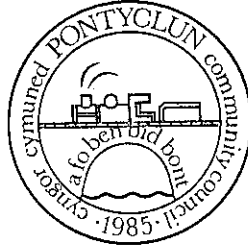


## CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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, 7 October, 1992

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public

1. Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Community Councillor Mr C G Bendle

2. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairman's business

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 September, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 September, 1992, be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Report on the Welsh Language in Taff Ely

The Council discussed the report on the Welsh language which had been prepared by a working party established by the Executive Committee of the Urdd National Eisteddfod - Taff Ely. The working party's remit had been to prepare a report on the language and make firm recommendations to the Executive Committee for the promotion of the language in Taff Ely.

The Council heard of the successful public meetings which had taken place in Taff Ely coinciding with the publication of the report, and considered what ways it could foster the use of the language in the Community.

RESOLVED: (i) That a Member of the Council be allowed to progress business in the Council chamber through the medium of Welsh provided that an instantaneous translation be provided.

(ii) That the same right be accorded to any member of the public wishing to address the Council.

(iii) That an amendment be made to the Council's Standing Orders to reflect the changes.

(b) Discretionary expenditure -  
Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972

The Council considered the District Auditor's letter of 25 August, 1992, Legal Topic Note 45 from the National Association of Local Councils together with the Clerk's letter to the District Auditor dated 16 September, 1992. The Clerk also reported on the conversation with the District Auditor when the latter confirmed that he was unable to offer any practical guidelines to the Community Council on the implementation of the amendments to Section 137 to the Local Government Act, 1972.

RESOLVED: That a special meeting of the Community Council be convened to review the award of grants made at the Council's meeting of 8 July, 1992, to ensure that each grant fulfilled the criteria specified in the amended Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

(c) Application for financial assistance from SPLASH

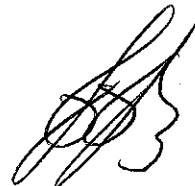
RESOLVED: That the application be deferred to the special meeting of the Council referred to in (b) above.

(d) Late applications for grant

RESOLVED: That the schedule of late applications for grant be deferred to the special meeting of the Council referred to in (b) above.

(e) Refusal of planning permission for development at the site of the former Bethel Church, Pontyclun

Arising out of a query at the Council's meeting of 2 September, 1992, the Clerk reported that it would not



be possible for the developer to submit a variation to his original proposals to gain planning consent. It would be necessary for a completely new application to be submitted to the local planning authority.

5. Derelict garages on the Hendy Estate, Pontyclun

Councillor Norman reported that the Taff Ely Borough Council had taken a decision to demolish all the garages on the Hendy Estate, Pontyclun. Tenders had been invited to carry out the work. No decision had been taken about the future use of the land.

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton spoke of her deep concern that the sites of the former garages would become parking areas for heavy goods vehicles. She urged the Borough Council members present at the meeting to resist any proposals along these lines.

The report was noted.

6. Groesfaen sub post office

The Council was dismayed to learn that despite of all its efforts over the last nine months to keep post office facilities in Groesfaen, Post Office Counters Ltd had closed the temporary post office on 3 October. It had been stated by Post Office Counters that as no applicants with suitable premises had come forward to run a sub post office there was no alternative to closure. The Council noted, however, the commitment given by Post Office Counters to restore post office facilities in the village should a suitable applicant, with premises, come forward at some time in the future.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That a copy of Post Office Counters' letter be sent to the secretary of the Groesfaen Action Committee.
  - (ii) That a copy of Post Office Counters' letter be placed in the Community Council's noticeboard in Groesfaen.
  - (iii) That the Clerk contact Post Office Counters about the possibility of a mobile post office visiting Groesfaen on the days when pensions were due for payment.
  - (iv) That the Clerk write to the Western Mail to express the view that the onus for providing premises for sub post offices should lay with Post Office Counters rather than with residents.

7. County Court Judgement

The Council noted the County Court Judgement in the case of Gavin Davies (Minor) and the Chairman and Secretary of the Pontyclun Football Club (1st defendant), Pontyclun Community Council (2nd defendant) and N.A.C.R.O. (3rd defendant).

The Clerk stated that he had contacted the Council's insurers' and established that a sum of £500 had been paid in accordance with the judgement. Details of legal costs had not been received by the insurers.

The matter was noted.

8. Miskin War Memorial

The Council was disappointed with the response of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to the Community Council's earlier request for confirmation of the names recorded on the Miskin War Memorial. Of the twenty seven servicemen's names where clarification had been requested the Commission had only been able to confirm 7 names.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council continue to make local enquiries in an attempt to identify all 21 remaining indistinct names.

(ii) That, in view of the current economic situation, the Clerk seek assurances from the monumental mason engaged for the restoration work that the Council's deposit money was safe.

9. Castell-y-Mwnws bus shelter

The Council considered a letter dated 8 September, 1992, from Miss Amanda Lewis, a resident of Castell-y-Mwnws, Brynsadler, about the Community Council constructed bus shelter matters at Castell-y-Mwnws. In her letter Miss Lewis also raised a number of other matters related to public services in Castell-y-Mwnws. Miss Lewis was present at the meeting and posed a number of questions to the Council about the construction of the bus shelter and the apparent lack of certain public services at Castell-y-Mwnws.

Miss Lewis was given a verbal reply to each of the points raised and offered advice on the respective responsibilities of the County Council and Borough Council for providing certain services at Castell-y-Mwnws. Miss Lewis was told that she would receive a written reply to the points raised in her letter of 8 September.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk reply to Miss Lewis outlining the steps taken by the Community Council before the erection of the bus shelter at Castell-y-Mwnws and offering guidance on the authorities responsible for the provision of the other services quoted in her letter.

10. Obstructed footpath - Rhyd-y-Nant/Maesyfelin

Councillor Delme Bowen informed the Council that he had received numerous representations from local residents about the obstructions which had been placed across the footpath connecting Rhyd-y-Nant with Maesyfelin, Pontyclun. It appeared that the land in question had recently been sold and that the new owner had erected fences across the route of the footpath which the public had traversed for many years.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk make investigations about the possibility route being a designated right of way.

(ii) That the Clerk make enquiries about the possibility of rights of access existing as a result of many years of use by local anglers.

(iii) That the Clerk convene a site meeting with the new owner of the land.

11. Application for planning consent for further residential development at Maesyfelin

Mr Stanley Baugh and Mr Roy Davies, residents of the Maesyfelin Estate, addressed the Council about the reply which had been received from the Ombudsman's office on the preliminary investigation into the complaint of maladministration against the National Rivers Authority/ Taff Ely Borough Council over the application for planning consent for further residential development on Maesyfelin.

The reply had disappointed residents of Maesyfelin in that the conclusion from the preliminary investigation was that there was no evidence of maladministration on the part of either authority. However, the Ombudsman's office had refused to disclose the correspondence which he had entered into and there was no explanation why the National Rivers Authority had been selective in providing information only on the 1981 flood. Floodwater levels in earlier years were known to have exceeded the 1981 level.

The Council recalled that when it wished to construct a small footbridge on the Maesyfelin flood plain in 1988 the predecessor body to the National Rivers Authority had insisted on the lowest part of the structure being erected "at least 500mm above the Q100 flood level". In effect, this meant that the bridge had to be built 500mm higher than the highest floodwater level expected in 100 years. The Council was at a loss to understand how a much lower criterion was regarded as being satisfactory for residential development.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Ombudsman expressing the disquiet of the Council, strongly urging him to reconsider his preliminary decision, and recommend the case for further investigation.

12. Taff Ely in Europe Celebrations

The Council noted the information received from the Borough Council on the events which were due to take place in the Borough to mark the Taff Ely in Europe Celebrations, 1992.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the programme be displayed in each of the Council's noticeboards.

13. Possibility of acquiring a Council Office

The Clerk reported on the enquiries he had made with the Borough Council on the possibility of entering into a joint project with the Borough Council to acquire a Council Office in the Community. The Clerk had received a reply, that day, from the Chief Planning and Economic Development Officer to the effect that he was not aware of any Borough Council need for premises in Pontyclun but that he was circulating the Community Council's letter to other Chief Officers in the Borough Council for comment.

RESOLVED: That the reply be noted and that the subject be placed on the Community Council's agenda for the November monthly meeting.

14. Planning Notifications for Weeks Ending  
4, 11, 18 and 25 September and 2 October, 1992

The Council considered details of planning applications contained in weekly notifications for weeks ending 4, 11, 18 and 25 September and 2 October, 1992.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk obtain further details of application no. 92/0695/10.

15. Payment of creditors

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

16. Reports from Members

(a) Children's playarea

Councillor Norman reported that work to refurbish the Borough Council's children's playarea in Cowbridge Road,

Pontyclun, had commenced and would result in the availability of modern and safe furniture.

The report was noted.

(b) Child safety barrier, Groesfaen

Councillor Norman reported that the child safety barrier in Groesfaen, to which he had referred in the Council's last meeting, had now been installed by the County Council.

The report was noted.

(c) Narrowing of highway, Pontyclun

Councillors Gordon Norman and Delme Bowen both reported on the narrowing of the highway over, and adjacent to, the railway bridge in Pontyclun. Councillor Norman stated that the narrowing had led to complaints from residents and a number of minor accidents. Councillor Bowen reminded the Council that the County Council had been requested to install traffic lights at the junction of Station Approach and Llantrisant Road when the proposal to re-open the railway station in Pontyclun was first raised. Regrettably, there had been no further consultation and the solution adopted to improve vision at the junction had resulted in the current complaints. Councillor Bowen stated that he had called for a meeting with the chairman of the County Council's Highways Committee. The meeting was due to take place on 9 October and Councillor Bowen would report back to the Community Council on the outcome.

The reports were noted.

(d) Pontyclun railway station

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that while it was very encouraging to see the railway station in Pontyclun being re-opened, he was concerned at the complaints about a shortage of space for passengers on the new trains. British Rail were investigating the complaints with a view to making improvements.

The report was noted.



(e) Broken fence near Pontyclun Fire Station

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that he had been successful in getting a contractor working in the vicinity to repair the broken fence near the Pontyclun Fire Station. He had also been successful in getting several other repaired fences on the Hendy Estate.

The report was noted.

(f) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

Councillor Gordon Moir gave a report on the annual meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee which took place on 23 September, 1992. The meeting was amicable. Dr Gandy of the Mid Glamorgan County Council reported that he was carrying out more research and would report back to a future meeting of the Committee. The next meeting of the Committee was arranged for January, 1993.

The report was noted.

(g) Wales Association of Community and Town Councils - Annual Conference

Councillor John Dilworth reminded the Council that he would be speaking at the Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community and Town Council on Saturday, 10 October. He would be raising the anomalies of Interim Orders in quarrying where they could lay dormant for many years and be resurrected when the prevailing climate was totally different from the time when they were first granted. Councillor Dilworth was hopeful of obtaining the support of the Association in making representations for change.

The matter was noted.

(h) Merthyr Street nameplate

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton pointed out that despite the numerous representations made to the Borough Council and the County Council, the street nameplate for Merthyr Street had still not been replaced.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk again take the matter up with the Borough Council.





(i) Junction of Station Approach  
with Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

The Chairperson, Councillor Tudor Burton, expressed his concern about the unsatisfactory arrangements for pedestrians wishing to cross the highway at the junction of Station Approach and Llantrisant Road. The number of pedestrians crossing the highway at this point had increased significantly with the opening of the new railway station. Councillor Burton believed that a panda crossing would best serve pedestrians' needs.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bowen raise the matter at the site meeting with County Council representatives which was scheduled for Friday, 9 October.

(j) Safety concerns - Pontyclun railway station

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that following the concerns expressed by the Community Council about the possibility of children wandering on to the railway line, representatives of British Rail would be speaking to pupils at the Junior School and Y Pant Comprehensive School. British Rail staff would be showing a video highlighting the dangers of playing near railway lines.

The report was noted.

(k) Chain letters

Councillor John Dilworth produced an example of a chain letter which was currently circulating in the Community. The letter invited the recipients to forward a sum of money to a given address.

RESOLVED: That the Council advise residents against participation in such "get rich quick" schemes in the next publication of "CLUN"

(l) Reorganisation of local government -  
Public meeting in Llantrisant

Councillor John Dilworth reported that he had recently attended a public meeting in Llantrisant called to discuss the reorganisation of local government. He had attended as a delegate of the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils and had taken the opportunity to support the Taff Ely Borough Council's case for unitary status.

The report was noted.



17. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) 1992 Wage Awards

The Clerk reported the receipt of the wage award notifications for:

The JNC for Local Authorities Manual Workers  
The National Joint Council for Local Authorities Building and Civil Engineering Staff  
The National Joint Council for Local Authorities APT and C Staff

The increase in each case corresponded to an increase of 4.1% . The increases had been implemented.

The matter was noted.

(b) Council owned plot of land adjacent to St David's Church, Miskin

The Clerk read out legal advice, which had been received too late for inclusion with the Agenda, relating to the application by a tenant of a Community Council owned plot of land in Miskin who wished to purchase the freehold reversion. The Clerk also read out a letter which had been received that morning from the Vicar of St David's Church, Miskin, about the same plot of land, inviting the Council to consider the restoration of the access into the Church, with provision for the disabled.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council decline the request to sell the freehold reversion to the tenant.

(ii) That the Council agree in principle to earmark the ground for the restoration of the access into St David's Church, as a community benefit, albeit that the development was seen as a medium to long term scheme.

(iii) That the matter of funding be referred to the next meeting of the Council's Finance Committee.

(c) Remembrance Day

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a poppy wreath for each of the Pontyclun and Miskin War Memorials.

(d) Spring flowering bulbs

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to purchase ten sacks of daffodils and two sacks of crocuses for planting in the grass verges within the Community.

18. The meeting ended at 10.40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. B. B. B.', is written over the text of item 18.