

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 3 November, 1999

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, C Davies, J G Davies, J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Keddle 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 Mrs V A Cale, J R Dilworth, S Rogers

2. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **Crime and Disorder Act**

Councillor Huish reported that he had recently attended a public meeting at the Llantrisant Leisure Centre on the response of the Borough Council to the Crime and Disorder Act. The meeting had been well attended by a range of public bodies including the police, the Benefits Agency, the Housing Department of the Borough Council the Community Safety Officer and a group of children from Llanharry School.

The report was noted.

(b) **Biodiversity Action Plan**

Councillor Huish reported that on the previous evening he had attended the Local Bio diversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff meeting at the Muni Arts Centre in Pontypridd.

The meeting followed on from the earlier public meetings held a year earlier when a steering committee had been elected to prepare a draft plan. The draft plan was now available and was open to public comment until the end of January, 2000.

The draft plan was well received and indicated a new direction for dealing with planning matters into the new millennium.

The report was noted.

(c) **European Committee of the Regions**

Councillor Huish reported that he had been very pleased to have been elected as a representative on the European Committee of the Regions.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council's congratulations be extended to the Chairperson on attaining such a prestigious appointment.

3. **Police Matters**

(a) **Speeding vehicles**

P C Keddle reported that the police radar team had been active in the Community during the previous month. A large number of motorists had been reported for speeding.

The report was noted.

(b) **Unruly behaviour**

P C Keddle reported that on the night of Saturday, 30 October, 1999, the police had been asked to attend an incident of fighting by youths near the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club. It appeared that the incident had arisen following the gatecrashing of an event at the Club. A meeting had been arranged between the police and the Club's committee to ensure that there was no recurrence of similar behaviour.

The report was noted

(c) **Crime Prevention Panel**

Councillor Rea advised the Council that he had received an invitation to attend the next meeting of the Taff Ely Crime Prevention Panel. The meeting was due to take place on Wednesday, 10 November, 1999.

The report was noted.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 6 October, 1999**

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

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Proposed erection of a road sign**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had not received a reply from the Llantrisant Community Council about the possibility of that Council making representations to the Highway Authority for the erection of a road sign to alleviate traffic congestion in Talbot Green caused by heavy goods lorries seeking industrial estates. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Clerk of the Llantrisant Council who had confirmed that that Council did not propose making any representations to the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED (i) That the Clerk be authorised to place an order with the Highway Authority for the erection of a road sign on the A473, in accordance with the proposals contained in the Highway Authority's letter of 10 August, 1999.

(ii) That the expenditure incurred under this proposal be met under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

(iii) Councillor Norman wished it recorded that he was against the proposal.

(b) **Clearance of footway between Castell y Mynach and Groesfaen**

The Clerk reported that following complaints from the Community Council, the Highway Authority had written to the Community Council to say that the footway was now substantially free from debris. A small amount still remained and it was planned that the remainder would be cleared shortly.

The report was noted.

(c) **Improvements to footpath lighting, Groesfaen**

The Clerk was able to report that after a long delay, Celtic Infrastructure Services had carried out work to improve lighting on the footpath from the A4119 to Y Parc.

RESOLVED: That the Council welcome the long awaited improvements to the lighting along the footpath and, in an attempt to improve illumination still further, the Clerk write to the Borough Council's Arboriculture Officer asking that he make arrangements to cut back some of the overhanging branches in the vicinity.

(d) **Proposed bus stop in Groesfaen**

The Council received a letter from the Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough Council in which it was stated that the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering would carry out an investigation into the Community Council's request for the construction of a bus stop, similar to the one erected at the east end of the village by the Cardiff City Council, at a site near the Babel Church.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Exclusion of the press and public**

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information namely, applicants for a service provided by the Council.

(b) **Applications for financial assistance**

RESOLVED: That the following grants be awarded:

- (i) The Samaritans - £75.00
- (ii) Tuesday Young at Heart Club - £50.00
- (iii) Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Urdd Gobaith Cymru - £ 100.00.

(iv) **Christmas Trees**

Councillor Mrs Peggy Thomas advised the Council that with the demise of the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade no organisation existed to coordinate the erection of Christmas trees in Pontyclun.

Councillor Thomas asked whether the Council would be prepared to support the idea of the Community Council becoming involved and provide some assistance to brighten up the village at the festive period. A discussion ensued and Members offered their comments on the suggestion.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree in principle to giving assistance but the detail of the proposal be deferred pending consultations between the Chairperson and local traders.

(d) **Taff Ely Twinning Association**

The Council discussed an invitation to nominate a representative to the Taff Ely Twinning Association

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rea be nominated as the Community Council's representative on the Association.

(e) **Annual General Meeting of Taff Ely Drug Support**

The Council discussed an invitation to attend the 14 Annual General Meeting of Taff Ely Drug Support.

RESOLVED: That the Council be represented at the meeting by Councillors Graham Davies, John Dilworth and Jonathan Huish

(f) **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 8, 15, 22 & 29 October, 1999**

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

RESOLVED: That the Council make the following comments to the Borough Council in respect of application No. 56/99/2744:

- (i) The Community Council is concerned at yet further proposals for residential development in the Community with no improvements in the infrastructure.
- (ii) The Community Council is concerned that the entrance to the proposed development is inadequate in that the land is presently used by local residents for parking while opposite is the

entrance into the car park of the Ivor Arms, Brynsadler.

- (iii) The proposed entrance is at the bottom of a hill where traffic is known to speed. Speeding vehicles at this point will pose serious hazards to vehicles emerging from the proposed development.
- (iv) The access to the proposed development is very close to the entrance on the opposite side of the A4222 to the residential development known as The Hollies. If the development is to receive approval the developer should be requested to make highway improvements sufficient to deal with emerging traffic from The Hollies and the proposed new development.
- (v) There are fears that the existing brewery site contains asbestos. Any developer should be required to ascertain if asbestos is present and provide a safe system for its removal before undertaking any demolition.
- (vi) A Community Council bus shelter presently stands on land at the proposed entrance to the site. The Council will require a written undertaking from any developer that the bus shelter will be re-sited and rebuilt to the Council's full satisfaction.
- (vii) The Borough Council's Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering will be aware that the Community Council has, for some time, been concerned about the inadequate provision for pedestrians along the roadbridge over the A4222 where it crosses the river Ely. In recognition that an even greater number of pedestrians will need to cross the bridge if the development is approved, the Community Council urges the Borough Council to ensure that any developer of the brewery site is required to construct

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a pedestrian bridge across the river Ely to serve the needs of pedestrians.

- (viii) If the application is approved, the only access to, and egress from, the site will be from Brynsadler, Pontyclun. Residents of the new development will be looking to the Community of Pontyclun for many of its cultural, social, educational, and religious needs. Currently, as the result of an anomaly in the existing boundary, the brewery site is within the Community of Llanharry. The Pontyclun Community Council would urge the Borough Council to carry out an urgent boundary review between the two community councils to rectify the anomaly.
- (ix) The Community Council would ask that any developer of the site be required to improve the access road running along the existing site to Ty Draw and that this access road be adopted by the Borough Council.
- (x) As the brewery site is on low land, part of which has been prone to flooding on several occasions in recent years from the river Ely and the Nant Felin Fach, the Community Council would urge the Borough Council to pay particular attention to the developer's proposals for site drainage.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 8 to the Agenda.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Review of electoral arrangements**

The Council discussed the Borough Council's response to the Community Council's request for a review of electoral arrangements in the Community.

It was stated that an information paper "is now proceeding through usual reporting channels to decide whether there is a

need for a review of current arrangements". The Community Council found this comment strange since when the issue was first raised a year earlier, the impression was given by the Borough Council that a review was a fairly straightforward matter and required the signature of 30 electors asking that a review be carried out. A request signed by 30 electors had been sent to the Borough Council many months earlier.

RESOLVED: That the Council defer the matter for three months before raising the matter again with the Borough Council.

(b) **Highway matters**

(i) **Highway lighting**

The Council received the response of the Borough Council about concerns over sub standard highway lighting at the Corner Park Garage, Mwyndy.

It was stated that the installation is generally in good condition with all lanterns complete with bowls, although the impression could be gained that bowls were missing because of the presence of high profile/low profile fittings in close proximity. Additionally, the accident records had been studied and revealed 5 personal injury accidents during the period from January, 1996 to June, 1999. Only one of these accidents had occurred during the hours of darkness and the cause was not attributed to the street lighting.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(ii) **Various highways issues**

The Council received the response of the Borough Council about concerns that overgrowth on the footway along Heol Miskin is impeding the passage of pedestrians and the absence of the Groesfaen village nameplate on the A4119.

The Borough Council stated that it was in the process of identifying the landowners responsible for the overgrowth on the footway along Heol Miskin. Further, that due to financial constraints on the Borough Council the provision of a new village nameplate could not be guaranteed immediately.

RESOLVED: That both matters be noted.

(c) **Flood Awareness Campaign**

The Council received details from the Environment Agency of a major public information campaign on flooding which was being launched during October. The first national Flood Awareness Week had been run from 18 to 24 October, 1999, and was the first initiative in a three year public awareness campaign throughout England and Wales.

Following the severe flooding across England and Wales during 1998, the Agency identified the need to improve public understanding of flood risk; the Agency's flood warning service and the roles and responsibilities of other organisations with an emergency response to flooding.

The Agency's objective is to alert the public to the risk of flooding and the need to be prepared before a flood, know what the warnings mean and how to react should flooding occur.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Application for Entertainment Licence**

The Council received details of an application for an Entertainment Licence at The Bute, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

A discussion took place on the need for landlords to behave responsibly to the community at large when providing entertainment at their premises. Landlords in Pontyclun did not have a good track record and there had been numerous instances of late night unruly behaviour where the neighbours, the public had experienced regular nuisance. The Community Council had no confidence in the ability of landlords to place their public responsibilities higher than their commercial interests.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve of the actions of the Chairperson and Clerk in sending a letter to the Licensing Authority opposing the application for an Entertainment Licence at The Bute.

(e) **Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

The Clerk reported that since the Council's last monthly meeting an invitation to attend a meeting for a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had been received. The meeting was to be held on Tuesday, 2 November, 1999. The Clerk had arranged with Councillor Norman, the Community Council's

Clerk

representative on the earlier Local Biodiversity Action meeting, to attend but due to another commitment Councillor Norman had been unable to attend. Councillor Norman had subsequently contacted the Chairperson who had subsequently been able to attend the meeting and represent the Community Council.

The Chairperson's report on the meeting had been given earlier in the meeting under Chairperson's Business.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Millennium Events Seminar and Exhibition**

The Clerk reported that the Community Council had received very short notice of a Millennium Events and Seminar being run by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on 4 November, 1999. The Clerk read out details of the seminar.

RESOLVED: That the Council not be represented at the seminar and exhibition but express its disquiet at the very short notice given of the event

(g) **Request for "No Through Road" sign**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which it was stated that the Borough Council had carried out an investigation into the Community Council's request for a "No Through Road" sign at the entrance to Castan Road, Pontyclun.

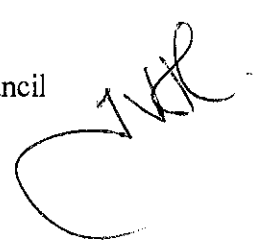
The Borough Council stated that due to the financial constraints facing the Authority it was not possible to allocate any capital funding for new signing schemes in 1999/2000.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(h) **Uncontrolled tipping near Castell y Mwnws**

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr R C Kennard of Ty'r Ffynnon, Castell y Mwnws, about the extent of tipping operations at the former sewage works near Castell y Mwnws. Mr Kennard enclosed copies of correspondence which had taken place with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in the matter. Despite the involvement of the Borough Council little progress appeared to have been made towards regulating the volume and type of material being tipped.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Borough Council urging that steps be taken as a matter of



urgency to regulate the amount of tipping and, if appropriate, insisting the person responsible for the site be required to submit a formal planning application.

(i) **Post mounted litter bins**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in response to the Community Council's request for replacement bin inserts for post mounted bins in Groesfaen.

It appeared that the bins were not in the ownership of the Borough Council and that as the inserts had rusted away there was no prospect of the Borough Council replacing the inserts. It was planned that the post mounted bins be removed.

RESOLVED: To safeguard existing litter collection facilities in Groesfaen, the Community Council undertake to bear the full costs of replacing the inserts.

(j) **Community Leadership and Community Planning**

(The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, declared an interest in this item and took no part in the Council's deliberations.)

The Community Council received a copy of a document from the Welsh Local Government Association entitled "Community Leadership and Community Planning" The Council was invited to comment on the document.

The Council was at a loss to understand how any meaningful comment on the document could be offered when only one copy of the document was provided to cover 10 members of the Council.

RESOLVED: That as the document contained very few references to community and town councils in Wales detailed comment on the document be left to the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

(k) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. A number of volunteers in the service resided in the Community.

RESOLVED: That an award of £50 be made to the Service.

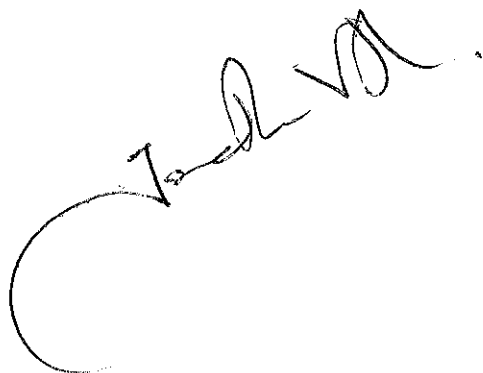
(1) **Remembrance Sunday**

The Clerk advised the Council that, as in previous years, he had purchased two poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday; one wreath to be placed on the Pontyclun War Memorial while the other was to be placed on the Miskin War Memorial.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk's actions be approved.

(ii) That Councillor Rea be nominated to place a wreath on the Pontyclun War Memorial while Councillor Davies be nominated to place a wreath on the Miskin War Memorial.

10. The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

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