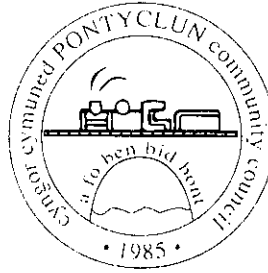


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**Pontyclun Community Council**

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

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Keddle for part of the meeting and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor S Rogers

2. **Chairperson's business**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, drew the Council's attention to the availability of framed, old aerial photographs of Pontyclun, taken by the R. A. F. The views showed Pontyclun before many of the modern residential developments had been built and would be of interest to many residents.

3. **Police matters**

(a) **Parking in Stuart Terrace, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle reported that for several years the police had been tolerant about the parking of vehicles on the footways in Stuart Terrace, Pontyclun. This was because the police recognised that the street was narrow and there was no convenient place for residents to park their cars.

In recent months it appeared that drivers were parking their vehicles on the footway at the junction of Stuart Terrace and Cowbridge Road and causing a hazard. It seemed likely the owners of these vehicles were not Stuart Terrace residents but drivers visiting local business premises.

As a result it had become necessary to enforce the law prohibiting the parking of vehicles on footways for the whole length of Stuart Terrace. Residents felt that they were being unfairly treated and had made their views known.

Councillor Norman drew to P C Keddle's attention the possibility that some residents of Stuart Terrace might have bought sections of the grass verges outside their premises for the purpose of parking their vehicles. P C Keddle responded that further enquiries would be made.

(b) **Speeding vehicles**

Councillor Norman acknowledged the efforts made by the police radar detection team in reducing the problems caused by speeding vehicles in the Community but pointed out that speeding vehicles were again causing problems. The areas particularly affected were:

- (i) Outside Leekes Store in Cowbridge Road
- (ii) Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun
- (iii) Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun
- (iv) Llanharry Road

The matter was noted by P C Keddle.

(c) **Vandalism - Noticeboard**

Councillor Davies drew to P C Keddle's attention to the vandalism which had taken place to the Community Council's noticeboard outside the post office in Pontyclun.

The matter was noted by P C Keddle.

(d) **Vandalism - Pontyclun Primary School**

Councillor Norman drew P C Keddle's attention to the vandalism which had taken place at the Pontyclun Primary School during the school holiday.



P C Keddle noted the matter.

(e) **Motorised scooters**

Councillor Rea advised P C Keddle that there had been a number of complaints in Groesfaen about the use of motorised scooters on pavements by youngsters. Not only were the scooters noisy but they also posed a hazard to pedestrians using the pavements.

The matter was noted by P C Keddle.

(f) **Proposed road re-alignment, Brynsadler**

Councillor Bendle reminded P C Keddle's of the Community Council's concern over speeding in Brynsadler, the lack of a pavement on the southern side of the bridge over the river Ely, and the proposal of the Community Council to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to address both matters by a simple re-alignment of the highway. The Community Council had even offered to contribute a considerable sum of money towards the project. Councillor Bendle told P C Keddle that any support the police could offer for the proposal would be very welcome.

The matter was noted by P C Keddle.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 7 July, 1999**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 7 July, 1999, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

Partnership Council nomination

Councillor Dilworth referred to his nomination by the Pontyclun Community Council for the Wales Association of Community and Town Council's vacancy on the Partnership Council. Councillor Dilworth understood that there had been a number of nominations for the vacancy and that interviews were to be held in Aberystwyth for the purpose of selecting the Association's candidate. Councillor Dilworth sought clarification from the Council that, if selected for interview, his travelling expenses would be regarded as an official duty for the Community Council.



RESOLVED: That in the event of Councillor Dilworth being selected for interview for the vacancy to the Partnership Council, his attendance at the selection meeting be regarded as an official duty on behalf of the Community Council

6. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 19 July, 1999**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 19 July, 1999, be approved as an accurate record.

7. **Matters arising**

Speeding vehicles

Councillor Dilworth advised the Council of his deep concern over speeding vehicles in Pontyclun. Councillor Dilworth was organising a petition of local residents requesting that permanent action be taken to reduce the speed of vehicles before a serious accident occurred. The petition was likely to be completed in the course of the following week.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

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

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100 A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information namely, applicants for a service provided by the Council.

(b) **Allocation of grants for the 1999/2000 financial year**

The Council discussed late applications for grant aid.

RESOLVED: That the following grants be made:

	£	p	
Pontyclun Group of the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust	50	00	
St. Paul's Church Nursery	50	00	*
Llantrisant & District Local History Society	50	00	
DIAL Llantrisant	100	00	
Childline Cymru/ Wales	50	00	



Note:

- * The Clerk declared an interest in this application and took no part in the Council's deliberations

In making these grants the Council was mindful of the advice given by the District Auditor about changes made to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, by Sections 36 to 38 of the Housing Act, 1989, where it was necessary for councils to document factors taken into account prior to a decision being taken. In particular, the Community Council took into account:

- (a) whether payment was of direct benefit
- (b) whether benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (c) whether the organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils'
- (d) whether the money was being used to circumvent any limitation on specific powers
- (e) whether the award of grants would result in a precedent leading to applications from other groups.

(c) **Proposed erection of an "Industrial Estates" sign**

The Council discussed the reply of the Highway Authority to the Community Council's earlier suggestion for the Council to make a contribution towards the cost of the erection of an "Industrial Estates" road sign on the Talbot Green By Pass. The Council was convinced that such a sign would reduce the number of heavy goods vehicles needlessly entering Pontyclun every day.

There was unanimous agreement that that the Community Council should agree to the proposal contained in the Highway Authority's letter. However, some Members pointed out that the residents of Talbot Green also faced a similar problem with heavy goods vehicles needlessly entering Talbot Green and that the erection of a an further sign could alleviate the problems being faced by residents of Talbot Green.

RESOLVED: That before the Council confirm its agreement to the Highway Authority's suggestion for the erection of a road sign on the Talbot Green By



Pass, the Clerk write to the Llantrisant Community Council inviting that authority to consider whether it would wish to enter into a joint venture with the Pontyclun Community Council for the erection of a further road sign to alleviate the problems being faced by Talbot Green residents.

(d) **Proposed Millennium Street Plan**

The Council was disappointed to receive a letter from Burrows Communications which stated that the company had "tried in vain to win advertising support" to produce a Millennium Street Plan for the Community Council. The company suggested that the Council consider funding the map, at a cost of £2,500.

A long discussion ensued on the best way forward in obtaining a Millennium Street Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make application for a grant under the Millennium Commission's small grant scheme to fund the project.

(e) **Correspondence affecting Groesfaen**

The Council received copies of correspondence which had taken place between Mr Richard Fairlamb of Groesfaen and the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering in Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

In his letter Mr Fairlamb argued for a greater spend of Borough Council monies in Groesfaen. He listed traffic calming, improvements to a vision splay, additional footpath lighting, renewal of footways, improvements to the entrance to the Tynewydd landfill site and the provision of an additional bus shelter as important needs in the village.

The Community Council was supportive of Mr Fairlamb's representations and pointed out that improvements to footpath lighting in the village were imminent and were being undertaken at through Community Council funding. Additionally, the Community Council had sought to build a new bus shelter in the village but had been told by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council that there was insufficient space at the ideal location.



RESOLVED: That in the interests of progressing the construction of a bus shelter in Groesfaen, the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking whether a bus shelter could be built on the chosen site using the solution found by the Cardiff CBC near the Creigiau junction on the A4119 in Groesfaen.

(f) **Wales Association of Community & Town Councils -
"Local Council Meetings"**

(Councillor Dilworth declared an interest in this matter and left the Council Chamber)

The Council discussed a letter from the Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community & Town Councils inviting representation on a short course on "Local Council Meetings"

It was planned that the course would be held on 4 September, 1999, and would be facilitated by Mr Andrew Padfield, Senior Lecturer in Law at the Gwent Tertiary College. The course would be of particular interest to newly elected council members.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be nominated to attend the course.

(g) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council considered an application for financial assistance from S. W. I. F. T., (South Wales Information for Travellers Who Are Disabled, Infirm or Retired)

RESOLVED: That the Council decline making a grant to the organisation.

(h) **Planning**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 16, 23, 30 July and 6, 13 and 20 August, 1999.



(The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, declared an interest in this item of business, vacated the Chair, and took no part in the Council's deliberations. The Vice Chairperson, Councillor Rea, occupied the Chair during the Chairperson's absence)

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on the following two applications:

Application No. T99/2570/10

That the Community Council urge the Borough Council to ensure:

- (i) that existing accesses to the houses immediately behind the proposed development site are safeguarded.
- (ii) that adequate vision splays are provided for vehicles emerging from the proposed development on to the A4119.

Application No. T99/2570/10

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that the necessary vision splay for the access road to the proposed development on to the Cowbridge Road could not be achieved.

(i) **Clerk's Report**

(i) **Council's computer**

The Clerk outlined the problems being encountered in the operation of the Community Council's computer. It was understood from a report he had received from a computer specialist that the source of the problem probably lay with one of the machine's processors. It was likely that the cost of repairing the computer would exceed the value of the machine.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements for the purchase of a new computer.



(ii) **Trimming of hedgerow overgrowth**

The Clerk advised the Council that from time to time he received reports from Members and the public about overhanging brambles and vegetation from hedgerows adjacent to public footpaths and footways.

In some cases the hedgerows were in the ownership of the highway authority and in other cases were in private ownership. From experience he had found that it often took several weeks, sometimes months, to get the offending vegetation trimmed back.

To ensure the free passage of members of the public along public footpaths and footways, without risk of injury, he had arranged with the Community Council's Handyman to remove the offending overgrowth when reports were received.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be noted.

(iii) **Chairman's Appeal**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Chairman of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which the Chairman gave details of his charity appeal for his term of office.

RESOLVED: That as the Chairperson of the Community Council, Councillor Huish, had already planned to make a donation to the appeal out of his Chairperson's Allowance, no further contribution be made.

(iv) **Application for an off licence for the sale of alcohol**

The Clerk gave details of an application for an off licence to sell alcohol at the Spar Supermarket, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Notification of the application had been received too late for inclusion on the Council's agenda.

RESOLVED: That the application be noted.



(v) **Children's play area, Talbot Green**

The Clerk distributed a letter from the Director of Leisure and Tourism inviting the Community Council to attend a meeting to discuss matters affecting the children's play area in Talbot Green. It was suggested that as some children from Pontyclun used the play area, the Community Council the Council would have an interest in the play area.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk advise the Director of Leisure and Tourism that Members of the Pontyclun Community Council would be prepared to attend a site meeting to discuss matters in connection with the children's play area.

(vi) **Disabled access to the Ivor Woods**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had been contacted by Groundwork to ascertain the current position on the Community Council's plans to create an access for disabled people into the Ivor Woods. Groundwork believed that it may have been possible, through negotiation with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, to get a reduction of around £500 to £1,000 in the cost of the proposed scheme.

RESOLVED: That the possibility of obtaining lottery funding for the scheme through the Millenium Commission be pursued.

(vii) **Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales drawing attention to the work undertaken by that organisation in producing a booklet on historic rural cottages in Wales. A copy of the booklet was circulated for Members information.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the booklet be obtained for each Member of the Council.

(j) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 11 to the Council's agenda.



9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Staffing levels at Talbot Green Police Station**

The Council received a reply from Chief Inspector Kinrade to its concerns about staffing levels at the Talbot Green Police Station.

RESOLVED: That the reply be noted.

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

The Council received the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the Community Council's concerns over encroachments on to the Maesyfelin Rugby Field. The Council also received a copy of the Clerk's reply to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

(c) **Proposed Borough Council/ Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee**

The Council received the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council over the Community Council's concerns that after three years since the reorganisation of local government the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had yet to establish a Borough Council/Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Community Council express its deep disappointment at the stance of the Borough Council in attempting to blame community councils for the lack of agenda items as the reason for meetings of the liaison committee not having taken place
- (ii) That the Community Council remind the Borough Council of its failure to consult community councils on a range of issues identified in its final service delivery plan submitted to the Welsh Office



- (iii) That the Borough Council's poor consultation record with its community councils be pursued through the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

(d) **Delays in processing footpath orders**

The Council received the response of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils over the delay being experienced by the Community Council in processing footpath orders. It was suggested that the delay be referred to in a future edition of the Association's newsletter "Bro" and that the matter be raised at a meeting of the Partnership Council.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

(e) **Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom Competition, 1999**

The Community Council was delighted to learn that, for the second year running, it had won first prize in the annual Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom Competition in the Best Kept War Memorial Section.

RESOLVED: That the Council's congratulations be passed to Mr Dave Tookey, the Council's Handyman, for his excellent presentation and care of the Pontyclun War Memorial.

(f) **Age Concern**

The Council received correspondence from the local branch of Age Concern stating the organisation's intention to revert to its former name of Age Concern Taff Ely.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

10. The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

