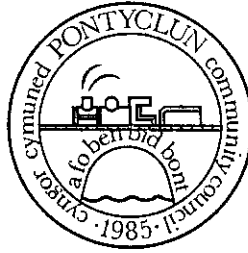


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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 Wednesday, 5 February, 1992

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: PC Steve Keddle and Miss Angela Griffiths of the Llantrisant Observer together with three members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 January, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 January, 1992 be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Groesfaen sub post office

The Council discussed the letters of 8 and 9 January, 1992 to the Community Council and to the Taff Ely Borough Council respectively from the Personnel and Services Manager of Post Office Counters Ltd. The Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss what action could be taken to retain postal facilities in Groesfaen after the contract with the existing sub postmaster expired on 18 January, 1992.

RESOLVED: That a deputation from the Community Council comprising the Chairperson, Councillors Bendle, James and Norman, together with the Clerk, meet the Personnel and Services Manager of Post Office Counters Ltd to discuss the what steps could be taken to retain postal facilities in Groesfaen.

(b) Land at the rear of Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun

The Council discussed the letter of 7 January, 1992, from L G Williams & Pritchard, Solicitors, in which it was stated that when the freehold reversions of houses in Llwynfen Road were sold off, it was the estate's invariable practice to include in the conveyance the abutting portion of the rear lane. It was suggested that in establishing ownership of the rear lane, residents refer to their title deeds.

From residents' comments it appeared that in some cases a drawing had not accompanied the freehold reversion, thus giving rise to the misunderstanding that ownership of the lane still lay with the estate of the lessor.

As the ownership of the lane had now been established it was likely that residents would, on a self help basis, be taking action to improve the surface of the lane.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(c) Planning Application No 56/91/0877

- (i) The Council discussed the letter of from the National Rivers Authority, dated 16 January, 1992, in which the reasons were stated for that Authority's objections to further development at Maesyfelin being withdrawn. The reasons had centred upon an undertaking by the developer to carry out improvements to the river Ely channel and flood plain. The improvements, it was stated, would result in no increased flood levels. The developer was also prepared to enter into a legal agreement to safeguard the improved flood plain area into perpetuity.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk seek clarification from the National Rivers Authority on the the position of the "agreement in perpetuity" in the event of the developer going into liquidation.

- (ii) That the Clerk seek advice from the National Rivers Authority on whether any work would be required to the southern bank of the river Ely.

- (ii) The Council considered a letter from Evan G Jones (Builders), Ltd, in response to the Community Council's suggestion for a footpath to be created from the new development at Maesyfelin into the Maesyfelin playing fields. The view of the company was that they were not prepared to give permission for a footpath from the new development into the adjacent playing fields.

RESOLVED: That the view be noted.

(d) Ynysddu Farm Estate

(i) Possible surplus buildings

The Council noted the reply of Barratt's Managing Director that there would be no surplus buildings on the Ynysddu Farm Estate which would be suitable for the Community Council's use.

(ii) Erection of footbridge

The Chairperson, Councillor Delme Bowen, reported that a site visit had taken place at the junction of the access road into the Estate with the A4222. The County Council representatives had agreed that a real danger existed to pedestrians. In the absence of an agreement that the developers of the Estate would provide a footbridge, the County Council had agreed to provide a footbridge.

The matter was noted.

(e) Roadworks at junction of School Road, Miskin, and the A4119

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the very slow rate of progress on the new road junction at the intersection of School Road, Miskin, with the A4119. The Chairperson, Councillor Delme Bowen, reported that he had made enquiries about the rate of progress with the County Engineer and Surveyor. He had been advised that there was need to consolidate part of the ground at the eastern end of the junction and this had led to slower progress than had initially been envisaged.

Reference was made to the controversial Ynys-y-Plwm development to the north of Talbot Green. It was necessary to in-fill the site with large quantities of stone. It appeared that the Hendy Quarry was a strong contender to supply the stone required. However, it

had been agreed by the County Council that if the stone required was to be extracted from the Hendy Quarry, no deliveries would be made until the traffic restriction at the junction of School Road and the A4119 was lifted.

The Council voiced its grave concern that yet again the residents of Miskin would be subject to considerable nuisance by the need to extract large quantities of stone in a relatively short period of time. The implication for villagers was that the quarry would need to blast every day for approximately a twenty two week period to meet the need for stone at the Ynys-y-Plwm site.

RESOLVED: That in view of the likely significant increase in quarrying activities in the near future, the Environmental Health Department of the Borough Council be notified in order that monitoring be carried out to minimise nuisance to Miskin residents.

(f) Storage of petroleum spirit

The Clerk gave a verbal report on a conversation he had had with an officer of the Mid Glamorgan Fire Service about the possible storage of petroleum spirit in a garage in Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun. The Clerk had been advised that the officer had personally carried out an inspection of the premises and had satisfied himself that no petroleum spirit was being stored. The owner of the garage had agreed to the removal of the sign on the door of the garage which indicated the storage of petroleum spirit.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(g) Ivor Woods - Retaining embankment

The Clerk reported on the site meeting which had taken place on the morning of Saturday, 4 January into the partial collapse of the stone embankment at the southern end of the Ivor Woods. Members at the meeting felt that there was a serious risk of injury to any person in the vicinity of the stone collapse. Members requested the Clerk to contact the builder of the adjacent houses as a matter of urgency and draw the matter to his attention. The Clerk reported that he had made immediate contact with the builder and that remedial work had been carried out.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Clerk be approved.

5. Notice of Motion

The Council discussed the subject of the engagement of professional assistance and of the need to establish, in advance, the cost of such services. Members agreed that in an ideal situation the extent of professional fees needed to be established in advance in order that the Council would be able to budget efficiently. However, it was accepted that in certain cases it would not always be possible to accurately assess professional fees.

RESOLVED: That on those occasions when the Community Council engages professional assistance every effort be made, in advance, to establish the cost of those services.

6. Minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 24 January, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 24 January, 1992 be approved as an accurate record.

7. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

8. Adoption of the Finance Committee's recommendations

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Finance Committee be adopted.

9. Tenders for the construction of the Groesfaen bus shelter

The sealed tenders for the construction of the Groesfaen bus shelter were opened by the Chairperson and Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the contract be awarded to K W Jones & Co Ltd in the sum of £3206.00, this being the lowest tender.

10. District Valuer's Report on premises proposed for use by the Council's Handyman

The Council discussed the report of the District Valuer on premises which had been identified as being suitable for use by the Council's Handyman. The Valuer had assessed a fair rental for the premises as being £10.00 per week whereas the owner of the premises expected a rental of around £25.00 per week.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the owner of the premises, enclosing a copy of the District Valuer's report, and enquiring whether the owner would be prepared to rent the premises to the Community Council for the amount judged to be fair by the District Valuer.

11. Employment Action

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the earlier instructions of the Council he had contacted the Borough Council to establish whether the Employment Action scheme being run by that Authority could carry out any work for the Community Council. The Clerk stated that he had raised the possibility of assistance to reinstate the footpath running between the river Ely and the Otters Brook Trout Pools. He had met officers from the Borough Council on site who confirmed that the scheme was well within their capabilities. The Clerk was also told that under Employment Action it was also possible to carry out a variety of other work which was in the public interest. An invitation was extended by the officers for Members of the Community Council to visit the Borough Council offices at the Millfield Depot, Pontypridd, to gain a wider appreciation of the projects which had already been accomplished under Employment Action.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the officers of Employment Action to arrange a visit to the Millfield Depot for the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson and himself.

12. Play Areas in the Community

The Council discussed the report of the Borough Council's Chief Leisure Services Officer, dated 27 November, 1991, to the Borough Council's Leisure and Recreation Services Committee. The Community Council paid particular regard to the Borough Council's proposals for leisure and recreation facilities within the Community of Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Borough Council to make arrangements for representatives of the Borough Council to meet representatives of the Community Council to establish local needs. The Council nominated Councillors T J Burton, E V Griffith, V P James and R G Norman as the representatives of the Community Council.

13. Traffic congestion in Merthyr Street, Pontyclun

The Clerk reminded the Council that he had written to the County Council on several occasions about traffic congestion in the vicinity of Merthyr Street, Pontyclun. On the last occasion, when a request had been made for the erection of a sign indicating that there was no through road via Merthyr Street, the County Council had replied that it was not prepared to erect signs but suggested that a "no through road" sign could be incorporated as part of the street nameplate. It was suggested by the County Council that as the erection of street nameplates was the function of district Councils, enquiries should be made with the Taff Ely Borough

Council to see if that authority would be prepared to erect a "combined" sign. The Borough Council had responded to the effect that the responsibility for ordering road signs lay with the County Council and that they were referring the Community Council's request to the local Highways and Transportation Depot.

RESOLVED: That the response of the County Council be awaited.

14. Reconstitution of the Borough Council/
Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee

The Community Council was pleased to note that the Borough Council had considered it worthwhile to start holding meetings of the Joint Liaison Committee again.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council's representatives to the Joint Liaison Committee be as determined at the Council's last Annual Meeting, that is, that the representatives be Councillor Mrs O P Phillips and the Clerk.

15. Association of Councillors

The Council noted an invitation from the Association to send a representative to the next meeting of the Association's Welsh Branch due to be held in Llandrindod Wells on Saturday, 15 February, 1992.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to be represented at the meeting on this occasion.

16. Application for financial assistance

The Council considered an application for financial assistance on behalf of the editorial board of the Welsh language newspaper "Tafod Elai"

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100.00 be made.

17. Weekly Planning Notifications for Weeks 51,52,1+2,3 and 4

The Council considered the weekly planning notifications for Weeks 51,52,1+2, 3 and 4.

RESOLVED: That the Council do not offer any comments on the applications to the Borough Council.

18. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 21 to the Agenda.

19. Reports from Members

(a) Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

Councillor Dilworth, as Secretary of the local Area Committee of the Association, drew the Council's attention to the fact that he had been successful in obtaining the services of Mr John Osmond to speak at the next meeting of the of the Committee. Councillor Dilworth reminded the Council that Mr Osmond was one of the foremost campaigners for a Welsh Assembly and spoke very authoritatively on the subject. Councillor Dilworth urged as many Members as possible to attend the next meeting of the Area Committee to hear what promised to be a very interesting presentation. The meeting was scheduled to be held in the Rhymney Valley District Council Offices, Ystrad Fawr, Ystrad Mynach, at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 3 March, 1992.

The report was noted.

(b) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

Councillor Moir reported that following the last meeting of the Liaison Committee, some doubts had been expressed about the future role of the Committee. It was intended that new guidelines would be drawn up for the next meeting of the Committee due to be held on the evening of 19 February. Councillor Moir impressed upon the Council the importance of getting full Community Council representatives' attendance at the next meeting of the Liaison Committee in order that the views of residents be adequately represented at the meeting.

The report was noted.

(c) Upgrading of sewerage facilities

Councillor Norman was pleased to be able to report that work had commenced on the upgrading of the sewerage facilities at Lon-yr-Awel and David's Court, Pontyclun. There was also a possibility that during the construction of the new sewer, preliminary work would be carried out to provide an inlet to cater for the proposed new Hendy development.

The report was noted.

(d) Mwyndy Lane

The Chairperson, Councillor Delme Bowen, advised the Council that a County Council scheme for the upgrading of Mwyndy Lane, Mwyndy, was due to be considered by a committee of the County Council on the following day. Councillor Bowen promised to keep Members abreast of developments.

The report was noted.

(e) Conference on water quality

The Chairperson, Councillor Delme Bowen, reported that he, together with the Clerk, had attended a one day conference organised by Welsh Water on water quality in Wales. The conference had been addressed by Mr John Elwyn Jones, Chairman of Welsh Water. Mr Jones, while accepting that the quality of water in many parts of Wales was below an acceptable standard, laid great emphasis on the under funding of the water industry prior to privatisation and the efforts which had been made since privatisation to redress the balance. He pointed out that Welsh Water were by no means complacent and had set themselves stringent targets to ensure that European directives on water quality would be met in the foreseeable future. In his address Mr Jones attempted to clarify some of the confusion over Welsh Water's attempts to diversify and explained the rationale behind the proposals to form closer working links with South Wales Electricity plc.

The report was noted.

20. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Pedestrian access to Ynysddu Farm Estate

Mr Thomas, former headteacher at the Pontyclun Junior School, spoke to the Council about the dangers facing pedestrians who wished to access and exit from the Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun. He spoke strongly about the need to create a safe footway for pedestrians. The Chairperson, Councillor Delme Bowen, gave Mr Thomas the good news that the County Council had recognised the need to provide safe pedestrian access and egress from the Estate and intended building a footbridge.

Mr Thomas stated that he believed it was a good idea to provide a footpath at the southern end of the Estate in

order that pedestrians could obtain easy access to village facilities.

RESOLVED: That, in the first instance, approaches be made to the Llantrisant and Llanharan Community Councils with a view to securing their support for a southern pedestrian access to the Estate from Pontyclun.

(b) New main sewer - associated groundworks

Mr Thomas also spoke of his deep concern at the apparent lack of care for the countryside, and walkers, being displayed by the civil engineering contractors responsible for laying the new sewer in Pontyclun. Mr Thomas cited the footpath alongside the river Clun and said that large sections had been destroyed or made inaccessible as a result of the earthworks. In addition, large swathes had been cut through woodlands.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Welsh Water asking what plans existed to restore the area and whether their contractors could exercise more care to ensure that well used footpaths remained accessible to the public.

(c) Sponsored Walk in aid of the Kidney Research Unit Foundation for Wales

The Chairperson, Councillor Delme Bowen, referred to the earlier decision of the Council to organise the fourth annual sponsored walk in aid of kidney research in the Community. Councillor Bowen advised the Council that he had invited Councillors Mrs Anita Burton and Mrs Pam Phillips to assist him. Mrs Burton and Mrs Phillips had already enlisted the assistance of other Members and organisations in the Community. The sponsored walk was due to take place on the morning of Sunday, 22 March, 1992, and work was already at an advanced stage in planning a different route for the sponsored walkers.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(d) Unilluminated roadworks

Councillor Eric Griffith reported that there were roadworks at the junction of Station Approach and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun which were not illuminated at night. There was a significant risk to public safety.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up as a matter of urgency with the County Council.

(e) Parking problems, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

Councillor Cyril Bendle raised the matter of parking problems outside Leekes Store in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. On Saturdays and Sundays motorists were regularly double parking in Llantrisant Road in addition to parking on pavements and at the junctions with the A4222.

RESOLVED: That the matter be referred to the police.

(f) The late Councillor Elfyn Hopkin

The Clerk distributed copies of a letter which had been received from Mrs Kate Hopkin of "Llysfaen" Groesfaen, thanking the Council for its kind message of sympathy following the death of her husband, former Councillor Elfyn Hopkin.

RESOLVED: That Mrs Hopkin's letter be noted.

21. The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.