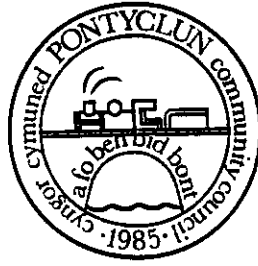


Clerk to the Council
J. H. G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
Telephone: Llantrisant (0443) 227094



"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 Thursday, 2 January, 1997

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Mrs V A Cale,
Mr J G Davies, Mr R O Edwards, Mr T Flood (for part of meeting),
Mrs M M Griffiths and Mr R G Norman (Chairperson)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public.

1. **Apology**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mr J V Huish

2. **Chairperson's business**

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

The Chairperson reported that he had recently chaired a meeting of the Governing Body at which a replacement member of staff had been appointed. The newly appointed teacher was Mrs Delyth Morris who would carry out her duties in the Junior Section of the School.

The report was noted.

(b) **Vandalism to the rear of the Pontyclun Community Centre**

The Chairperson reported that there had recently been instances of vandalism to the rear of the Pontyclun Community Centre. The incidents had resulted in mud being thrown at walls and large quantities of cans being deposited in the area. The most worrying incident had occurred a few days earlier when a fire had been lit near to the Community Council's store. The incidents had been reported to the police.

The report was noted.

RGW

(c) **Police office at Community Centre**

The Chairperson reported that a woman police constable had been noted working from the police office at the Community Centre for a very short period of time since the last Community Council meeting. It was disappointing to note that the woman police constable had ^{NOT} been employed exclusively from the Community Centre as the Chairman had understood.

The report was noted.

3. **Police matters**

As no members of the police were at the meeting no discussion took place under this item of business.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 December, 1996**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 December, 1996, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Applications for grant assistance from Pontyclun RFC and Sports Club and the Pontyclun Mini Rugby Club**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr Edgeley Thomas, Treasurer of the Pontyclun RFC and Sports Club in which he clarified the position of the Club and its players regarding professionalism in rugby union. He assured the Council that no players of the Pontyclun club received any payment for playing rugby.

RESOLVED: That in the light of the clarification given by Mr Thomas the Council make a grant of £100.00 to each of the Pontyclun RFC and Sportsclub and the Pontyclun Mini Rugby Club.

(Councillors Flood and Griffiths declared an interest in the applications and took no part in the Council's deliberations)

(b) **Consumption of alcohol in public places - byelaws**

The Council received details from the Rhondda Cynon Taff

County Borough Council of three pilot schemes designed to control the consumption of alcohol in public places within the County Borough. The Borough Council intended to pass byelaws on the basis of numbers of complaints received by the police in the Gelli/Ton Pentre, Treorchy and Tonypandy/Penygraig areas.

The interest shown by the Pontyclun Community Council in introducing similar control measures in Pontyclun had been noted.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) **Purolite Plant, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the reply from the Environment Agency about the incident which took place at the Purolite Plant on 24th and 25 October, 1996. It was noted that whilst the incident may have had the potential to cause harm to the environment, the prompt actions by the Environment Agency ensured that any harmful effects were not allowed to develop. The Agency was of the view that whilst the odours caused a nuisance to local residents, there was no threat to their safety as a result of the incident.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Talgarn Rehabilitation Centre**

Reports were received by the Council of the meeting which took place on the evening of 20 December, 1996, of enthusiastic members of the public who were keen to avoid the commercial exploitation of the Talgarn Rehabilitation Centre, and its grounds, when the premises become surplus to the requirements of the Bro Taf Health Authority in 1999.

The meeting had resulted in the creation of the Talgarn Forum which intended mobilising public support to achieve its objectives. The Community Council had been represented at the meeting by Councillors Bendle, Davies, Edwards, Griffiths, and Norman together with the Clerk. Councillor Norman had been appointed as Chairman, Councillor Edwards as Treasurer and Councillor Griffiths as Publicity Officer.

The Forum appreciated the support received from the Llantrisant Community Council who were attempting to get rescinded the decision of the Bro Taf Health Authority to dispose of Talygarn House and grounds.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Llantrisant Community Council be informed of the formation of the Talygarn Forum and that authority be wished well in its attempts to get the Bro Taf Health Authority to rescind its decision to dispose of Talygarn House and grounds
- (ii) That the Community Council wish the Forum every success in achieving its objectives.

(e) **Ivor Woods, Brynsadler**

The Clerk reported the results of his enquiries with both the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Llantrisant Community Council about the title deeds of the Ivor Woods.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take advantage of the facility of free legal advice from the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils before progressing the matter to its next stage.

(f) **Review of electoral arrangements in the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough**

The Council resumed discussion on the amendments which it considered should take place to electoral arrangements within the Community of Pontyclun. The Community Council had earlier been invited to submit its proposals for amendments by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

During the course of its deliberations the Community Council was strongly influenced by:

- (i) The plans to construct approximately 900 additional units of residential accommodation at Cefn yr Hendy and

RSW

- (ii) The considerable amount of ad hoc residential development planned and taking place in the Community
- (ii) The anomalous position of the Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Pontyclun Community Council propose to the Local Government Boundary Commission:

- (i) An increase in the representation for the Pontyclun Ward of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council from one member to three members.
 - (ii) An increase in representation for the Miskin Ward of the Pontyclun Community Council from two members to four members.
 - (iii) An increase in representation for the Cefn yr Hendy Ward of the Pontyclun Community Council from three members to four members.
 - (iv) To correct the anomalous electoral arrangements applying to the Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun, that the Estate be made a one member Ward of the Pontyclun Community Council and that a minor adjustment be made to the boundaries: the altered boundary to follow the line of the mineral railway line to the west of the Ynysddu Farm Estate to the point where the railway line joins the Talbot Green By pass to the north and the A4222 Cowbridge Road to the east.
- (g) **Planning application No. 96/2446/96**

The Clerk reported that he had made enquiries with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the nature of the planning application.

It appeared that a Certificate of Lawfulness was necessary because planning criteria for the control of activities at the site were considerably more stringent at present than they were when the landfill operation first commenced. It was necessary to regularise activities at the site by the issue of a Certificate of Lawfulness.

The application for a Certificate of Lawfulness did not confer consent for any activities at the site which were not already taking place. The storage and grading of soil for re-sale were activities which had been taking place for some time. If the site operator wished to carry out any activities which were not already taking place it would be necessary for the submission of a further application for planning consent.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(h) **Route B4264, Miskin - Subsidence**

The Council received the letter of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which it was stated that the initial subsidence in Heol Miskin was caused by a water leak from Welsh Water apparatus and the further subsidence was due to poor compaction of the backfill to the excavation carried out by Welsh Water.

A defect notice under the New Roads and Street Works Act, 1991 had been sent to Welsh Water to carry out remedial works.

RESOLVED: That the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be noted.

(i) **Community Questionnaires**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reported that she had carried out a detailed analysis of the 82 completed community questionnaires which had been returned to the Community Council from the Pontyclun Primary School. Councillor Griffiths gave a verbal summary to the Council of the contents of the returned questionnaires provided a copy of the findings to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk arrange for copies of the summary of responses to be provided to

RGN

each member of the Council in advance of discussion by the Council.

- (ii) That Councillor Griffiths be requested to carry out an analysis of the completed questionnaires which had recently been returned from the Headteacher of Y Pant Comprehensive School.
- (iii) That after analysis of all the completed questionnaires a sub committee be formed to decide on the best way forward.

6. **Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council - Draft Welsh Language Scheme**

The Council received a copy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Draft Welsh Language Scheme drawn up under the provision of the Welsh Language Act, 1993. It was noted that a copy of the Draft Scheme had been sent to a broad section of the public for comment prior to a formal scheme being introduced by the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the Draft Scheme be noted.

7. **Proposed Welsh Language Cultural Centre**

The Council discussed the letter of 16 December, 1997, from Mr Steffan Webb, Development Officer for Menter Taf Elai, outlining his organisation's plans for the establishment of a Welsh Language Cultural Centre in Pontyclun. Mr Webb Claimed that the former Taff Ely Borough Council had decided to make the surplus Council Offices in School Street, Pontyclun, available to Menter Taf Elai for the purpose. Mr Webb's view was that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council was faced with implementing the former Borough Council's decision.

Mr Webb proposed convening a meeting of interested parties to discuss and promote the plans. The meeting was to be held in the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 9 January, 1997, and an invitation to attend was extended to interested members of the Pontyclun Community Council.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to clarify whether the former Taff Ely Borough Council had agreed to allow Menter Taf Elai

the use of the former Council Offices in School Street, Pontyclun, and, if so, whether the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would intended allowing Menter Taf Elai use of the premises.

- (ii) That the Council be represented at the meeting on 9 January, 1997 by the Chairperson, Councillor Norman.

8. **Private sewerage systems in Groesfaen**

The Council received the reply of Welsh Water to the Council's earlier enquiry about Welsh Water's plans to provide a public sewerage system for all properties in Groesfaen.

It appeared that although there were no plans by Welsh Water for those properties in Groesfaen with private sewerage systems to be brought on to a public sewerage system, recent legislation had given Welsh Water a duty to provide public sewerage systems where there are, or likely to be, environmental or amenity problems resulting from existing drainage arrangements provided that certain criteria are met.

Welsh Water had not formulated detailed plans to meet its new obligations but stated that it proposed consulting the Environmental Agency and other relevant organisations in order to prepare a list of areas to study. Welsh Water would also be prepared to consider cases brought to its attention in the way in which the Community Council had raised the matter.

Welsh Water sought some preliminary information in order that the position of those properties in Groesfaen on private sewerage systems could be further considered.

RESOLVED: That ten copies of Welsh Water's note on the preliminary information required be forwarded to Councillor M Rea, the Community Council member for Groesfaen, and that a copy of the preliminary information be also forwarded to the Groesfaen Residents' Association.

9. **Facilities for Cyclists within the County Borough**

The Council discussed the reply of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering in response to the Community Council's request for information on facilities for cyclists within the County Borough.

The Director assured the Community Council that the Rhondda Cynon Taff

County Borough Council is committed to improving accessibility of all sectors of the community to places of work, shopping and recreation by the implementation of a comprehensive transportation strategy, including enhancement of cycling and pedestrian facilities, encouraging a reduction in the need to travel in conformity with government sustainable development policy. It was recognised that an increase in vulnerable road users (pedestrians and cyclists) should only be achieved by the provision of comprehensive, good quality "safe" routes .

The Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council actively supports the Millenium-funded National Cycle Network, in particular Rote No 4 "Kidwelly to Newport Cycle Route" and the Taff Trail forming part of Route No 8 "Lon Las Cymru", the Holyhead to Cardiff and Chepstow route.

The Director made the point that a lack of funding is presently hampering initiatives for cyclists in the Borough at present.

Councillor Griffiths emphasised that it was important that the County Borough Council should be made aware of the demand for safe cycle routes within the Borough. Ample evidence existed from the recently completed questionnaires in the Community of the overwhelming demand for safe cycling facilities especially from schoolchildren.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Clerk write to the Headteacher of the Pontyclun Primary School requesting that the pupils be asked what cycle routes they would like to see to enable them to cycle to school in safety.
 - (ii) On receipt of the information from the school the Clerk be requested to forward the information to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council as an indication of the local demand for safe cycle routes.
 - (iii) After receipt of the information from the Pontyclun Primary School consideration be given to whether a similar approach be made to Y Pant Comprehensive School.

10. **Additional winter grit bins in the Community**

The Council discussed the response of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to the Community Council's request for the placing of additional winter grit bins at various locations throughout the Community.

RGW

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering pointed out that funds for the siting of additional winter grit bins were very limited and that similar requests had been received from several areas within Rhondda Cynon Taff. It would be necessary for a list to be submitted to the Director in order that he could prioritise sites in the event of funds becoming available.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk forward to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council the list of sites previously advised by Members.

11. **Library Byelaws**

The Council received a copy of byelaws made by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council under Section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964

RESOLVED: That the byelaws be noted.

12. **Strategy for the Control of Dogs**

In response to the Community Council's concerns to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about dog fouling the Director of Environmental Services had forwarded a strategy for the control of dogs within the County Borough. The strategy had been approved by the Borough Council's Environmental Services Committee on 2nd December, 1996. The Director also sought the Community Council's views on how the schemes under the strategy could be publicised in the locality.

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) That the strategy be noted
 - (b) That the Borough Council be asked to give particular attention to the problem caused by dog fouling in the back lane parallel to Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun.
 - (c) That the Borough Council be asked whether it could foresee any involvement for the Community Council in the prevention of dog fouling.
 - (d) That the Community Council offer the services of its noticeboards to display literature designed to educate the public in the prevention of dog fouling.

RGW

13. **Off street parking, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to the Community Council's earlier query about when the additional off street parking facilities in Pontyclun, which had been planned prior to the reorganisation of local government by the former Taff Ely Borough Council, would be constructed. It was known by the Community Council that the materials for the work had been purchased prior to the reorganisation of local government.

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering had responded that there were insufficient funds available to include the necessary works in the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Capital Programme for 1996/97 and, at that time, the capital programme beyond the current financial year had not been determined. An undertaking was given that the Director would include the off street parking scheme to be considered for inclusion in the future programme. No indication could be given when the scheme would be implemented.

The Council felt a sense of frustration that a scheme which had been agreed, and for which materials had been purchased, would not be implemented in the foreseeable future.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

14. **Pontyclun Chamber of Trade**

The Council received the letter of 12 December, 1996, from the Secretary of the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade in which he informed the Council that the Chamber of Trade no longer intended to erect a Christmas tree in Pontyclun for Christmas, 1996, as a result of the very high insurance premium which was required. It was hoped that a lower insurance premium could be negotiated for Christmas, 1997, to enable a tree to be erected. The Chamber of Trade asked that the Community Council consider making provision for the purchase of the tree in its estimates for 1997/98.

The Community Council was disappointed to learn that the Chamber of Trade would not be proceeding with the erection of a Christmas Tree. The Council recognised the value of erecting a Christmas Tree and, irrespective of the Chamber of Trade's plans for Christmas, 1997, believed it worthwhile to explore the possibility of erecting a Christmas Tree at Maesyfelin Crescent, Pontyclun, and in the vicinity of St Paul's Church, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries with the owners of the two sites about the erection of Christmas Trees for Christmas, 1997.

15. **Applications for financial assistance**

The Council considered applications for financial assistance from the newly formed Groesfaen Residents' Association and the newly formed Talygarn Forum.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That a grant of £50.00 be made to the Groesfaen Residents' Association and that the Association be asked to provide the Council with a list of its proposed activities.
 - (ii) That a grant of £250.00 be made to the Talygarn Forum.

(Councillors Edwards, Griffiths and Norman declared an interest in the application by the Talygarn Forum and took no part in the Council's deliberations)

16. **Planning**

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

Councillor Flood explained that he had requested this item to be placed on the Agenda since he was very concerned about the volume of residential development taking place, and currently proposed, in the Community.

Councillor Flood pointed out that there should be controlled development in the Community allowing for additional community facilities to be provided in parallel with additional housing. This was not happening and ad hoc pockets of residential developments were taking place, or being proposed, at several locations without any strategic overview. The result was that existing community facilities were coming under ever increasing pressure. The position was likely to be exacerbated with the 900 plus residential unit development taking place at Cefn yr Hendy.

Members agreed with Councillor Flood's views and while it was accepted that some community facilities had been planned for the Cefn yr Hendy development a significant number of houses had already been built, and occupied, without

RGN

any increase in community facilities. Reference was made to the former Llantrisant Town Plan where it was proposed to develop an infrastructure alongside residential development. As a consequence of the Plan being shelved residential development was taking place without infrastructure improvements.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That a letter be sent to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council expressing the Community Council's concern at the volume of residential development taking place, and being planned, in the Community and the lack of any increase in community facilities.
- (ii) That reference be made in the letter to the residential development predicted in the Llantrisant Plan and the intended improvements to the infrastructure.
- (iii) That a copy of the letter be sent to the Planning Division of the Welsh Office.

(b) **Development in High Street, Brynsadler**

The Council received the response of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to the Community Council's earlier letter about development which appeared to have taken place in High Street, Brynsadler. The Council also received representations from a resident of High Street, Brynsadler.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred to the Council's monthly meeting in February to enable a site visit to take place.

(c) **Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 6, 13 and 20 December, 1996**

RESOLVED: That the applications contained in the Weekly Notifications be noted.

17. **Keep Wales Tidy Campaign**

The Council received the Annual Report and details of membership of the Keep Wales Tidy Campaign.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

18. **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 31 to the Council's Agenda.

19. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Peterston Road, Groesfaen**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, reported that he had been contacted by a number of residents in Groesfaen to discuss matters in Peterston Road, Groesfaen. The Chairperson intended meeting the residents shortly.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Broken glass outside the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun**

Councillor Cale drew the Council's attention to the dangers arising from the broken glass which was regularly to be found outside the Brunel Arms in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seek advice from the Environmental Services Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on appropriate measures to control the problem.

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

(a) **Proposed residential development off Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun - Planning Application No. 96/2448/13**

Councillor Davies referred to Planning Application No. 96/2448/13, which was discussed at the Council's meeting on 4 December, 1997, and advised that residents living in the

vicinity of the proposed development had recently been circulated with a list of measures which the developer would introduce if he was successful in his application to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for planning consent. There had been considerable opposition to the plans for development from residents and a petition opposing the application had been forwarded to the Director of Planning.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Clerk make enquiries about the possibility of getting a weight restriction of 3 tonnes imposed in Palalwyf Avenue and Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun.
 - (ii) That the Clerk make enquiries to identify the owner of the approach road to the site of the proposed development.
 - (iii) That an additional ground for opposing the application be notified to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, that is, that development should not be allowed since the safety of children in the nearby Pontyclun Primary School would be compromised by the need for heavy machinery and plant to access the proposed site.
 - (iv) That the Clerk arrange for a copy of the circular letter referred to by Councillor Davies be provided to each Member of the Council.

(b) **Ivor Woods, Brynsadler - boundary dispute**

The Clerk read out a letter which had been received from the Llantrisant Community Council enclosing copies of minutes of the former Llantrisant Parish Council about the donation of the Ivor Woods by Wyndham Damer Clark to the Parish Council in 1923.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to obtain the advice of the Wales Association of Community and Town Council's legal adviser.

(c) **Finance Committee**

The Clerk advised the Council that it would be necessary to call a meeting of the Finance Committee during January in order that the Community Council's expenditure during the 1996/97 could be examined and a recommendation on a precept for 1997/98 be made in time for the Council's meeting on 5 February, 1997.

The Clerk would shortly advise members of the Finance Committee of the arrangements for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

21. The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R G Newman', is written to the right of the meeting end time.