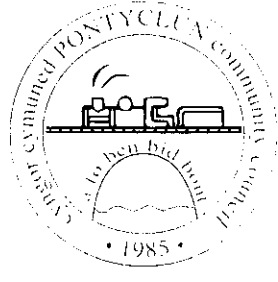


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Pontyclun Community Council

Clerc i'r Cyngor
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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 June, 1999

PRESENT: Councillors C G Bendle, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth, J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea, S Rogers and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Kettle for part of the meeting and four members of the public

1. **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mrs V A Cale

2. **Declarations of acceptance of office**

Declarations of acceptance of office were received from the nine members present and countersigned by the Clerk

3. **National Code of Local Government Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Each member was provided with copies of the National Code of Local Government Conduct and the Pontyclun Community Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

4. **Specimen signatures**

Specimen signatures were received from the nine members present for the operation of the Council's bank and National Savings accounts

5. **Retiring Chairman's report**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, wished to thank all members of the Council for their support during his year of office. He was particularly pleased to have noted a more collaborative approach to the work of the Council.

The Chairperson also wished to thank the Clerk, the Handyman and the caretaker of the public conveniences for their efforts in delivering services to the public on behalf of the Community Council during his year of office.

6. **Election of Chairperson for 1999/2000**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Huish be re-elected as Chairperson for the 1999/2000 municipal year.

7. **Election of Vice Chairperson**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rea be elected as Vice Chairperson for the 1999/2000 municipal year.

8. **Chairperson's Allowance**

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson's Allowance be fixed at £664.00 for the 1999/2000 year and that taking account of the District Auditor's earlier comments on the arrangements for the payment of the Chairperson's Allowance, the Allowance be paid to the Chairperson by lump sum and that the Chairperson provide the Clerk with an itemised account at the end of the year indicating how the Allowance had been spent.

9. **Clerk's report**

The Clerk welcomed newly elected Members to the Council and gave an outline of the history of the Community Council, the ways in which it delivered its services to residents and its administrative arrangements.

The Clerk believed that in general new members received little training or preparation for their new responsibilities and, to better equip members of the Pontyclun Community Council to undertake their functions, had arranged for a booklet produced by South Somerset District Council to be made available to each members of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be noted.

10. **Appointment of members and representatives**

(a) **County Borough Council/
Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee**

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council be represented on the Committee by Councillor Rea and that in the event of his unavailability Councillor C Davies be the substitute representative.

(ii) In view of the fact that a meeting of the Joint Committee had still not been called by the Borough Council the Clerk write the Chief Executive urging that a meeting be called as a matter of urgency.

(b) **Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**

RESOLVED: That the Council be represented on the Area Committee by Councillors J G Davies, M, Rea and the Clerk.

(c) **Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee**

RESOLVED: That the Council be represented on the Committee by the two Miskin Ward Members, that is, the Chairperson, Councillor Huish, and Councillor C Davies.

(d) **Proposed Forest Wood Liaison Committee**

RESOLVED: That in the event of a Forest Wood Liaison Committee being formed the Community Council be represented on the Committee by Councillors Dilworth and Rogers.

(e) **Age Concern - Taff Ely**

RESOLVED: That the Community Council be represented on the Committee by Councillor Mrs V A Cale and J G Davies.

(f) **Purolite Joint Liaison Committee**

RESOLVED: That the Community Council be represented on the Committee by Councillor Mrs V A Cale. In the event of Councillor Cale's unavailability to attend a meeting, Councillor Dilworth be nominated as a substitute representative.

(g) **Purolite Standing Conference**

RESOLVED: That the Community Council be represented on the Committee by Councillor Mrs V A Cale. In the event of Councillor Cale's unavailability to attend a meeting, Councillor Dilworth be nominated as a substitute representative.

(h) **Taff Ely Police Consultative Committee**

RESOLVED: That the Community Council be represented on the Committee by Councillor M Rea.

(i) **Talygarn Forum**

RESOLVED: That the Community Council re-affirm its earlier decision that all members of the Council be eligible to attend meetings of the Talygarn Forum.

(j) **Governing Body of Pontyclun Primary School**

RESOLVED: That as a consequence of the vacancy on the Governing Body caused by the resignation of Councillor Bendle, Councillor Mrs Thomas be the nominee of the Community Council to fill the vacancy.

11. **Calendar of meetings for 1999/2000**

RESOLVED: That the calendar of Community Council meetings for 1999/2000 be approved.

12. **Chairperson's business**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, extended a warm welcome to all present at the threshold of a new era in Wales. On a national level, the Welsh Assembly was beginning its work while at a local level the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had agreed to abandon the traditional committee system in local government and opt for a modern system of administration based on cabinet government.

Councillor Huish advised the Council that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, in recognition of the valuable work undertaken by Citizens' Advice Bureaus, had recently taken a decision to meet the shortfall in funding of the local C. A. B.

Councillor Huish also advised that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had recently issued a press statement to correct a misunderstanding that the in-house meals on wheels service would be providing its service entirely with frozen foods.

13. **Police matters**

(a) **Police resources**

P.C. Steve Keddle introduced himself to the new members of the Council and explained that when the Talbot Green police station's manning levels were at normal levels he would expect to spend time in

the police office attached to the Pontyclun Community Centre. However, in recent months the station had experienced many demands on its resources in recent months and he had not been able to use the office in Pontyclun. Anyone wishing to reach him could telephone him at the Talbot Green police station.

Councillor Rea expressed his concern that the Talbot Green police station should be regularly called upon to provide additional resources for manpower problems elsewhere in the South Wales Constabulary. The practice resulted in the residents of the Community having a lower policing service than that to which they were entitled.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Chief Superintendent in Pontypridd.

(b) **Illegal parking**

P C Keddle advised of a change in the local traffic warden and that several warnings had recently been given to the drivers of vehicles in Pontyclun who had been found to be infringing traffic regulations. Having issued warnings it was likely that further infringements would lead to drivers being prosecuted.

(c) **Parking on pavements**

Councillor Bendle sought clarification from P C Keddle on whether drivers were allowed to park their vehicles on pavements in the Community. P C Keddle clarified that anyone who parked their vehicles on a pavement was breaking the law. He would ensure that the new traffic warden was aware of this.

(d) **Dangerous behaviour**

Councillor Bendle drew P C Keddle's attention to instances of dangerous behaviour by certain patrons, he believed, of the Bute Arms, in that empty bottles had been thrown from outside the premises in the direction of the platform of the Pontyclun Station.

P C Keddle agreed to raise the matter with the licensee and asked that the Clerk also report the matter to the British Transport Police.

(e) **Speeding vehicles**

Councillor Dilworth drew P C Keddle's attention to the practice of

some motorists of speeding in their vehicles on the road connecting Brynsadler with Llanharry. The offending motorists appeared to regard the length of road as a racing track.

The matter was noted by P C Keddle.

(f) **Drunken behaviour in Pontyclun**

Councillor Dilworth referred to the continuing problems inflicted on Community residents by drunken behaviour in Pontyclun. The problem was at its worse in late week and at weekends. The anti-social behaviour of patrons of licensed premises was not confined to the main road and often spilled over into the side streets. It was grossly unfair that residents should continually be subjected to drunken behaviour. Additionally, residents had to contend with the increased traffic generated by taxis seeking customers.

P C Keddle acknowledged that there was a problem in the area, particularly at weekends. It was in an attempt to discuss some of the problems and to make the licensees aware of their responsibilities that P C Keddle had convened a joint meeting of Community Council representatives and licensees. Unfortunately, members of the Community Council had failed to attend the meeting.

P C Keddle agreed that the police would continue to monitor the situation in Pontyclun.

14. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 12 May, 1999**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 12 May, 1999, be approved as an accurate record.

15. **Matters arising**

(a) **Possibility of the installation of CCTV**

The Council discussed the quotation given by BT plc for the installation of fibre optic cable to connect with the monitoring station operated by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The Council was of the view that the quotation was very high given the limited resources of the Community Council. There was also a feeling that with impending improvements in technology the need to instal fibre cables to connect with the monitoring station would no longer be necessary.

A lengthy discussion took place. Some members felt that a site visit to

the monitoring station should take place while others felt that the Community Council should obtain expert advice before proceeding any further. Other members felt that the Community Council should contact local authorities where CCTV was functioning to gain their experiences.

The Clerk advised the Council that since the agendas for that night's meeting had been circulated he had been contacted by BT and told of a free seminar on CCTV installation. The seminar would deal in detail with government funding for CCTV installations, experience of users, transmission options, standards and how authorities could successfully bid for government funding.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That Councillor Rea be nominated to attend the seminar.
- (ii) That a strategy for progressing the Community Council's plans for CCTV after receiving a report from Councillor Rea.

(b) **The Taff Ely Local Plan**

The Council considered the response of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to the multiple objections made in respect of proposed change 76 - Mwyndy NW & SW.

It was stated that representations deposited by Objectors and the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had been passed to the Inspector conducting the Inquiry for his consideration and that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would notify the Community Council when the Inspector's report was available.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) **"Finding Your Voice in the Welsh Assembly"**

The Clerk reminded the Council that at its meeting on 12 May, 1999, a request had been made by former Councillor Mrs Griffiths for a report on the seminar "Finding Your Voice at the Welsh Assembly" to which the Clerk and the Chairperson had been nominated to attend. The Clerk had earlier advised the Council that due to other commitments with the Community Council he would be unable to attend the seminar.

Having discussed the matter with the Chairperson it had been established the Chairperson, too, had been unable to attend the seminar due to other commitments.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(d) **Highway improvements at Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman referred to the discussion which had taken place at the Council's meeting of 12 May, 1999, when it first became apparent that the highway improvements taking place in Station Terrace would not leave residents with the same number of on-street parking places as they enjoyed prior to work commencing.

Residents had complained bitterly about the new road layout and had attempted to get an engineer from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on site to explain why some residents had been denied the on-street parking facilities which they had enjoyed for many years. The Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had declined to send an officer to meet residents but had asked residents to express their concerns in writing. Letters of protest had been sent.

The Clerk told the Council that he had telephoned the engineer with responsibility for the scheme to ask why the number of on-street parking places had been reduced. He had been told that it was the policy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, where there was a possibility of parking facilities to the rear of properties being made available, not to create on-street parking facilities.

Concern was also expressed that the scheme appeared not to have been completed. It was understood that the main objective of the scheme was to improve access and parking facilities to the west bound platform of Pontyclun Station. It had subsequently been discovered, after the contractors had moved away, that the scheme had been planned in several stages and that the highway improvement to Station Terrace was the only the first stage of the scheme. There was no indication of when contractors would return to complete the scheme.

RESOLVED: That a detailed examination of the plan of the scheme be made to establish the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's original intentions.

16. **Landfill site in Groesfaen**

The Clerk advised the Council that, at its request, he had written to the Director of Planning at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to ask that a site meeting take place between representatives of the Community Council, the Borough Council and the Environment Agency to discuss concerns in connection with the application for planning consent. He had also requested the Borough Council not to determine the application until the site meeting had taken place.

The Director of Planning had responded on 14 May, 1999, to say that the Community Council's request would be reported to the next available meeting of the Planning Committee. The Director of Planning had not replied on the specific request of the Community Council not to determine the application until a site meeting had taken place.

Nothing further had been heard from the Borough Council although a letter of support for the Community Council's stance had been received from Mr Richard Fairlamb of Y Parc, Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk remind the Borough Council of the outstanding request of the Community Council for a site meeting.

17. **Proposed diversion of Footpath No. 333 - Talygarn**

The Council discussed the letter of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering in which he stated that he was in a position to proceed with the application to divert Footpath No.333 alongside the northern boundary of the M4 in Talygarn.

The Clerk reminded the Council that nearly three years had elapsed since a site meeting had taken place with all affected parties to the diversion, including the Footpaths Officer of the Borough Council, where there had been unanimous agreement for the diversion. It was disappointing to note that the plans to divert the Footpath had not been progressed since the site meeting and was an example of how the Public Rights of Way Service was under-resourced. The consequence of the under-resourcing of the service was that the proportion of public rights of way which remained open to the public was decreasing every year.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk express the Community Council's concern on the under-resourcing of the Public Rights of Way Service to the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils and to the Partnership Council.

18. **Rhondda Cynon Taff Access Forum**

The Council received a letter of apology from the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering about the lack of notice given to community councils in convening the second meeting of the Rhondda Cynon Taff Access Forum. It was noted that future meetings of the Forum would be held quarterly and that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 28 June, 1999.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

19. **Pontyclun Millennium Street Plan**

The Clerk reminded the Council that as part of its plans to celebrate the new Millennium the Council had decided to produce a street plan for the Community of Pontyclun.

The Council had entered into a contract with Burrows Communications Ltd whereby the map would be produced free of charge with Burrows retaining all advertising rights. Additionally, it was necessary for the Community Council to provide Burrows with a base map, photographs for inclusion in the map and an editorial.

The base map had already been provided, photographs commissioned from the Vale Photographic Club and the Clerk was currently writing the editorial. The Clerk had also held meetings with Burrows staff to identify commercial organisations in the area who might be interested in buying advertising space on the map. The target date for the provision of all material to Burrows is 6 August, 1999, and the Clerk was confident that the deadline would be met.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

20. **Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**
New arrangements for the distribution of "Bro"

The Council discussed correspondence which had taken place between the Clerk and the Secretary of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils about the new arrangements for the distribution of the Association's newsletter "Bro"

RESOLVED: That the Council welcome the assurances offered by the Secretary of the Association that distribution arrangements would revert to the practice followed prior to the joint working arrangements with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.

21. **Licensing**

The Council received details of an application to magistrates for the transfer of a license at The Barn, Mwyndy, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the application be noted.

22. **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications**
for Weeks Ending 7, 14, 21, 28 May and 4 & 11 June, 1999

(The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, declared an interest in this item of business and vacated the Chair. The Vice Chairperson, Councillor Rea, occupied the Chair in Councillor Huish's absence.)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notices for Weeks Ending 7, 14, 21 and 28 May and 4 & 11 June, 1999.

Application No. T99/2338/10

Several members expressed their deep concern at further proposals for large scale housing development at Cefn yr Hendy.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council opposing the application for development on the following grounds:

- (i) The original plans for the development of the Cefn yr Hendy site were drawn up in 1993, and the Council questions that there is a need for more houses to be built on site 1B of the development.

If consent is given for this development it would set a precedent and lead to an application for development in the field south of Bute Quarry with consequent marring of the landscape.

- (ii) The visual impact of the proposed development would be unacceptable to the conservation area of Miskin.
- (iii) An ecologist has declared the area to be a place of scientific and natural importance.
- (iv) An officer in the Planning Department has already stated that the site would unacceptable for the conservation area of Miskin and therefore policies EN2 and EN4 should be implemented.
- (v) The necessary infrastructure is not present - especially in terms of the new primary school which was originally promised for Cefn yr Hendy
- (vii) There are worries about the possible migration of methane gas to the site.
- (viii) The area is known to be affected by radon gas
- (ix) The angle of the land would render the site a very difficult area to work.



Application No. T/99/2394/10

A lengthy discussion took place on the application since it was known that the ground surrounding St David's Church, Miskin, was not in the ownership of the Church in Wales but rather by the Rhys Williams Estate.

It was known that the Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council and the congregation of Miskin Church were against the proposal.

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

- (i) The grounds surrounding the Church are the only green areas in the centre of the village and development, for whatever purpose, would affect the character of the Miskin Conservation Area.
- (ii) The mature trees surrounding the Church are subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
- (iii) Due to the presence of many large mature trees the ground would be unsuitable for excavation due to the presence of many root systems.
- (iv) There is no need for a graveyard as evidenced by the opposition of the Church Wardens, the Parochial Church Council and the congregation of St David's Church to the proposal.

Application No. T99/2429/10

(Councillor Bendle declared an interest in the application and vacated the Council Chamber during consideration of the application)

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the application.

23. **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed for payment in Appendix 12 to the Agenda.

24. **Reports from members**

Purpose

The Chairperson, Councilor Huish, reminded members that the original

intention behind this item of business was to allow members an opportunity to bring back to the Council reports on meetings, seminars and conferences which they had attended.

The Chairperson felt that the scope of this head of business had, unintentionally, been considerably widened, with the result that it had become an opportunity for members to discuss all manner of business. He proposed that the Council re-affirm its original practice of receiving only reports from members under this heading.

RESOLVED: That the Council re-affirm its original practice of only receiving reports from members on any meetings, seminars, and conferences they had attended since the last meeting of the Council under this item of business. Further, that any such report need be in writing for circulation to members with their next agendas.

25. **Any other business of an urgent nature**

(a) **Injury sustained by Councillor Bendle**

Councillor Bendle thanked the Council for its kind wishes of support following his recent injury while cycling on the A48.

Councillor Bendle's comments were noted.

(b) **Traffic calming**

Councillor Davies referred to a report on traffic calming in Pontyclun. Arrangements would be made to provide a copy to the Clerk.

The matter was noted.

(c) **Items for the July meeting of the Council**

Councillor Rea gave the Clerk a note of two items which he required to be discussed at the Council's July meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

(d) **Partnership Council**

Councillor Dilworth referred to the protracted negotiations which had

taken place between the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils and the National Association of Local Council over the single place available to community and town councils in Wales to sit upon the Partnership Council.

Councillor Dilworth was pleased to be able to report that a further seat on the Partnership Council had been earmarked for community and town councils.

(e) **Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**

The Clerk advised that the Annual Conference would take place in Aberystwyth on Saturday, 9 October, 1999, and the Community Council had received an invitation to send delegates. An opportunity was also existed to submit a motion for debate.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council nominate the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Clerk to attend Conference.
- (ii) That Councillor Norman pass the Clerk a copy of the motion he wished to be debated at Conference.

(f) **Licensing**

The Clerk reported that since agendas were circulated he had received notification of an application to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for a revision of hours for the entertainment license held by the licensee of the Windsor Arms, Pontyclun

RESOLVED: That no objection be made to the application.

(g) **Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom, 1999**

The Clerk advised that he had entered the Pontyclun War Memorial for the annual Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom Competition organised by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the actions of the Clerk be approved.

(h) **Annual Grants Allocation Meeting**

The Clerk reminded members that the Council's Annual Grants Meeting

would be held on Monday, 19 July, 1999. A supply of grant application forms was provided to each member. Further application forms were available from the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the actions of the Clerk be noted.

(i) **Assistance for Handyman**

The Clerk reminded members that it had become customary to provide assistance for the Council's Handyman during the summer. The Clerk asked the Council whether it wished him to engage assistance for the Handyman in the summer of 1999.

RESOLVED: That the Council engage assistance for the Handyman during the summer and that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements as in previous years.

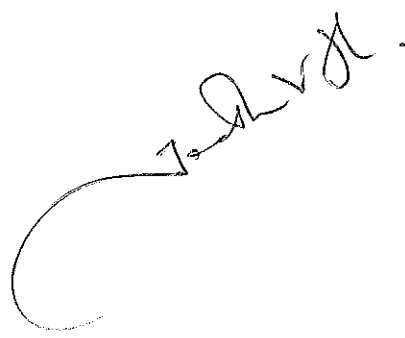
(j) **Format of future Council agendas**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, asked whether the Council would agree to his suggestion for a revision in the format of future Community Council meetings.

To make future agendas more manageable he suggested that items be categorised as either being reported **for decision** or a matter being reported **for information only**. Councillor Huish commended the system as one which worked effectively at Borough Council. He also proposed that the item "any other business of an urgent nature" be omitted from future agendas. Any member who had an item to place on an agenda need only contact the Clerk and that item would be included in the Council's next agenda.

RESOLVED: That the revised agenda format for Community Council meetings be adopted.

26. The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Huish', written in a cursive style.