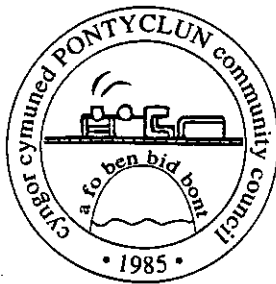


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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 3 December, 1997

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, Mrs V A Cale, J G Davies, T Flood, M Griffiths, and M Rea (Chairperson)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors T J Burton, R O Edwards, J V Huish and R G Norman

2. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **Councillor R G Norman**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, advised Members that he had received news that Councillor Norman had recently been admitted to hospital.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange to send Councillor Norman the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

(b) **Remembrance Day Services**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, reported that he, in addition to Councillors Bendle, Norman and the Clerk represented the Community Council at the Remembrance Day Service in Pontyclun on 9 November, 1997. The Chairperson also reported that the Community Council was represented at the Miskin Remembrance Day Service by Councillor Huish.

(c) **Parish of Llantrisant**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, reported that on the evening of 1 December, 1997, he had represented the Council at the institution and induction of the new vicar of the parish of Llantrisant at the Llantrisant Parish Church.

3. **Police matters**

In the absence of a representative from the police no discussion took place under this item.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 November, 1997**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 November, 1997, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Environmental schemes for discussion
with Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff**

A discussion took place on suitable environmental schemes within the Community for discussion with Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff.

RESOLVED: That the item be placed on the agenda for the January monthly meeting when the Council would prioritise the schemes put forward.

(b) **Twinning arrangements**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reported that she had studied the information supplied by the Local Government Bureau on twinning arrangements.

Councillor Griffiths believed that there was considerable benefit to be gained by the Community from twinning and asked whether it might be possible to obtain a speaker from a neighbouring authority who could talk about that authority's twinning experiences.

There was agreement from the Council that it would like to receive a presentation and the proprietor of the Llanerch

Vineyard at Hensol was put forward as someone who had considerable knowledge of twinning and might be prepared to give a presentation to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the proprietor of the Llanerch Vineyard and ask him whether he would be prepared to address the Council on the subject of twinning.

(c) **Licensing - the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised that at the Council's direction he had contacted the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils for advice in connection with a declaration of interest by a Member at a Community Council's meeting and a later letter of support which that Member had written to the Chairperson of the Licensing Committee at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

A reply from the Association, which had been provided by one of its panel solicitors, advised that the "matter should not concern the Community Council". Whether the Member "had an interest or not would be a matter for the County Council". It was understood that the reference to "County Council" referred to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council follow the advice offered by the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils and that no further action be taken.

(d) **Utilisation of Council's reserves**

The Council discussed the need to compile a list of possible projects within the Community and to give the list a priority rating.

RESOLVED: (i) That Members give thought to the type of project which the Community Council could undertake with the intention of reporting back to the Council's meeting in January, 1998.

(ii) That the Clerk arrange for the matter to be included on the Agenda for the January meeting.



(e) **Possibility of identifying a site for a taxi rank**

The Clerk reminded the Council that, at its request, he had written to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in an attempt to identify a suitable site for the creation of a taxi rank in Pontyclun. A reply had not been received from the Borough Council at the date of the Community Council's December meeting.

The Clerk reported that after writing to the Borough Council he had received a telephone call from Mrs Diane Eliot, Vice Chairperson of the Rhondda Cynon Taff Taxi Operators' Association, expressing concern that the Council had chosen to contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council without first obtaining the views of the association representing taxi drivers' interests in the Borough. Mrs Eliot had subsequently confirmed her concerns in writing. The Clerk read out the letter and distributed a copy to each Member.

A discussion ensued and the Council, at its discretion, offered Mrs Eliot the opportunity to clarify some of the points in her letter. The Council wished Mrs Eliot to know that it had responded in a positive way to the concerns expressed by Pontyclun residents and, having no knowledge of the existence of the Rhondda Cynon Taff Taxi Operators' Association, had pursued in a logical way the comments which had been passed on by residents and taxi drivers.

The Council noted Mrs Eliot's remarks about some of the taxi drivers being based outside the local area but underlined that its primary concern was in ensuring that the taxi drivers plying their trade late at night outside licensed premises in Pontyclun observed the law and did not cause nuisance to residents. There was evidence of taxi drivers blowing their vehicle horns, parking on pavements, and leaving their headlights on full beam to the annoyance of residents. It mattered little to residents whether the offending drivers belonged to the local taxi drivers association or whether they operated from bases outside the area.

Mrs Eliot told Members that a check could be carried out with her association on any vehicles which appeared to be breaking the law. Her association welcomed enforcement of byelaws governing the operation of taxis and had been pressing the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, without



success, to exercise its enforcement role. It appeared that before the Borough Council would take enforcement action late at night it insisted on police protection for its officers. It was understood that police were not in a position to provide the level of cover required by the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the police in an attempt to get enforcement of byelaws governing the operation of late night taxis from licensed premises in Pontyclun.

6. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 12 November, 1997**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 12 November, 1997, be approved as an accurate record.

7. **Matters arising**

The Ramblers' Association

The Council discussed an invitation to join the Ramblers' Association at a membership fee of £17.00 per annum.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for corporate membership for the Community Council.

8. **Replies of the Highway Authority**

The Council discussed replies from the Highway Authority on the following matters:

(a) **Glare from the headlights of parked vehicles at McDonald's restaurant, Glamorgan Retail Park**

The Council was pleased to learn that the Highway Authority, in conjunction with the police, had visited McDonalds restaurant on the Glamorgan Retail Park and acknowledged that there was a problem caused by the glare from the headlights of parked vehicles at night. It was stated that McDonalds were aware of the problem and that they were investigating the erection of a screen to eliminate the glare.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.



(b) **Proposed safety measures for the A4222 in Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the reply of the Highway Authority dated 19 November, 1997, in reply to the Community Council's letters of 2 May, 1997 and 21 August, 1997.

The Community Council was disappointed to learn that the scheme to improve the A4222 Cowbridge Road in Pontyclun, which had been promised by the Highway Authority for some years, had still not been produced. The Authority stated that it was hoped to include a scheme to improve traffic management in Cowbridge Road in a future programme of works but that this was dependent on finance being available and no details had been prepared.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the letter be noted.
 - (ii) That the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council member for Pontyclun, Councillor Jonathan Huish, be asked to request a site meeting with representatives of the Highway Authority in order to progress the proposed safety measures.

(c) **Improved car park signing adjacent to Windsor Park, Pontyclun**

The Community Council was pleased to learn that its request for improved car parking signing adjacent to Windsor Park, Pontyclun, was to be the subject of site investigations by the highway Authority.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(d) **Vehicles parked in the vicinity of the Corner Park Garage, Mwyndy**

The Community Council was pleased to learn that arrangements had been made for site investigations to be carried out, in conjunction with the police, in relation to vehicles parked on grass verges and footways around the Corner Park Garage in Mwyndy.



9. **Request for additional police resources**

The Council discussed a copy of the letter from Chief Inspector A J Dominguez, of the South Wales Police, which had been sent to the M.P. for Pontypridd, Dr Kim Howells, following the Community Council's request for Dr Howells to press for an increase in resources for the South Wales Police.

While the Council readily understood the changing nature of the problems facing the police and the need to identify solutions to problems within communities, Members were surprised to learn that the Chief Inspector, as Area Commander, felt "that the resources which are in place in the area are deemed to be adequate and commensurate to the needs of the local area." This view was the opposite view to that gained from police representatives at Community Council meetings over several years.

The Council was pleased to note that Inspector Dominguez required clarification of the incident which had led to an impression that members of the public were reluctant to report incidents because of the slowness of the police response.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk provide details of the incident reported to the police by Councillor Flood which resulted in no police response for 35 minutes.
- (ii) That the Clerk establish from the South Wales Police the number of police officers routinely available for response to incidents for Pontypridd and district from midday on a Friday to midnight on Sunday evening.

10. **Access to Pontyclun Station**

The Council discussed the replies received from Railtrack and Wales & West Passenger Trains over the Community Council's concerns about the open nature of Pontyclun Station and the fact that local children were known to have played on platforms only feet away from speeding trains. The Community Council had hoped that it might have been possible to erect a barrier at the platform entrances to prevent children from gaining access.

In summary, both organisations replied to the effect that it would not be possible to erect barriers to the platforms since it was the wish to maintain free access to the platforms for rail users. They both felt that the solution lay in better education of children and parents to the risks of playing near a railway. Railtrack enclosed copies of leaflets drawing attention to the dangers and provided copies of their videos "Short Cut" and "Playing it Safe" and suggested that may be of interest to schools or community groups.



The Community Council was sceptical of the replies since it felt that there was a fundamental health and safety responsibility on those operating the platforms to ensure that children were not able to casually wander into a highly dangerous environment.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the letter be noted.
- (ii) That the Clerk contact the headteacher of the Pontyclun Primary School to ask whether he would arrange for the children at the School to be shown the videos.
- (iii) In the event that the Headteacher would not be able to show the videos to children the Clerk make the similar request to the organisers of the Saturday afternoon film club at the Pontyclun Community Centre.

11. **Former Council Yard in Pontyclun**

The Council considered the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to the Community Council's earlier request about whether the site was still in the ownership of the Borough Council and, if it was, whether it would be suitable for the creation of a children's playarea.

The Community Council was disappointed to learn from the Director of Leisure and Tourism that the land had recently been sold, subject to contract. The Director pointed out that a small play area is due to be provided by the developers of land at the rear of Station Terrace. The facility would be relatively near to the residential area that the Community Council was seeking to serve.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

12. **Proposed Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee**

The Community Council received the letter of 7 November, 1997, from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in response to its enquiry about the latest position in the proposal to establish a Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee.

The reply, from the Director of Planning, stated that the Director of Legal and Administrative Services was preparing a constitution and that he had been advised by the Director of Planning of the Community Council's wish, and that of the Llanharry Community Council, to have representation on the proposed Committee. The Director stated that he had forwarded a copy of the Community Council's latest letter to the Director of Legal and Administrative Services together with a copy of his letter of 7 November, 1997.



18. **Reports from Members**

(a) **British Heart Foundation**

Councillor Bendle reported that he, and his wife, had represented the Community Council at a charity concert in aid of the British Heart Foundation at the Bethel Baptist Church Centre on the evening of 22 November, 1997. Both Councillor Bendle and his wife experienced a very enjoyable evening.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Drunken youths**

Councillor Bendle reported that the police had recently been called to an incident in Pontyclun where two drunken youths were found to be wandering on near the railway line.

It was believed that the youths were under 18 years of age and that they had purchased alcohol at one of the shops holding an off-licence in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Talgarn Forum**

Councillor Griffiths reported that the Talgarn Forum continued to exert pressure for the Talgarn Rehabilitation Centre to be retained as a facility providing rehabilitation services when the new general hospital at Ynysyplwm is opened in 1999.

Strong resistance to the proposals was being met from the Bro Taf Health Authority who, it claimed, had already carried out a public consultation exercise and had decided that the facilities at Talgarn would end in 1999 when alternative facilities would become available at the Ynysyplwm hospital.

The Forum believed that while some rehabilitation facilities would be available at Ynysyplwm they would not be as comprehensive as the facilities currently available at Talgarn.

The Bro Taf Health Authority intended holding a workshop during the New Year and invitations to attend would be distributed widely.



RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Achievements of the Community Council during 1997.**

Councillor Griffiths stated that she was of the view that the work of the Council should receive more prominence and that at the end of 1997 the Council should review its activities for the year and publish a summary for the information of the public.

RESOLVED: That the item be placed on the agenda for the Council's January meeting.

(e) **Youth Forum**

Councillor Davies gave a report on the Youth Forum he and Councillor Flood recently attended in Carmarthen

Both Members were impressed with the degree of provision made by some community councils for the youth of their communities and believed that the Pontyclun Community Council could involve itself in making provision its youth.

RESOLVED: That suggestions on how the Community Council could make a contribution towards increasing the facilities for the youth of the Community be received at the Council's January meeting.

(f) **Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**

Councillor Davies reported that he and the Clerk attended a meeting of the local area committee of the Association on 2 December, 1997, in the offices of the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council in Barry.

The guest speaker for the evening was the Chief Executive of the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council, Mr. David Foster, who explained his Council's methods for consulting community and town councils in the Borough and also touched upon proposals for improving the public's perception of the Authority's work.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.



(g) **Grass verge outside the public library in Pontyclun**

Councillor Davies drew the Council's attention to the frequently muddy condition of the grass verge outside the public library in Heol y Felin, Pontyclun, and the necessity for many members of the public to cross over the verge before gaining access to the library.

There was a need for paving slabs to be laid on at least part of the verge and such a facility would be welcomed by the public and library staff alike.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk establish whether the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would be prepared to lay the necessary paving slabs and, in the event of the Borough Council not being prepared to do so, whether the Borough Council would have any objection to the Community Council carrying out the work.

(h) **Pavement at the Brynsadler bridge**

Councillor Davies referred to the dangers facing pedestrians using the pavement on the southern side of the bridge carrying the A4222 across the river Ely in Brynsadler.

The problem had been caused by the pavement being constructed excessively wide on the north side of the bridge with the result that little room was available for the construction of the pavement on the south side. The very dangerous situation facing pedestrians on the south side could be overcome by a slight re-alignment of the road which could be achieved by reducing the width of the pavement on the north side and increasing the width of the pavement on the south side.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk establish whether the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would be prepared to carry out the improvement and, if not, whether the Borough Council would agree to the Community Council funding the project to the specification of the Highway Authority.



(i) **“Miskin” village sign**

Councillor Cale advised of a conversation she had with Mr. Phil Preene, a businessman in Mwyndy who, together with his family, had lived in the area for generations. Mr. Preene mentioned that he had always understood that he lived in Mwyndy. Recently, a “Miskin” sign had been erected outside his workshop. He was unsure whether the sign had been erected in the wrong place or whether the sign had been erected in the right place and that he should take steps to amend his postal address.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk obtain clarification on the matter from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and request that in any further instances of new village nameplates being erected that consultation with the Community Council take place beforehand.

(j) **New residential development at Prospect Vale, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood drew the Council’s attention to a matter which, strictly speaking, lay outside the Community Council’s boundary but which posed a danger for children of the Community.

Councillor Flood pointed out that surface water from the site flowed from a large open concrete pipe into the river Ely. The open pipe was positioned on the bank of the river Ely in such a way that it could be easily accessed by children and the end of the pipe was not covered in mesh.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Director of Planning and Director of Environmental Health of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(k) **Overgrown footpath**

Councillor Flood reported that the public right of way adjacent to the brewery in Brynsadler was overgrown with brambles and undergrowth in places and required maintenance work.



RESOLVED: That as the public right of way lay outside the Community of Pontyclun, the Clerk take the matter up with the Llanharry Community Council.

19. **Any other business of an urgent nature**

(a) **Public Right of Way Footpath No. 299**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, commented about the uneven condition and poorly illuminated lane constituting Public Right of Way Footpath No. 299 in Groesfaen. He requested that the Council give consideration to carrying out improvements.

RESOLVED: That the work required to the Footpath be placed on the list of schemes to be compiled at the Council's meeting on 7 January, 1998.

(b) **Winter grit bin**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, drew the Council's attention to the lack of a winter grit bin on the new Brofiscin Estate in Groesfaen. There was a need for a winter grit bin on the Estate since a number of its roads were on an incline and motor vehicle drivers experienced difficulty during periods of frosty and snowy weather.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk request the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to site a winter grit bin on the Estate.

(c) **Unauthorised advertisement hoardings, Mwyndy**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, passed to the Clerk copies of correspondence he had received in connection with the unauthorised erection of advertisement hoardings at Mwyndy. The Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, as planning authority, was in the process of contacting the persons responsible for the erection of the hoardings to point out that planning consent was necessary before hoardings could be erected.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be placed on the Community Council's files.



(d) **Maps of Groesfaen**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, enquired about the possibility of obtaining a map showing Public Rights of Way in Groesfaen and a further map showing streets in the village.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk provide a Public Rights of Way map to the Chairperson and enquire of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council whether a street map of Groesfaen is available.

(e) **Possibility of the construction of a car park adjacent to the playground, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported the receipt of letters from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, which had been received too late for inclusion with the Council's agenda, about the Council's suggestion for the construction of a car park adjacent to the playground off Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

The Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council was not prepared to support the proposal for the construction of a car park on the grounds that the point of access would be unacceptable and that there were ".....potential hazards from the misuse of the car park, by drivers, etc using other facilities in the area..."

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

(f) **Welsh Language Scheme**

The Clerk reported receipt of the draft Welsh Language Scheme produced by the Local Government Boundary Commission under the provisions of the Welsh Language Act, 1993. An invitation was extended to the Community Council to comment of the proposed scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to comment on the scheme.

20. The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

