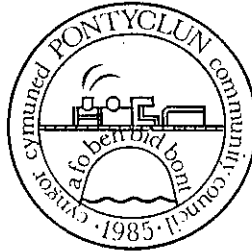


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
 Cowbridge Road,
 Talygarn, Pontyclun,
 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 March, 1994

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Two members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 February, 1994

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 February, 1994, be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) 1994 Sponsored Walk in aid of Kidney Research

The Clerk advised the Council that he was in contact with the Kidney Research Foundation in Cardiff. The K.R.U.F. had promised to give widespread publicity to the sponsored walks which were planned to take place throughout Wales on the morning of Sunday 20 March, 1994. Additionally, the organisation had agreed to contact all the public houses and clubs in the vicinity of Pontyclun to encourage as much participation as possible. The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Clerk to the Llanharry Community Council about a joint walk and that that authority was due to discuss the matter that evening.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk distribute posters and sponsorship forms when they became available

Eric V. G. m/46

(ii) That the Clerk notify the police of the intention to stage the sponsored walk.

(iii) That the Council underwrite the expenses of staging the sponsored walk to a maximum of £50.00.

(b) Proposed Community Centre/Day Centre

The Council discussed the Borough Council's letter of 21 February, 1994, in which it was stated that the provision for windows in the store at the rear of the new Community Centre would be deleted. Additionally it was noted that the Borough Council had acceded to the request to re-erect the memorial plaque to the late Dr Gordon Jones, presently in the existing Centre, in the new Centre. The Council was also pleased to learn that the Borough Council had gratefully accepted the offer of the family of Dr J M L Jones of the donation of a decorative tree to enhance the new facility.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact Dr Jones and request him to liaise with the Borough Council's Parks Officer, Mr J C Spanswick, over the planting of the decorative tree.

(c) Application for a Transfer of the Justices' Licence - Windsor Hotel, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

The Council noted that the Transfer Application would not now proceed on the date previously advised and that the solicitors acting had asked for the application to be removed from the Court List.

(d) Purolite Standing Conference

The Council discussed the letter of 14 February, 1994, and noted that 30 March, 1994, had been chosen for the next meeting of the Purolite Standing Conference. It was understood that a meeting of the Borough Council's Purolite Liaison Committee was likely to take place before the meeting of the Standing Conference.

Councillor John Dilworth informed the Council that questions had been raised about the eligibility of a member of the Llanharry Community Council to sit upon the Standing Committee and other committees to which she was a nominee. It was hoped that a clear ruling would be forthcoming, shortly.

(e) Dipali restaurant, Pontyclun

The Community Council discussed the letter of 14 February, 1994, from the Borough Council in which it was stated that an appeal to the Welsh Office had been made against the refusal of the Borough Council to to grant planning permission for an extension of the opening hours for the Dipali restaurant, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The Borough Council's letter drew the Community Council's attention to the opportunity to withdraw or modify its earlier comments on the application within a period of 28 days.

RESOLVED: That the Council does not withdraw or modify its earlier comments in which the application was strongly opposed.

(f) Proposals to develop the Pant Marsh

The Clerk read out a letter from the National Rivers Authority, dated 25 February, 1994, which had been received too late for inclusion with the Council's agenda papers. The Area Manager, (S E) Wales had replied to the effect that the N R A had been consulted by the Taff Ely Borough Council about the proposed development. The Flood Defence Manager had considered the flooding aspect of the proposed development and was of the opinion that the proposals would not create a significant increase in flood risk. The Clerk pointed out that a reply was still awaited from the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That a copies of the N R A reply be forwarded to Mr Ian Guildford and Mr Richard Lloyd of the Pant Marsh Campaign Group and to the Secretary of the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade.

(g) Sewage Pumping Station - Rhyd-y-Nant, Pontyclun

Councillor Delme Bowen raised the matter of the proposed refurbishment of the sewage pumping station in Rhyd-y-Nant, Pontyclun. He pointed out that the proposals for the refurbishment would mean that the plant would be considerably more visually obtrusive than the existing plant and that it appeared to be necessary to erect a six foot high fence around the plant. Residents living in the vicinity were very concerned with the implications of the development and it appeared that the matter had not been handled by the Borough Council as diplomatically he would have wished.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Viv James contact the Borough Council's officers handling the project and Mrs Thomas of 49 Rhyd-y-Nant, on behalf of Rhyd-y-Nant residents, in an attempt to discover whether there was any compromise solution which would satisfy the needs of all parties.

5. Notice of Motion - To discuss the planting of trees in grass verges

Councillor Tudor Burton drew the Council's attention to a number of mature decorative trees in the Community which had died in recent years. In several cases the trees had not been replaced. Councillor Burton wondered whether it would be possible for the Community Council to arrange for the planting of replacement decorative trees. The Council agreed that there were a number of potential sites for decorative trees and also recognised the importance of engaging the Borough Council's expertise in the matter.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Borough Council's Chief Leisure Services Officer outlining the Community Council's views and inviting further discussions on suitable sites and appropriate species for planting.

6. ACAS advice on the handling of sickness absence

The Council considered the advice of the Advisory Conciliation and Advisory Service on the handling of long term sickness. The Clerk pointed out the while the advice did not have the force of law any Industrial Tribunal considering a matter connected with an employer's handling of a long term sickness case would look very closely at the steps taken by the employer to ensure that the principles embodied in the ACAS advice had been followed as closely as possible. The Clerk advised the Council that arrangements should be made to engage the services of an occupational physician and that he be requested to carry out an examination of the Council's Handyman and provide a written report on his fitness and an opinion on his ability to return to work to carry out his full range of duties. The Clerk suggested that an approach be made to the County Council's Occupational Physician who was based at Lanelay Hall, Talbot Green.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the County Council's Occupational Physician for a report on the fitness Community Council's Handyman and an opinion on his ability to return to work to carry out his full range of duties.

7. Centenary of the Local Government Act, 1894

Councillor John Dilworth reminded the Council that 1994 was the

centenary of the passing of the Local Government Act, 1894. The Act had, inter alia, created parish councils in England and Wales. While the term "parish council" continued in England, in Wales parish councils had become "community councils" on the reorganisation of local government in 1974. There was provision under current legislation for a community council to be known as a "town council".

Councillor Dilworth pointed out that many community and parish councils were celebrating the centenary of the 1894 Act. Councillor Dilworth invited the Community Council to mark the centenary by involving the children of the Community. He suggested an essay competition for 5th and 6th year pupils at Y Pant Comprehensive School and final year pupils at Pontyclun Primary School. He proposed that two prizes of book vouchers be awarded for the first and second best entries from each school. For the winning entries from Y Pant the value of the prizes be £30.00 and £15.00. For the winning entries from Pontyclun Primary School the value of the prizes be £20.00 and £10.00.

- RESOLVED: (i) That the Council mark the centenary of the Local Government Act, 1894, by organising an essay competition for 5th and 6th pupils of Y Pant Comprehensive School and pupils in their final year at Pontyclun Primary School.
- (ii) That book vouchers to the value of £30.00 and £15.00 be awarded as prizes for the two best entries from Y Pant Comprehensive School.
- (iii) That book vouchers to the value of £20.00 and £10.00 be awarded as prizes for the two best entries from Pontyclun Primary School.
- (iv) That Councillor Dilworth, in liaison with the Clerk, be authorised to contact the headteachers of both schools to discuss detailed arrangements.
- (v) That all expenditure arising from the competition be categorised as expenditure falling under the provisions Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by Sections 36 to 38 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989.

8. Lack of pedestrian facility - Junction of The Hollies and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton reminded the Council of the excellent pedestrian facility which the Community Council had secured, albeit in conjunction with the Mid Glamorgan County Council and the Llanharan Community Council, at the Junction of the Ynysddu Farm Estate with Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

Councillor Burton informed the Council that a similar lack of pedestrian facility existed at the junction of The Hollies and Cowbridge Road in Brynsadler. Councillor Burton asked whether it would be possible for the Community Council to assist the residents of The Hollies in securing a pedestrian facility across the river Ely in the same way as it had been possible to assist residents of Ynysddu Farm Estate.

Councillor Delme Bowen informed the Council that the lack of a pedestrian facility had been reported to the Highways and Transportation Department of the County Council but that there had been no positive action to date.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk request the County Council to carry out a feasibility study and costing exercise into the possibility of providing a separate pedestrian facility across the river Ely for residents of The Hollies.

(ii) That the Clerk raise the possibility of the work being incorporated into the road widening scheme which the County Council planned for Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler.

9. Dog fouling of pavements

The Council discussed the letter of 16 February, 1994, from Mrs M E Williams, 5 Paddocks Crescent, Brynsadler, Pontyclun. Mrs Williams had written to the Community Council to express her disgust at the extent of dog fouling of pavements in Brynsadler. Mrs Williams sought clarification on whether there were any local authority byelaws which could be enforced to control the problem.

RESOLVED: That as the matter was being actively considered by the Borough Council the matter be deferred pending the outcome of the Borough Council's decision.

10. Environment Week - 20th to 30th May, 1994

The Council discussed the Borough Council's letter in which an invitation was extended to the Community Council to participate in Environment Week.

RESOLVED: That the invitation be declined.

11. "Keeping Children Safe in Taff Ely"

The Council considered an invitation to nominate delegates to

attend a forum on "Keeping Children Safe in Taff Ely" due to take place in the Taff Ely Teachers' Centre, Pontypridd, at 6.30 p.m. on 15 March, 1994.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Cyril G Bendle and Mrs Bendle be nominated to attend.

12. Property Act - Conference for Local Authorities

The Council received details of a conference being organised for local authorities by Cymdeithas yr Iaith Cymraeg as part of the campaign for a Property Act. The Conference was to be held at The Old College, Aberystwyth on Saturday, 16 April, 1994.

RESOLVED: That Councillors John Dilworth and Gordon Norman be nominated to represent the Council at the Conference and that their attendance be designated an official duty.

13. Wales Association of Community and Town Councils - Newsletter 1/94

The Council received Newsletter 1/94 from the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. Of particular interest were:

- (i) the advice obtained on the superannuation position of clerks working less than 15 hours per week.
- (ii) the lesser status accorded to community councils under the provision for Transition Committees leading up to local government reorganisation in 1996
- (iii) the electoral arrangements for unitary and community councils necessitated by reorganisation. The Community Council was very disturbed to learn that in the proposed unitary authority to cover the Community of Pontyclun there would be provision for only one elected member. The Council was unanimous in its view that the Community would be grossly under-represented since a single member would have to represent one of the biggest electorates in South Wales. Further planned growth for the Community in the near future would exacerbate the position.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Secretary for State for Wales at the Welsh Office drawing his attention to the under-representation of Pontyclun at the proposed unitary authority and, in light of the known and planned growth for the Community, to give serious consideration to making Pontyclun a two member Community.

15. Application for the transfer of a Justices Licence

The Council received details of an application for the transfer of the Justices Licence at the Castell y Mynach Inn, Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: That the application be noted.

16. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix No. 16 to the Agenda.

17. Planning notifications for Weeks Ending
28 January, 1994, 4, 12, and 18 February, 1994

Application No. 94/0093/10

RESOLVED: That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

(i) the application is outside the Local Plan

(ii) the application represents an intrusion into the countryside

18. Reports from Members

(a) Corner Park Garage

Councillor Cyril Bendle reported that the proprietor of the Corner Park Garage, Mwyndy, continued to park vehicles on the grass verges in the vicinity of the garage. The result was that the grass verges were badly damaged and large deposits of mud were left on the footways.

RESOLVED: That the matter be brought to the attention of the Highways Authority and the police.

(b) Footpath running parallel with Miskin Lodge

Councillor Gordon Moir reported that he continued to receive representations about the poor drainage on the footpath running parallel with Miskin Lodge. He asked if the matter could be attended as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council's relief Handyman to attend to the matter.

(c) Closure of Ondawel factory, Pontyclun

Councillor John Dilworth reported that a meeting had taken place with the Managing Director of Ondawel, Pontyclun, about the proposed closure of Ondawel. Further enquiries were being made to establish whether there were any other avenues which could be pursued in an effort to prevent the closure of the factory. In addition, Councillor Dilworth had been in touch with Dafydd Wigley, MP, on whether there were any general issues which could be raised in Parliament on the matter of companies coming to Wales and then moving away.

The report was noted.

(d) Accumulation of water - Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Dilworth reported that he had made investigations about the accumulation of water in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. His enquiries had revealed that there was a defective surface water drain near Park Crescent. It was hoped that remedial work on the drain would commence during March or April.

The report was noted.

(e) Local government reorganisation

Councillor Viv James reported that the Taff Ely Borough Council continued to make representations to the Secretary of State for Wales about Taff Ely's claim to be an unitary authority in the reorganisation of local government scheduled for 1 April, 1996. There was growing optimism that the Secretary of State would have to amend his proposals for Mid Glamorgan as there was a considerable lobby of informed opinion which said that the proposed boundaries for the unitary authorities in Mid Glamorgan were unworkable. There was a feeling that unitary authorities would be announced for Cynon/Merthyr and possibly Rhondda/Taff Ely.

The report was noted.

(f) E E C funding

Councillor Viv James reported that a delegation from Taff Ely Borough Council had recently visited the E E C headquarters in Brussels to press Taff Ely's claim for additional European monies.

The report was noted.

(g) Grant aid - Taff Ely Borough Council

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that a delegation from the Taff Ely Borough Council recently met the Secretary of State for Wales in an effort to get the Borough Council's allocation of grant monies increased. The delegation had been fortunate to secure a further £200,000 in grant aid for minor works.

The report was noted.

(h) Back lane improvement works

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that contractors were now on site at High Street, Brynsadler, and that the long awaited improvement works to the back lane would be completed shortly.

The report was noted.

(i) Improvement of Taff Ely Borough Council housing stock

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that the Borough Council's scheme for improving the standard of its housing stock continued throughout the Borough. All Borough Council houses were being upgraded by the installation of central heating and uPVC windows.

The report was noted.

(j) Pontyclun Fire Station - boundary fence

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that a section of the boundary fence at the Pontyclun Fire Station was protruding on to the nearby footpath and posed a danger to pedestrians.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Chief Fire Officer at Lanelay Hall, Talbot Green.

(k) B T telephone booth, Mwyndy

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that following the last improvement works to the dual carriageway in Mwyndy the lay by on the southern carriageway had been removed by incorporating it into the new carriageway. The result had been that when motorists, and in particular heavy goods vehicle drivers, wished to use the B T telephone booth it was now necessary for those drivers to mount the grass

verge and adjacent footway. The grass verge had become deeply rutted and mud and earth were strewn over the nearby footway. The area had become an eyesore. The County Council had resolved to request B T to remove the booth. However, B T would only do so on payment of £12,000. The County Council was reluctant to incur the expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the County Council to request the removal of the telephone booth and that a copy of the letter be sent to Councillor Ivor Williams, Chairman of the County Council's Road Safety Committee.

(1) Additional pedestrian crossings in Pontyclun

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that he had requested the County Council to install an additional pedestrian crossing in Heol Miskin and a further pedestrian crossing in Llantrisant Road Pontyclun. Councillor Bowen was waiting for the County Council's response to the request.

The report was noted.

18. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Tabernacle Chapel, Pontyclun

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton drew the Council's attention to the need for urgent repair works to ~~be~~ carried out to Tabernacle Chapel in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Councillor Burton pointed out that the recent wet weather coupled with high winds had made parts of the roof unsafe and there was a real danger of slates falling off the roof and injuring passers by.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Secretary of the Chapel drawing attention to the dislodged slates and asking if remedial works could be carried out to prevent possible injury to pedestrians in the vicinity of the chapel.

(b) Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton informed the Council that she had received representations about the muddy state of the footpath leading from the Estate to the Pontyclun railway station. While Councillor Burton accepted that, technically, the estate fell within the boundary of the

Llanharan Community Council, there was no doubt the residents regarded themselves as Pontyclun residents and in using the footpath were usually accessing Pontyclun facilities.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Llanharan Community Council to bring the problem to that authority's attention and to suggest application be made for recognition of the footpath as a public right of way.

(c) Car thefts in the Community

Councillor Gordon Norman brought to Members' attention to the recent spate of car thefts in the Community. Councillor Norman urged Members to ensure their vehicles were locked when left unattended. He also asked Members to warn residents of the risk of car and property theft.

The report was noted.

(d) Bridge carrying the A4222 - Pontyclun

The Chairperson, Councillor Eric Griffith, reported that motorists continued to ignore the parking restrictions on the road bridge over the railway in Pontyclun. The single yellow line restrictions appeared to be ineffective and vehicles were often parked in dangerous positions on the bridge. A request for double yellow line restrictions on the bridge had been refused.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the police about a stricter enforcement of the existing restrictions on the bridge.

19. The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

Eric V. Griffith
ECG