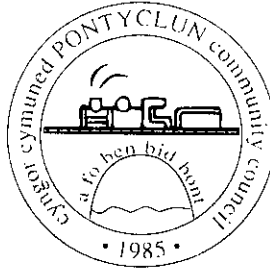


**Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**

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**Pontyclun Community Council**

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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 March, 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 of the South Wales Constabulary for part of the meeting and six members of the public.

1. **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence was 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. **Land at Brynsadler Mill, Pontyclun**

(a) **Mr Richard Wistow, Ecologist**

The Clerk reported that a message had been received earlier that afternoon from Mr Wistow to say that as the result of a domestic emergency he would not be able to make his presentation to the Community Council as planned.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Wistow be contacted to find out if he would be able to make his presentation to the Council's next monthly meeting.

(b) **Welsh Development Agency's letter of 8 February, 2005**

The Council discussed the WDA's letter in which it was stated that, despite the Community Council's earlier representations, it was proposed to proceed with the disposal of the land at market value.

Councillor Jenkins advised the Council that the land had been advertised for auction on 9 March, 2005, but had latterly been withdrawn from sale. The reason for the withdrawal had not been notified to the Community Council.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) that the Community Council write again to the WDA repeating its request for the land to be transferred into the ownership of the Pontyclun Community Council
  - (ii) that the Community Council emphasise that it would wish for a long term lease of the land and, at market value, if necessary
  - (iii) that the Community Council would be prepared to meet with representatives of the WDA to discuss the matter.

4. **Traffic problems at Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

The Community Council received an address from Mr David Summers, a resident of Station Terrace, Pontyclun, about the traffic congestion being experienced by all residents in the street.

Mr Summers said that life for residents had become intolerable since many motorists would park their vehicles on both sides of the street leaving only a small gap for through traffic accessing the Ely Valley Industrial Estate. Traffic accessing the industrial area had grown enormously and heavy goods vehicles were regularly using Station Terrace and the bailey bridge across the River Ely. Often, there was insufficient room for vehicles to pass through the street.

The problems had been compounded through a lack of parking space for motorists using the Pontyclun railway station and a recent commercial venture at the Ely Valley Industrial Estate for children where parents accessing the attraction were also attempting to park in Station Terrace. It appeared that the parents had been prevented from parking near the commercial venture. Residents were afraid to

move their cars from the street since they knew that their parking spaces would be taken.

Mr Summers stated that frustration and confrontation were commonplace and that in the 7 days to 18 February the police had been called to the street on 11 different occasions. Mr Summers presented a petition from residents of Station Terrace calling for parking restrictions to be imposed and the provision for residents only parking.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) that an urgent meeting be sought with representatives of the Borough Council to investigate solutions to the problems
  - (ii) that the police would make their concerns known to the Borough Council
  - (iii) that the Health and Safety Executive be contacted to ask whether there is a requirement to separate traffic and pedestrians using the bailey bridge
  - (iv) that Network Rail be contacted to establish the current position on the promised parking facilities at the westbound platform of Pontyclun Station
  - (v) that enquiries be made into the planning consent awarded to the children's attraction at the Industrial Estate to establish the position on the provision of parking spaces for motorists.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime figures**

P C Keddle tabled the crime figures for Pontyclun for the month of February, 2005.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(b) **Police radar van**

P C Keddle reported that following reports of speeding vehicles in Talygarn the police radar van had been active in the area during the last month.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(c) **Police Surgery**

P C Keddle advised the Community Council that the police had decided to run surgeries for local residents in communities where members of the public could attend and discuss matters concerning them.

The next surgery is due to take place in David's Court, Pontyclun, from 11.00a.m. to midday on 6 April, 2005.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk arrange for a notice advertising the surgery to be displayed in each noticeboard of the Community Council.

(d) **Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle confirmed the reports made earlier in the meeting and said that there had been an enormous number of complaints received by the police as a result of the traffic congestion in Station Terrace, Pontyclun.

P C Keddle stated that he continued to point out to motorists that there were plenty of parking spaces at the car park adjacent to the Pontyclun Community Centre, a short distance away. There appeared to be a great reluctance by motorists to use the Community Centre car park. Councillor Norman added that there were a large number of parking spaces in the vicinity on the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club. The Council discussed the possibility of producing a leaflet drawing attention to nearby alternative parking spaces.

The report was noted.

6. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 February, 2005**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 February, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

7. **Matters arising**

(a) **Member training**

The Council considered the reports submitted by Councillors Henderson and Jenkins following their attendance at the



training courses organised for new members of local councils.

There was general agreement that the courses were worthwhile and gave new members a sound insight into the legal framework, powers and constitution of local councils. There was also useful guidance on how members could work towards making a difference in their councils.

**RESOLVED:** That the reports submitted by Councillors Henderson and Jenkins be noted.

(b) **Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

Members welcomed the steps being taken to resolve the traffic congestion problems being experienced by residents of Station Terrace, Pontyclun.

The Council also believed that in addition to the steps being taken at minute 4 above, enquiries should also be made of the successor organisation to South Wales Integrated Fast Transport (SWIFT) to establish the current status of the proposed car park for the west bound platform of Pontyclun Station.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make enquiries of the successor body to SWIFT.

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

Members referred to the decision taken at the previous meeting of the Council to abandon the decision to attempt to get the premises listed by CADW in favour of a Repair Notice being served by the Borough Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Borough Council stating that no further action would be taken by the Community Council to get the former Park Hall listed by CADW. Additionally, that the Community Council would be pleased to receive confirmation that the Borough Council would be proceeding to serve a Repairs Notice on the owner of the premises.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Interim Report of the Independent Auditor on the Council's accounts for 2004/2005**

The Council discussed the Interim Report of the Independent Auditor.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the report be noted.
  - (ii) That the Council express its appreciation of the extent of the work carried out by the Independent Auditor, and his modest fee, when compared with the minimal work carried out by the District Auditor on year end accounts and his substantial fee.

(b) **Statutory rights on consultation**

The Council discussed the letter of 9 February, 2005, from the Welsh Assembly Government seeking information, for the last two years, on the topics which the Pontyclun Community Council had a statutory right to be consulted, both by the National Assembly and other bodies.

The Assembly also sought the Community Council's views on those areas which the Council would wish to have been consulted on but had not been.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council advise the Assembly that during the last two years statutory consultation had been entered into in the areas of Planning and Licensing.
  - (ii) That the Council advise that it would wish to be consulted on issues of environmental improvement, infrastructure, transportation and highways.

(c) **Pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Members discussed a letter from the Borough Council about concerns over the pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

It was stated that while police records since 1999 showed that no accidents causing personal injury had been reported, the Borough Council was aware of local concerns about the crossing and had arranged for an assessment to be carried out to determine whether any changes were necessary.



Councillor Norman produced a copy of a letter he had written to the Borough Council in 1999 requesting the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. It was claimed by the Borough Council that the number of people crossing Llantrisant Road did not justify the provision of a pedestrian crossing. However, Councillor Norman had pointed out that the village of Ystradowen, a much smaller village with far fewer residents, had been provided with a pedestrian crossing. He failed to understand the logic underlying the decisions.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Borough Council be asked to provide the Community Council with a copy of its latest assessment of the pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.
  - (ii) That a copy of Councillor Norman's letter be circulated to each Member.

(d) **Letter from Councillor Rea**

The Council discussed the recent letter from Councillor Rea in which he sought approval of the Community Council to present book tokens to the value of £70.00 to pupils of Pontyclun Primary School the following day.

In the same letter Councillor Rea also drew the Community Council's attention to the Shape-it.org initiative which aimed to encourage communication and collaboration between individuals and groups in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Councillor Norman added that the initiative was being promoted by the Area Regeneration Partnership and that free computers would be available to organisations prepared to establish communications networks.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council express its disappointment that Councillor Rea had not followed the course of action agreed by the Council at its meeting on 1 December, 2004.
  - (ii) That to enable the presentation of book tokens for the correct denominations on the following day, the Council give authority for the emergency purchase of £70.00 of additional book tokens by the Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins.



- (iii) That the Council ask the Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, to make the presentation of the book tokens the following day.
- (iv) That the Clerk arrange for notices to be displayed in Community Council noticeboards outlining the objectives of the Shape-it.org initiative and seeking expressions of interest from local organisations in being considered for free computers.
- (v) That Councillors Rea and Norman bring their lists of interested organisations back to the Community Council for one combined list to be submitted to the Area Regeneration Partnership.

(e) **Ferryside Community Council's Vision Day**

The Chairperson , Councillor Jenkins, reported on her attendance at the recent Vision Day organised by the Ferryside Community Council.

Councillor Jenkins reported that the day was run along the lines of an open day where, from 8.00a.m. to 9.00p.m. councillors and the public were given the opportunity to learn from each other. The range of subjects covered was extensive and, in addition to covering the local community council's activities, also covered diverse subjects such as life long learning and health.

The day was very well organised with the centre piece being a large scale plan of the village with members of the public being given the opportunity to attach post-it notes to the map indicating the changes the public would like to see in their community. Councillor Jenkins was encouraged to see that a good cross section of the public attended the Vision Day with children from local schools being brought along in parties.

The Vision Day was supported by the county borough council and free refreshments were provided by the local branch of the Women's Institute. The organisers of the day were appreciative of the interest shown by the Pontyclun Community Council and offered assistance if Pontyclun Community Council should want to hold a similar event.





- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council express its thanks to Councillor Jenkins for attending the event.
- (ii) That the Clerk write to the Ferryside Community Council thanking it for the hospitality shown to Councillor Jenkins.
- (iii) That the Community Council give serious consideration to organising a similar event in the Community.

(f) **Applications for financial assistance**

(Councillor P Griffiths declared an interest in the application for financial assistance on behalf of pupils attending Llanhari School and vacated the Council Chamber)

(i) **Netball and Rugby Tour to South Africa**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance on behalf of the pupils attending Llanhari School who would be participating in a tour to South Africa to play netball and rugby against young South Africans.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council make a donation of £50.00 towards the tour.

(ii) **Ogmore Centre Trust**

The Council considered a request for financial assistance from the Ogmore Centre Trust towards providing courses for young people to develop social skills and career pathways.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council make a donation of £50 to the Ogmore Centre Trust.
- (ii) That the Council's cheque be presented to the Centre Director by Councillor Norman.

(g) **Applications for the Transfer of Justices' Licences**

The Council received details of applications for the Transfer of Justices' Licences at Bargain Booze, Cowbridge Road,

Pontyclun, and at the Castell y Mynach Inn, Groesfaen, Pontyclun.

In the case of the former application the Clerk reported receipt of a late letter of objection to the proposed transfer from one of the existing licencees. She stated that she objected to the proposed transfer and would be attending court to make her views known to the Justices.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council note both applications.

(h) **Planning applications**

The Council discussed applications contained in the latest weekly notifications.

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be made to the Planning Authority:

**Application No. 05/0068/13**

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the application, given the location of the proposed site for development, the close proximity of surrounding properties and the substandard access from Cowbride Road to High Street, the Community Council suggest that the Planning Authority place conditions on the application providing for:

- (i) opaque glazing to be installed in any windows overlooking existing premises.
- (ii) adequate parking within the curtilage of the proposed development for delivery vehicles during construction work and for residents after construction is complete.

**Application No. 05/0090/10**

As a similar application to the current application has already been refused, and supported by a Welsh Assembly Inspector at appeal, the current application should also be refused since the current proposal

is not sufficiently different from the earlier application.

**Application No. 05/0051/10**

While the Community Council is not opposed to the application it is of the view that the developer should be made aware of subsidence problems in the very close vicinity to the site for development.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 12 to the Council's agenda.

(j) **River Care – Proposed riverbank litter pick**

It was reported that as part of the Council's initiative under the Clean Rivers Campaign a community litter pick would take place on the morning of Saturday, 12 March, 2005, on the riverbank below Merthyr Street, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk arrange for the provision of:

- (i) 12 pairs of gloves
- (ii) 6 litterpickers
- (iii) one box of black sacks
- (iv) a leaflet to be distributed to each house in Merthyr Street to advise residents of the event and inviting residents to join the litter pick.

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

No matters were reported under this item.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Loan Sanction for 2005/06**

The Council received a copy of the Welsh Assembly Government's letter of 19 January, 2005, in which guidance was given for borrowing by community and town councils during 2005/06.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(b) **Section 137 of the local Government Act, 1972**

The Council received a copy of the Welsh Assembly Government's letter of 26 January, 2005, in which it was stated that the maximum sum which could be spent in 2005/06, had increased from £5.14 per elector to £5.30 per elector.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(c) **National Assembly Regional Committee**

The Council received a copy of the Welsh Assembly's letter of 11 February, 2005, in which it was stated that the next public meeting of the National Assembly South East Wales Regional Committee would be held at the Rhydycar Leisure Centre, Merthyr Tydfil, on Friday 4 March, 2005. The theme of the meeting would be "Coast to Valleys Regeneration".

**RESOLVED:** (i) that the information be noted  
(iii) that it be also noted that copies of the letter had been displayed in Community Council noticeboards.

(d) **Rhondda Cynon Taff (Taff Ely) Local Plan**

The Council received a copy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff (Taff Ely) Local Plan 1991-2006, together with a covering letter dated 18 February, 2005.

It appeared that the Local Plan had been adopted in June, 2003 and it was unclear why a copy was being sent to the Pontyclun Community Council at this stage.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk establish the reason for the apparent delay in the receipt of the Plan  
(ii) That the Clerk obtain further copies of the Plan.

(e) **Public Entertainment Licence**

The Council received notification of an application for a Public Entertainment Licence for the Miskin Mill Scout Village, Miskin. Details of the application had been circulated earlier to Members.

**RESOLVED:** That the application be noted.



(f) **Planning appeal**

The Clerk reported that since the despatch of agendas he had received the result of the inquiry held against the refusal of the Borough Council to award planning consent for the development of 7 houses on a site near the Catholic Church in Miskin.

The inspector conducting the inquiry had upheld the appeal.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

11. The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S.P.J.', located in the bottom right corner of the page.