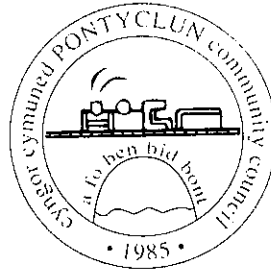


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 2 February, 2005.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs V A Cale, D Clayton Jones, C Davies, M P Griffiths, D G Henderson, Ms S R Jenkins, A R Lane, R G Norman and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Kettle and Sergeant Jones of the South Wales Constabulary for part of the meeting and seven members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor M Rea

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

RESOLVED: That any disclosures be included in the Register of Disclosures.

3. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime figures**

P C Kettle tabled the latest crime figures for the Community and surrounding villages.

(b) **Public seat**

P C Kettle advised that a complaint had been received from a resident of the Maesyfelin Estate about noise caused by youths congregating on the public seat in Heol y Felin,

Pontyclun. A request had been received for the removal of the seat. The request was discussed by the Council who took into account the high usage of the seat by members of the public. The Council decided not to remove the seat but to monitor the situation.

(c) **Theft**

A Member advised of the theft from the garage at her home in Ynysddu of a pedal cycle. The incident was noted by P C Keddle and Sergeant Jones.

(d) **Licensed premises**

In response to a question from a Member, P C Keddle reported that complaints of nuisance caused by the clientele of local licensed premises had been very low during the last month.

(e) **Road traffic accidents**

A Member drew the attention of P C Keddle and the Council to three separate road traffic accidents which had occurred in Cowbridge Road, Talygarn, since Christmas. The Member referred to a letter, enclosed at Appendix 7 to the Agenda, from a resident in Talygarn asking for the installation of a CCTV camera to control the speed of traffic. P C Keddle noted the concerns.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council write to the Borough Council asking that traffic calming measures be introduced on Cowbridge Road, Talygarn.

(f) **Highways matters in Pontyclun**

The Council considered a number of issues connected with highway problems in Pontyclun.

(i) **Station Terrace**

Ms Wendy Morgan, a resident of Station Terrace, Pontyclun, addressed the Council on behalf of residents of Station Terrace. Ms Morgan pointed out that the highway "improvement" works in the Terrace had resulted in fewer on-street parking spaces. The long awaited development of the west-bound platform to provide additional parking spaces had not materialised, and increased competition for the fewer parking spaces in the Terrace had come from new commercial premises in the

vicinity. In addition, the Terrace continued to be the only route for heavy vehicles accessing and leaving the industrial units at the Ely Valley Industrial Estate.

The quality of life of residents in Station Terrace had considerably deteriorated and there were constant fears for the safety of children and damage to vehicles parked in the Terrace. There had been numerous arguments between motorists and the police were regularly contacted.

Ms Morgan appealed to the Community Council to bring pressure on the appropriate authorities to resolve the situation.

(ii) **Traffic calming**

The Clerk read out and distributed a letter from Councillor Merfyn Rea to the Borough Council about proposed road calming measures in Pontyclun. The contents of the letter were noted.

(iii) **Proposed Access Road to Ely Valley Business Park**

The Council discussed a letter from the Borough Council's Director of Development and Regeneration who stated that a report on the consultants' study was being prepared for the Borough Council's Performance and Resources Committee. The letter was noted.

The Community Council was of the view that a holistic approach to highway problems in Pontyclun was needed. The Council was concerned that the report by consultants on highways problems had been delayed and that its contents had not been shared with the Community Council for comment.

A Member advised that he had already contacted the Leader of the Borough Council and asked for a site meeting to discuss the various highways problems in Pontyclun. A commitment had been given that a meeting would be held.

(iv) **Accumulations of litter**

Members also commented on the unsightly accumulations of litter in back lanes and in other prominent places in the Community. Of particular concern were the railway embankments on the approaches to the Pontyclun railway station.



RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Community Council await the outcome of the site meeting between representatives of the Borough Council and the Community Council.
- (ii) That an invitation to attend the site meeting be extended to the police and residents of Station Terrace.
- (iii) That the Clerk establish the position on the consultants' report in the Borough Council and request that consultation be entered into with the Community Council at all stages.
- (iv) That the Clerk write to the Borough Council enclosing a list of the litter "hot spots" in the Community.
- (v) That the Clerk again contact Network Rail asking for a further clearance of the litter on the embankments on the approaches to Pontyclun station.
- (vi) That the Clerk ask the Borough Council for the chewing gum removal team to visit Pontyclun to remove gum from the footways of the main thoroughfare.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 January, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 5 January, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

6. **Minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 14 January, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 14 January, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

7. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

8. **Minutes of the Council's Extraordinary Meeting of 28 January, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's Extraordinary Meeting of 28 January, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

9. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

10. **To confirm the minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 28 January, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 28 January, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

11. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

12. **Adoption of Finance Committee's recommendations**

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Finance Committee's recommendations be adopted.
- (ii) That the Council recognise the need to increase balances in line with the internal auditor's comments.
- (iii) That once balances are restored to an acceptable level, each item in the Council's Budget be fully costed in future years.

13. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Improving dialogue and communication**



The Council discussed the paper prepared by the Communications Sub Group on ways of improving dialogue and communication within the Community and between the Council and the Community.

The Council was enthusiastic about the ideas put forward by the Sub Group, especially the proposal for an On-line Bulletin Board. A Bulletin Board could be obtained free of charge and could, at a later date, be up-graded to a website.

The Chairperson stated that she had drafted a press release on the plans for an On-line Bulletin Board and was seeking feedback from Members. It was planned that the release would go into the Diary in addition to the press.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Sub Group's proposals be formally adopted by the Community Council.
 - (ii) That the availability of the On-line Bulletin Board be advertised in the Community Council's noticeboards
 - (iii) That proposals for a website be brought forward in due course.

(b) **Maesyfelin playing fields**

The Council discussed a letter from the Head of Estates at the Borough Council in which it was stated that, following inspection of the title deeds, it could be confirmed that the land was donated to the former Glamorgan County Council by Wyndham Clark in 1919 for the purpose of creating a school and recreation ground.

Public access was not reserved as part of the transfer. The document in the possession of the Borough Council stated that use of the area is limited to school pupils, Pontyclun Institute, the local football and cricket clubs, Friendly Society and other recognised organised bodies.

The Borough Council's file included lease documents dating back to 1947 in respect of the football, cricket and rugby clubs. All clubs were responsible for fence maintenance under the leases.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Borough Council be asked to regularise the absence of a current lease with the Pontyclun Rugby Club.

- (ii) That the Borough Council be asked to provide the Community Council professional advice on the extent and cost of fence replacement.
- (iii) That the Borough Council be asked for professional advice on what other options were available to delineate the boundaries of the playing fields in the event of fence renewal being too costly.

(c) **Highways matters in Pontyclun**

The Clerk read out a letter which had been sent to him by Councillor Rea after the despatch of agendas. He also read out a letter which had been handed to him by Mr Keith Noakes, a resident of Millfield, Pontyclun.

The Council believed that both letters contained important points affecting highways in Pontyclun but felt that it was premature to decide on courses of action until the proposed meeting with members and officers of the Borough Council, referred to in minute 3 (f):

RESOLVED: That the points raised by Councillor Rea and Mr Noakes be raised at the proposed site meeting with the Borough Council.

(d) **Former Park Hall cinema, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reminded the Council of its original decision in this matter to request the Borough Council to serve a repair or demolish order on the owners of the premises.

The Council had subsequently decided to explore the possibility of contacting CADW with a view to having the premises listed as a step towards attracting funds for the renovation of the building.

The Clerk had subsequently been advised by Councillor Rea, in his capacity as Borough Councillor, that the Borough Council would not pursue any action to serve a repair or demolish notice on the owners if there was a possibility that the premises might be listed. If it subsequently transpired that the premises were not considered suitable for listing by CADW the community might find that the dilapidated cinema might remain as an eyesore in a prominent position for many years to come.



RESOLVED: That the Community Council takes no further action on the possibility of listing by CADW in favour of the Borough Council serving a repair or demolish order on the owners of the former cinema.

(e) **Proposed access road to the Ely Valley Business Park**

RESOLVED: That as a full discussion on this matter had already taken place under item 3 (f) no further discussion be entered into.

(f) **Residents' concerns in Brynsadler**

The Council discussed the complaints received from residents of Brynsadler about the practice of a JCB driver of regularly parking his machine at the front of Clos y Brenin and the large rocks which the driver appeared to have positioned at the site in order to prevent other drivers from using the parking space.

The actions had deprived the nearby home for patients with learning difficulties from parking their minibus close to the home. This resulted in patients having to use the highway.

The Clerk reported that ownership of the land in question had been unclear for many years and enquiries with the Borough Council had shown that the land had not been adopted by the Highway Authority. There appeared to be little direct action the Community Council could take.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the officer in charge at the home expressing the Council's concern at the inconvenience caused by the enforced parking arrangements. Further, that it be suggested that the possibility of creating a lay-by adjacent to the home be explored and that grant assistance may be available for this purpose.

(g) **Request for the installation of a speed camera in Talygarn**

RESOLVED: That as a full discussion on this matter had already taken place under item 3 (e) no further discussion take place.

(h) **Consultation Document "Providing indemnities to members and officers of relevant authorities"**

Members received copies of the Welsh Assembly Government's Consultation Document.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council decline to offer comments on the Consultation Document.

(i) **The Tsunami Disaster**

The Council received the advice of One Voice Wales following enquiries by many local councils.

It was clarified that community councils do not have the power to contribute to disaster relief abroad but they have a key role in providing community support both to those returning to the UK and to the families and friends of those who have been killed and of those missing.

The Community Council recognised that many residents in the Community had made significant contributions towards the Tsunami Disaster relief. The Community Council wished to place on record its thanks for the efforts of local residents in giving assistance to the victims of the disaster.

RESOLVED: That the letter from One Voice Wales be noted.

(j) **Payment of creditors**

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

(k) **Planning applications**

The Council discussed planning applications affecting the Community contained in the latest Weekly Notifications received from the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED: That no comment be made on the applications to the Planning Authority.

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

There were no matters reported.

15. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **One Voice Wales – Chief Executive's letter**

The Council received a letter from the newly appointed Chief Executive of One Voice Wales, Mr Iwan W Richards, LLB (Hons), Dip TP, MRTPI.



Mr Richards outlined his experience as a barrister and chartered town planner who had latterly been employed at the Local Government Ombudsman's Office, Wales. His experience covered investigating complaints of maladministration against principal councils and allegations of misconduct against members made to the Ombudsman.

Mr Richards outlined his plans to issue regular newsletters, visiting all the Area Committees and of being of service to all members of the organisation.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(b) **Members' reports on the Training Days for Councillors**

The Council received written reports from Councillor Jenkins and Councillor Henderson on their attendance at the training days for councillors.

RESOLVED: That the matter be placed on the Community Council's next agenda for detailed comments from Members.

16. The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

