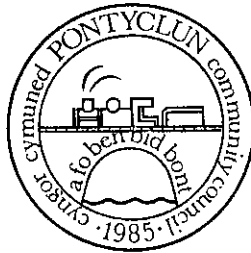


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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, 1 December, 1993

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

P C Steve Keddle, for part of the meeting, and two members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen,

2. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 3 November, 1993

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 3 November, 1993, be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) "Jigso"

The Council discussed the information received from Liz Hughes, Coordinator of "Jigso".

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and that the Clerk inform Liz Hughes that the Community Council had decided not to take any further action.

(b) Local Government Forum

The Chairman, Councillor Eric Griffith and Councillor Tudor Burton, together with the Clerk, who were the Council's delegates to the Forum held in Ystrad Mynach on

Eric Griffith

the morning of 13 November, 1993, commented favourably on the value of the event to community councils throughout Wales. The event was extremely well supported by community councils and addresses were received from eminent politicians and local government officials at the highest levels. A senior civil servant from the Welsh Office was also present as an observer.

There was unanimous agreement from all speakers addressing the forum that a Bill to reorganise local government would be announced in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the new session of Parliament on 18 November, 1993. There was also a large measure of agreement that the proposals for reform would closely follow the White Paper published earlier in the year by the government. It was widely predicted that the roles of community and town councils would be strengthened and that the process for the dissolution of community and town councils would be amended to provide for more public involvement.

The forum ended with a question and answer session from the floor to a panel of local government experts.

At the conclusion of the forum Councillor John Dilworth, the Association's East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee's Secretary, was congratulated on having organised an important event in the process leading up to the reorganisation of local government. Councillor Dilworth was praised for his hard work in obtaining authoritative speakers from a wide political spectrum. In acknowledgement, Councillor Dilworth thanked delegates for attending the forum and announced plans to hold a further seminar in a year's time on how community and town councils perceived democracy and the management of Wales under a future democratically elected Welsh Parliament.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dilworth's detailed report on the proceedings at the forum be circulated to each Member of the Council with the Agenda for the Council's meeting of 5 January, 1994.

(c) Planning Applications No.s 93/0774/10 and 93/0804/10

The Clerk reported that he had not received details of either application from the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That reminders be sent to the Borough Council and that the details be placed before the Council at its meeting on 5 January, 1994.

(d) Dipali restaurant, Pontyclun

Councillor John Dilworth drew the Council's attention to an application by the proprietor of the Dipali restaurant, Pontyclun, for a variation to the planning consent for his premises which, if granted, would enable him to keep his restaurant open until midnight every night.

Councillor Dilworth reminded the Council that the proprietor of the Dipali restaurant had paid scant regard to the terms of his existing planning consent and regularly remained open beyond his authorised times. It was also considered that the proprietor had done little to discourage vehicle drivers from parking on the pavement outside his restaurant. The police, who were concerned about the dangerous practice, had ceased to warn drivers since this had proved ineffective and, lately, a number of fixed penalty tickets had been issued. The actions of the proprietor had alienated residents living in the vicinity of the restaurant. Councillor Dilworth urged the Council to oppose the application for a variation in the planning consent for the premises.

RESOLVED: That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that further avoidable breaches of the law were likely to occur if the application is approved.

(e) Miskin War Memorial

The Clerk reported a recent conversation with the vicar of St Paul's Church, Pontyclun, Reverend Martin Reynolds, when it had been brought to the Clerk's attention that, following restoration of a war memorial, it was not unusual to hold a service of re-dedication. The Clerk had advised the Reverend Reynolds that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Community Council at its next meeting.

RESOLVED: (i) That a service of re-dedication not be held.

(ii) That the Clerk make enquiries about the possibility of erecting a small metal link fence around the Miskin War Memorial and Miskin Green.

(f) Pontyclun Community Centre

Reports were received from those Members of the Community Council who were able to attend the meeting held in the Community Centre on 24 November, 1993 about the Borough Council's plans to build a replacement Community Centre. There had been agreement that the new facility would also include provision for a day centre and a shoppers' car park. It was anticipated that Phase 1 of the development, that is the replacement of the existing Community Centre, would be completed during June, 1994. Members wished to place on record their appreciation of the very hard work undertaken by Councillor Gordon Norman in progressing the development.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

(g) Trees at the rear of premises in The Hollies, Brynsadler

The Clerk advised the Council of the enquiries he had made with the Borough Council and the County Council about trees in the Ivor Woods at the rear of No.s 9 and 10 The Hollies, Brynsadler. The residents had alleged that overhanging boughs were dangerous.

In the course of his enquiries the Clerk had discovered that the residents had already made contact with Mr Brian Moss, the County Council's tree specialist. Mr Moss had held a site meeting and had advised residents that while he was of the view that there was no danger from overhanging boughs, there was, nevertheless, a certain amount of shade which was cast into residents' gardens. Mr Moss had advised residents that the trees in question were covered by a tree preservation order. However, it was possible for residents to apply to the County Council for consent to trim back any branches causing nuisance.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk write to the residents of No.s 9 and 10 The Hollies reiterating what had already been said to them by Mr Moss of the County Council.

(ii) That a site meeting be held in the Ivor Woods on the morning of Saturday, 4 December, 1993 to investigate allegations that residents had removed the fence delineating the boundary between properties in The Hollies and the Ivor Woods.

(h) Proposed Cefn-yr-Hendy development

The Council discussed the letter of 5 November, 1993, from the Principal Planning Officer for the Land Authority for Wales in which he sought to reassure the Council that a thorough site investigation had taken place of the area around the Hendy Farm. Nevertheless, he had forwarded the Community Council's letter of 19 October, 1993, together with the plan showing mineworkings beneath Cefn-yr-Hendy to the consultant who had undertaken the initial survey, for his observations.

A reply from the consultant had been received since the Council's agenda for the meeting of 1 December, 1993, had been compiled and distributed. The Clerk read out the reply which said that "in our detailed geotechnical investigation carried out for your authority between January and June, 1992, we considered the effect of the old mineworkings on the proposed development. Figure 4 of our Geotechnical Mining Report No. 5177/C dated July 1992 is a reproduction of the mining plan referred to by Pontyclun Community Council and enclosed in their letter of 19 October 1993".

"The above mining plan was fully examined in our detailed mining study and its findings together with implications are discussed in detail in our above Geotechnical Report".

RESOLVED: (i) That the correspondence from the Land Authority for Wales and its planning consultants be noted.

(ii) That the Clerk arrange for a copy of the planning consultants' letter dated 9 November, 1993, be made available to every Member of the Council.

(i) Abandoned Brofiskin Quarry, Groesfaen

The Clerk read out the letter of 26 November, 1993, from the County Planning Officer in which he stated the County Council's policy for the treatment of contaminated industrial land in conjunction with the Welsh Development Agency. It appeared that the Brofiskin site would probably be submitted to the WDA for inclusion in their next roll forward programme, along with similar sites, but the County Planning Officer was not confident that treatment would automatically or quickly follow.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(j) Planning application for consent for residential development on the site of the Talbot Green Golf Club

Councillor John Dilworth advised the Council that he had been informed that the appeal by the Llantrisant and Pontyclun Golf Club against the decision of the Borough Council not to award planning consent for residential development was due to be heard on 7 December, 1993. Councillor Dilworth understood that Talbot Green residents had commissioned a planning consultant to support their contention that planning consent should not be allowed.

The matter was noted.

(k) Windsor Field - Proposed extension

Councillor Dilworth commented on the proposals of the Borough Council to extend the Windsor Field, Pontyclun, into adjacent woodland for the purpose of creating additional recreational facilities. Councillor Dilworth stated that the woods were in the ownership of the Land Authority for Wales whom he had corresponded with in the summer over the matter of an overgrown hedge opposite the police houses in Miskin. The Land Authority for Wales had earlier given Councillor Dilworth an assurance that the offending hedge would be cut back. As no work had been carried out, and there was now a distinct possibility that the land would be conveyed to the Borough Council, Councillor Dilworth intended to take the matter of the unfulfilled promise up with the Land Authority for Wales.

The matter was noted.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) Pontyclun War Memorial

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton drew the Council's attention to the first class workmanship carried out on the refurbished Miskin war memorial. Councillor Mrs Burton reminded the Council that there was a memorial in Pontyclun which had not been refurbished for many years. She invited the Council to consider carrying out an appropriate refurbishment to the Pontyclun war memorial.

E.V.G.

RESOLVED: (i) That in principle the Council would have no objection to refurbishing the memorial provided that appropriate enquiries had been carried out to establish ownership and responsibility for maintenance before incurring any expenditure.

(ii) Notwithstanding (i) the Clerk arrange for a photographic record to be created of the inscriptions on the memorial.

(iii) That after the enquiries about ownership and responsibility for the maintenance of the memorial had been concluded, the matter be brought back to the Council for decision.

(b) Footpath obstructions

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton expressed her concern at the habit of certain vehicle drivers who persistently parked their vehicles on the pavement outside the Bute Arms in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. Not only was the practice dangerous to pedestrians attempting to use the pavement but it was also illegal

RESOLVED: That the police be requested to investigate the matter.

6. Proposed new access road to the Mwyndy Industrial Estate

A discussion took place on the County Secretary and Solicitor's letter of 22 November, 1993, in response to the Community Council's letter of 13 July, 1993, in which the Community Council's observations had been given on the County Council's plans to construct a new access road into the Mwyndy Industrial Estate. The Community Council was unhappy that the County Council had responded in a totally negative way.

RESOLVED: (i) That copies of the correspondence between the Community Council and the County Council be forwarded to Mr Dan Clayton Jones of "Mwyndy House", Mwyndy, for his information.

(ii) That the Clerk also forward copies of the exchange of correspondence with the County Council to the Ombudsman for a view on whether the County Council had acted within its powers in the matter.

7. Blasting at Hendy Quarry

The Council discussed the letter of 5 November, 1993 from the Chief Environmental Services Officer of the Taff Ely Borough Council. Members were concerned to learn that in view of the long history of complaints about vibrations resulting from blasting in recent years and earlier assurances from the Borough Council that it would independently monitor vibrations, on the day in question the Taff Ely Borough Council monitoring equipment was not in use. As a result it had been necessary to ask the quarry operator for information on the blast.

In the Community Council's view it was hardly surprising that the quarry operator had replied that "vibrations levels were low and not greater than other recent blasts". The reply was seen as bizarre in view of the fact that the vibrations on the day in question were strong enough to dislodge previously undisturbed dust in the roof space of St David's Church, Miskin.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk respond to the Chief Environmental Health Officer of the Borough Council to convey the disappointment of the Community Council at the lack of Borough Council monitoring on the day of the complaints, especially when residents were looking to the Borough Council to act as an independent source of monitoring.

(ii) That the Clerk convey the Community Council's disbelief to the Borough Council over the quarry operator's claim that on the day in question "vibration levels were low, and not greater than other recent blasts" when there was indisputable evidence that the strength of the vibrations had dislodged previously undisturbed dust in the roof spaces of St David's Church, Miskin.

(iii) That the Borough Council be urged to install permanent blast monitoring equipment in the vicinity of the quarry.

8. Extraordinary invoice for water charges - public conveniences, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

The Council discussed the extraordinary bill for water charges at the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, together with the explanations offered by Welsh Water and the legal advice provided through the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. There was general agreement that the so called letter of explanation from Welsh Water on how the alleged underpayment had accrued was confusing. As a result the Council's confidence in the explanation was considerably weakened.

RESOLVED: (i) That Welsh Water be told that the Council found its letter of 2 November, 1993, totally confusing.

(ii) That the Council implement the advice contained in the letter from the legal adviser to the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

9. Difficulty of access, High Street, Brynsadler

The Council discussed the correspondence which had taken place over difficulty of access to High Street, Brynsadler. In a letter dated 4 November, 1993, the Borough Council had stated that traffic management powers lay with the County Council and that the letters from Mr Giles, of High Street, Brynsadler, and the Community Council would be forwarded to the County Engineer and Surveyor.

In response to claims that the police had chosen to take no action, even though they considered that offences were being committed, P C Keddle informed the Council that he had received a reply from the Traffic Management Section of the South Wales Constabulary to the effect that while there was certainly a problem, the type of problem was so common that it was inadvisable for the police to take action. P C Keddle pointed out that a similar situation existed at The Hollies in Brynsadler.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

10. Complaint of airborne pollution in Talygarn

The Council considered the reply of Mr J L Barnett, H M Principal Pollution Inspector at the H M Inspectorate of Pollution, in response to a complaint about airborne pollution which had been referred to the Community Council.

RESOLVED: (i) That the letter be noted.

(ii) That a copy of the letter from the Inspectorate of Pollution be forwarded to Mrs O Bufton, Talygarn Close, Pontyclun.

11. Purolite Joint Liaison Committee

The Council was pleased to learn that following its representations about the lack of a Pontyclun representative on the Purolite Joint Liaison Committee, the Borough Council had agreed to the inclusion of Councillor John Dilworth on the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

12. Newsletter No.4 - Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

RESOLVED: That the Council note the receipt of Newsletter No.4 from the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

13. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 17 to the Council's Agenda.

14. Planning - Weekly Notifications for Weeks ending 5th, 12th and 19th November, 1993

RESOLVED: That the applications be noted.

15. Reports from Members

(a) Taff Ely Bus Users Consultative Committee

Councillor Mrs Pam Phillips reported that a meeting of the newly constituted Taff Ely Bus Users Consultative Committee had recently been called at the offices of the Pontypridd Town Council in Pontypridd. Unfortunately, although all appointed members of community councils in Taff Ely were present, together with representatives of local omnibus operators, only one member of the Pontypridd Town Council had attended. It was ruled that because the Pontypridd Town Council had been instrumental in calling the meeting, and most of the Town Council members were not present, the meeting could not proceed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's action in complaining at the absence of Town Council members be confirmed.

(b) Remembrance Day Service, Miskin

Councillor Gordon Moir reported that he had attended the Remembrance Day Service in Miskin on 14 November, 1993, as a representative of the Community Council and had placed a poppy wreath on the newly refurbished Miskin war memorial. Councillor Moir reported that there was considerable praise from those at the service for the action taken by the Community Council in refurbishing the war memorial.

The report was noted.

(c) Remembrance Day - Work undertaken by the Community Council's Handyman

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that it was pleasing to

see the main thoroughfare in Pontyclun free from litter in time for the Remembrance Day march from St Paul's Church to the war memorial in Cowbridge Road. Councillor Norman asked that the Council's Handyman be congratulated on his efforts and invited the Council to show its appreciation for his diligence.

RESOLVED: That in recognition for the Handyman's efforts on the morning of Sunday, 14 November, 1993, he be awarded one day's additional leave entitlement for 1993/94.

(d) Pedestrian Footbridge at Ynysddu, Pontyclun

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that he was pleased to see that the County Council had finally completed all the outstanding work in the vicinity of the newly erected pedestrian footbridge at Ynysddu, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk approach the Llanharan Community Council and the Mid Glamorgan County Council about the possibility of holding an official opening ceremony.

(e) Annual Meeting of the Taff Ely Drug Support group

Councillor Tudor Burton gave a report on his attendance at the annual meeting of the Taff Ely Drug Support group. Councillor Burton had learnt that the group were able to give advice on a wide variety of problems associated with drug mis-use and he had been surprised to learn that there had been 20 contacts from the Pontyclun area. Although the group was primarily based in Church Village it was pleasing to note that through its outreach workers the group was able to assist throughout the Borough and, on occasion, had assisted in other parts of Wales. Councillor Burton reported that he was impressed with the work of the group and strongly urged the Community Council to continue its policy of making an annual grant towards the their work.

The report was noted.

(f) Taff Ely Police Liaison Committee

Councillor Tudor Burton gave a report on his attendance at the last meeting of the Taff Ely Police Liaison Committee. Councillor Burton was surprised to find that despite the committee having been formed for some

considerable time, much of the discussion centred around the committee's terms of reference. When Councillor Burton had attempted to raise a matter connected with vandalism he had been ruled out of order and been told to report the matter to his local police station in Talbot Green. Councillor Burton had formed the view that if the committee was to make a worthwhile contribution to policing it needed to get its terms of reference resolved quickly and to concentrate its efforts on those matters which were causing concern among residents.

The report was noted.

16. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Wales Association of Community and Town Councils - East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee

Councillor John Dilworth informed the Council that at the next meeting of the Area Committee on 7 December, 1993, an address would be given by Mr Alan Twelvetrees on Community Strategies. Councillor Dilworth believed that the address would be an interesting one and extended an invitation to any interested Members to attend.

The matter was noted.

(b) Footpath in Miskin village

Councillor Gordon Moir reported that during wet periods the footpath to The Drive, which ran parallel to Miskin Lodge, regularly held large pools of muddy water. Effectively, the footpath could not be used by residents during periods of heavy rain.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handyman to advise on methods for improving the drainage along the footpath.

(c) Lighting columns - broken glass

Councillor Gordon Gordon Moir reported a recent incident where bulbs of lighting columns in Miskin were being replaced in Miskin. It appeared that the workmen who were carrying out the replacements had deliberately broken the changed bulbs on site and had left the broken glass strewn underneath the lighting columns.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Viv James would investigate the matter with the Borough Council on the following morning.

(d) Footpath lighting - Windsor Field, Pontyclun

In response to a question from Councillor Viv James the Clerk reported that he had initially received a complaint from Councillor Dilworth that the footpath lighting along the Windsor Field was out of order. The Clerk had arranged for an inspection of the installation. The report on the inspection had revealed that the electricity "pillar" adjacent to the Pontyclun R F C clubhouse had been severely damaged, presumably by a vehicle. It was necessary to disconnect the pillar in the interests of safety and to order a new one. The new pillar had recently been delivered and fixed in position. The Clerk was now awaiting upon SWALEC to reconnect the electricity supply to the pillar. It was expected that the reconnection would be completed within a few days and the system would again be operational.

The report was noted.

(e) Kidney Research Unit Foundation - 1994 Sponsored Walk

The Chairman, Councillor Eric Griffith, reported the receipt of a letter from the President of the Kidney Research Unit Foundation for Wales in which the Community Council was again invited to participate in a sponsored walk in aid of kidney research.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council participate in the 1994 sponsored walk in aid of kidney research.

(f) Community Watch

Councillors Gordon Norman and Mrs Pam Phillips reported that following the successful launch of several community/neighbourhood watches in the area there had been renewed interest in forming a watch for the Cefn-yr-Hendy area. It was intended to establish the watch in close liaison with the Community Watch Coordinator for Taff Ely.

The matter was noted.

(g) Speeding vehicles in Miskin

Councillor Gordon Moir reported that, despite the action taken by the police to reduce the incidence of speeding vehicles in Miskin, he continued to receive complaints of vehicles speeding through the village. Some of the vehicles had been estimated to be travelling at up to 70 miles per hour.

RESOLVED: That P C Keddle be requested to contact the police radar team with a view to carrying out further surveillance in Miskin, preferably on weekdays during the hours of 4.00 p.m. and 6 p.m.

17. The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

Eric W. Smith