unreasonable to have expected the Borough Council to officially notify all affected parties on 5 May, 1995.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk refer the matter to the Welsh Office.



(c) Speeding vehicles, Groesfaen and Castell y Mwnws

Councillor R G Norman referred to a recent collision in Groesfaen involving two vehicles. While there was no indication that either vehicle involved was speeding it was important to bear in mind that many vehicles regularly exceeded the speed limit when passing through the village. A similar situation existed at Castell -y -Mwnws, Brynsadler.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the Community Council's concerns about speeding vehicles in Groesfaen and Castell - y - Mwnws with the police.

(d) Community Council's terms of reference and Budget for 1995/96

Councillor R O Edwards asked for the Community Council's terms of reference and a copy of its Budget for 1995/96.

It was explained that community councils have significant statutory powers to provide services within their communities and authority to precept on district councils for the finance required to provide those services. Councillor Edwards read out a list of the functions which he believed community councils were to provide. It was confirmed that the list was correct.

RESOLVED: (i) That Councillor Edwards be provided with a copy of the Community Council's budget for 1995/96

(ii) That the Clerk make enquiries about purchasing a booklet for all Members outlining the functions of community councils.

(e) The Bute Arms, Pontyclun

Councillor T R J Flood drew Members' attention to the extension to the patio area immediately outside the Bute Arms, Pontyclun. Councillor Flood asked whether it was necessary for such a development to have the benefit of planning consent. The Clerk responded that he thought it unlikely that a relatively small development would need planning consent. He advised that he had sought clarification from the Borough Council when the main patio improvement had taken place and been told that planning consent was not necessary.

RESOLVED: That Councillor R G Norman take the matter up with the Chief Planning Officer of the Borough Council.

(f) Former lime works, Mwyndy

Councillor M Rea reported that there had been considerable activity, recently, at the former lime works at Mwyndy. He asked if anyone present had any information on the activity. Nobody present had any information about the activity,

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Borough Council on the matter and establish, too, whether there was any pollution threat associated with the activity.

(g) Pontyclun Railway Station

Councillor T R J Flood pointed out the inherent danger in a failure to provide any barrier to the eastbound platform on the railway station in Pontyclun. There was a very real risk that children could gain access to the platform and be oblivious to the danger of speeding trains.

It was explained that the Council was acutely conscious of the potential danger and had already brought the absence of a barrier to the attention of British Rail. British Rail had stated that it was not prepared to erect a barrier.

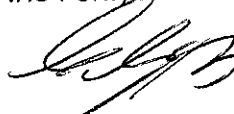
RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to British Rail again drawing attention to the potentially hazardous situation and asking whether British Rail would be prepared to install a gate at the top of the flight of steps in Station Approach to prevent children gaining access to the eastbound platform.

(h) Pontyclun Action Group

The Clerk read out a letter from the Pontyclun Action Group, copies of which had been sent to the Secretary of State for Wales, the Chief Executive of the Mid Glamorgan County Council, Chief Executive of the Taff Ely Borough Council, The Chief Constable of the South Wales Constabulary, I T V, B B C, Echo, Western Mail and Observer. The letter had been received too late for inclusion with Members' Agendas. Copies of the letter were distributed to all Members.

The letter complained of inaction by the County Council and Borough Council over speeding vehicles, request for a pelican crossing, improved street signs, increased off street parking, state of pavements and lack of ramps for the disabled and access facilities for invalids to the railway station.

Councillor Norman pointed out that there were Members present who had links with the Pontyclun Action Group. He



incumbent on Members to declare their interests in outside bodies when matters affecting those bodies were under discussion.

Councillor Flood stated that he was a supporter of the Group but was not an officer of the organisation. Councillor Flood's view was that his support of the Group did not constitute an interest within the spirit of the Code of Conduct. No other interest was declared.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the Clerk write to the Secretary of the Pontyclun Action Group pointing out that the Community Council had campaigned, with some success, over a number of years to obtain improvements in the areas of concern to the Group.
 - (ii) That the Group be urged to pursue democratic methods to secure further improvements.
 - (iii) That the Community Council disassociate itself from any physical action the Group may take.

19. The meeting ended at 11.20 p.m.

