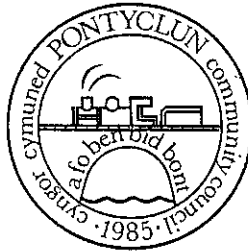


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 January, 1992.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen (Chairman), Mrs A Burton, Mr J R Dilworth, Mr E V Griffith, Mr R G Norman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: WPC Bartlett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors Mr T J Burton, Mr V P James, Mr G Moir and Mrs O P Phillips

2. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 December, 1991

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 December, 1991 be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Proposal to build a new surgery in School Street, Pontyclun

Councillor Norman informed the Council that the Borough Council had awarded planning permission for the development. There still remained some highway aspects to be decided by the County Council. Councillor Dilworth expressed his reservations on whether it would be possible for residents of School Street to secure Residents Only Parking.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(b) Groesfaen sub post office

Members considered the letter of 20 December, 1991, from Mr H T Isacc, Personnel and Services Manager of the South Wales District Office of Post Office Counters Ltd. In his letter Mr Isaac laid great emphasis on the wish of Post Office Counters Ltd., to continue to provide postal facilities in Groesfaen. Mr Isaac pointed out that while

the existing subpostmaster's contract for providing services had been terminated, the decision was not in any way to do with the closure of the post office in the village. Mr Isaac said that he was actively pursuing avenues to ensure the continuation of postal facilities in the village and welcomed any assistance that the Community Council was able to offer. Mr Isaac offered to talk to the Council about ways of resolving the problem.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Mr Isaac to take him up on his offer to speak to the Council and that every effort be made to hold the meeting before 18 January, 1992, the date on which the contract with the existing contractor was due to expire.

(c) Environmental Protection Act, 1990

The Council discussed the letter from Mr Gordon Pine, Director for Wales, Keep Wales Tidy Campaign, drawing attention to the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 and the Code of Practice.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(d) Lane at the rear of Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Dilworth referred to the investigations he had made in conjunction with residents of Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun, about ownership of the private lane at the rear of Llwynfen Road. He had discovered the name of a further person who may be able to assist in tracing the owners of the lane.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the person identified by Councillor Dilworth to find out whether she would be either in a position to offer the whole or part of the lane for adoption, or, whether she would have any information which would be of use in tracing the other owners of the lane.

(e) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

The Chairperson, Councillor Bowen, reported that Councillor Moir had chaired a recent meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee. Councillor Moir had been deeply disappointed in what he had learned and had formed the impression that the County Council did not receive proper

feedback from the meetings. Councillor Moir had become sceptical that the Committee would not achieve its objectives.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

5. Installation of "sleeping policemen"

The Council considered the County Engineer and Surveyor's letter of 5 December, 1991, enclosing a copy of the County Council's scheme entitled "Priority Ranking of Traffic Calming Schemes". The letter and Scheme details had been forwarded by the County Engineer and Surveyor in response to a request by the Community Council for the installation of "sleeping policemen" on the Hendy Estate, Pontyclun, to reduce the speed of certain vehicles.

In principle the Community Council was in favour of the Scheme put forward by the County Council. However, the Community Council was of the view that certain aspects of the document needed clarification.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk obtain clarification on:-

- (i) the meaning of "joyriding"
- (ii) how long survey work would take before knowing if the Hendy Estate would be included in the County's scheme for traffic calming.
- (iii) the timing for the Hendy Estate survey since the problems experienced were significantly worse during the early evening.
- (iv) whether the Community Council's latest requests for the installation of "sleeping policemen", in other areas of the Community, would be included in the County Council's survey.

6. Response of the Welsh Office to motions approved at the 1991 Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

The Council considered the response of the Welsh Office to the motions approved at the 1991 Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. In general the Community Council was disappointed at the lack of positive response by the Welsh Office on important matters of local concern in Wales. In particular, the Community Council was very disappointed with the response to its own motion. The Welsh Office appeared to misunderstand that the biggest weakness in the present arrangements for taking action against landowners who deliberately flouted the law, and denied the public access to public rights of way, was the discretion of county councils to take action.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk again take the matter up with the Welsh Office.

7. Challenge to the Community Council's Accounts - 1990/91 - Reply of the District Auditor

The Clerk referred to the challenge to the Community Council's Accounts for 1990/91 which had been made at the Annual Audit in April, 1991. The District Auditor who had investigated the challenge had written to the complainant, J&G Developments (South Wales) Ltd, to the effect that he had examined the Community Council's records and was satisfied "that the actions taken by the Council were proper and within their remit. Where valuations were required they were obtained from a professional independent source and the amounts specified in the valuation for the easement were charged".

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

8. Precept arrangements - 1992/93

The Council discussed the Borough Treasurer's letters of 20 December, 1991. about precept arrangements for 1992/93.

RESOLVED: That the letters be referred for consideration to the next meeting of the Council's Finance Committee.

9. Community Council's Election Costs, May, 1991

Members discussed the costs attributable to the Pontyclun Community Council for holding the 1991 Community Council Elections.

RESOLVED: (i) That the sum of £2,202 72 be paid to the Borough Treasurer.
(ii) That the matter of election costs be referred to the next meeting of the Council's Finance Committee.

10. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 13 to the Agenda.

11. Weekly Planning Applications for Weeks 48, 49 and 50

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Taff Ely Borough Council:-

Application No. 56/91/0877

(i) That although the Community Council remains firmly opposed to the application in principle, the

opportunity should be taken to make detailed consent conditional upon the developer providing a pedestrian access route from the Maesyfelin Estate into the adjacent Maesyfelin playingfields.

(ii) That the route of Footpath No. 321, which passes through the Estate, is safeguarded.

12. Reports from Members

(a) Footpath No. 296, Groesfaen

Councillor Norman reported that the owner of Llwynmilwas Farm, Groesfaen, had recently applied to the Borough Council to build premises adjacent to the farmhouse for a farm manager. Some years earlier the owner had been granted permission to build a cattery at the Farm. The cattery had been built directly over a public right of way and despite many requests for the route of the public right of way to be formally diverted the owner had refused to cooperate. Councillor Norman had brought the matter to the attention of the Borough Council's Planning Officer. The Planning Officer had requested sight of the Community Council's file on the Footpath with a view to making the current planning application conditional upon the re-routing of the footpath which had been built upon.

The report was noted.

(b) Vehicles parked on grass verge - Corner Park Garage

Councillor Bendle reported that the proprietors of the Corner Park Garage, Mwyndy, were still parking a large number of their vehicles for sale on the inclined grass verge running parallel with the A4119. It was felt that the practice was dangerous.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson, Councillor Bowen, again raise the matter with the County Council.

(c) Construction of new Pontyclun railway station

The Chairperson, Councillor Bowen reported on a recent meeting held at the Pontyclun Institute and Athletic Club, Pontyclun, where a number of residents had met to express their concerns about the work being undertaken by British Rail on the new Pontyclun railway station. Councillor Bowen informed the Council that he had taken up residents' fears with the County Council. He had been informed that the temporary access gained to the site from Castan Road would be for no longer than 10 days and

permanent access would be from Station Terrace. During the ten days when the temporary access was being used a man on foot would proceed all heavy lorries in the interests of safety.

The report was noted.

(d) Subsidence on the Hendy Estate

Councillor Norman reported that there had been a further incidence of subsidence on the Hendy Estate. The incident had occurred in Heol-y-Coed and repair work had been carried out. However, there was a fear that more lasting damage may have been caused to some of the houses. As a result structural surveyors had been commissioned to prepare a report on the foundations of the houses in the affected area. The report of the structural surveyors was awaited.

The report was noted.

(e) Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun

Councillor Mrs Burton reported that she had received information that Barratts, the developers at Ynysddu Farm Estate, proposed winding down their building operations at the site and that during February the company would be likely to ceasing operations. Councillor Burton pointed out that there were premises near the site showhouse which were unlikely to be needed by Barratts and which might prove to be suitable for the Community Council in conjunction with the police. Councillor Burton also reported that it seemed unlikely that Barratts would now honour an earlier commitment to build a pedestrian bridge across the river Ely near the junction with the A4222 highway.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make contact with Barratt's as a matter of urgency to establish which premises on the site would be surplus to their requirements on ceasing operations. Additionally, whether Barratt's would be interested in disposing of those premises to the Community Council.

(f) Kissing gate adjacent to Wella factory, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Mrs Burton drew the Council's attention to a missing kissing gate on the public footpath running adjacent to the Wella Factory in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Llantrisant Community Council to ask when the kissing gate was likely to be replaced.

13. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Vandalism in Pontyclun

A long discussion took place on recent acts of vandalism in Pontyclun. There was a strong feeling that one of the major factors was the practice of certain restaurants in staying open into the early hours and providing a congregating place for youths. As evidence of this Members pointed to the damage to the two litter bins on the pavement in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. It was accepted that the closing hours of restaurants was a matter which was contained in premises' planning consents.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Borough Council to establish whether there were any other avenues for regulating the closing hours of restaurants.

(b) Roadworks at junction of A4419 and School Road, Miskin

WPC Bartlett informed the Council that roadworks were due to commence shortly at the junction of the A4119 and School Road, Miskin. As consequence, the Highway Authority had found it necessary to impose a partial closure of School Road and to lift the restriction on heavy vehicles entering Miskin. It was expected that the new arrangements would last for about a month. WPC Bartlett promised to provide the Clerk with details of the revised arrangements.

The matter was noted.

(c) Mineral Local Plan for Limestone Quarrying in Mid Glamorgan - Part 4 - Hendy Quarry - Public Meeting

The Clerk reminded the Council that at its meeting on 4 September, 1991, a decision had been taken to assist Miskin residents in formulating valid planning objections to the Draft Mineral Local Plan for Limestone Quarrying in Mid Glamorgan - Part 4 - Hendy Quarry. It was felt by the Council that Miskin residents required the advice of a professional planner and that this person should

address the public meeting to be held on 18 September, 1991. Since the Council had, for some time, supported Miskin residents in ensuring that the Quarry management observed their public responsibilities, the Council agreed to fund the engagement of a planning consultant by contributing £150.00 to his fees.

A chartered town planner agreed to attend the meeting of 18 September but subsequently found he was unable to attend. In the meantime, leaflets had been circulated advising residents that a professional planner would be present at the meeting. At very short notice a representative of Curtins, Consulting Engineers, agreed to substitute. Curtins' representative offered advice which was incorporated into the written submissions of Miskin residents. An invoice was subsequently received by the Community Council in the sum of £271.30 inclusive of V.A.T. for the services of Curtins' representative. The Clerk sought guidance from the Council on the payment of the invoice since the original decision to to engage professional advice envisaged commissioning of a planning consultant and not a consulting engineer. The Clerk pointed out that in the event of the Community Council agreeing to pay the invoice, an amount of £40.41, V.A.T., would be recoverable from Customs and Excise.

A motion supported by Councillors Bendle, Burton, and Dilworth proposed that the Council's contribution remain at £150.00.

An amendment to the motion, supported by Councillors Bowen, Griffith and Norman, and carried on the Chairperson's casting vote, proposed that Council pay the invoice in full.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council pay the invoice for £271.30, albeit that £40.41 would be recoverable V.A.T.

(d) Notice of Motion

Members gave notice that at the next meeting of the Community Council they wished to discuss the matter of professional fees and the need to establish the cost of those fees before engaging professional advice.

14. The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.

