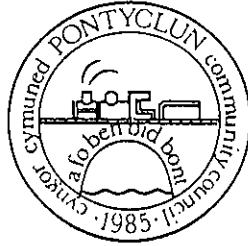


Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
Cowbridge Road,
Talygarn, Pontyclun,
Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 April, 1997

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Kettle, for part of the meeting, and six members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Chairperson's business**

The Chairperson reported that during the month of March he had represented the Community Council at :

- (a) a presentation at Bethel Baptist Church to mark the departure from the parish of Father Martin Reynolds
- (b) a prizegiving ceremony at Y Pant Comprehensive School
- (c) a function at the David's Court complex where a cheque for £100.00 had been donated to residents.

The reports were noted.

3. **Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

The Council received a deputation of residents from Station Terrace, Pontyclun, who were very concerned at the volume of heavy vehicles now using the road. Mrs Legge, on behalf of residents, pointed out that the former

private road parallel with Station Terrace was in such a poor state of repair that heavy vehicles from the industrial estate in the vicinity of the Pontyclun Joinery were continually using Station Terrace instead of the former private road.

The result was that a narrow residential road was now regularly used by heavy vehicles travelling in both directions. The practice of lorries frequently using Station Terrace had caused considerable stress and anxiety to residents. Elderly residents of the Street were afraid to leave their homes and it had become unsafe to allow children to play outdoors. The surface of the road had deteriorated, too.

The deputation sought the support of the Community Council in their representations to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to get bollards placed at the western end of Station Terrace to ensure that heavy vehicles used the former private road rather than Station Terrace.

Councillor Huish advised that he was aware of the problems in Station Terrace and, in his capacity as a member of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, had already raised the issue with the Borough Council and urged that a site meeting be held.

The Council was of the view that while the placement of bollards may provide a temporary respite for residents of Station Terrace, the permanent solution to the problem lay in the development of the west bound platform of the Pontyclun Railway Station.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking for an urgent site meeting to discuss the problems in Station Terrace with a request that residents be allowed to attend and speak at the meeting.

4. **Land to the south of the river Ely, Pontyclun**

Dr Wynne Davies, of Ceulan, Miskin, and owner of land to the south of the river Ely in Pontyclun, addressed the Council about his plans involving the erection of fences across footpaths on his land. Dr Davies had earlier sent the Council a letter outlining his plans. The letter had been received too late for inclusion on the Council's Agenda but copies were distributed at the meeting.

Dr Davies informed the Council that he had been approached by the Welsh Office with the plan which would, ultimately, improve the land and allow the public access to a further 17 acres. Improving the land would qualify for 50% grant aid. The scheme involved grubbing out some of the scrub on the land and the erection of fences to restrict access to other parts. Access to public rights of way across the land would not be affected.



Following questions from Members it appeared that Dr Davies planned to fence off footpaths which, although not registered as public rights of way, appeared to have been regularly used as public footpaths for over 30 years. Dr Davies responded that when he bought the land he was aware only of the public rights of way.

The Chairperson thanked Dr Davies for his courtesy in attending the Community Council meeting and explaining his plans.

5. **Police matters**

The following matters were brought to the attention of P C Steve Keddle:

(a) **Illegal parking**

Councillor Rea reported that on his way to the meeting he had observed a lorry parked illegally on the railway bridge in Pontyclun.

(b) **Theft of vehicles**

Councillor Flood drew attention to what was believed to be the theft of vehicles in the Community specifically for spare parts. Two incidents had recently been reported.

(c) **Vandalism**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, reported occurrences of vandalism in the vicinity of the Windsor Field, Pontyclun. In one case vandals had been responsible for the breakage of every single pane of glass in a greenhouse.

(d) **Intimidating behaviour**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman reported that in the early hours of 30 March, 1997, he had been driving through Pontyclun when a gathering of youths, estimated at around 60, on the railway bridge and on the highway, had forced him to stop his car. Fortunately the youths on the highway had moved allowing Councillor Norman to continue his journey. He had felt very intimidated by the incident.

(e) **Police Liaison Committee**

Councillor Burton advised that he had recently been told that



the next meeting of the Police Liaison Committee would be held in the new Catholic Church in Miskin at 7.00 p.m. on the evening of Thursday, 17 April, 1997. Councillor Burton urged all Members to attend and suggested that notices of the meeting be placed in the Community Council Noticeboards and that the local neighbourhood watches be advised of the meeting.

(f) **Theft from the Maesyfelin allotments site**

Councillor Davies reported the Maesyfelin allotments site had recently been broken into and that a spring shovel had been stolen.

(g) **Lay-bys, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk referred to the earlier enquiries which P C Keddle had made about the problems of parking in the laybys off Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. The Clerk drew P C Keddle's attention to Appendix 6 to the Agenda where the latest position on the temporary traffic blocks was given by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

P C Keddle thanked the Council for the reports but wished to re-emphasise the importance of making prompt reports to the police at the time of the incidents. In that way the police stood a far greater chance of apprehending criminals and the police records would more accurately reflect the incidence of crime in the area. The latter point would also have the benefit of assisting the police case for additional local resources.

6. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 March, 1997**

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of the words "approved in principle and" between the words "be" and "deferred" in the resolution to minute 10.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Review of Community Questionnaires**

The Clerk reported that a meeting of the Council was held on 10 March, 1997, to review the completed Community Questionnaires.

The task of reviewing residents' comments had proved to be considerably more onerous than originally thought and while a



considerable amount of progress was made at the meeting a large number of questionnaires remained to be reviewed. The meeting stood adjourned to a later date.

The report was noted.

(b) **Talygarn Forum**

The Council received details of the letter of 19 November, 1996, from the Bro Taf Health Authority to Dr Kim Howells, M P, and a copy of the Consultative document produced by the Mid Glamorgan Health Authority on the future use of the Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre. The Council also noted that the next meeting of the Talygarn Forum would be held in the Pontyclun Institute and Athletic Club on the evening of Friday, 4 April, 1997.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) **Raised flower beds in Groesfaen**

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Mr Cooke, Treasurer of the Groesfaen residents Association to say that his Association would like low growing shrubs and plants to be planted in the new flower beds. Mr Cooke suggested that heathers, summer bedding plants and ground cover be planted.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Community Council's Handyman to carry to the planting.

(d) **Purolite Standing Conference**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reported on her attendance at the last meeting of the Conference.

Two principle matters were discussed at the meeting. The first was a recent delay in the collection of refuse collection. It appeared that, due to a shortage of manpower it had not been possible to collect refuse on the appropriate day. Although the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had been aware of the shortage of resources some time in advance only one notice of the revised collection arrangements had appeared in a shop window in Pontyclun. Councillor Griffiths had suggested that similar instances occurred a note of the revised collection arrangements should be given to the Community Council for display in the Council's noticeboards.



The second matter to be discussed was the ill health suffered by a number of former employees of the Purolite plant and the ill health of residents living in the vicinity. It was alleged that the cause of ill health were the emissions emanating from the plant. An offer had been made by a solicitor, at present acting voluntarily, to pursue cases alleged ill health caused by Purolite. It was unclear whether the offer extended to residents living in the area where waste from the plant was being dumped.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That Members advise any residents suffering from ill health alleged to be cause by Purolite emissions, and wishing to pursue an action against the company, to contact Mr Matthew Gough, solicitor, Hugh James, Solicitors, Martin Evans House, Riverside Court, Avenue De Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8LD
- (ii) That the Clerk arrange for a notice to be placed in the Community Council's noticeboards advising of the service being offered by Mr M Gough.

(e) **Former proposal to install CCTV in Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised the Community Council that he had contacted BT who had confirmed that it would be necessary to lay a cable from the local telephone exchange to Pontyclun to enable the installation of CCTV in the village. BT had no plans to lay the required cable.

The Clerk reminded the Council's that even if the cable was in place, the funding which had existed during the latter days of the Taff Ely Borough Council for the purchase of cameras and to pay for monitoring costs, had been lost. The Clerk believed it was unlikely that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would fund a CCTV project when its budget was under severe pressure from many other directions.

The matter was noted.

7. **Highways matters**

The Council received the response of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County



Borough Council on four separate matters concerning highways:

(a) **Request for traffic calming measures in Pontyclun**

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering reported that his authority had not considered or approved any schemes for traffic calming measures in Pontyclun. However, the Director stated that he was preparing to report on safety measures for the A4222 Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, between Station Terrace and Park Crescent. It was stated that the measures proposed would also have an impact on the speed of passing vehicles.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering requesting more information on the proposed safety measures and a site meeting with members of the Community Council.

(b) **Lay-bys adjacent to zebra crossing, Pontyclun**

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering reported that it is illegal for vehicles to wait in that part of the lay by lying adjacent to the zigzag lines and that, following requests from the police, temporary traffic blocks were laid to help clarify the situation. The matter had not been finalised at the time of local government reorganisation and the Director was reviewing his files and draft proposals with a view to making a report to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in due course. The Director stated that the views of the Community Council on the matter would be considered as part of the review.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(c) **Request for disabled car parking facilities**

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering advised that investigations had been carried out into the introduction of various traffic management measures within Pontyclun to try and reduce the speed of traffic and improve road safety conditions in general and a report would, in due course, be placed before the Highways, Transportation and Engineering Services Committee. The Community Council's request for disabled parking facilities would be considered as part of the report to Committee.



RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(d) **Kissing gate on Footpath No. 308**

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering advised that he was agreeable to removing the kissing gate on Footpath No. 308 and storing it at his Talbot Green Depot until such time as the Community Council had further use for it.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Footpaths Officer of the Borough Council to advise that the kissing gate was available for re-siting, if appropriate, at the diversion being pursued for Footpath No. 322.

8. **Letter from the Miskin Residents' Association about the Mineral Local Plan for Limestone Quarrying**

The Council received the letter dated 17 March, 1997, from Dr A W Roberts, of the Miskin Residents' Association.

The Association's concerns centred around two issues, namely, the creation of a buffer zone restricting development in the vicinity of the Hendy Quarry and the formation of a Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee. Both issues had been actively pursued by the Community Council in the past.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk write to Dr Roberts thanking him for his letter and informing him that the Community Council had actively pursued both issues in the past.

(ii) That the Clerk contact the Director of Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to establish the current position on the creation of the proposed Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee.

9. **Application to Transfer Justices' Licence at The Barn, Mwyndy**

The Council discussed the notification received from solicitors acting in the application.

RESOLVED: That the application be noted.

10. **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred to the Community Council's annual grants meeting and that the Urdd Gobaith Cymru be notified to this effect.

11. **Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales**

The Council discussed the invitation to renew its membership of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.

RESOLVED: That the Council renew its membership and that the Clerk make payment of the subscription fee.

12. **Planning**

(a) **Proposal to develop land in Miskin**

The Community Council discussed a copy of a letter addressed to the Director of Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, from Dr A W Roberts of the Miskin.

Residents' Association, about an objection lodged against the Draft Taff Ely Local Plan. The objection had been initiated by the Land Authority for Wales, who sought planning consent for residential development for land south of Bute Quarry, Miskin.

The Council considered that the Residents' Association had produced a very comprehensive and well reasoned document urging the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to oppose the objections of the Land Authority of Wales.

RESOLVED: (a) That the letter from the Miskin Residents' Association be noted.

(b) That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and obtain details of all the objections to the Draft Taff Ely Local Plan, as they affect the Community of Pontyclun, and arrange for the objections to be included as an agenda item on the next Community Council's agenda.

(b) **Applications for residential planning consent**

The Community Council received the reply of the Director of Planning for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in response to the Community Council's concerns about the growing number of applications for residential planning consent in the Community without any improvements to the infrastructure.

The Director of Planning acknowledged the Community Council's concerns and pointed out that a great deal of effort was being put into progressing the Taff Ely Local Plan to statutory adoption. Following statutory adoption, control of residential development would become easier on the basis that the Local Plan would have the support of the Welsh Office and ad hoc decisions would be avoided.

RESOLVED: That the reply be noted.

(c) **Planning applications contained in Notifications for Weeks Ending 28 February, 7, 14, 21 and 28 March, 1997**

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:

(i) **Application No. 97/2077/13**

The Council views the application unfavourably since it represents an unwelcome form of over development.

(ii) **Application No. 97/2143/16**

The Council urges that the developer be required to construct houses on the site which are in keeping with surrounding houses.

(iii) **Application No. /97/2172/16**

The Council would welcome being involved in the selection of street names for the new development.

(d) **Application No. 97/2165**

The Council discussed the application submitted by Tarmac Ltd for determination of planning conditions relating to the working



of the Hendy Quarry, Miskin, Pontyclun, under the provisions of Schedule 13 of the Environment Act, 1995.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the application be forwarded to the Miskin Residents' Association for information.

13. **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 15 to the Agenda

14. **Reports from Members**

(a) **McDonalds restaurant, Glamorgan Vale Retail Park**

Councillor Flood drew attention to the hazardous situation facing motorists travelling on the Talbot Green By Pass in the direction of Cross Inn at night when negotiating the roundabout at the entrance to the Glamorgan Vale Retail Park.

Councillor Flood pointed out that motorists were often dazzled by the headlights of cars waiting at the McDonalds' parking-bay while waiting for take-away food. There was a serious risk of an accident on the roundabout. There was an obvious need for a screen to prevent motorists being dazzled.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(b) **Heol-y-Felin, Pontyclun**

Councillor Edwards was pleased to be able to report that following the recent works which had been undertaken by one of the utilities in the grass verges in Heol-y-Felin the areas had been re-instated and the grass verges had been re-seeded.

The report was noted.

(c) **A4119, Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea reported that the A4119 through Groesfaen had recently been re-surfaced. Unfortunately, loose chippings had



been scattered on to adjacent footways be passing vehicles rendering the footways very difficult to traverse.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council with a view to removing the loose chippings from the footway.

(d) **A4119 - Footway - Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea drew attention to the mud which had encroached on to the footway alongside the A4119 between Groesfaen and the Castell y M ynach Inn. Despite representations to the Highway Authority the mud had not been removed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk again take the matter up with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

(e) **Windsor Fields, Pontyclun**

Councillor Mrs Cale drew attention to the fact that the litter bin in the Windsor Field had been removed with the result that quantities of litter were now strewn across the playing fields.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk request the siting of a replacement bin from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(f) **Wales Association of Community and Town Councils - Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee**

Councillor Davies gave a full account of the meeting of the Area Committee which took place on the evening of 11 March, 1997. The meeting was addressed by Mr Keri Lewis the Chief Executive of the Bridgend County Borough Council who gave an interesting account of the actions he, and his Council, had taken since his appointment to establish sound working relationships with the 22 community councils within the Bridgend area.

The report was noted.

(g) **Damaged wall, Palalwyf Avenue**

Councillor Davies drew to the Council's attention to recent damage to the wall of No.s 20 and 21 Palalwyf Avenue,



Pontyclun. The damage had occurred when contractors working for the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, McNiff and Curran, had allowed a roller to hit the wall. The damage had been brought to the attention of the contractors, who had acknowledged the damage, but no action had been taken to repair the wall.

RESOLVED: That the damage be brought to the attention of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council with a request that the matter be resolved as a matter of urgency.

(f) **McDonald's restaurant - litter**

Councillor Bendle told the Council that he was alarmed at the increased amount of litter which was being brought into Pontyclun from the McDonald's take away restaurant at the Glamorgan Retail Park in Talbot Green.

It was clear from the wrappers which were being deposited in Pontyclun where the litter was emanating from.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk write a strong letter of protestation to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking that that authority take the matter up formally with McDonalds

(ii) That the Clerk also write a letter to the manager of the McDonalds restaurant asking for his assistance in encouraging his customers to dispose of their litter in a responsible manner.

(g) **Former Council Depot, Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle advised the Council that the delay in developing the site of the former Taff Ely Council Depot in Pontyclun had resulted in the area being used as a dumping ground for all manner of rubbish. The site was becoming a danger and a possible threat to public health.

RESOLVED: That the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be advised of the situation and asked for the latest information on the plans to develop the site.



(h) **Land adjacent to Victoria Mews, Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle referred to the plot of land adjacent to Victoria Mews, Pontyclun, was formerly owned by the Taff Ely Borough Council, and which was now in the ownership of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

Despite the Community Council having advised the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council that the plot was being occupied and used by a local resident no action appeared to have been taken.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk enquire about the current situation regarding the plot of land with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

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

(a) **Bush growing into lane**

Councillor Davies advised that a bush was growing from the premises of the Pontyclun Junior School into the lane at the rear of Palalwyf Avenue. The bush was causing a hazard to pedestrians using the lane.

Councillor Davies was advised that he should raise the matter with the headteacher of the Pontyclun Junior School, Mr D Keith Davies.

(b) **Prompt action by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, reported an instance of prompt action by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to replace a missing manhole cover near a shop in Pontyclun. If a member of the public had fallen into the manhole he, or she, would have probably have sustained a serious injury since the manhole was approximately 10 feet deep.

RESOLVED: That a letter of appreciation be sent to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, mentioning the name of Mr Howard Thomas, the officer responsible for taking the prompt action.

(c) **Refuse Collection Arrangements - Bank Holidays**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, referred to the procedure



of the former Taff Ely Borough Council where notices advising of Bank Holiday arrangements for refuse collection were prominently displayed in the Community for up to a fortnight before a bank holiday. The system worked extremely well and the public were grateful for the information.

The position under the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council was that no notices were produced for local display. This led to confusion on the part of the public who were unsure about refuse collection arrangements following a bank holiday. As a result members of the Community Council were receiving calls about bank holiday collection arrangements from residents.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, acquainting him of the former arrangements under the Taff Ely Borough Council, and asking whether those arrangements could be reintroduced.

(d) **Missing litter bin - Clun Avenue, Pontyclun**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, reported that a litter bin had been removed from Clun Avenue, Pontyclun.

Councillor Norman had reported the matter to an officer of the highways Transportation and Engineering Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and was hopeful that a replacement litter bin would be delivered shortly.

The report was noted.

(e) **Communication with community councils**

Councillor Griffiths referred to the report given earlier in the meeting by Councillor Davies about the steps taken by the Chief Executive and members of the Bridgend County Borough Council to improve communication and dialogue with community councils in the area of the Bridgend County Borough Council.

Councillor Griffiths asked that the Leader and Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be



contacted to find out whether the Bridgend blueprint could be introduced within the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(f) **Loss of public footpath at Prospect Park, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood highlighted the apparent loss of a public footpath at the entrance to the Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun, and the new housing development known as Prospect Park. While, technically, these two housing estates were outside the boundary of the Pontyclun Community Council, the loss of any public right of way was to be regretted.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the apparent loss of the public right of way with the Llantrisant Community Council.

(g) **Condition of kissing gates in Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea drew to the Council's attention the poor condition of two kissing gates in the vicinity of Groesfaen House, Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handyman to inspect the gates and carry out maintenance work where necessary.

(h) **Footpath lighting - Windsor Field, Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had pursued the matter of the inoperative lighting columns along the Windsor Field, Pontyclun, with former officers of the Taff Ely Borough Council who were now working for the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The Clerk was optimistic that the undertakings to repair the lights given by the former Taff Ely Borough Council following the construction of the car park adjacent to the Pontyclun RFC and Sportsclub would be honoured by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The matter was noted.



(i) **Tylagarw Community Hall**

The Clerk reported that since the despatch of Agendas to Members he had been contacted by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council member for Llanharan, Councillor Waters, about the letter the Clerk had sent to local Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council members about the Tylagarw Community Hall.

Councillor Waters sympathised with the problems being experienced in Pontyclun with the number of youths who appeared to have nothing to do in the evenings and commended the Pontyclun Community Council for its initiative in attempting to provide facilities. However, he wished to point out that the Tylagarw Community Hall had not been completed but when it was, the normal policy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council towards community halls would apply, that is, a management committee would be formed who would be charged with raising the necessary revenue costs for running the hall.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

(j) **Footpaths map**

Councillor Griffiths requested that the Council discuss the possibility of producing a map of Public Rights of Way in the Community, in leaflet form, at the Community Council's next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the matter be discussed at the Community Council's next meeting on 7 May, 1997.

16. The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.

17.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Griffiths', is written over the number 17.