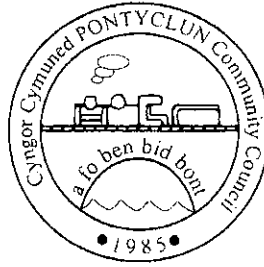


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Pontyclun Community Council

Clerc i'r Cyngor:
JHG Lewis ACIS DMA
Mandalay
Heol Bontfaen
Talygarn
Pontyclun CF72 9BZ



Clerk to the Council:
JHG Lewis ACIS DMA
Mandalay
Cowbridge Road
Talygarn
Pontyclun CF72 9BZ

Ffôn: 01443 227094
Ffacs: 01443 238500
E-bost: greglewis@pontycluncc.org.uk
Wefan: <http://pontycluncc.org.uk>

Tel: 01443 227094
Fax: 01443 238500
Email: greglewis@pontycluncc.org.uk
Web: <http://pontycluncc.org.uk>

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held on 1 February, 2006, at 7.00 p.m. in the Pontyclun Community Centre.

PRESENT: Community Councillors V A Cale, C Davies, P Griffiths, D Henderson, Ms S Jenkins, and A R Lane

Also in attendance: Police Community Support Officer Chris Martin and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors D Clayton-Jones, R G Norman, M Rea and Ms P Thomas

2. **Declarations of interest**

RESOLVED: No disclosures were made.

3. **Minutes**

(i) **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 December, 2005**

RESOLVED: That minute 4(b) of the Council's meeting of 7 December, 2005, be further amended to reflect that the sub committee had the primary-remit to take the recommendations of good practice suggested at the training days and look at ways of incorporating the good practice into the Council's regular operations.

4. (ii) **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 January, 2006**

RESOLVED: That with the exception of the amendment at 3 (i) above, the minutes of the

Community Council's meeting of 4 January, 2006, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Green Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the response of the Borough Council to the Community Council's earlier enquiry about assistance which may be available from the Borough Council in providing hanging baskets, planters and flowerbeds.

The Community Council was appreciative of the advice provided but disappointed that the Borough Council was unable to provide any significant assistance towards watering summer bedding plants.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Council employ a part time person for 3 hours per day, for 7 days a week, to water the Council's bedding plants during the summer months; advertisements for the vacancy being placed in local shops and Council noticeboards and enquiries being made of the Pencoed Agricultural College.

(ii) That the Community Council purchase its own water bowser, to transport water.

(iii) That the Community Council avail itself of the offer made by CPSO Chris Martin to establish whether it would be possible to fill the water bowser at the Pontyclun fire station.

(iv) That the Community Council arrange for a towbar to be installed on its van.

(v) That a trial be undertaken in the Groesfaen Ward of 6 plastic type baskets with in-built water reservoirs

(vi) That bedding plants be purchased from Boverton Nurseries Ltd, in line with the practice of the Borough Council and other local authorities in South Wales.

(b) **Annual Photography Competition**

The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made with a local printer to reproduce photographs on A4 paper and to be fixed to A3 size mounts. The mounted photographs would be displayed in the local library during March. The printer had also agreed to produce digital images of every photograph in order that all the entries could be displayed on the Community Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Review of Community Council Boundaries**

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by a member of staff at the Borough Council and told that the Welsh Assembly Government had given instructions that a review of community council boundaries in Wales should be undertaken.

While detailed arrangements had not been agreed, it was likely that the Boundary Commission would undertake the review after having received the comments of principal authorities and other interested parties.

It was expected that the review would commence in late 2006 and that orders giving force to the changes would be made in 2007 in time for the community council elections in 2008.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Interim Audit of Accounts for 2005/06**

The Council received the report of the Council's Internal Auditor on the Interim Audit of Accounts for 2005/06.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That the Clerk check on the length of time the Internal Auditor had been carrying out his audit duties for the Community Council since, in line with advice from One Voice Wales, audit arrangements should be reviewed every 5 years.

5. **Police matters**

PCSO Chris Martin told the Council that the Community Policeman for the area, P C Steve Keddle, had injured his wrist and elbow and was unlikely to be fit for duty for some time. As a result, the area covered by

himself and a colleague would be extended to take in adjacent communities. PCSO Martin was hopeful that he would be able to get access to the police office at the Community Centre later in the week and, if so, he and his colleague would work out of Pontyclun. It was the intention, too, to cover the police surgeries which would normally have been covered by P C Keddle. Chris Martin was unclear about the facilities at the police office and requested that anyone who needed to get in touch with him leave a message at the Talbot Green police station.

Chris Martin advised that there was a possibility of parking restrictions being introduced at two locations in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, namely, at the junction of Merthyr Street and at the junction of Clun Avenue. The absence of parked vehicles at these junctions would considerably improve vision for motorists. However, the police would be looking to protect the interests of residents where there was no rear access to their premises.

Chris Martin also stated that the police were looking at the possibility of requesting limited waiting in some of the parking bays along Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Currently, some motorists were using the parking bays as all day parking places.

Chris Martin told the Council that another issue being investigated was the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing, or island at the top end of Pontyclun near the children's nursery at St Paul's Church.

Chris Martin advised that the local electricity company would shortly be starting work on laying a new electricity supply in Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun. This would entail digging up a considerable stretch of pavement.

During recent weeks there had been occasions when youths had needed to be moved along. The youths had expressed a wish to come along and address the Community Council. Chris Martin wondered if it might be possible to erect a youth shelter in the Community similar to the ones which had been erected in Llanharry and Talbot Green. He reported that youth shelters had met with mixed success in other areas. PCSO said that he would pursue the possibility of organising an informal meeting with the youths.

Chris Martin said that he was looking to re-instate neighbourhood watches in the area. He reported that the re-establishment of neighbourhood watches in Talbot Green had been very successful and he was confident that the same success could be achieved in Pontyclun. Funding for signs was available.

Chris Martin told the Council that he would bring along the latest crime figures to the next Council meeting.



The Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Jenkins, reported that she had been told of the appointment of Ms Caroline Wool to a post with the Borough Council which required her to visit feeder schools for Y Pant Comprehensive School. Ms Wool was impressed with the success of the Community Council's "Have your say" day and was looking to hold a similar event at Y Pant. Councillor Jenkins believed that the basing of P C Tony Parker at the School is also a positive step.

Councillor Cale raised the matter of broken glass having been found on the Maesyfelin soccer field and the nearby children's playground. This dangerous practice seemed to occur on Friday evenings. Councillor Cale asked if Chris Martin would keep an eye on both areas.

Councillor Lane asked if the police had any information on the status of the proposed highways scheme for Pontyclun. Councillor stated that he had spoken to an officer of the Borough Council by the name of "D Smith" who said that he believed that the scheme had been abandoned. The Clerk agreed to follow this matter up formally with the Borough Council.

Councillor Chris Davies drew Chris Martin's attention to recent cases of youth annoyance in Miskin. Councillor reported that youths had come in, to Miskin village, from Miskin Heights, and caused damage to gardens. Chris Martin responded that the police had received reports along these lines but the descriptions of the youths varied and did not allow the police to take action.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Exclusion of the press and public**

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information namely, term or terms proposed by or to the council in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property, goods or services.

(b) **Proposed sale of land in Miskin**

The Council received and discussed the letter and report of the District Valuer, dated 3 January, 2006, about the proposed sale of land in the ownership of the Community Council to Mr M A Penman of The Lodge, Miskin.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council accept the report of the District Valuer and that the proposed sale proceed in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined.

(c) **Land at Brynsadler Mill, Pontyclun**

The Council received and discussed the letter from the District Valuer, dated 17 January, 2006. The letter set out the District Valuer's comments on each of the six options advanced by the Welsh Development Agency for the disposal of land at Brynsadler Mill.

The Council believed that the values attaching to each of the options appeared to reflect underlying agricultural values only and did not take into account amenity value to the Community.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That an urgent site meeting be held with the District Valuer to explain the considerable amenity value in the land to the residents of the Community.
 - (ii) That Councillors Jenkins and Henderson be authorised to contact a firm of chartered surveyors for a second opinion on the value of the land.
 - (iii) That, if need be, a special meeting of the Community Council be convened to discuss the reports of the District Valuer and the chartered surveyors' reports.
 - (iv) That the Clerk circulate a report on the land prepared by Mr Ben Williams of Rivercare.

(d) **Council's precept for 2006/07**

The Council received details of the Council Tax Base for 2006/07, details of the Council's estimated expenditure to 31 March, 2006 and a schedule showing the effect of any increase in precept on a Band D equivalent property.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council defer making a decision on the precept for 2006/07 to a special meeting of the Council to be held on 22 February, 2006.

(ii) That the March monthly meeting of the Council be rearranged from 1 March, 2006 to 8 March, 2006.

(e) **Concerns of Mr Mike Saunders**

The Council discussed an e-mail which had been received from Mr Mike Saunders of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun.

Mr Saunders referred to the minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 October, 2006, where there had been a number of references youth annoyance under the heading of police matters. Mr Saunders referred to his meeting with the Council, when he had expressed concern about the same subject. Mr Saunders said that he felt that his observations were met with some ridicule.

The Council was deeply concerned about Mr Saunders' perception of how he had been received at the meeting he attended. It was felt that there must have been some misunderstanding since the Council had always been conscious of the need to keep youngsters off the streets and the need to provide youth facilities in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That an invitation be extended to Mr Saunders to attend a further meeting with the Council in order that any misunderstandings could be clarified.

(f) **Concerns of Mr Ceri Evans**

The Council discussed an e-mail from Mr Ceri Evans of Talygarn who was concerned about the lack of service being received by residents in Talygarn.

Mr Evans commented that residents of Talygarn were among the highest rated in the Borough yet, to his knowledge, pavements in the locality had not been swept for over two years. He contrasted this with pavements in Pontyclun which were regularly cleaned. Mr Evans also complained of large accumulations of leaves in his area and of brambles in need of cutting which protruded from hedgerows. The lack of play areas for children also concerned Mr Evans now that access to the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre was being restricted.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk request the Borough Council to remove the accumulations of leaves form Talygarn.



(ii) That the Clerk arrange for brambles protruding from hedgerows in Talygarn to be cut back.

(iii) That the Clerk request the Borough Council to undertake regular sweeping of pavements in Talygarn.

(iv) That the Clerk express the Council's regret over the closure of the grounds of the former Rehabilitation Centre in Talygarn to members of the public.

(v) That Councillor Griffiths contact Mr Evans to discuss his concerns.

(g) **Concerns of Ms Sally Evans**

The Council discussed an e-mail from Ms Sally Evans of St Anne's Court, Talygarn, who was concerned at the lack of play facilities for young children in Talygarn.

The Council shared Ms Evans's concerns and pointed out that, generally, most new housing developments incorporated children's play areas. It was to be regretted that St Anne's Court did not have a children's play area. This lack of facility had been compounded by the restrictions placed on public access to the grounds of the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre by its new owners.

RESOLVED: That Ms Evans be informed that if she could identify a suitable site in the Talygarn/Brynsadler area for a children's play area the Pontyclun Community Council would support a request to the Borough Council for the creation of a children's play area.

(h) **Planning applications**

The Council discussed details of planning applications in the latest Weekly Notifications.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council make the following observations to the Planning Authority:

Application No. 05/2309/10



That the Council oppose the application for the same reasons as it opposed the previous application for the same site.

Application No. 06/0042/10

While the Council is not opposed to the application, it feels strongly that access to the proposed detached double garage should be via the rear lane and not from Cowbridge Road.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 12 to the Council's agenda. (It was noted that the figure shown as being due to Anrod Industrial Supplies is £101.87)

7. **Matters reported for decision since the despatch of agendas**

No matters were reported.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Local Government Partnership Scheme**

The Council received details of the Annual report for 2004/05 of the Local Government Partnership Scheme.

RESOLVED: That the details be noted.

(b) **Loan Sanction for 2006/07**

The Council received details from the Welsh Assembly Government of arrangements for community councils requiring loan sanction for 2006/07.

RESOLVED: That the details be noted.

(c) **Health Challenge Wales**

The Council received details for the Welsh Assembly Government of Health Challenge Wales. The Scheme was designed to build on the success of the previous year's Scheme in improving health and preventing ill health of the people of Wales.



RESOLVED: That the details of an organised walk be displayed in Community Council noticeboards when they become available.

(d) **New Low Cost Ownership Scheme in Rhondda Cynon Taf**

The Council received preliminary details of a new Low Cost Home Ownership initiative which was due to be launched by the Housing Strategy Team in February, 2006. The scheme is designed to assist local residents who are in a financially stable position, that is, able to raise a mortgage, yet who are unable to purchase a home due to escalating property prices.

RESOLVED: That when full details of the Scheme become available they be passed to Councillor Henderson for inclusion on the Community Council's website.

(e) **Taff and Ely Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) Consultation Document**

The Council received a consultation document from the Environment Agency providing an opportunity to comment on the Agency's proposals to manage water resources in the Taff and Ely catchment before finalisation of the strategy.

RESOLVED: That the document be noted.

(f) **Consultation Document on Fire and Rescue Service Risk Reduction Plan**

The Council received a consultation document providing an opportunity to comment on proposals designed to reduce the risk in the areas of fire and rescue.

RESOLVED: That the document be noted.

(g) **Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Assessment Plan**

The Council received a letter, dated 5 January, 2006, stating that the Borough Council is at the second stage in the process leading to the production of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan by 2007. The second stage is the production of the Assessment Report and an Executive Summary was enclosed with the letter of 5 January.

The full Assessment Plan is a substantial document and copies were available on request. The Clerk had requested a copy for the Council.

RESOLVED: That when the full Assessment Report is available a copy be forwarded to Councillor Griffiths.

(h) **Travelling expenses of Members**

The Clerk advised the Council that a mileage expenses claim form was available for Members who used their vehicles in connection with their official duties. Copies of the form were distributed to Members.

(i) **War Memorial area**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had arranged a site meeting with a landscape architect as a preliminary step to getting ideas for enhancing the area around the Pontyclun War Memorial.

The meeting was scheduled to take place at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, 4 February, 2006, at the Pontyclun War Memorial and all Members were welcome to attend.

The report was noted.

(j) **Dog fouling**

Complaints were received from Members about the dog fouling in the vicinity of the veterinary surgeon's premises in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Environmental Services Group of the Borough Council to find out what assistance could be given by the Borough Council to resolve the problem.

(k) **Pontyclun railway station**

Members again complained about the accumulations of rubbish around the Pontyclun railway station. While it was acknowledged that action had been taken by the rail authorities about a year ago to remove litter and rubbish it was felt that regular litter picking of the areas bordering the station was essential.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk again contact the rail authorities asking for the removal of existing litter and also requesting that the land around the railway station be regularly cleansed of litter.

(i) **One Voice Wales – Newsletter**

The Clerk distributed copies of the latest newsletter from One Voice Wales.

(m) **Marking of footpaths**

The possibility of paint spray marking of public footpaths was raised.

RESOLVED: That investigations be carried out into the feasibility of spray marking public footpaths.

9. The meeting ended at 10.20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda P. Jones', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.