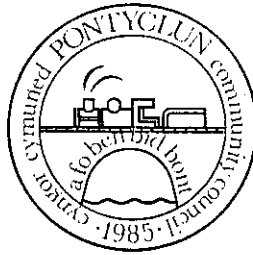


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
 Cowbridge Road,
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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 November, 1994

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Two members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of
 P C Steve Keddle

2. Chairperson's business

The Chairperson, Councillor Cyril Bendle, said that he had two items of business to report:

- (i) The Chairperson referred to the Community Council's long standing worries about the level of police cover in the Community. It was with regret that he had to report that on the evening of Saturday, 29 October, 1994, rowdyism and disorderly behaviour in Pontyclun had resulted in a police officer being assaulted. It was understood that the incident was being investigated by the police.

The report was noted

- (ii) The Chairperson referred to the severe weather conditions which were experienced on the evening of Sunday, 30 October, 1994, and complimented the Borough Council for the emergency assistance which was provided to residents on the Ynysddu and Maesyfelin Estates in Pontyclun to prevented homes being flooded.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Borough Council thanking that authority for the invaluable emergency assistance rendered to the residents of the Ynysddu and Maesyfelin Estates, Pontyclun, on the evening of Sunday, 30 October, 1994.

Cyril Bendle

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 October, 1994

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 October, 1994 be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Pontyclun Primary School - Litter bin

The Council resumed discussion on the proposal to purchase a free standing litter bin for placement in the Pontyclun Primary School.

RESOLVED: That the Council arrange for:

- (i) the purchase of one "Froggo" free standing litter bin for placement in the playground of the Pontyclun Primary School
- (ii) a plaque to be affixed to the litter bin to indicate that it was donated by the Community Council.

(b) Surface water drain, Bute Lane, Pontyclun

The Clerk reported that he had been in correspondence with the Borough Technical Officer to establish when work was likely to commence to remedy the problem of offensive odours emanating from surface water drains in Bute Lane, Pontyclun. It appeared that an order for remedial work had been placed with the County Engineer and Surveyor. The County Engineer and Surveyor had stated that there was a problem in obtaining suitable "bungs" for the gullies but that they would be fitted as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That County Councillor Delme Bowen also follow the matter up with the County Engineer and Surveyor.

(c) Name for the new Pontyclun Community Centre

A discussion took place on the need to give the new Community Centre a name. Some Members felt that a name should reflect the stirring efforts of Councillors James and Norman to bring the new facility to the Community. Other Members were of the view that while it was totally appropriate to recommend to the Borough Council that the exceptional efforts of Councillors James and Norman



be recognised, a more opportune time to do so would be when Phase 2 of the development was completed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Borough Council suggesting that when Phase 2 of the development is complete consideration be given to choosing a name for the site which, with the imminence of reorganisation of local government and the likely disappearance of the Borough of Taff Ely, will incorporate the words "Taff Ely" and the names of Councillors James and Norman.

(d) Street names for the proposed residential development at Cefn-yr-Hendy

A discussion took place on the desirability of suggesting names for the residential development currently taking place at Cefn-yr-Hendy.

RESOLVED: That as development had only recently commenced the matter of suggesting street names be deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

(e) Management Committee - Pontyclun Community Centre

Councillor John Dilworth reported that the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre had deferred a decision to purchase a word processor. It appeared that a conditional offer to sell the Committee a computer system had been made by European Computer Consultants and further enquiries were being made into the offer.

The report was noted.

(f) Blasting at Hendy Quarry

Councillor Gordon Moir reported that it had come to his attention that Redland, a quarry operator in North Wales, had been fined £25,000 in Mold for allowing blast debris to shower on to nearby properties and roads. Councillor Moir believed that the circumstances were very similar to the incident which occurred in Miskin. On that occasion, despite the very real danger to the public and property, the quarry operator appeared to have been treated very leniently and escaped without a fine.

Councillor Moir reported that the next meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee had been scheduled for 9 November, 1994.



RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Borough Council drawing attention to the decision of the Mold court and asking whether the circumstances of the Miskin incident were different to the extent that they merited the operator escaping without any financial penalty.

(g) Pavements in need of repair - Maesyfelin

Councillor Eric Griffith asked whether there had been any response from the County Council to the repeated requests for maintenance works to be carried out to the pavements in Maesyfelin, Pontyclun.

The Clerk stated that the complaints about Maesyfelin pavements had been passed on to the County Council. On each occasion he had been told that an inspection of the pavements would be carried out. County Councillor Delme Bowen confirmed that he, too, had passed a list of pavements in need of repair to the County Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the County Council emphasising that the Community Council regularly received complaints about the condition of pavements in the Maesyfelin Estate and asking what plans the County had for effecting repairs.

5. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 19 October, 1994

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 19 October, 1994, be approved as an accurate record.

6. Matters arising

A lengthy discussion took place on the incident which occurred at the meeting of 19 October, 1994, which resulted in a Member of the Council leaving the meeting as a gesture of protest against a decision of the Chairperson. A view was expressed that the Member involved should be censured. Other Members felt that, in perspective, the incident was insufficient to warrant any further action.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken.

7. Residential development at Cefn-vr-Hendy - Ground conditions

The Council discussed correspondence received from Ideal Homes in reply to the Community Council's worries that houses at the new development might be affected by subsidence.



On behalf of Ideal Homes, Mr Andrew C Crompton, Land Manager, stated that the former owners of the land, that is, The Land Authority for Wales, had commissioned a full mining report for the whole of the Cefn-yr-Hendy development. The report was subsequently submitted to, and approved by, the Taff Ely Borough Council and thus satisfied Condition No. 13 of the original outline planning consent dated 10 July, 1990.

In addition, and prior to any work commencing on the site, Ideal Homes Wales, Ltd., had commissioned an independent detailed geophysical report for Area 1A which had been submitted and approved by the National House Builders Council.

Mr Crompton stated that he felt every precaution had been taken to limit the possible risks associated with subsidence from previous mining activities within the vicinity of the site. He did not consider the site to be any more problematic than many other similar sites in South Wales affected by mining and subsequently developed for residential housing.

The Council welcomed the reassuring stance of Ideal Homes Wales Ltd but wondered if the potential hazards of the site were being minimised. It was pointed out that at the time when Ideal Homes were displaying confidence about ground stability, existing residents at Cefn-yr-Hendy were facing increased insurance premiums on their buildings policies because their insurers considered the site to be at risk from subsidence. It was also pointed out that a guarantee from the National House Builders Council remained valid for only 10 years.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk respond to Ideal Homes Wales Ltd highlighting the apparent contradiction where, on the one hand, specialists were issuing reports giving the impression that the site was not problematic yet, on the other hand, insurance companies were increasing existing residents' buildings insurance premiums because they believed that there was a risk from subsidence.

8. Reorganisation of Local Government -
Community and Town Council's Liaison Committee

Councillor John Dilworth reported that representations had been made to the Transition Committee for Rhondda/Cynon/Taff for co-option on to the Transition Committee in order that the interests of community councils and town council within the boundaries of the new unitary authority could be taken into account in the discussions on reorganisation of local government. It appeared that the Transition Committee had discussed the Liaison Committee's letter but the indications were that co-option would not be accorded.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Secretary to the Rhondda/Cynon/Taff Transition Committee urging that the Transition Committee follow the spirit of the advice from the Welsh Office and allow co-option of interested parties.

9. Highway signing - Tesco roundabout, Talbot Green

The Council discussed the reply of the County Engineer and Surveyor about the concerns of the Community Council over highway signing in the vicinity of the Tesco roundabout in Talbot Green.

RESOLVED: (i) That the reply of the County Engineer and Surveyor be noted.

(ii) That the Clerk remind the County Engineer and Surveyor of the Community Council's concerns about inadequate highway direction signs to the Coed Cae Lane Industrial Estate from the direction of the M4 and A4119.

10. Bilingual Street Names

The Council discussed a letter from the Welsh Office asking for a list of bilingual street names in the Community. It appeared that the intention of the Welsh Office was to compile a master list of all street names throughout Wales recorded bilingually.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Welsh Office be advised that, to the best of the Community Council's knowledge, there were no bilingual street names in the Community. Additionally, that while there were numerous examples of street names in English or Welsh, the Council was of the view that there was no demand for bilingual street names.

(ii) That the Welsh Office be asked for a copy of the master list of bilingual street names when it was compiled.

11. Additional pedestrian crossing and parking places

Councillor Delme Bowen gave a report on the very helpful correspondence he had received from Mr Trevor Rees, Secretary to the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade. It was clear that with the construction of the new doctors' surgery in School Street, Pontyclun, a greater number of residents than ever before were daily crossing the Llantrisant Road. There was an urgent need for a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Llantrisant Road. There was, too, a need to upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road to a pelican crossing.

Councillor Bowen referred to the earlier requests the Community Council had made for additional pedestrian crossings in Pontyclun. The subsequent surveys carried out by the County Council at that time had shown that there was insufficient demand for pedestrian crossings. Councillor Bowen was optimistic that new surveys would give a completely different picture.

Councillor Bowen was also pleased to report that a recent petition had been helpful in convincing the County Council of the need to improve parking facilities in Pontyclun. The planned development on the westbound platform of Pontyclun Station would provide some additional parking spaces, which in turn would reduce pressure on parking places in the vicinity of Cowbridge Road. There would, too, be additional parking places at the new Community Centre/Day Centre. Councillor Bowen understood that consultations would take place between the County Council and the Borough Council on access to the new Day Centre.

The report was noted.

12. Borough Council/Community Councils' Joint Liaison Committee

The Council noted correspondence from the Borough Council's Chief Executive indicating that the next meeting of the Liaison Committee would be held on 23 November, 1994. The Council was asked if there were any matters which it wanted discussed at the Joint Liaison Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Clerk raise at the Committee:

(i) The award of planning consent for a change of use from commercial use to domestic use for the old Miskin School. It was firmly believed that the award of planning consent would place more residents within the safeguarding zone of the Hendy Quarry.

(ii) The lack of performance by the Environmental Health Department of the Borough Council on the Hendy Quarry, Miskin.

(b) In the event of Councillor John Dilworth being unable to attend the Joint Liaison Committee meeting his place be taken by Councillor Gordon Moir.

13. Planning applications contained in notifications for Weeks Ending 7 and 14 October, 1994



Application No. 94/0720/16

RESOLVED: That the Council remind the Borough Council of the recent government guidelines advising against this type of development.

Application No. 94/0754/15

Following an address to the Council by the applicant for planning permission the Council resolved not to object to the proposal.

Application No. 94/0766/12

RESOLVED: That the Council offer to no objection to the proposal on the understanding the highway aspects of the application had been fully investigated by the Borough Council.

14. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 13 to the Council's agenda.

15. Reports from Members

(a) Purolite Standing Conference

Councillor John Dilworth reported on his attendance at the last meeting of the Purolite Standing Conference. He reported that the BOC VITOX System, which had been installed in an attempt to eliminate the offensive odours emanating from the plant, had been unsuccessful. This point had been underlined in a recent letter to the Llantrisant Community Council from the H M Inspectorate of Pollution. It was expected that the failure of the installation would be reported to the next meeting of the Purolite Joint Liaison Committee. It was intended that a press release be made, shortly, communicating the information to the public.

Councillor Dilworth impressed upon the Council the need to give support to the organisations highlighting the odour problems at the plant in order that the company continue to investigate ways of eliminating all offensive smells.

RESOLVED: That the Council re-affirm its total support for all residents and organisations highlighting odour problems associated with the plant.

(b) Local Government Forum

Councillor John Dilworth reported that arrangements were at an advanced stage for the Local Government Forum which was due to be held in the Cardiff City Hall on the morning of 12 November, 1994. The response from community councils throughout Wales had been very encouraging and 78 delegates had confirmed their attendance. The Forum promised to be a very interesting event with several eminent politicians taking part.

The report was noted.

(c) Footpath - David's Court, Pontyclun

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that maintenance work was being carried out to the drains at David's Court, Pontyclun. The work necessitated using a mechanical digger. As a result the footpath leading into David's Court was temporarily out of action. The footpath would be re-instated as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

(d) Street signs

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that the Borough Council was in the process of arranging street signs for the Community along the lines outlined at the Community Council's last meeting. However, it was important to understand that the Borough Council's budget for street signs was limited and that it was possible that there would be insufficient funds to provide all the signs requested during the 1994/95 financial year.

The report was noted.

(e) Ivor Park Soccer Fields

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that he had received complaints from members of the committee of the Pontyclun Football Club that there had been several recent incidents of horses being ridden on the Football Club's grounds at Ivor Park.

The Football Club had invested considerable money in ground improvements in recent years and its members were particularly saddened and irritated to find that their grounds were being abused. The Club was strongly considering the possibility of closing the main gate to the grounds between games.



The Clerk supported Councillor Norman and said that he had received telephone calls from officials of the Football Club on the two previous evenings. The officials felt that in the wake of continuing ground damage there was no alternative but to close the main gate. This would have the effect of denying use of the Community Council constructed car park to the public.

The Clerk stated that he had sympathised with the officials of the Football Club and suggested to them that they may wish to come along to a future meeting of the Community Council to discuss what other solutions may be available as an alternative to closing the main gate.

The Chairman of the Football Club, Mr Cyril Pontin, had provisionally agreed to speak to the Community Council at its meeting on 7 December, 1994. An invitation to attend the meeting had also been extended to Mr Phil Preene via Mr Pontin.

RESOLVED: That in advance of the meeting the Clerk contact the County Council to establish whether, within the terms of their lease, the Football Club could insist on the main gate being closed.

(f) Handrail, Hendy Estate

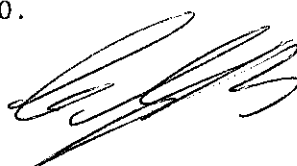
Councillor Gordon Norman was saddened to have to report that the recently erected handrail on the Hendy Estate had been vandalised shortly after it was erected. The handrail had been repaired and re-erected. However, it appeared that vandals had subsequently stood on the rail and caused damage to an adjacent property. Part of the handrail had since been removed by the Borough Council and re-sited.

The report was noted.

(g) Concerns raised by the Pontyclun Action Group and the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade

Councillor Delme Bowen advised the Council that following the concerns expressed by the Pontyclun Action Group and the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade he had scheduled a number of meetings at the County Council. He would report back to the Community Council on the outcome of those meetings in due course.

The report was noted.



(h) Complaints of damage to trees

Councillor Bowen informed the Council that he had received a number of complaints about damage to the roots of trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders following the commencement of work at the new Cefn-yr-Hendy residential development.

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

(i) Severe weather - 29/30 October, 1994

Councillor Viv James reported that following the very heavy rains of 29 and 30 October, 1994, and public concern about further residential development on the floodplain of the river Ely at Maesyfelin, the Borough Council had arranged for measurements to be taken of the height of floodwater. He was hopeful that the Borough Council might be able to take some action to prevent flooding at the site in the event of further heavy rain.

The report was noted.

(j) Blasting at Hendy Quarry, Miskin

Councillor Gordon Moir reported further complaints from Miskin residents following the resumption of blasting at the Hendy Quarry, Miskin. The complaints had been forwarded to the Environmental Health Department of the Borough Council but there was doubt in residents' minds whether the complaints were being professionally investigated.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the matter at the next meeting of the Borough Council/Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee meeting on 23 November, 1994.

(k) Felling of trees - The Drive, Miskin

Councillor Gordon Moir reported that four mature trees had been felled in The Drive, Miskin, during the last month. It was not known who was responsible for the felling and there was a strong belief that the trees were covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with Mr Tony Lovelock of the Taff Ely Borough Council.



(1) Mud on highway, Miskin

The Chairperson, Councillor Cyril Bendle, reported that following commencement of work on the new residential development at Cefn-yr-Hendy large quantities of mud had been deposited on the highway in Heol Miskin and in Miskin village.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk bring the matter to the attention of the highway authority.

16. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Remembrance Day

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the practice in previous years he had ordered a poppy wreath for each of the two war memorials in the Community.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's action be confirmed.

(b) Spring flowering bulbs

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the practice of previous years he had arranged for the purchase of 7 bags of spring flowering bulbs for planting in grass verges and open spaces throughout the Community. As in previous years, children and residents had been involved in planting the bulbs.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's actions be confirmed.

(c) Pontyclun Community Centre - Community Council store

The Clerk reported on certain "teething" problems with the Council's store at the Community Centre. He had taken the matters up with the project architect at the Borough Council and was confident that they would be resolved shortly.

The report was noted.

(d) Community Centre - Policy on smoking

The Clerk reported that following enquiries it appeared that the Borough Council did not have a no smoking policy for the Pontyclun Community Centre.

The report was noted.

(e) New residential development at Maesyfelin

Councillor Viv James referred to the new residential development taking place at Maesyfelin. He suggested that the new street be named "Heol Glan Elai".

RESOLVED: That the suggestion be forwarded to the Borough Council.

17. The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Viv James', is written over the page number.