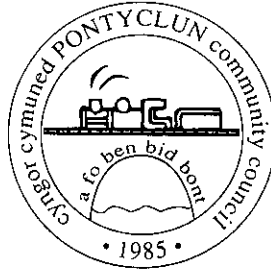


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Clerc i'r Cyngor
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
"Mandalay"
Heol Bontfaen
Talygarn
Pontyclun
CF72 9BZ



APPENDIX No. 1
Pontyclun Community Council

Clerk to the Council
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
"Mandalay"
Cowbridge Road
Talygarn
Pontyclun
CF72 9BZ

Ffôn/Ffacs: 01443 227094

Tel/Fax: 01443 227094

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 July, 1998

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, Mrs A Cale, J G Davies, R O Edwards, T R J Flood, Mrs M Griffiths, J V Huish (for part of meeting), R G Norman and M Rea

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Chairperson**

In the absence of Councillor Huish at the beginning of the meeting, the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Flood, occupied the Chair.

3. **Chairperson's business**

RESOLVED: That in the absence of the Chairperson, Councillor Huish, this item of business be deferred until he is present.

4. **Councillor T. J Burton**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had received a letter from Councillor T J Burton advising of his intention to resign from the Pontyclun Community Council with effect from 1 July, 1998.

RESOLVED: (i) That Councillor Burton's resignation be noted and that

the Clerk write to thank Councillor Burton for his services to the Community Council.

- (ii) That the Clerk take the appropriate action to fill the casual vacancy in the Miskin Ward of the Community Council.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Speeding traffic**

Councillor Norman referred to the considerable efforts made by the police in recent months to reduce the speed of traffic through Pontyclun. Despite all the efforts traffic continued to speed through Pontyclun and remained a major source of danger to residents and pedestrians alike.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred to a future meeting of the Council when a representative of the police is present.

(b) **Mobile hot dog van**

Councillor Edwards drew the Council's attention to a mobile hot dog van which was regularly parked on Community Council owned land outside the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, during the evenings.

There was an unanimous view that the Council did not wish the Clerk to take the matter up personally with the proprietor of the hot dog van. The Council preferred that the proprietor's name and address be obtained from the Driver Vehicle Licensing Centre after providing the registration number of the offending vehicle to the police.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 3 June, 1998**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 3 June, 1998, be approved as an accurate record subject to an amendment to minute 3 (d) to reflect that the report made about the carcass of a sheep on the footpath along the river Clun was made by Councillor Edwards not Councillor Rea.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **CCTV demonstration**

The Clerk reminded Members that a demonstration of a CCTV system would take place in the car park adjacent to the Community Centre in Pontyclun at 10.00 a.m. the following day.

Councillor Rea advised that a police expert on CCTV systems had promised to contact him to advise on the best way to pursue the initiative should the Community Council be so inclined. The expert would be able to advise on liaison with neighbouring authorities and the compatibility of equipment.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the information on the demonstration be noted.
- (ii) That the Clerk make enquiries of BT to establish the location of the nearest fibre optic cable facilities and BT's plans for extending the facilities to Pontyclun.
- (iii) That, following the advice from the police to Councillor Rea, consideration be given to calling a special meeting of the Council to consider the full implications of a CCTV system for Pontyclun.

(b) **Proposals for a landfill site in Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised that following the request of the Council he had made arrangements for a public meeting to discuss the proposals for a landfill site to the east of the Windsor Fields, Pontyclun. The meeting would take place in the Pontyclun Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 20 July, 1998.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(c) **"Clerks and Councils Direct"**

The Clerk distributed 4 copies of "Clerks and Councils Direct"

to Members. A copy was made available for each ward of the Council.

RESOLVED: That, having read the booklet, each Member pass on the ward copy to a colleague ward Member.

(d) **Public Right of Way Footpath No 336**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths asked whether there had been any progress towards resolving the obstruction to Public Right of Way Footpath No 336 in Talygarn.

The Clerk responded that he had taken the matter up with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Footpaths Officer. The Footpaths Officer had confirmed that there had been a number of complaints over the action taken by the landowner. He had written to the landowner and was hopeful that the matter could be resolved amicably.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to find out what progress had been made to reinstate the footpath.

(e) **Proposed leaflet on the Community Council's activities during 1997/98**

The Clerk advised that due to the volume of work he had not been in a position to compile a summary of the Community Council's activities for 1997/98 for publication. He was hopeful of being able to produce the summary in conjunction with Councillor Griffiths during the Council's summer recess.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(f) **Proposed leaflet on a circular walk**

The Clerk advised that while most of the preparatory work in connection with the proposed leaflet on a circular Community walk had been completed, he had been unable to convene a meeting with Mr G Woosnam, an expert in public rights of way and funding issues, to finalise the details of the proposed leaflet. The Clerk was hopeful of convening the meeting during the Council's summer recess.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(g) **Public convenience provision - comparative costs**

The Clerk advised that he had received costs for the installation of a superloo and was in the process of researching information on the running costs of the existing public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. A comparison of the relative costs would be placed on the Council's agenda for its September monthly meeting.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

6. **Sewerage facilities in Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea expressed his concern at the response from Welsh Water that the authority was not going to install mains sewerage in Groesfaen. Councillor Rea believed that Welsh Water should be challenged on its decision since it seemed to be acting as judge and jury in its own case.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact Welsh Water to establish the reasons for the refusal to install mains sewerage facilities in Groesfaen.

7. **Application for National Lottery monies**

Councillor Norman reported on a seminar he had recently attended which was designed to assist small organisations in making application for National Lottery monies.

Councillor Norman believed that the timing of the seminar was poor since it had coincided with the European Summit being held in Cardiff and there was tight security in, and on the outskirts, of the city. Additionally, he was very unimpressed with the contents of the seminar because it appeared that, in the absence of an organisation owning, or holding a very long lease on premises, there was little prospect of an award being made.

Councillor Norman distributed copies of the leaflets he had picked up at the seminar.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. **Talgarn Pavilion**

The Community Council discussed the condition of the Talgarn Pavilion and regretted that it had not been maintained by its owners in recent years. At the same time, the Council acknowledged the very real problems facing the local parish in raising sufficient money to spend on the building when there were many competing demands for finance.

The Council recognised that the Pavilion was one of the tangible remnants of the former Clark estate and that every effort should be made towards preserving the building. Judging by the current neglected and dilapidated state of the Pavilion, and the financial pressures facing the local parish, the Council thought it unlikely that the necessary maintenance would be carried out.

The Community Council was of the view that a refurbished Pavilion could possibly be used as a youth club.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Vicar of the Parish of Pontyclun to enquire whether the parish would be interested in selling the Pavilion to the Community Council.

9. **National Health Trusts in the Bro Taf Health Authority Area**

The Council received a consultation document from the Welsh Office on the merger proposals for the reconfiguration of NHS Trusts in the Bro Taf Health Authority Area.

A view was expressed that the Welsh Office was merely going through the obligatory consultation procedure before announcing its decision on the restructure. The process was seen as a fait accompli and that little heed would be paid to any views the Community Council might put forward.

Councillor Norman advised that a notice advertising one of the consultation meetings appeared in that night's South Wales Echo. He understood that the consultation meeting was scheduled to take place in the Llantrisant Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED: That the Council make no comment on the document for the restructure of the National Health Trusts in the Bro Taf Health Authority Area.

10. **Footpath lighting, rear of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun**

The Council received a quotation from Celtic Infrastructure Services Ltd for the installation of footpath lighting in the lane to the rear of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun.

The Clerk advised that the sum quoted by the company for the installation was in excess of the estimate which had been advised by the lighting engineer for the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council to receive quotations from other companies.

11. **Hard surface play area**

The Council noted the information provided by the Director of Leisure and Tourism on the provision of new local recreation facilities.

The Council felt that the Director of Leisure and Tourism had not answered the question asked of him, namely, whether he would be able to identify sites within the Community which would be suitable for the creation of a hard surface play area.

A number of Members felt frustrated at the lack of progress in identifying a suitable site. They pointed to the actions of the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club who had recently, and apparently without any planning consent, cleared an area of land on the Maesyfelin rugby field and were now using that area as a car park. The Community Council had earlier identified the land as a possible site for a hard surface play area.

(During the course of this discussion Councillor Flood declared an interest and took no part in the Council's discussions)

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Director of Leisure and Tourism be asked again whether there were any Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council owned sites in the Community of Pontyclun which could be considered suitable for the creation of a hard surface play area.
- (ii) That the Clerk enquire of the Director of Planning whether planning consent was required for the land on the Maesyfelin rugby field which was now being used as a car park.

12. **Representation of minor authorities on schools' governing bodies**

The Clerk reminded the Council that following his attendance at a meeting of the Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils in March he had learned of the government's proposals to end the right of minor authorities to be represented on schools' governing bodies.

The Association had urged its members to write to the Welsh Office, as a matter of extreme urgency, opposing the proposals. The Clerk, after consultation with the Chairperson, had written as to the Welsh Office and opposed the proposals. The response of the Welsh Office was enclosed as Appendix 5 to the Council's agenda.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk reply to the Secretary of State for Wales ,

expressing the Community Council's profound disappointment at his refusal to continue to allow representation as of right to the governing bodies of schools by minor authorities.

- (ii) That the Clerk also draw the Secretary of State's attention the enormous waste of money which the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council has needlessly incurred in training the Community Council's representative to undertake his duties on the governing body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant, at a time when the local education authority is facing a grave shortage of funds.
- (iii) That the Clerk also draw to the Secretary of State's attention the practice, locally, irrespective of ability or commitment, of inviting only Labour Party members to sit on school governing bodies as the representatives of the local education authority.

13. **Excessively bright lights**

The Council discussed the reply of the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council on the Community Council's concerns over excessively bright light during the hours of darkness emanating from the Bosch plant near Miskin.

The reply stated that the Vale Borough Council had no control over the amount of illumination emanating from commercial and industrial premises during the hours of darkness as the matter was not covered under statutory nuisance. However, contact would be made with the offending premises in an attempt to persuade them to review the need for the current level of lighting.

RESOLVED: (i) That the reply be noted.

- (ii) That copies of the of the Community Council's letter and the reply from the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council be sent to the Pendoylan and Welsh St Donats Community Councils.

14. **Proposed Borough Council/Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee**

The Council discussed the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's letter of 9 June, 1998, about representation on the proposed Borough Council/Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee.



RESOLVED: That the Council reaffirm its earlier decision that Councillor Mrs Griffiths is the Council's representative to the proposed committee. In the event of Councillor Mrs Griffiths being unable to attend a meeting Councillor Norman is the Council's substitute representative.

15. **Local Government Pension Scheme - Statement of Policy**

The Council discussed the letter of 8 June, 1998 from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which it was stated that, as a separate employing body in the Borough Council's Pension Fund, it was necessary for the Council to produce a Statement of Policy.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be requested to produce a draft Statement of Policy for consideration at its September meeting.

16. **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 1, 8, 15 and 22 June, 1998**

The Council discussed the planning applications contained in the Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 1, 8, 15 and 22 June, 1998.

RESOLVED: That the following comment be made to the Planning Authority in respect of application No. T98/2397/01:

"That the Council is opposed to the application on the grounds that:

- (i) The sign is too big.
- (ii) The sign is out of character in a semi rural environment.
- (iii) The sign will encourage the parking of cars on a dangerous bend in the road."

17. **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 10 to the Council's agenda.

18. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Dog fouling outside vet's premises**

Councillor Bendle advised the Council that the highway outside the vet's premises in Pontyclun was regularly subject to dog fouling.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk bring the situation to the attention of the vet.

(b) **Overhanging hedge**

Councillor Bendle advised of an overhanging hedge which was impeding the free passage of pedestrians using the footpath from Heol Miskin to Heol y Coed, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That as the bungalow concerned was currently for sale the Clerk contact the estate agents and ask for the hedge to be cut back.

(c) **Site meeting**

Councillor Norman advised of a site meeting he had attended on behalf of the Community Council with representatives of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to discuss the Borough Council owned plot of land off Heol Miskin, Pontyclun.

It was agreed at the meeting that the plot of land would continue to be leased to an adjacent householder and that if the householder wished to carry out any activity on the land which was not currently approved by the Planning Authority, a planning application for a change of use of land would be necessary.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Pontyclun Primary School - Inspection Report**

Councillor Norman referred to the recent inspection which had taken place at Pontyclun Primary School and the expected report. Preliminary indications showed that when the report was formally submitted it would show the school in a very good light.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(e) **Weeds in the pavement alongside Maes-yr Afon, Pontyclun**

Councillor Edwards reported that there was a considerable growth of weeds in the pavement alongside Maes-yr-Afon, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handyman to remove the weeds.

(f) **Maesyfelin Rugby Field**

Councillor Davies drew the attention of the Council to the encroachments by residents of Tegfan, Pontyclun, on to the Maesyfelin Rugby Field.

It was stated that the encroachments took the form of extensions to the gardens of householders in Tegfan and it was feared that if the encroachments were allowed to go unchallenged they might result in a part of the Maesyfelin Rugby Field being lost to the public.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Director of Property Services of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(g) **Fence adjacent to the Pontyclun Fire Station**

Councillor Davies advised the Council that the boundary fence of the Pontyclun Fire Station had yet to be repaired despite several reports having been made about the potential dangers to children and the elderly.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up again with the Chief Fire Officer.

(h) **Bus shelter, Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea reported that the bus shelter in Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen was in need of a coat of creosote.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handyman to carry out the work.

(i) **Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Budget for 1999/2000**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, advised the Council that in advance of the preparation of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Budget for 1999/2000 members of that authority had been told to work on the basis of a 5% to 10% reduction in spending levels.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(j) **Bylaws - consumption of alcohol**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, circulated for Members' information clarification on the circumstances in which the police could take action against members of the public consuming alcohol in contravention of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's bylaws.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(k) **Week In/Week Out programme**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, referred to the recent BBC television programme Week In/Week Out which alleged shortcomings in the performance of certain officers in the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. Councillor Huish circulated copies of a letter from Mr L Urquhart, Director of Competition Services, to the BBC in which a number of inaccuracies in the programme were pointed out.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(l) **Condition of highway in Station Approach, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood drew the Council's attention to the poor condition of the highway in Station Approach, Pontyclun. Councillor Flood pointed out that there were five major potholes in the road, the street lighting was poor and the surface of the road was regularly strewn with broken glass.

RESOLVED: That the unsatisfactory condition of Station Approach be brought to the attention of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(m) **Public car park off Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood stated that increased prominence needed to be given to the car parking facilities to the rear of the Council owned toilets off Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. There was an urgent need, too, for the boundary fence between Railtrack land and the access road to the car park to be repaired and delineated with a more appropriate material.



RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk arrange for a more prominent car park sign to be erected at the entrance to the car park.

(ii) That the Clerk contact Railtrack to request that the boundary between Railtrack land and the access road to the car park be repaired and delineated with more appropriate material.

(n) **Footpath lighting off Maelog Close, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood reminded the Council that the newly erected lighting column in the lane off Maelog Close, Pontyclun, was still not operational.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up again with the Council's contractors.

(o) **Overhanging hedge**

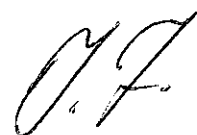
Councillor Flood drew attention to the hedge of the bungalow at the junction of Merthyr Street and Maelog Close, Pontyclun. Councillor Flood said that the hedge was overgrown and was impeding the passage of pedestrians using the adjacent pavement.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the owner of the premises asking that action be taken to trim the hedge to allow the free passage of pedestrians using the pavement.

(p) **Prospect Vale Estate, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood referred to the action taken some months earlier by the Community Council to bring the potential dangers of the open surface water drainage pipe, discharging into the river Ely, to the attention of the appropriate authorities. Assurances had been received that the open end of the pipe would be suitably capped to prevent the possibility of entry by children. Councillor Flood advised that work to make the pipe safe had yet to be carried out.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter again.



(q) **Dipali and Pagoda restaurants**

Councillor Flood drew the Council's attention to the practices of both restaurant proprietors in serving take away meals after 11.00 p.m. He stated that the proprietors, to comply with the terms of their planning consent, closed their doors to the public yet kept a light on in the premises and would serve customers who knocked at their doors.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Planning Authority.

(r) **Brunel Arms, Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle referred to the representations made by the Council in opposing the application for a renewal of the late night entertainment licence at the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun.

Following the refusal of the licensing application Councillor Bendle's sister had been told that she was no longer welcome as a customer at the Brunel Arms. It had been implied that the action was being taken as a consequence of Councillor Bendle's involvement with the Pontyclun Community Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be requested to write South Wales Echo deploring the victimisation of Councillor Bendle's sister as a result of Councillor Bendle performing his public duties with the Pontyclun Community Council. Additionally, that copies of the Community Council's letter be sent to the managing directors of the Crown Brewery and Brains Brewery and to the editor of the Llantrisant Observer.

(s) **Footpath lighting, Windsor Fields**

Councillor Norman pointed out that the footpath lighting along the Windsor Field, Pontyclun was still not working satisfactorily.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Council's contractors again about the outstanding work.

(t) **Highway lighting, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun**

Councillor Davies reported that due to the growth of branches

and leaves on the trees along Heol Miskin the level of illumination during the hours of darkness was considerably reduced.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Highway Authority.

19. **Any other business of an urgent nature**

(a) **Millenium Festivities**

Councillor Griffiths asked that the subject of festivities to mark the new Millenium be placed on the agenda for the Community Council's September meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the necessary action.

(b) **Employment of student**

the Clerk reported that a student had been employed to assist the Council's Handyman during the summer months. The student was Mr Jonathan Roberts of Danybryn, Brynsadler, who started work on 1 July, 1998.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

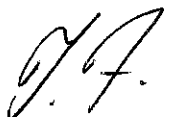
(c) **Public Footpath from Pontyclun to Tylagarw**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Llanharry Community Council asking for the Pontyclun Community Council's support in making representations to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in seeking the cooperation of vehicle owners in avoiding the blockage of the public footpath at the Pontyclun Joinery. The Pontyclun Joinery is situated within the Llanharry Community Council's boundary.

RESOLVED: That the Pontyclun Community Council's support be given and that the Clerk send a letter to the Highway Authority urging that steps be taken to accommodate the needs of vehicle owners and pedestrians using the public footpath to Tylagarw.

(d) **Public Meeting**

The Clerk reminded the Council that, at its request, he had



made arrangements for a public meeting to be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. on 20 July, 1998, to discuss the proposals "for landfilling; contouring; and profiling, to facilitate the provision of extended recreation grounds on land off Heol Miskin, Pontyclun".

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(e) **Annual Grants Meeting**

The Clerk reminded the Council that its annual grants distribution meeting would be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on 8 July, 1998.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

20. The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. H.", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.