



Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 December, 1999

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth, J V Huish, R G Norman and M Rea

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Deputy Commander Neil Kinrade of the South Wales Constabulary and three members of the public for part of the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Councillors C G Bendle, S Rogers and Mrs P Thomas

2.. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **Road sign**

Councillor Huish referred to the Community Council's earlier decision, in cooperation with the Highway Authority, to erect a sign on the Talbot Green By Pass to direct certain traffic towards the industrial estates in the vicinity of Lanelay Hall. Councillor Huish was pleased to be able to let the Council know that a sponsor had been found for the erection of a second similar sign.

The matter was noted.

(b) **Biodiversity**

Councillor Huish referred to the recent work carried out by the Planning Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and was able to inform the Community Council that the proposals contained in the Biodiversity actions

plans had been formally adopted by the Borough Council as supplementary planning guidance.

The matter was noted.

(c) **Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff**

Councillor Huish reported on recent communications with the Chief Executive of Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff in which it had been stated that the organisation wished to pursue its work in closer collaboration with locally based organisations. It was planned that local residents would become involved in addition to the involvement of the Wildlife Trust, community councils and the Borough Councils.

**RESOLVED:** That in anticipation of an invitation to nominate two members of the Pontyclun Community Council to sit on a local committee, the Community Council nominate Councillors Cale and G Davies to be its representatives.

3. **Police matters**

Deputy Divisional Commander Neil Kinrade told the Council that a year had elapsed since he last attended a meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council. During that time there had been a number of changes locally in the structure of the police. He had been appointed Deputy Commander in the second largest police division in Wales and was in a better position to assess the areas needs and play a more strategic role in allocating police resources. Mr Kinrade acknowledged that during the last year he had not been able to allocate the division the resources he would have wished but emphasised that other divisions were facing the same problems.

On a local level, Mr Kinrade advised the Council of the appointment of a new inspector in Talbot Green, Inspector Byron Cox, and stated that the Pontyclun area was fortunate to have a committed and active community policeman in P C Steve Keddle. P C Keddle was strenuously attempting to spend more time in Pontyclun but demands on the police service often resulted in him having to attend to issues in neighbouring areas. Furthermore, despite the feeling of local residents, statistics showed that crime in Pontyclun was no higher than in some of the surrounding areas. The police were acutely aware of the weekend problems being experienced in Pontyclun with the consumption of alcohol inside, and outside, of certain licensed premises. The police were aware, too, of the disorder problems arising from consumption of alcohol and the intimidating presence of youths in doorways and backlanes. Mr Kinrade outlined some of the difficulties facing the police in attempting to control some of these problems.



Mr Kinrade answered a number of questions from Members covering police response times, rowdyism in Pontyclun, manning of the Pontyclun police office, licensing applications, underage drinking, byelaws and lack of police cover following arrests.

The Council thanked Mr Kinrade for attending the meeting and for illustrating some of the problems facing the police in enforcing the law.

**RESOLVED:** That an invitation be sent to Mr Kinrade to attend the Community Council's meeting in May, 2000.

4. **Presentation from officers of the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club**

The Council received a presentation from three officers from the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club.

Mr David Thomas and Mr John David both referred to the Club's notable success in winning a large grant from Sport lot to improve the Club's premises and provide additional facilities. The grant had enabled the Club to build one of the most prestigious buildings of its kind in South Wales and the committee of the Club was anxious to break away from the image of the old fashioned rugby club. There had been two key factors in the Club's successful application to Sport lot – the support of local people and the commitment given by the Club that 50% of the growth in Club based activities had to be in non-rugby areas.

The development of the Club had resulted in a varied programme of activities during the week. Central to the Club's continuing success was the need to secure, and develop, additional community support and to consider new ways of involving local people. The Club still believed that rugby was an important and integral activity but was proud to have been able to develop facilities for junior football, dancing, darts, aerobics, bowls, skittles and cricket.

The Club saw itself as playing a central role in the community and while it organised sporting activities for over 300 youngsters on weekends, wanted to encourage the youngsters hanging around the streets of Pontyclun to participate in activities. The Club also wished to develop more activities for disabled persons. Support for the Club had come from national and local levels and the officers of the Club were hopeful of gaining the support of the Pontyclun Community Council. The officers informed the Council of some of the highlights in the Club's programme for January, 2000.

**RESOLVED:** That the Pontyclun Community Council unreservedly acknowledge and support the initiatives being

undertaken by the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club to involve all sectors of the community in its activities. In particular, the Community Council commend the Club for the tireless way in which it is seeking to improve community based activities by providing opportunities for disabled persons and the youth of the community.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 3 November, 1999**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 3 November, 1999, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Proposed erection of bus shelter in Groesfaen**

The Clerk reported that since the Community Council's last meeting he had received a further telephone call from Mr Richard Fairlamb of Y Parc, Groesfaen.

Mr Fairlamb had expressed his deep disappointment at the failure of the Community Council to get a bus shelter erected in Groesfaen. The Clerk had pointed out to Mr Fairlamb that the Community Council was committed to the erection of a further bus shelter in the village and that it had earmarked funds for its purchase and erection. The difficulty being experienced was the identification of a site which met the approval of the Highway Authority. A possible site outside Babell Church had been deemed to be unsuitable since it would not allow sufficient space on the pavement for the through passage of pedestrians. The possibility of excavating the land at the front of Babell Church had been considered but the cost of excavation and the need to construct a retaining wall and re-align the fence had proved to be prohibitive.

Latterly, the Community Council had suggested to the Highway Authority that a small abutment into the road could be constructed to accommodate the bus shelter, similar to the one at the eastern end of the village. Mr Fairlamb had been told that the Community Council was awaiting the response of the Highway Authority to this suggestion. Since Mr Fairlamb's call a reminder letter had been sent to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The day after the delivery of agendas for the Community Council's meeting of 1 December, 1999, a letter had been received from Mr Fairlamb enclosing a copy of a letter he had sent to the Secretary of the Local Boundary Commission for Wales. The letter to the Community Council made clear Mr



Fairlamb's disenchantment with the lack of attention given to Groesfaen by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The copy letter was Mr Fairlamb's request to the Boundary Commission for Groesfaen to be transferred out of the area Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council into the area of Cardiff City and County Borough Council. The Clerk read out both letters.

**RESOLVED:** That copies of both letters sent to the Community Council be forwarded to the Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Secretary of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.

(b) **Proposed erection of Christmas Trees**

The Clerk reported that there had been a good response from shopkeepers in Pontyclun to the proposal for the erection of Christmas Trees on to existing brackets outside shop premises.

Trees had been purchased from the Forestry Commission in Cowbridge and an addition of 100% had been added to the purchase price to cover the Community Council's costs. Erection of the trees was well advanced and was planned to be completed on the following day.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be noted.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Proposals for a re-alignment of the boundary between Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council**

The Council discussed the letter from the Secretary of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales dated 4 November, 1999, in which it was proposed that the boundary between the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council should be re-aligned to follow the route of the M4 motorway. Effectively the proposal would, if approved, result in the transfer of Pantaquesta and most of Talygarn in the Community of Pontyclun to the communities of Pendoylan and Welsh Donats respectively. The Council was asked for its comments on the proposal.

A long discussion on the proposal took place. Councillor Chris Davies advised that he had discussed the proposal with residents in Pantaquesta. All the residents he had spoken to had been in favour of the proposed transfer. It was also stated that



some residents living in Talygarn had been asked for their views. Those residents, too, had been in favour of the proposed transfer.

Other Members of the Council were of the view that Pantaquesta and Talygarn had very strong links with Pontyclun and that every effort should be made to illustrate the links and oppose the proposals for transfer. Opposition to the transfer proposals was re-inforced by other Members who stated that irrespective of whether a transfer was effected, residents of both areas involved would continue to look to Pontyclun and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for their educational, recreational, social, shopping and religious needs. Given that residents in the affected areas would still look to Pontyclun and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for their needs it would be nonsensical for a transfer to take place.

Councillor Dilworth wished it to be recorded in the minutes that he strongly believed that the Council should take its lead from residents' views.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Community Council oppose the plans for a re-alignment of the boundary between the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council because the transfer proposals ignored the fact Pantaquesta and Talygarn were integral parts of the Community of Pontyclun.
- (ii) That a comparison of existing and likely service delivery arrangements be made.
- (iii) That the Clerk be authorised to send a suitable letter to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.

(b) **Request for the re-siting of the  
wayside seat in Heol y Felin, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr John Treharne of Heol y Felin, Pontyclun. Mr Treharne sought the cooperation of the Community Council in moving the wayside seat in Heol y Felin.

In his letter Mr Treharne stated that the seat had become a congregating point for youths and vandalism to his property had ensued on a number of occasions. Mr Treharne stated that

he had reported the intrusions into his property to the police on a number of occasions.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Graham Davies be asked to sound out residents in the vicinity of the wayside seat about its possible removal before any decision is taken on the seat's future.

(c) **Mobile hot food vendors**

The Clerk reminded the Council that in October he had written to the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils about the obligations of a mobile hot food vendor in carrying out his business.

The reply of the solicitors acting for the Association had been received where it was stated that "business must register with the County/ County Borough Council within 28 days of starting up the business. You should refer the matter to the County/ County Borough Council's Environmental Health Department"

**RESOLVED:** That the regular evening presence of the mobile hot food vendor outside the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun be referred to the Environmental Health Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(d) **Request to store items**

The Council discussed a request from the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre to store items used in connection with the provision of the Community Playscheme. An assurance was given that the items would be stored neatly in boxes with lids and, because of the infrequency of the playschemes, would only be needed for three weeks in every year.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council agree to the storage of playscheme items subject to the assurances given by the Management Committee being observed.

(e) **Application for a Public Entertainment Licence -  
The Brunel Arms, Station Approach, Pontyclun**

(Councillor Dilworth declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the Council's discussions)

A discussion took place on the apparent lack of concern and thought displayed by licensees in Pontyclun to residents living in properties adjacent to their licensed premises.

Given that the operation of the existing Public Entertainment Licence at The Brunel Arms had given considerable cause for complaint the Community Council was of the view that it should continue to oppose the application for a Public Entertainment Licence.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk inform the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council of the Pontyclun Community Council's opposition to the award of Public Entertainment Licences to licensees in the vicinity of The Brunel Arms until such time as nuisance caused to neighbours is ended.

(f) **Conserving the Valley Woods and Old Meadows and Pastures in south Wales**

The Council received Briefing Notes No.2 and No.3 which highlighted the biodiversity significance and issues associated with Valley Woods and Old Meadows and Pastures. The Briefing Notes, which had been prepared by the Director of Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, were specifically designed for decision makers, land managers, land agents, developers and professional advisers. Councillors at all levels were encouraged to read the notes as they provided an useful reference source.

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of Briefing Notes No.2 and No.3 be welcomed and noted and their significance in "the greening of Pontyclun" be acknowledged.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 9 to the Council's agenda.

(h) **Internal Audit**

The Clerk provided the Council with information to carry out an audit of the Community Council's financial affairs for the period 1 April, 1999, to 31 October, 1999, in accordance with the requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations, 1996. The format of the audit, and information supplied, accorded with the decisions taken by the Community Council at its meeting on 6 January, 1999.





**RESOLVED:** That the format of the audit be changed and that future audits, to be carried out twice a year, be carried out by an audit team comprising Councillors C Davies and J Dilworth

(i) **Weekly Planning Notifications for Weeks Ended 5, 12, 19 and 26 November, 1999**

(The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, declared an interest in this item of business, vacated the Chair, and took no part in the Council's discussions)

In the Chairperson's absence the Chair was occupied by Councillor Rea.

**RESOLVED:** That no comments be offered on any of the planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 5, 12, 19 and 26 November, 1999.

(j) **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on two items which had arisen after the delivery of agendas to Members:

(i) **Footpath Lighting, Groesfaen**

The Clerk advised of the receipt of a facsimile message from Infrastructure Services, a sub division of Hyder, where an apology was offered for the delay in erecting a light column and stating that all work would be completed by Friday, 3 December, 1999.

The report was noted.

(ii) **"Person of the year"**

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr John Edwards, proprietor of Recliners, Pontyclun, which had been delivered to him earlier that evening.

Mr Edwards suggested that the Council might like to give consideration, on an annual basis, to recognising an individual's contribution to community life. It was further suggested that nominations could be invited from the public in advance of the year end and that the winner would be the person securing the greatest amount of support. Mr Edwards was of the view that local businesses might wish to sponsor the event.



A long discussion took place on Mr Edwards' suggestion and the Council considered the advantages and disadvantages of the proposals.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline the opportunity to become involved in Mr Edwards' proposals.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Encroachments on to the Maesyfelin Rugby Field**

The Council noted that the Clerk had been in correspondence with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for over a year about the encroachments which had taken place on to the Maesyfelin Rugby Field. During that time no meaningful reply had been received. As a last resort the Clerk had written a personal letter to the Director of Property Services asking for a response to earlier correspondence.

A reply had been received from the Director of Property Services which had been received after agendas had been delivered to Members. The Director quoted the need to prioritise his work as the reason for not having replied earlier but assured the Council that action would be taken against those responsible for encroachments on to the Maesyfelin Rugby Field if the Community Council would supply the necessary names and addresses.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Graham Davies make the necessary enquiries and report back to the next meeting of the Community Council.

(b) **Proposal for a Millennium Calendar of Events**

The Clerk advised the Council that the response from local organisations to be notified of their special events to mark the new Millennium had been very poor. As a result, it had not been possible to compile a calendar of Millennium events as originally planned.

**RESOLVED:** That where organisations had responded to the Community Council with details of their special Millennium events the Clerk arrange for a notices of those events to be placed in Community Council noticeboards.

10. The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.