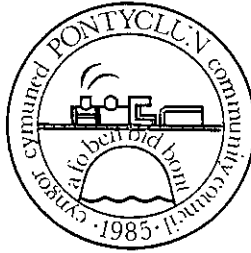


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
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 Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 June, 1993

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen, Mrs A Burton, Mr J R Dilworth, Mr E V Griffith, Mr G Moir and Mr R G Norman and Mrs O P Phillips

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Four members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors Mr T J Burton and Mr V P James

2. Presentation on Credit Unions

The Council received a presentation on the work of credit unions by the recently appointed Credit Union Officer to the Taff Ely Borough Council, Mr Gerald Howells.

Mr Howells pointed out that credit unions had been operating very successfully in Europe for many years but had been relatively slow to become established in the United Kingdom. However, growth of credit unions in the United Kingdom in recent years had mushroomed and he was confident that they would become widespread in the short to medium term.

In the United Kingdom credit unions are controlled by the Credit Union Act, 1969. They exist to lend money to their members at preferential rates of interest. Rates of interest, both for depositors and borrowers, are fixed by law. Any group of citizens with a common interest could form a credit union. Despite being termed "the poor person's bank" credit unions had been formed by professional and working people. In Mr Howells' view the formation of credit unions had done much to reduce the scope for unscrupulous organisations lending money at exorbitant rates of interest.

Mr Howells was confident that there would be an upsurge of interest in the formation of credit unions throughout the Borough of Taff Ely. He invited Members to think seriously about the formation of credit unions and offered his services in assisting to get them established.

The Chairman thanked Mr Howells for giving an interesting presentation on the roles of credit unions.

E. G. Griffith

3. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

4. Minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting of 12 May, 1993

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting held on 12 May, 1993, be approved as an accurate record.

5. Matters arising

(a) Retiring Chairperson's Report

RESOLVED: (i) That in the absence of the retiring Chairperson consideration of his report for 1992/93 be deferred to a later meeting.

(ii) That the Council place on record its appreciation of the hard work undertaken by the retiring Chairperson during his year of office.

(iii) That in view of Councillor Burton's indisposition, a get well card be sent wishing him a speedy recovery to full fitness.

(b) School House, Miskin

The Clerk reported on the enquiries he had made with the County Council's Director of Land and Buildings about the disposal of the former school and School House in School Road, Miskin. Initially, the premises were advertised as being for sale, at commercial rates, as one entity. However, the County Council would be prepared to consider offers for the former school and School House separately.

Councillor Moir pointed out that School House had been used for many years as an office and consequently, in the absence of a planning application for change of use to residential use, the County Council should expect less for the property. The Clerk stated that he was unaware of the planning use attaching to School House.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make further enquiries about the planning conditions attaching to School House.

(c) Former premises of Groesfaen Car Sales, Groesfaen

The Clerk referred to the enquiry raised at the previous meeting of the Community Council about the planning consent attaching to the premises of Groesfaen Car Sales in Groesfaen. He had established that the premises had the benefit of planning permission for commercial use.

The report was noted.

(d) Acquisition of a lawn mower

The Clerk reported that he had made a comparison of the costs to the Community Council of hiring or purchasing a lawn mower for use during the grass growing season. The comparison showed that it would work out cheaper for the Council to purchase a good quality second hand mower rather than hire a lawn mower for a season. Effectively, after the first season, the Council would have "free" use of its mower.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements for the purchase of a suitable, good quality, second hand mower.

(e) District Council/Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee

Councillor John Dilworth reported that he had obtained the terms of reference of the District Council/ Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee. Having read them it was clear that members could raise matters of a general nature.

The matter was noted.

(f) Parking of vehicles outside the Dipali restaurant, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

Councillor John Dilworth reported that vehicles continued to park on the pavement and highway immediately outside the Dipali restaurant in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. Representations had failed to bring about any improvement in the situation and it was feared that an accident was inevitable if parking habits did not change.

RESOLVED: That County Councillor Bowen continue to press for a site meeting and that an invitation to attend be extended to the police.

(g) Proposed development at the Ivor Arms, Brynsadler

Councillor John Dilworth reported that feelings were still running high among residents of The Hollies, Brynsadler, about the plans to develop at the Ivor Arms and the associated facilities for vehicles. Councillor Dilworth had spoken to Mr Clarke in the Planning Office of the Borough Council on a number of occasions. Councillor Dilworth referred to the proposed site meeting with the County Council and hoped that proposals to reduce residents' worries would be agreed.

The matter was noted.

(h) Governing body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant

Councillor John Dilworth reported that he had attended the last meeting of the Governing Body. He had taken a firm line on the subject of testing primary children. He emphasised that the Governing Body should maintain a central role and should not be seen to jeopardise its position.

The matter was noted.

(i) Bailey bridge across the river Ely

Councillor John Dilworth referred to the "closure" of the public right of way over the bailey bridge across the river Ely at the western end of Station Terrace, Pontyclun. He pointed out that there were no notices to advise of the closure of the footpath and, in practice, the public continued to use the bridge. However, it was apparent that the bridge was now in a dangerous condition for pedestrians since a number of holes had appeared on the area used by pedestrians and no action had been taken to repair the holes.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the County Council as a matter of urgency.

6. Possibility of placing a cricket wicket on the Windsor Field

The Chairman, Councillor Eric Griffiths informed the Council that he had received approaches about the possibility of a cricket wicket being installed on the Windsor Field in Pontyclun. The Chairman felt that there was need for such a facility in Pontyclun and was confident that the facility would be well used.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the possibility of the installation of a cricket wicket with the Borough Council.

7. Possibility of the installation of street lighting, River's Edge, Pontyclun

Councillor Delme Bowen advised the Council of the deep concern of residents living in River's Edge, Pontyclun, about the lack of public lighting in the street. Residents believed that with the onset of the darker evenings there was an increased risk of theft and muggings. It appeared that the access road into the estate was in private ownership and that private, albeit ineffective, arrangements existed for street lighting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the County Council asking that:

- (i) the status of the access road be reviewed
- (ii) consideration be given by the County Council to adopting the street lighting.

8. Proposed further residential development at Maesyfelin

Councillor Delme Bowen referred to the decision of the Borough Council to grant planning permission for further residential development at Maesyfelin. A significant factor in the award of permission was the statement by the National Rivers Authority that "no verifiable information regarding the Maesyfelin area exists to our knowledge prior to the flood of March, 1981".

Councillor Bowen pointed out that the N.R.A.'s predecessor body, the Glamorgan River Authority, in a statement by their Engineer, Mr John Elias Roberts, was able to provide technical detail on floodwater levels for the floods which occurred on 4 December, 1960, 17/18 December, 1965 and 19 October, 1966. As successor body to the Glamorgan Rivers Authority the National Rivers Authority would have access to this information.

RESOLVED: That in view of the clear evidence that information on pre-March, 1981 floodwater existed at the time the latest planning application was submitted, the Clerk:

- (i) contact the Ombudsman again and ask him to reconsider his decision not to carry out an investigation into the case.
- (ii) contact the Chief Executive and Clerk of the Borough Council and ask him to place before the Borough Council's Planning Committee all relevant documents in the case, including the statement prepared by the Engineer to the former Glamorgan River Authority.

9. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant -
Actions of the Taff Ely District Education Officer

Councillor John Dilworth explained that he had asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda. Since making the request, the matter had been amicably resolved and he had received an apology on behalf of the District Education Officer. Councillor Dilworth did not wish to pursue the matter any further at this stage.

Councillor Dilworth's comments were noted.

10. Planning

(a) Notifications for Weeks Ending 14 and 21 May, 1993

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Borough Council:

Application No.s 93/0371/15, 93/0372/10 and 93/0373/10

That the Council strongly urge the Borough Council not to accede to the applications since the conditions were imposed to ensure that certain minimum standards were observed by the developer. Furthermore, it is believed that the conditions were only imposed after very careful consideration of local conditions and the need to afford a measure of protection to existing residents and prospective purchasers.

(b) Application for determination of conditions on Interim Development Order Permission

The Clerk read out a letter he had received from the County Planning Officer about an application for determination of conditions on Interim Development Order Permission for the Forestwood Quarry, Pontyclun. The County Planning Officer invited the Community Council to offer its observations on the application.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made:

- (i) The Council is surprised that it is proposed to extend the working life of the quarry well into the next century. Previous indications were that the life of the quarry would be much shorter.

(ii) The Council is protests at the likely increase in traffic generated by the extended quarry. Improved road facilities should be made available to accompany any increase in production.

(iii) The Council is opposed to any expansion which would result in the destruction of more woodland.

(iv) The Council protests at the proposals Secondary Plant Operation at 6.00 a.m. on Sundays. The Council believes that a more realistic starting time is 8.00 a.m.

11. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix No. 3 to the Agenda.

12. Reports from Members

(a) Age Concern

Councillor Pam Phillips reported on her attendance at the last meeting of Age Concern. Councillor Phillips reported that there were facilities to soundproof windows for the elderly subject to the payment of a £7.00 nominal fee. Age Concern was also able to advise on the availability of grants for loft insulation. Councillor Phillips urged Members to bring Age Concern facilities to the attention of the elderly within their wards wherever possible.

The report was noted.

(b) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

Councillor Gordon Moir reported on his attendance at the last meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee. Councillor Moir reported that the Inspectorate of Pollution no longer had responsibilities at the Quarry and that the matters which had formerly fallen within the Inspectorate's jurisdiction had become the responsibility of the Environmental Health Department of the Borough Council. Copies of the operating practice at the quarry had also been passed over to the Borough Council.

The report was noted.

(c) Wales Association of Community and Town Councils -
East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee

Councillor John Dilworth reported on his attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. He reported that important discussion had taken place on:

- (i) Disciplinary and appeal procedures for council employees.
- (ii) Gratuity provisions for clerks who were not pensionable under the terms of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. Further correspondence on this matter was being pursued with the Association's headquarters.
- (iii) The finalisation of a motion on Unadopted sewers which would be submitted for debate to the Association's Annual Conference in the Autumn.

In concluding his report Councillor Dilworth informed the Council that the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee had elected him as Secretary for a third term of office.

(d) Dipali restaurant, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton reported that she had received further complaints from residents living in the vicinity of the Dipali restaurant about the practice of discarding chicken carcasses in an open skip at the rear of the premises. Considerable nuisance was being experienced by local residents and worries were expressed about hygiene.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk follow up the matter with the Borough Council's Environmental Health Department.

(e) Outstanding County Council site meetings

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that currently there was a backlog of outstanding site meetings involving the County Council within the Community. Of particular urgency was a site meeting at Mwyndy to discuss the

British Telecom telephone kiosk. He would continue to press for site meeting arrangements to be finalised and, hopefully, would be in a position to report progress at the next Council meeting.

The report was noted.

(f) Borough Council committees

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that Councillor Viv James had been elected as Vice Chairperson of the Borough Council's Staffing Committee at the recent elections. Councillor Norman reported that he had been re-elected as Chairperson of the Housing Committee.

The reports were noted.

13. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Saturday night discos at the Pontyclun R F C

Councillor Moir reported instances of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Pontyclun RFC clubhouse after discos on Saturday nights. He believed that it was possible for the RFC to strengthen stewardship on disco evenings to prevent recurrences of anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Secretary of the RFC asking for a strengthening of stewardship on disco evenings at the RFC clubhouse.

(b) Proposed pedestrian crossing, Groesfaen

Councillor Cyril Bendle referred to the recent national proposals to introduce charges for for motorway usage. Councillor Bendle was firmly of the view that if these proposals were to go ahead there would be an upsurge in use of the A4119 Llantrisant Road into Cardiff. Councillor Bendle urged the Council to ask the County Council to reconsider its decision not to place a pedestrian crossing in the village of Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write again to the County Engineer and Surveyor, drawing attention to the proposals to make charges for motorway usage, and requesting him to reconsider his earlier decision not to establish a pedestrian crossing in Groesfaen.

(c) Parking problems outside Leekes,
Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Cyril Bendle expressed his concern about the haphazard way in which drivers parked their cars outside the Leekes superstore in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, on Bank Holidays. Councillor Bendle reported that scant regard was paid to the law and chaotic conditions frequently resulted. The same pattern was repeated at successive Bank Holidays.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk follow up the matter with the police and suggest that a traffic warden be deployed in the area at the next Bank Holiday.

(d) Pruning of trees, Clun Avenue, Pontyclun

Councillor John Dilworth reported that some of the trees in Clun Avenue, Pontyclun, were in need of pruning. Councillor Dilworth believed that it was the highway authority which was responsible for maintaining the trees to prevent nuisance.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the County Council.

(e) Hole in pavement adjacent to vet's
premises, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton reported that following the recent removal of a lamp post adjacent to the vet's premises in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, a large hole had been left unfilled. The hole was a hazard to unsuspecting pedestrians.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Delme Bowen include the item on his list of items requiring attention from the County Council.

(f) Vandalism in the Community

Councillor Gordon Norman was sad to have to report several instances of vandalism in the Community in recent weeks. In particular, there had been cases of large coping stones being removed from gate pillars. Not only was this action distressing for owners but there was also a threat of serious injury to the perpetrators. There were also a number of instances where "no waiting" signs had been vandalised.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk convey the Council's disquiet over the incidents to the police and ask that the Community be allocated increased police resources during periods of greatest risk.

(g) Speeding vehicles, Brynsadler

Councillor Gordon Norman again expressed his deep concern over the practice of certain vehicle drivers in driving through Brynsadler at excessive speed. It was clear that road conditions in Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler, were difficult at best and it was extremely dangerous for vehicle drivers to speed through the village.

RESOLVED: That the Council's worries about vehicles speeding through the village be passed to the police.

(h) Back lane improvement programme

Councillor Gordon Norman was pleased to be able to report that the lane adjacent to High Street, Brynsadler, had been selected by the Taff Ely Borough Council for improvement during the current financial year.

The report was noted.

(i) Tipping on land at the junction of Llwynfen Road and Tirafon Court, Pontyclun

The Chairperson, Councillor Eric Griffith, reported that large quantities of rubble had been tipped on land at the junction of Llwynfen Road and Tirafon Court, Pontyclun. He was unaware that planning permission had been granted for the land to be used for tipping or infill.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Borough Council's Environmental Health and Planning Officers.

(j) Police matters

Councillor Cyril Bendle commented on the number of items which had arisen at the meeting where a referral to the police was needed. He thought it appropriate that an invitation be extended to a senior police officer to attend a future meeting of the Council to talk about the matters which were causing concern to Pontyclun residents.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk compile of list of those matters which were currently causing concern in the Community and forward it to the police with a request for a senior officer to address a future meeting of the Community Council.

(k) Parking problems in and around Merthyr Street

The Clerk circulated a letter from the County Engineer and Surveyor which had been received too late for inclusion with the Agenda papers. In summary the letter stated that:

(i) bollards would be erected in the grass verge adjoining the north-east side of the carriageway at Merthyr Street to prevent vehicular parking. Also, that "No through road signs" be erected at the entrance to Merthyr Street.

(ii) consideration be given to extending the waiting restriction order currently in place on the eastern side of route A4222 at this location.

It was stated that works would be completed as soon as possible.

The matter was noted.

(l) Grass cutting - casual assistance

The Clerk reported that, as a temporary measure, he had engaged the services of Mr D T Tookey to assist the Council's handyman with grasscutting duties during the growing season. The work undertaken by the casual assistant had been of a high standard and the Clerk recommended that his employment be continued for the duration of the grass growing season.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's recommendation be accepted.

(m) Notice of Motion

Councillor John Dilworth gave notice that at the next Council meeting he would like a discussion to take place on the consumption of alcohol outside licensed premises in Pontyclun.

14. The meeting ended at 10.20 p.m.

Eric V Smith
ccy.