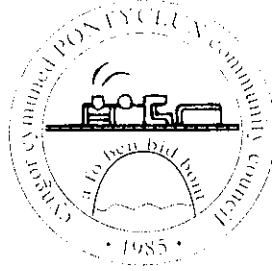


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, on Wednesday, 3 May, 2000 following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, C Davies, J R Dilworth, and R G Norman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Inspector Tucker and P C Steve Keddle of the South Wales Police, for part of the meeting, and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Councillors J G Davies and M Rea

2. **Chairperson's business**

The newly elected Chairperson, Councillor Dilworth thanked Members for their display of confidence in electing him to office. Councillor Dilworth promised to undertake his duties conscientiously, diligently and with dignity. He stated that he would wear his Chain of Office on all occasions when representing the Council.

3. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the Community policeman and Members**

(i) **Solvent/alcohol abuse**

The Chairperson referred to a recent incident on a Sunday evening at around 11.00 p.m. when there was a gang of youths sitting on the footbridge near the Pontyclun Station. On passing the youths it was apparent that there was a very strong smell of alcohol or solvents. Later considerable graffiti had been found on the bridge.

J R Dilworth

The incident had been reported to the police and the Chairperson asked whether there had been any further developments. P C Kedde responded that the matter was still under investigation.

(ii) **Former Crown brewery, Brynsadler**

Councillor Bendle drew the police's attention to the increasing number of break-ins at the disused Crown brewery in Brynsadler.

Councillor Bendle was particularly concerned since those responsible for the break-ins ran the risk of falling from considerable height. Given that break-ins appeared to be occurring frequently it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident at the site.

The report was noted by the police.

(b) **Presentation by Chief Inspector Tucker**

Chief Inspector Tucker advised the Council that he had not prepared a formal presentation for his visit to the Community Council but that he had researched a number of matters affecting policing in the Community and would be happy to answer questions from Members

(i) **Shortage of resources**

Chief Inspector Tucker agreed that he would always like more police officers at his disposal. However, he wished it to be known that in his time he had been able to acquire 9 additional officers in the Pontypridd Division and that the recruitment of these additional officers would soon make a significant contribution to policing in the Division. Additionally, it was planned that an officer would be returned to his duties in Talbot Green Police Station in a fortnight's time.

In response to a query by Councillor Norman, Chief Inspector Tucker stated that he, too, would like to see the police office at the Pontyclun Community Centre manned on a regular basis and as additional resources became available at Talbot Green police station there would be greater scope for flexibility.

(ii) **Closed Circuit Television in the Community**



The large increase in the population of Pontyclun was acknowledged by the police. It was also acknowledged that the increase would place additional demands on the police.

Chief Inspector Tucker advised that he had spoken to his colleagues in Pontypridd about the installation of CCTV in the Community. He had established that two bids for CCTV installation grants were currently being prepared but unfortunately Pontyclun was not included at this stage. However, Chief Inspector Tucker saw no reason why Pontyclun should not be included in a future scheme since the village was included on a list of villages suitable for the installation of CCTV.

(iii) **Drugs in the Community**

Councillor Bendle expressed his concern on the apparent ease with which drugs were available in the Community. He stated that there were instances where drugs had been seen being passed openly from cars.

Chief Inspector Tucker responded that he was aware of the concerns of the public of the increasing availability of drugs and the public's fear of retribution in the event of passing on incriminating information. He pointed out that as far as drugs were concerned it was the policy of the police to "hit at all levels". The B Division of the South Wales Police had a particularly effective record in dealing with drug problems. Chief Inspector Tucker drew Members' attention to the facility to pass on information on drugs through "CRIMESTOPPER" where information could be passed on anonymously.

(iv) **Consumption of alcohol in the Community**

Councillor Bendle advised that the consumption of alcohol, especially in public places, was a problem which had existed for some time. The problem was not confined to any particular age group although it was known that some holders of off licences were not being prudent in their sales of alcohol to youngsters. An initiative involving local licensees, the police and the public seemed to have ground to a halt.

Chief Inspector Tucker acknowledged the problem. He advised the Validate Scheme had been successful in some parts of the country but in other parts it had suffered as the result of some individuals who undermined the Scheme's effectiveness. Chief Inspector



acknowledged, too, that proving offences against the suppliers of alcohol to under age drinkers had been notoriously difficult. He gave an undertaking that he would make investigations into how effective the Validate Scheme had been in Pontyclun.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 5 April, 2000**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 5 April, 2000, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Proposed erection of bus shelter in Groesfaen**

The Council discussed the letter of 8 April, 2000, from Mr R Fairlamb of Y Parc, Groesfaen, who urged the Council to stand firm in its plans to construct a bus shelter in Groesfaen.

Mr Fairlamb pointed out that Groesfaen must be one of the very few centres of population in the Community Council area, or the Rhondda Cynon Taff area, which did not have weather protection provision for bus passengers and that this necessity had been overlooked for many years. Mr Fairlamb maintained that the bus shelter was long overdue and would be an asset for the village. He urged the Community Council to disregard the "nimbyism" displayed by some residents.


RESOLVED: That the Community Council re-affirm its commitment to erecting a new bus shelter in Groesfaen in spite of the opposition by a few residents. Additionally, that this view be conveyed to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(b) **Local Transport Plan**

The Clerk advised that a special meeting of the Council had been convened on the evening of 26 April, 2000 to formulate comments on the Local Transport Plan. An extension to the date for the receipt of comments on the Plan had been granted by the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Training Courses for Members and Clerks**



The Clerk reported that two of the three training courses for members and clerks of community and town councils in Wales had been held.

To date both courses, organised by the University of Wales, had been of a very high standard and the standard of lecturing, and the handouts provided had been excellent. There was a consensus opinion from the councils in attendance that the training events had been very worthwhile.

The remaining course was due to take place in Bridgend on Saturday, 6 May, 2000.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Welsh Assembly initiative – “Communities First”**

(i) **The document “Communities First”**

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to make any comment on the document.

(ii) **Developmental Seminar “Communities First”**

That the Community Council be represented at the Seminar by the Chairperson, Councillor Dilworth.

(b) **Bus shelter in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a letter from Mrs Sheila Giles, No. 20 Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, and neighbours, about a number of matters associated with the bus shelter outside No. 20 Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

While most of Mrs Giles' comments were the responsibility of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, Mrs Giles' final point raised the possibility of the erection of a more modern bus shelter.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council agree in principle to the replacement of the existing bus shelter a more modern structure.

(ii) That residents living in the vicinity of the bus shelter be given the opportunity to choose the type of replacement bus shelter.



- (iii) That the Council explore the possibility of erecting a further bus shelter on the opposite side of the highway to the existing bus shelter.

(c) **CCTV funding**

The Council discussed the letter of 13 April, 2000 from the Borough Council about the possibility of the Community Council bidding for funding for the installation of CCTV as a Phase 2 application under the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred to the Council's next meeting since Councillor Rea was not present and it was Councillor Rea who had undertaken considerable research on the matter on behalf of the Council.

(d) **Access for the disabled to the Ivor Woods, Brynsadler**

The Council discussed the letter of 12 April, 2000, from Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff about the long standing proposal to create an access for disabled people to the Ivor Woods, Brynsadler.

The proposal had earlier been left in abeyance since the Community Council was dismayed at what it saw as the excessive charges being levied by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for administration charges.

The latest letter from Groundwork raised the possibility that the Highways, Transportation and Engineering Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council might be able to waive its charges thus making the proposal feasible.

- RESOLVED:**(i) That the Clerk arrange for a further site meeting with Groundwork in the hope that a way forward may be found.
- (ii) That the Clerk attempt to arrange the site meeting for a Saturday morning.

(e) **Welsh Assembly document "National Strategy for Promoting Health and Well Being"**

The Council received a copy of the Welsh Assembly document "National Strategy for Promoting Health and Well Being". The Council was given the opportunity to comment on the document.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Community Council.

(f) **Wales Association of Community and Town Councils – Spring Conference**

(The Chairperson declared an interest in this matter and vacated the Council Chamber. The Vice Chairperson occupied the Chair)

The Council received details of the Spring Conference being organised by the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils in Pontllanffraith on Saturday, 20 May, 2000. The Council was invited to nominate representatives to attend the Conference.

RESOLVED: That the Council be represented at the Conference by Councillor Chris Davies and the Clerk.

(g) **Application for a Transfer of a Justices' Licence - The Barn, Mwyndy**

The Council received details of the application for a Transfer of the Justices' Licence at The Barn, Mwyndy.

RESOLVED: That the Council offer no comments on the application.

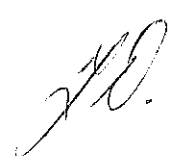
(h) **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 31 March, 7, 14, 21 and 28 April, 2000**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 31 March, 7, 14, 21 and 28 April, 2000.

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

Application No. T00/2247/10

- (a) Lorries should only be allowed to access the road within given hours during weekdays only.
- (b) The developer should employ a banksman along the road to ensure that accidental deposits of mud along the road are kept to a minimum.



- (c) The developer should give an undertaking before any works commence that he will be responsible for rectifying any damage caused to the road or any of the adjacent properties.
- (d) There should be no weekend working.

Application No. T00/2214/16

That the Council views the proposed development with some concern since the development appears to be too close to the existing property known as "The Cottage" and appears to be an over development of the plot of land available.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 10 to the Council's agenda.

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

There were no items requiring a decision by the Council since the despatch of agendas.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Miners' Pension Fund Surpluses**

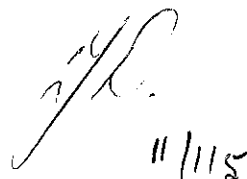
The Council received and discussed the letter of 5 April, 2000, from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about surpluses from the Miners' Pension Fund.

The Community Council shared the concern of the Borough Council that the government is due to receive £4 billion in surpluses while many of the Fund beneficiaries continue to live on the edges of poverty and while many mining communities suffer problems of unemployment, ill health and decay.

RESOLVED: That the Council support the comments made by Borough Council to the First Secretary to the National Assembly for Wales.

(b) **Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 -
Appeal to the National Assembly**

The Council received details of an appeal to the National Assembly by Mr R Williams over the refusal of the Planning



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Authority to grant planning consent for the erection of 2 semi detached dwellings in Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: That details of the appeal be noted.

(c) **Traffic signage**

That the Clerk reported that he had reminded the Borough Council that the Community Council was still awaiting the erection of the agreed sign on the Talbot Green By Pass directing heavy goods vehicles in the direction of industrial estates. A reply from the Borough Council was awaited.

RESOLVED: That the matter be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Community Council.

9. The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

