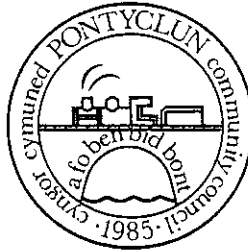


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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, 4 November, 1992

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Forty three members of the public

1. Apology for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors Mrs A Burton and Mr R G Norman

2. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairman's business

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 October, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 October, 1992, be approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of " - Annual General Meeting" after the word "Committee" in the heading of minute 16 (f)

4. Matters arising

(a) Former Bethell Church, Pontyclun

The Clerk advised the Council that following the meeting of 7 October he had been contacted by a resident who wished to be supplied with the names and addresses of Council Members. The resident intended to write to each Member to outline the case for developing the site of the former Bethell Church and to correct any misunderstandings which may have existed.

The report was noted.

(b) Groesfaen Sub Post Office

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted Post Office Counters about the possibility of arranging for a

mobile post office to visit Groesfaen on the day when state benefits were payable. Post Office Counters had declined to offer the facility on the grounds that it would not be financially viable.

The report was noted.

(c) Obstructed footpath, Rhyd-y-Nant, Pontyclun

Councillor Delme Bowen reported on the site meeting which had taken place on the morning of Saturday, 31 October, 1992, where Members had gained first hand experience of the nature of the obstruction to the footpath. The recommendation from the site meeting had been that the Clerk write to the new landowner, Mr Simon Pugh, asking him to erect a stile at either end of his land in order that the public could continue to use the footpath.

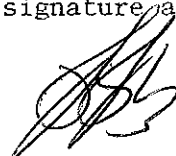
RESOLVED: That the recommendation from the site meeting be adopted.

(d) Planning application for further residential development at Maesvfelin

On behalf of Maesvfelin residents, Mr Stan Baugh addressed the Council on the response he had received from the Ombudsman's Office. Mr Baugh was extremely disappointed at the apparent lack of interest and the dismissive attitude taken by the Secretary to the Commission, Mr David Bowen. Mr Bowen had refused to justify his decision in not recommending the case for investigation by the Ombudsman and Mr Baugh had reluctantly formed the impression that, in this case at least, the Ombudsman's role was to protect the decisions of the establishment rather than to investigate allegations of maladministration.

Mr Baugh also reported that Dr Kim Howells, MP, had raised the matter with the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr David Hunt. Again the representations had been fruitless.

On the practical side the position was unclear since the applicant for planning consent, Evan G Jones (Builders) Ltd, had recently gone into voluntary liquidation. It appeared that the Section 106 Agreement, an integral part of the consent, was ready for signature and would be held



personally by Mr E G Jones. Councillor James informed the Community Council that the Borough Council's policy was not to deal with companies whose directors had previously been involved with companies which had gone into liquidation.

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its deep disappointment at the failure of the Ombudsman's Office to conduct an investigation into the award of planning consent for further residential development on the floodplain of the river Ely at Maesyfelin, Pontyclun.

(e) Spring flowering bulbs

The Clerk referred to the earlier decision of the Council to plant two bags of crocus bulbs, in addition to daffodil bulbs, in grass verges in the Community. He reported on the practical difficulties in planting a large number of small bulbs and suggested that the Council might consider substituting daffodil bulbs for crocus bulbs.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk make arrangements to substitute crocus bulbs with daffodil bulbs.

(ii) That in future years Ward Members become more closely involved in the Council's bulb planting programme.

(f) Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

Councillor John Dilworth reported that the Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils had debated, and approved, the motion submitted by the Community Council on introducing controls on the activities of quarrying companies in relation to Interim Orders. The resolution now formed part of the Association's policy and representations would be made to the Welsh Office.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the MP for the Pontypridd constituency, Dr Kim Howells.

5. Minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 21 October, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 21 October, 1992 be approved as an accurate record.

6. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

7. Letter from Councillor V P James

The Council considered a letter from Councillor V P James, dated 27 October, 1992, expressing his concern about the way in which the Council conducted its business. Councillor James made a number of suggestions for dealing with business more expeditiously.

RESOLVED: That as the matter involved the permanent variation or revocation of Standing Orders, discussion be adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

8. Mr Bob Humphries. Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Taff Ely

The Council received an address from Mr Bob Humphries, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for Taff Ely. Mr Humphries outlined the aims and objectives of Neighbourhood Watch and described his role, and the assistance he could offer in getting residents to set up their own watches. Mr Humphries had no doubt that Neighbourhood Watch was an extremely effective way of reducing crime against property. He quoted the establishment of a Watch at Creigiau where the number of burglaries since the Watch's formation had reduced dramatically. Mr Humphries also pointed out that in those areas where watches had been formed communication in general with the police had improved. Mr Humphries was able to point to the formation of many new watches in Taff Ely and in particular to watches in North Miskin and Danybryn, Brynsadler.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council welcome the establishment of Neighbourhood Watches and wholeheartedly endorse the principle as a means of controlling the increase in crime.

9. Application for financial assistance - Danybryn Neighbourhood Watch

The Council considered an application from the recently established Neighbourhood Watch at Danybryn, Brynsadler, for financial assistance and the facility to display posters in the Council's noticeboard outside Brynsadler post office.

RESOLVED: (i) That a grant of £20.00 be awarded.

(ii) That the Watch Chairman liaise with the Clerk over the display of posters in the Community Council's noticeboards.



10. Access problems from Ynysddu Farm Estate into Pontyclun

The Council received a delegation of residents from Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun, who protested against the actions of Barratt Ltd, housebuilders, in blocking off a footpath on the Estate which residents, and in particular children, had used for some considerable time as a means of safe access into Pontyclun. A spokesperson pointed out that residents regularly traversed the footpath into Pontyclun to gain access to the schools, shops, surgery, clubs and places of worship. The alternative route for pedestrians was via the highway access into the estate. This route was considerably longer and had been acknowledged as being dangerous for pedestrians at the junction with the A4222.

On behalf of the Community Council, Councillor Delme Bowen responded that, technically, Ynysddu Farm Estate fell within the boundary of the Llanharan Community Council and that, while he fully understood why residents had chosen to make representations to the Pontyclun Community Council, strictly speaking those representations should be made to the Llanharan Community Council in the first instance. Councillor Bowen stated that he was aware, too, that the matter had been brought to the attention of the local MP and the local County Council member for Llanharan.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Llanharan Community Council indicating the strength of feeling among residents of Ynysddu Farm Estate against the blockage of the footpath and requesting that that authority make strong representations to Barratts, the Borough Council and the County Council about the importance of keeping the footpath open. Additionally, recognising the value of the footpath to residents, that a suggestion be made about the possibility of diverting Footpath No. 24, to accommodate Ynysddu residents' needs.

11. The Ivor Arms, Brynsadler

Councillor Dilworth addressed the Council about his concern regarding the rumoured development of the Ivor Arms, Brynsadler. He, together with a large number of Brynsadler residents present at the meeting, believed that the Ivor Arms had an unique character which ought not to be destroyed. Councillor Dilworth warned the Council about developments which had taken place at other public houses resulting in different clientele. Frequently these premises were the focus of considerable anti social behaviour late at night. Councillor Dilworth called upon the Borough Council members present at the meeting to take note of the strength of feeling against any development should any application for planning consent come before the Borough Council.

In response, the owner of the Ivor Arms, Mr R Long, who was present at the meeting, requested the Council's permission to correct any misunderstandings which may have arisen. Mr Long confirmed that he planned to develop the Ivor Arms and stated that his plans had been submitted the previous week. He stated that the plans envisaged a limited development with the intention of preserving the character of the building and keeping regular customers. He believed that residents' fears were exaggerated and ill founded.

Councillor Delme Bowen pointed out that the Community Council were only empowered to make observations to the Borough Council on planning applications. Any decision to award, or refuse, planning consent would be the responsibility of the Taff Ely Borough Council as planning authority. At that moment, no planning application had come before the Community Council and any discussion, although useful, was premature. When the application came before the Council careful consideration of the application would need to be made before making comment to the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That discussion on the proposed development be deferred until such time as an application was before the Community Council.

12. Parking problems in the vicinity of Station Terrace, Pontyclun

The Council discussed a letter from Mr L Bailey of 4 Station Terrace, Pontyclun, about parking problems in the vicinity of Station Terrace, Pontyclun. Mr Bailey also sought clarification on the timetable for making up the back lane between Station Terrace and Stuart Street, Pontyclun.

The Council acknowledged that there was a parking problem in Station Terrace and was aware that the joint initiative of British Rail and the Mid Glamorgan County Council to develop Pontyclun railway station would lead to the creation of additional parking facilities near Station Terrace. The Council felt that before any additional representations were made about parking problems in Station Terrace, the effects of the creation of additional parking spaces should be awaited.

Borough Council members on the Community Council stated that the back lane to which Mr Bailey referred in his letter was due to be made up during the current financial year. should be awaited.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk convey the above views to Mr Bailey.

13. Local and Circular Walks

The Council discussed a letter from the County Planning Officer who sought details of local and circular walks within the Community.

RESOLVED: That the matter be referred to a sub committee comprising the Chairman and Councillors Griffith and Norman and that the committee be requested to meet before the end of December.

14. Pontypridd Carnival - July, 1993

The Council considered an invitation to participate in the carnival being planned for Pontypridd on Saturday, 17 July, 1993.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to be represented at the carnival.

15. Community Council office

The Clerk reported that following his letter to the Chief Executive and Clerk of the Borough Council about a possible joint venture to acquire the former doctors' surgery in Clun Avenue, Pontyclun, he had been approached by an officer of the Borough Council's Leisure Services Department who wished to establish what accommodation was available and what the Community Council's requirements would be. The enquiries were tentative since it was known that the agents acting in the disposal of the property were looking for a sale while it was unlikely that the Borough Council could consider anything more than a short lease.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk continue his discussions with the Borough Council

(ii) That with the likely reorganisation of local government on 1 April, 1995, the Clerk make tentative enquiries about the possibility of accommodation surplus to County Council needs becoming available in Brynsadler and Miskin.

16. Planning Notifications for Weeks Ending 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30 October, 1992

At the date of the meeting the weekly notification for week ending 30 October, 1992, had not been received.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the applications contained in the weekly notifications.

17. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 9 to the Agenda.



18. Reports from Members

(a) Borough Council/Community
Councils Joint Liaison Committee

Councillor James reported that the Borough Council had recently reconstituted the Borough Council/Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee. The Chairman of the Committee asked that members of the Committee raise matters of general interest to community Councils in Taff Ely rather than matters of sectional interest. The Chief Executive and Clerk undertook to convene meetings on a regular basis. The Chief Executive and Clerk gave a presentation to the Committee on the latest in Taff Ely's bid to become an unitary authority in the proposed reorganisation of local government in Wales.

The report was noted.

(b) Community Centres in Taff Ely

Councillor James reported that the Borough Council was looking closely at the position of community centres in the Borough with the intention of making them financially self sufficient.

It was proposed to hold a public meeting in the Pontyclun Community Centre, shortly, with the intention of reviewing the work of the management committee and to identify ways of increasing usage of the Centre.

The report was noted.

(c) Taff Ely Police Consultative Committee

Mr Alan Gregory, the Community Council's representative on the Taff Ely Police Consultative Committee, reported that he attended the Committee's last meeting. The consumption of alcohol by juveniles was discussed and although no prosecutions had resulted a number of covert operations had taken place. It was reported that the police had carried out traffic observations but no evidence had emerged of speeding vehicles in Pontyclun. Following complaints observations had been carried out by the police in School Road, Misken. A formal reply to the points which had been raised could be expected shortly.

A general discussion took place on Mr Gregory's report. Some members expressed their disappointment that no

youngsters had been apprehended for the under age consumption of alcohol. It was claimed that the practice was widespread in the Community. Disappointment was also expressed that the monitoring of vehicles in Pontyclun had failed to detect any vehicles breaking the speed limit. It was generally felt that vehicles, and in particular lorries, regularly sped through the village.

Councillor Gordon Moir, noting that the Committee's next meeting was due to take place on 18 November, 1992, asked Mr Gregory to raise the matter of heavy vehicles using School Road, Miskin.

Councillor John Dilworth asked Mr Gregory to convey to the Committee the active role undertaken by the Community Council in monitoring licensed premises within the Community of Pontyclun.

Mr Gregory was also asked raise the matter of the illegal parking of vehicles on the railway bridge in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That Mr Gregory's report be noted.

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

Councillor John Dilworth reported on his attendance at the Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. In detail he reported upon:-

- (i) The acceptance by Conference of the motion of the Pontyclun Community Council calling for the revocation, without compensation, of planning consents for quarrying which had laid dormant for many years.
- (ii) The moves for amendment of Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, in order to allow local councils to award grants to persons participating in sport.
- (iii) The concerns of Conference at the proposals for the restructure of local government in Wales without addressing the major problems of finance and the need for a Welsh Assembly.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.



19. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Community skip service

Councillor Mrs Pam Phillips raised the matter of skip placements in the Community. It was recognised that the service was appreciated by residents and that the Borough Council was always prepared to recognise other sites for the skip placement.

RESOLVED: That if any member was aware of a site for the regular placement of a community skip he, or she, should contact the Clerk in order that the information be passed to the the Borough Council.

(b) Remembrance Day

Councillor Mrs Pam Phillips reminded the Council that Remembrance Day services would take place in Pontyclun and Miskin on Sunday, 8 November, 1992. Councillor Phillips urged Members to attend the services where possible.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Councillor Gordon Moir be responsible for placing the Council's poppy wreaths on the war memorials in Pontyclun and Miskin respectively.

(c) New doctors' surgery, School Street, Pontyclun

Councillor Cyril Bendle reported that a shed was in the course of construction at the new doctors' surgery in School Street, Pontyclun. On investigation it was found that no planning consent existed for the erection of the structure. The Borough Council's Enforcement Officer had called to the site and construction had been suspended. The report of the Enforcement Officer was awaited.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Borough Council to establish what action would be taken to regularise matters.

(d) Street lighting

Councillor Gordon Moir quoted a recent case in his Ward where there had been no street lighting for two days. It was felt that it was unreasonable for a whole street's lighting to be out of commission for two days at one of the darkest times of the year.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Mid Glamorgan County Council to request that where a whole street's public lighting was not working that immediate attention be given to rectifying the problem.

(e) Back lane programme

Councillor Eric Griffith asked if a date had been given by the Borough Council for completion of the resurfacing work in the back lane at the rear of Stuart Street, Pontyclun. The Borough Councillors present responded that they understood that the lane would be completed by the end of the current financial year.

The matter was noted.

(f) "Y Gloran"

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that the Mid Glamorgan County Council had banned schoolchildren from distributing copies of "Y Gloran" on the grounds that as the publication contained a photograph of a politician on its front cover it infringed legislation. The ruling by the local education authority appeared to overlook the fact that other material containing photographs of politicians had been distributed by children without any query being raised.

The matter was noted.

(g) Parking of vehicles on the Windsor bridge

The Chairperson, Councillor Tudor Burton spoke of his concern about the practice of some drivers of parking their vehicles on the Windsor bridge in Pontyclun. The recent narrowing of the highway over the bridge rendered the parking of vehicles dangerous at that location dangerous. The Chairperson asked that the matter be taken up with the County Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Delme Bowen take the matter up at County Council level.

(h) Taff Ely Drug Support

The Clerk informed the Council that the Annual General Meeting of the Taff Ely Drug Support group was scheduled to take place in the Llantwit Fardre Sports Centre, Church Village, at 7.30 p.m. on 12 November, 1992. As a contributor to the group's funds, an invitation to send two representatives to the meeting had been extended to the Community Council.



RESOLVED: That the Clerk notify the Secretary to the group that the Community Council would be represented by two Members at the meeting.

20. The meeting ended at 10.40 p.m.

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