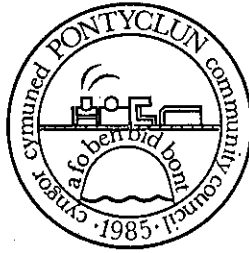


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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, 4 December, 1991.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen, (Chairperson), Mr T J Burton, Mr J R Dilworth, Mr E V Griffith, Mr V P James, Mr G M Moir and Mr R G Norman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Phil Blanche of the Llantrisant Observer and nineteen members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors Mrs A Burton and Mrs O P Phillips

2. Councillor Burton

Councillor Burton thanked the Council for its condolences on the recent bereavement in his family.

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 6 November, 1991

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 6 November, 1991, be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Chairperson's Social Evening

The Chairperson, Councillor Bowen, gave a report on the successful social evening which had been held on Friday, 22 November, 1991. Representatives of Llanharry, Llanharan, Llantrisant and Pentyrch Community Council had been present and new links had been forged between Pontyclun Community Council and its adjacent neighbours.

The report was noted.

(b) Renovation of Miskin War Memorial

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the site meeting which had taken place to view the workmanship of the two contractors competing for the contract for the renovation of the Miskin War Memorial.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the Clerk make arrangements to award the contract to the lowest tenderer.

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

The Chairperson, Councillor Bowen, outlined the efforts made by Councillor Norman and himself during previous years to get the lane at the rear of Llwynfen Road adopted and brought up to standard. The attempts had proven abortive for a number of reasons.

Councillor Dilworth was now pursuing the matter. He had consulted residents of Llwynfen Road, contacted the Borough Council and sought legal guidance on the ownership of the lane. Major obstacles to progress were that the lane and a retaining wall were in private ownership. It was believed that one of the owners of the lane had been traced.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the reputed owner to enquire whether:-

(a) he would be prepared to offer that part of the lane in his ownership for adoption.

(b) he had any knowledge of the names and addresses of any other persons who owned parts of the lane.

(d) Proposed Pontyclun Railway Station

The Chairperson, Councillor Bowen, reported on the site meeting which he had attended in his capacity as County Council Member for the area. Councillor Bowen impressed upon those attending the meeting that while the public agreed in principle with the plans to re-open the station it was very important, especially as the station was designated as a "park and ride" station, that adequate parking facilities were made available within the overall development. Additionally, it was vital that access on to the A4222 be improved.

Councillor Bowen believed that his representations had been received favourably by the County Council and additional land for car parking had been identified to the north and south of the existing railway line. It was hoped that the Welsh Office would be able to make a grant for the provision of a bridge at the new station. Plans were also in hand to improve the vision splay for motorists emerging from Station Approach on to the A4222 by the removal of a wall near the junction.

Reference was also made to the concerns of residents in Castan Road, Pontyclun, over the access which had been created at the end of Castan Road, Pontyclun, to the main line railway. Assurances had been obtained that the access was merely a temporary measure pending agreement on the right of British Rail to use the private road running parallel to Station Terrace.

Finally, Councillor Bowen reported that he had fought, and won, a battle to get the new station named "Pontyclun". There had been strong pressure from within the County Council to name the station "Llantrisant".

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the County Council requesting a site meeting to discuss matters of concern connected with the development.

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

The Chairman, Councillor Bowen, reported that the County Council had offered its observations to the Borough Council on the application for planning consent to build a new surgery in School Street, Pontyclun. The County Council did not intend objecting to the application although it was concerned that suitable safeguards need be taken to ensure that on street parking would continue to be enjoyed by School Street residents.

A petition was presented to the Community Council from residents opposed to the application in its current form. A counter petition was presented to the Community Council from residents in support of the application in its present form.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be conveyed to the Borough Council:-

- (a) The Council supports the proposal in principle.

- (b) The Borough Council should continue to provide further parking facilities in the area for residents in the vicinity of the development.
- (c) The Borough Council, in conjunction with the Highway Authority, should urge British Rail to accept Station Approach as the primary access to the new development. (A Welsh Office Inspector had recommended Station Approach as the main route of access to the site in giving his decision on an earlier planning application which was the subject of appeal)
- (d) The Borough Council, in recognition that the premises was formerly a fibre glass factory, place upon the developer a condition to take all possible precautions to reduce airborne pollution during the demolition of the former Old Church School.

(f) Proposal to upgrade pedestrian crossing, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

The Council noted that the Chief Constable of South Wales Constabulary had written to the County Engineer and Surveyor asking for a site meeting to be held between a member of his department and an officer from the Traffic Department to discuss the matter in detail.

5. Proposed transfer of the post office franchise in Groesfaen

The Council discussed the letter dated 24 November, 1991 received from Mr and Mrs D R Llewellyn, proprietors of the post office and stores in Groesfaen. It appeared that Post Office Counters Ltd. had given three months notice of the intention to terminate the contract to run the sub post office. It further appeared that despite strong protestations by, and on behalf of, Mr and Mrs Llewellyn, Post Office Counters Ltd. refused to discuss the reasons for the termination of the contract. If the sub post office was to close a significant number of elderly members of the Community would be considerably affected by having to travel an additional 4 miles to use an alternative post office.

RESOLVED: That the Council support the campaign to keep a sub post

office at its present location and that the Clerk write to Post Office Counters Ltd. asking that the decision to terminate the contract with Mr and Mrs Llewellyn be reconsidered.

6. Award of planning permission for further residential development at Maesyfelin, Pontyclun

The Community Council was dismayed to learn that despite vigorous opposition by Councillors James and Norman, the Taff Ely Borough Council had chosen to award planning permission for further residential development at Maesyfelin, Pontyclun. It appeared that the National Rivers Authority, who had previously objected to further residential development at Maesyfelin, on the grounds that the land formed part of the river Ely, had relaxed its objections. Members were at a loss to understand how a responsible public body such as the NRA could have altered its views so dramatically in a relatively short space of time. The Council was convinced that the land in question still formed part of the flood plain of the river Ely and would continue to flood during prolonged periods of heavy rain.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council investigate the reasons for the apparent change of heart by the NRA.

7. Meeting with Welsh Water on the unsatisfactory quality of drinking water

The Council noted that the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils had been in correspondence with Welsh Water about the unsatisfactory quality of drinking water. In reply, the Company had asked the Association to convene a special conference where delegates from community councils would have an opportunity to state their cases to Welsh Water. The conference had been arranged for Saturday, 25 January, 1992, in the College of Librarianship at Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth. An invitation had been extended to all member councils to attend.

RESOLVED: That the Pontyclun Community Council be represented at the special conference by the Chairman and the Clerk and that their attendance be regarded as an official duty.

8. The Kidney Transplant Walk for Life, 1992

The Council discussed a letter from the Lord Mayor of Cardiff City Council in which he proposed that a further sponsored walk in aid of the Kidney Research Unit Foundation be held on Sunday, 23 March, 1992. The Council was invited to participate in the Walk as in the three previous years.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council participate in the sponsored walk to be held on Sunday, 22 March, 1992.

(ii) That expenses incurred in organising the walk, subject to an overall maximum of £75.00, be underwritten by the Council.

9. Taff Ely and Rhondda McMillan Cancer Care Appeal

In response to the Council's donation to the Appeal an invitation had been received to attend a presentation ceremony at the Municipal Hall, Pontypridd, at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 21 December, 1991.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council be represented at the presentation ceremony by the Chairman, Professor Bowen, and Councillor Mrs O P Phillips.

(ii) That their attendance be regarded as an official duty.

10. Public Health Act, 1925 -
Sections 17 and 18 - Street Naming

Notification was received from the Chief Executive of the Taff Ely Borough Council that the Borough Council intended rationalising the statutory provisions for street naming within the Borough. Consequently, the Borough Council proposed to formerly adopt Sections 17 and 18 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The matter was noted.

11. Installation of off street lighting -
rear of Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

The Council welcomed the favourable comments received from residents of Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, following the installation by the Community Council of off street lighting in the lane at the rear of No.s 18 to 50 Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. In particular, the Council was very pleased to have received a formal letter of appreciation from Mr Christopher Humphreys of 50 Llantrisant Road.

RESOLVED: That the favourable comments be noted.

12. Weekly Planning Applications for Weeks 44, 45, 46 and 47

Application No. 56/91/0836

RESOLVED: That the Council express its support for the proposal.

13. Payment of creditors

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

14. Reports from Members

(a) Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

Councillor Dilworth gave a report on the meeting East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Association which had taken place on the previous evening. The meeting had been addressed by Mr D Hugh Thomas, Chief Executive of Mid Glamorgan County Council who spoke on the latest developments on the reorganisation of local government. In particular, Mr Thomas emphasised the importance of a partnership between community councils and county councils as this accorded with the principles outlined by the Secretary of State for Wales in his consultative document published in June. Mr Thomas said that he had read each of the eight county council submissions in Wales. In his view, the Mid Glamorgan County Council submission came nearest to the meeting the criteria given by the Secretary of State. Mr Thomas wished to dispel the myth that county councils were "remote". In support of his contention he pointed to the multiplicity of service delivery points for county council services throughout the counties. Furthermore, only a very small percentage of county council employees worked at county hall. The vast majority of county council employees worked within their counties delivering services to the people.

At the end of his presentation Mr Thomas answered a series of questions posed by members of the Area Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) Proposed parking restrictions, Pontyclun

Councillor Burton reported that there had been a further accident in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, at the point where the Community Council had asked for parking restrictions to be introduced to improve drivers' visibility.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk again take the matter of the proposed parking restrictions up with the County Council.

(c) Illegal parking of vehicles at the junction of Llantrisant Road and Merthyr Street, Pontyclun

Councillor Burton reported that certain vehicle drivers

continued to ignore the parking restrictions at the junction of Llantrisant Road and Merthyr Street, Pontyclun. The result had been several near collisions in the vicinity of the junction. Vehicle drivers attempting to negotiate the junction from the direction of Merthyr Street were particularly handicapped.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the police.

(d) Grass verge - Merthyr Street

Councillor Burton spoke of his concern about the unwillingness of certain refuse collection vehicle drivers to avoid mounting the grass verge in Merthyr Street while leaving their depot. A series of very unsightly ruts in the grass verge had resulted. Councillor Burton acknowledged that the manoeuvre necessary was not an easy one, but with a little care it could be comfortably accomplished.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Borough Council's Chief Technical Services Officer asking for the cooperation of refuse vehicle drivers to avoid mounting the grass verge in Merthyr Street when leaving their depot.

(e) Parked vehicles - junction of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, and the entrance to the Maesyfelin Estate

Councillor Griffith drew the Council's attention to the unsafe practices of some vehicle drivers who regularly park on, or near, the entrance to the Maesyfelin Estate at the junction with the Cowbridge Road in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk bring the matter to the attention of the highway authority for their comments

(f) Hendy Quarry, Miskin

Councillor Moir reported that, except for some minor modifications, the Mid Glamorgan County Council had accepted the draft Mineral Local Plan for Limestone - Part 4 - Hendy Quarry. It appeared that the representations made by Miskin residents, the Community Council, and professional advisers had been ignored. Miskin residents felt strongly aggrieved that the County Council should behave in such a cavalier fashion. Residents also felt a deep sense of frustration that much of the preparatory work had been completed by the County Council, even before a planning application had been submitted by the quarrying company. It was believed by residents that when an application to quarry further reserves of limestone was received by the County Council approval would be almost a formality.

RESOLVED: (i) That, initially, the facts in the case be referred to the Secretary of State for Wales.

(ii) That in the event of the Secretary of State for Wales declining to become involved, or ruling that he had no authority in the matter, the facts in the case be referred to the Ombudsman with a request that he find the Mid Glamorgan County Council guilty of maladministration.

(g) Straying Animals Working Party

Councillor Norman reported that he had raised the nuisance of straying animals on the Hendy Estate at the last meeting of the Borough Council's Straying Animals Working Party. A site meeting had subsequently taken place and it had been agreed that the Borough Council would provide a new fence and a gate to prevent further straying of livestock. However, work would not start on the new fence until the planned new sewerage work in the vicinity had been completed.

The report was noted.

(h) Environmental Protection Act, 1990

Councillor Norman gave a brief verbal report on the Borough Council's plans to meet its responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990. Under the Act, the Borough would be divided into zones with appropriate timescales for the removal of litter. Failure to comply with the prescribed timescales could leave an authority open to prosecution.

The report was noted.

15. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Deposits on the B4264 by heavy vehicles

Councillor Moir reported that there had been a number of instances of heavy lorries using the B4264 route through Miskin where those lorries' tailgates had not been secured. This had resulted in large quantities of mud, dust, and other debris being deposited on the highway.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk report the matter to the highways authority.

(b) Use of School Road, Miskin, by heavy vehicles

Councillor Burton reported several instances where heavy

vehicles had entered Miskin village from the direction of the A4119 in contravention of the regulation prohibiting access into the village by heavy vehicles.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the police.

16. The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.

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