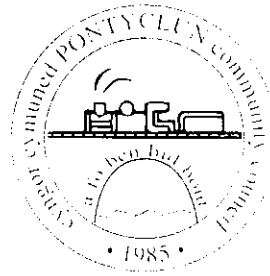


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Pontyclun Community Council

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 J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
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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 February, 1999

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle Mrs V A Cale, J G Davies, T Flood, Mrs M M Griffiths, R G Norman, M Rea and Mrs D B Shackell

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Five members of the public together with Chief Inspector Kinrade and P C Steve Keddle for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R O Edwards, and J V Huish.

2. **Chairperson**

In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at the beginning of the meeting Members elected Councillor Rea to the Chair.

3. **Chairperson's business**

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

4. **Police matters**

Chief Inspector Kinrade and Police Constable Keddle attended the meeting on behalf of the South Wales Constabulary. C. I. and Kinrade explained that he had been in post for only three months and thanked the Community Council for providing him with the opportunity to address Members.

J. A. V. D.

C. I. Kinrade outlined his background in the police service and said that he was aware of the good positive support which community based organisations afforded to the police. Equally, he was aware of the issues which caused community groups concern; he gave as examples alcohol abuse, car crime and drug problems. He was, too, aware of the instances of unruly and anti social behaviour caused by youths in Pontyclun on Friday and Saturday nights.

Members outlined to C. I. Kinrade other problems in the Community which were causing concern and asked whether increased resources could be made available. Of particular concern to Members were speeding vehicles especially in the vicinity of Y Pant School, the absence of a traffic warden to deal with parking offences and the fear of elderly folk of being intimidated.

C. I. Kinrade responded that the challenge in his job was to balance the resources at his disposal to meet all needs within his area, bearing in mind that he had a duty to provide a response service in addition to the more obvious policing duties. He stated that the police were always seeking ways to make the service more efficient and quoted, as an example, the action of the Chief Constable in placing an additional 65 officers on the beat since taking up his post. Consideration would be given to the suggestion for delegating the handling minor crime to free resources.

The discussion with C. I. Kinrade and P C Keddle concluded with an undertaking from the police that consultations would take place to establish what further measures might be employed to alleviate problems in the Community. C. I. Kinrade also reminded Members that their first link with the police was through their community policeman, P C Keddle.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 6 January, 1999**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 6 January, 1999, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Encroachment at the Ivor Woods**

While it was believed that the person responsible for the encroachment at the Ivor Woods had dismantled his glasshouse it was unclear whether the person had removed the foundations from the Community Council's land.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred to the Council's March monthly meeting when a report on the matter would be received from Councillor Davies.

(b) **Review of electoral arrangements**

It was reported from Members that forms had been prepared in readiness for the collection of the required number of signatures to enable the Community Council to request the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to review electoral arrangements in the Cefn yr Hendy Ward of the Community Council. Members would collect signatures from the public during the following week.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

(c) **Millennium Festivities**

(i) **Ideas Sheets**

The Clerk reported that while few Ideas Sheets had been returned to him from local organisations wishing to mark the new Millennium, the number of suggestions were relatively high.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements for a further meeting of local organisations to progress a timetable of local events for the Millennium year.

(ii) **Proposed Millennium Street Map**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Burrows Communications Ltd, a company specialising in the production of street maps, enquiring about the production of a Millennium Street Map for the Community of Pontyclun. Burrows stated that they would, subject to certain conditions, produce a street map of the Community, at no cost to the Community Council.

The Clerk read out a letter which had subsequently been received from Burrows detailing the conditions which needed to be adhered to by both parties for the production of a free map. In outline, the responsibilities of the respective parties are:

Burrows Communications

1. Project management
2. Advertising sales

3. Design artwork and typesetting
4. Cartography
5. Printing and delivery

Pontyclun Community Council

1. Writing and supply of editorial
2. Supply of photographs
3. Supply of basic maps
4. Distribution

The Clerk read out the detailed areas of responsibility as specified in Burrows' letter of 25 January, 1999. The Clerk emphasised that it was essential that both parties agree to work diligently towards the successful achievement of all aims of the publishing project.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council agree to the conditions specified in Burrows' letter of 25 January, 1999, and that the Clerk be authorised to enter into a contract with Burrows Communications Ltd for the production of a Millennium Street Map for the Community of Pontyclun.

(iii) **Small grants**

Councillor Rea referred to the earlier promise from officers of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to make details available to enable organisations to claim small grants for the promotion of Millennium festivities. Councillor Rea asked whether the information had been received from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The Clerk replied that he had contacted the officers at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council who had originally given out information on grants and had asked for the current position on how organisations could claim small grants. He had been advised that there had been a delay in the allocation of large grants and that it was only when the allocation of large grants had been completed that procedures for the claiming of small grants would be finalised. Information on small grants would be distributed when it became available.

CWA

- RESOLVED:** (i) That Councillor Rea make enquiries with the company responsible for the distribution of grants on the present position.
- (ii) That the subject of Millennium Festivities be placed on the agenda for the next Community Council meeting.

(d) **Chair**

At this point in the meeting the Vice Chairman attended and occupied the Chair.

(e) **Y Pant School Parents' Association**

The Council noted the correspondence which had taken place about the dangers to children from traffic outside Y Pant School, Pontyclun.

Mr Andrew Hopkins, Chairman of Y Pant Parents Association, addressed the Council of his Association's concerns and urged that active support be given towards getting the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to introduce measures to improve safety for pupils on the A4222 outside the school. Mr Hopkins was supported by Mr and Mrs Griffiths of 191 Ynysddu, Pontyclun, whose son, Ian David Griffiths, was recently knocked down by a vehicle on the A4222 near the school.

A long discussion ensued about the need for improved safety features on the A4222, especially in view of the recent residential developments in the area. There was a consensus view that the neighbouring community councils also had an interest in improving safety in the interest of children from their communities.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk write to the Health and Safety Executive, drawing attention to the need to improve safety facilities for children on the A4222 outside Y Pant School, and asking what obligations the local education authority had in ensuring the safety of children needing to cross the A4222

- (ii) That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to request details of measures for the improvement of safety on the A4222 and an indication on whether these measures would be implemented in the near future
- (iii) That, having received the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, the Clerk approach the community councils of Llanharry, Llanharan and Llantrisant to establish whether these authorities would be prepared to make a financial contribution towards the cost of implementing the safety measures.
- (iv) That the Clerk write to the headteacher of Y Pant Comprehensive School for an indication of the additional premium required to extend insurance cover to enable parents to use the car park adjacent to the A4222 for the purpose of picking up and dropping off school children.

(f) **Grass verge outside Pontyclun Library**

The Clerk reported that he had sought tenders from three local builders for the construction of a hard surface on part of the grass verge outside the Pontyclun Library. Only one tender had been returned. The Chairperson opened the sealed envelope.

RESOLVED: That the contract for the work be awarded to G L Sharkey (Builders) Ltd in the sum of £942.00

(g) **Local Environment Plan**

It was noted that the date for the public meeting in St Fagans on the Local Environment Plan had passed.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken.

CVA

(h) **Planning - legal view on possible interest**

The Council considered the view of a legal adviser to the Association of Community and Town Councils on the question of whether a member of a community council, who is also a member of a planning committee at the unitary authority, need declare an interest when a planning matter is determined at unitary authority where that member had been involved in the discussion on that planning application at community council level.

The view of the Association's legal adviser was that the normal rules on declaration of interest should apply where a councillor has anything to gain or lose or if he is connected in some way with the applicant or objectors or the application or the land in question or adjacent land.

Provided these rules are followed and the councillor reaches a decision with an open mind based on the facts before him, having taken into account planning law principles and the wishes of the people, the legal adviser could see no reason why a councillor should not serve on two councils to consider the same application.

RESOLVED: That the advice be noted and that a copy of the legal advice be forwarded to the Director of Legal and Administrative Services at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(i) **Advice on trees**

(i) **Miskin**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had met the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's arboriculturalist on site on 22 January, 1999, to discuss two trees which had recently been felled and which were understood to be covered by a tree preservation order.

It was confirmed that the two trees were not covered by tree preservation orders. The arboriculturalist saw no reason why the remaining



trees in the avenue should not be protected by a tree preservation order, except for those trees which were already showing signs of decay. He promised to arrange for a tree preservation order to be progressed to protect the remaining healthy specimens.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(ii) **Ivor Woods**

The Clerk reported that a further site meeting had taken place on the 22 January, 1999, to examine a misshapen tree in the Ivor Woods, Brynsadler, which was situated at the rear of a residential property in The Hollies. A householder had claimed that the tree was in danger of falling into her garden.

The arboriculturalist had carried out an inspection of the tree and, despite the tree's misshapen habit of growth, had confirmed that the tree was healthy and not in danger of falling into the householder's garden.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the Clerk advise the householder that an inspection by an arboriculturalist had shown that the misshapen tree was healthy.

(j) **Pontypridd and District Housing Association**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths gave a report on the survey of residents' needs currently being undertaken by the Pontypridd and District and Rhondda Housing Associations. The survey was aimed at a broad cross section of the community and results to date had been very encouraging. It was anticipated that the survey would be completed shortly when the results would be made public.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CWA

(k) **Internal Audit**

In accordance with the statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations, 1996, and the Council's decision at its meeting on 6 January, 1999, an internal audit took place of the Council's income, expenditure, VAT and payments to the Inland Revenue.

RESOLVED: That the Council indicate its satisfaction with the financial transactions recorded.

7. **Financial Regulations**

The Council discussed the draft set of financial regulations produced by the Clerk at Appendix 9 to the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the regulations be adopted as the financial regulations of the Pontyclun Community Council.

8. **Community Council's precept for 1999/2000**

The Council considered details of its expenditure for 1997/98 and its projected expenditure for 1998/99. It also considered its precept for 1999/2000.

RESOLVED: That the Council's precept for 1999/2000 be £55,321.00, the same as its precept for 1998/99.

9. **Talgarn Pavilion**

The Council discussed the report of the District Valuer and Valuation Officer on Talgarn Pavilion. It was noted that the Valuer was of the opinion that the current open market of the freehold interest in the property is fairly represented in the nominal sum of £1.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the District Valuer and Valuation Officer's report be given to the Vicar of Pontyclun. Furthermore, that it be suggested to the Vicar that a delegation from the Community Council comprising the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson together with Councillors Griffiths and Norman meet with the Parochial Church Council to explore possible ways forward.

10. **Miskin Bye Election**

The Council received copies of the letter from the Acting Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council dated 7 January, 1999, and the reply of the Clerk dated 22 January, 1999.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

11. **Application for a transfer of licence - Brunel Arms, Pontyclun**

The Council received details of an application for the transfer of the Justices Licence at the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That no comment be offered on the application.

12. **Weekly Planning Notifications for Weeks Ending 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 January, 1999**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 January, 1999.

(Councillor Rea declared an interest in application No. T/98/2875/10 and vacated the Chamber when the application was discussed)

RESOLVED: That no comment be made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on any of the applications contained in the above weekly notifications.

13. **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in appendix 15 to the Council's agenda.

14. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Recycling Centre**

Councillor Bendle pointed out that there was a re-cycling centre located in Coed Cae Lane, in the Community of Llanharan. He asked whether there was any possibility of a re-cycling centre being located in the Community of Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(b) **Car parking facilities for disabled**

Councillor Bendle drew the Council's attention to the absence of car parking facilities outside shops in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, solely for the use of disabled people. Often disabled

people wishing to shop in Pontyclun were prevented from doing so because existing parking spaces were occupied by able bodied drivers.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and that a copy of the letter be sent to Mr John Kelly of 43 Lon yr Awel, Pontyclun.

(c) **Biodiversity meeting**

Councillor Norman presented a report on a meeting convened by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on 13 January, 1999, on Biodiversity issues within the Borough. Councillor Norman felt that while the issue of Biodiversity was important there was little direct effect on the Community of Pontyclun at that time.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Talgarn Rehabilitation Centre**

Councillor Norman referred to the highly successful campaign which was being fought by the Talgarn Forum for the retention of rehabilitation facilities at the Talgarn Rehabilitation Centre. Significant support had been won from many quarters for the retention of Talgarn as a centre of excellence in preference to the transfer of facilities to the new Royal Glamorgan Hospital where, it was now clear, that a lesser service to the public would result.

The situation at that time was that the future of Talgarn would be discussed at a meeting of the Welsh Select Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(e) **The Janice Jones Support Fund**

Councillor Norman advised the Council that a Three Choirs Concert was planned for the Bethel Baptist Church on the evening of Saturday, 13 February, 1999, in aid of the Janice Jones Support Fund. The evening would provide a feast of musical entertainment and all the proceeds would be donated to the Fund. Councillor Norman urged as many Members as possible to attend the concert.

CWA

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(f) **Proposed siting of planters**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths asked for the current position on the Council's earlier decision to site planters on the pavement in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. The Clerk responded that while occupiers of properties adjacent to the identified site had no objection in principle to the proposed sittings, precise details of the proposed planters had not been produced for approval by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Flood approach a local architect for his assistance and that the matter be discussed again at the Community Council's next meeting.

(g) **Proposed footpaths leaflet**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths asked for the latest position on the Community Council's plans to produce a leaflet on a local circular walk. The Clerk responded that a resident had agreed to revise the earlier draft of a proposed community walk. Nothing had been heard on the matter since the resident had offered his assistance.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the resident to establish the present position on the plan for a community walk.

(h) **Access road to Pontyclun Joinery**

Councillor Davies produced copies of correspondence which he had received in connection with the extremely poor standard of the access road to the Pontyclun Joinery. He pointed out that several dates had been given when improvement work would begin on the access road and to the adjacent Station Terrace but nothing had happened. In the meantime, the access road continued to deteriorate and tenants on the Pontyclun Joinery Industrial Estate were leaving due to the poor condition of the access road. Councillor Davies tabled the copy correspondence he had received.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk establish from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council the reasons for the delay in the commencement of improvement works.



(i) **Request for dropped kerb**

Councillor Davies reported that he had received a request for the installation of a dropped kerb outside the post office in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk request the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to instal a dropped kerb and, in the event of that authority being unable to carry out the work, permission be sought for the Community Council to carry out the work.

(j) **Accumulations of leaves - Llantrisant Road**

Councillor Davies reported that there were accumulations of decaying leaves on both pavements in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, from the junction with Heol Miskin to the bridge over the river Clun. The accumulations rendered the pavements dangerous for pedestrians.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements for the removal of the leaves by the Council's handyman.

(k) **Procedure for upgrading public rights of way to bridleways**

Councillor Davies drew the Council's attention to the shortage of bridleways in the Community and asked if there was a procedure for upgrading a public right of way to a bridleway.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seek information from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(l) **Boundary railings at Pontyclun Primary School**

Councillor Davies advised the Council of the dangers arising from the rusty condition of some of the boundary railings at the Pontyclun Primary School.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Norman, as Chairperson of the Governing Body of Pontyclun Primary School, take the matter up with the Headteacher of the school.

(m) **Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun**

Councillor Cale reported that the junction of Heol yr Orsaf and Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, was frequently obstructed with parked vehicles. The obstructions often resulted in dangerous driving conditions for drivers accessing and leaving Heol yr Orsaf. There was an urgent need for parking restrictions at the junction of Heol yr Orsaf and Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to request the introduction of parking restrictions at the entrance to Heol yr Orsaf from Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

(n) **Proposed installation of footpath light, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea asked for the latest information of the erection of a footpath light on Footpath No 299 in Groesfaen. The Clerk responded that at the Council's wish he had been coordinating the removal of the former electricity sub station and the installation of a lighting column along Footpath No.299. Unfortunately, different branches of SWALEC were involved and it had proved extremely difficult to coordinate the two activities. The Clerk suggested that the Council concentrate upon the erection of a lighting column.

RESOLVED: That the Council abandon its attempts to coordinate the two activities and instead concentrate upon the erection of the lighting column.

(o) **Mud on highway, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea reported that residents in Groesfaen were again suffering from the deposition of mud on the A4119 in Groesfaen. It appeared that on this occasion the cause was not the local landfill site but rather the practice of local farmers in driving their tractors and trailers through the village.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking that the mud be removed from the highway and enquiring what measures can be taken to prevent the further deposition of mud on the A4119.

(p) **Lack of mains sewerage facility, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea tabled a letter he had received from the Treasurer of the Groesfaen Residents' Association in which a series of questions were asked about the lack of a main sewerage facility for some of premises in Groesfaen.

The Clerk advised the Council that representations had been made to Hyder some months earlier for all properties in Groesfaen to be provided with mains sewerage. It appeared that Hyder had carried out a survey following the Community Council's request but had come to the conclusion that it would not be prepared to provide mains sewerage for all properties in Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: That the letter from the Treasurer of the Groesfaen Residents' Association be placed on the agenda for the next Community Council meeting.

(q) **Abandoned car in Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea advised that a car had been abandoned in Groesfaen but that no action had been taken to remove it by the appropriate authorities. It was agreed that even though a car had been abandoned it sometimes took several weeks before the appropriate authorities could legally remove the car.

RESOLVED: That the matter be raised at the next Community Council meeting if the abandoned car had not been removed in the interim.

(r) **CCTV in the Community**

Councillor Rea asked that the subject of CCTV in the Community be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the necessary action.

(s) **Broken glass on the highway**

Councillor Flood again complained of broken glass on the highway outside the Bute Arms, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Environmental Services Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and ask what permanent remedy could be found to the problem.

(t) **Repairs to Station Approach, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood drew the Council's attention to recent roadworks in Station Approach, Pontyclun. He pointed out that while some potholes appeared to have been filled in others, nearby, had not been filled in. He failed to understand how some potholes had not been repaired.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Highway Authority.

(u) **Litter in Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood commented on the increasing amount of litter in the Pontyclun. Litter was regularly to be seen blowing around the village and litter bins were often overflowing. The problem was particularly acute in the vicinity of the veterinary surgeon's premises at the junction of Station Approach and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Highway Authority to enquire whether additional litter collection facilities could be made available in Pontyclun

(v) **Bottle banks**

Councillor Flood drew attention to the siting of the bottle banks in the car park at the rear of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. Councillor Flood pointed out that as a result of the positioning of the bottle banks it was necessary for collection lorries to make a sharp left hand turn to the rear of the public conveniences. The result was that the grass embankment below the public conveniences was constantly being worn away. A re-siting of the bottle banks to the Windsor Field end of the car park would make the collection and delivery of bottle banks easier and prevent the embankment at the public conveniences from being worn away.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk suggest the re-siting of the bottle banks to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council .

(w) **Pontyclun War Memorial**

Councillor Flood advised that the war memorial in Pontyclun was again becoming stained by the weather. He believed that the Council needed to arrange annual maintenance, possibly with an application of fungicide and water repellent.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take advice on the best way to keep the war memorial in good condition.

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

(a) **Proposed site for a hard surface play area**

The Clerk distributed a letter and map from Mr Andrew Wool of 21 Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun, in which Mr Wool informed the Council that he had recently purchased a plot of land in Pontyclun adjacent to the river Ely. Mr Wool was aware that the Community Council had been searching for a plot of land for the construction of a hard surface play area for local children and offered the Council the opportunity to use a section of his land for a hard surface play area.

The Clerk advised the Council that on receipt of Mr Wool's letter he had written to the Director of Leisure and Tourism at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking for a professional appraisal of Mr Wool's proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange a site meeting with Mr Wool at the site indicated on his map.

(b) **Application for financial assistance**

The Clerk reported that on the afternoon of 3 February, 1999, an application for financial assistance had been received from the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club for the upgrading of the playing area and changing rooms at the Maeyfelin rugby ground. The application had been accompanied by a considerable amount of documentation and it had not been possible to photocopy all the documents for consideration by the Council at that evening's meeting.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred to the Council's meeting of 3 March, 1999.

(c) **Community Council's Newsletter**

The Clerk advised the Council that the Community Council's Newsletter had been printed and he sought the Council's guidance on whether copies of the Newsletter should be distributed by the Council's handyman or by Members.

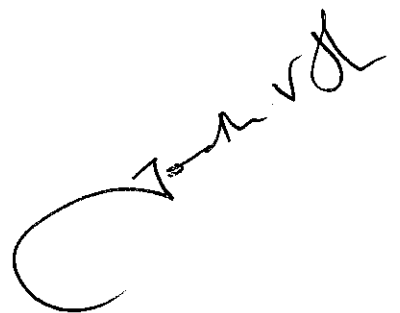
RESOLVED: That Members be responsible for delivering the Newsletter within their wards. In addition, that Members should coordinate the distribution within their wards to ensure that every property receives a copy of the Newsletter. Further, that any spare copies of the Newsletter be returned to the Clerk for placement in the Pontyclun library and other appropriate premises.

(d) **Members' Business**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths asked that at the Council's next meeting the matter of Members' Business be placed on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the necessary action.

16. The meeting ended at 10.50 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Griffiths', written diagonally across the page.