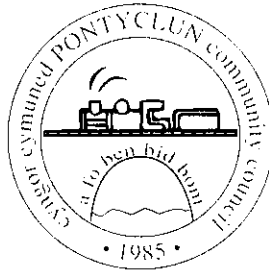


**Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**

Clerc i'r Cyngor  
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.  
"Mandalay"  
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**Pontyclun Community Council**

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 3 November, 2004.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs V A Cale, D Clayton Jones, C Davies, M P Griffiths, D G Henderson, Ms S R Jenkins, A R Lane and R G Norman and Mrs P Thomas.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** P C Steve Kettle for items 1 to 3 on the agenda.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor M Rea

**2. Councillor Dan Clayton Jones**

A warm welcome was extended to Councillor Dan Clayton Jones who was attending his first meeting as a member of the Council representing the Miskin Ward.

**3. Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

**RESOLVED:** There were no disclosures.

**4. Police matters**

**(i) Crime figures**

P C Kettle provided the Community Council with the latest schedule of crime figures for Pontyclun, Llanharry, Llanharan and Brynna for the month of October, 2004.

P C Keddle reported that the month had been "fairly quiet" although there had been a number of burglaries at clubs and pubs, an instance of theft and deception, and instances of anti-social behaviour on Halloween when sauce had been thrown at a number of buildings.

(ii) **CCTV**

Members expressed their concern at the apparent insignificant effect which the CCTV installation in Pontyclun had had on improving security. It was understood that the CCTV cameras were fully operational although some Members were concerned that cameras were rarely seen to move. This had created an impression that the cameras were not functioning to best effect.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the Borough Council with a view to arranging a visit to the CCTV control room in Pontypridd for Members on a Friday afternoon before Christmas.

(iii) **Pontyclun Railway Station**

Councillor Thomas stated that she was concerned that young children had been found to be playing close to Pontyclun railway station. Councillor Thomas enquired of P C Keddle whether he had any knowledge about whether the British Transport Police carried out patrols in the area, especially in view of the fatalities which had occurred in the area in recent years.

P C Keddle confirmed that responsibility for security of the Pontyclun railway station, and the adjacent car park, lay with the British Transport Police. He was not aware of security arrangements.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the British Transport Police requesting that regular patrols be carried out in the vicinity of Pontyclun railway station.

(iv) **Youth Shelter**

Members discussed the lack of facilities for the youth of the Community and wondered whether there was merit in pursuing the erection of a youth shelter. Similar facilities had been provided elsewhere locally but it was uncertain how the facilities had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Griffiths contact Mrs Caroline Wool of Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun, to establish the experiences of neighbouring authorities in funding and erecting youth shelters.

(v) **Near accident**

Councillor Norman drew to P C Keddle's attention a recent un-nerving incident when he was driving his car at night and had been suddenly confronted by what appeared to be a home made "gambo" ridden in the highway by youths. The "gambo" did not have any lights. Only immediate evasive action had prevented a collision. Councillor Norman was then subject to abuse by the youths.

The matter was noted by P C Keddle.

(vi) **New police Inspector at Talbot Green**

P C Keddle advised the Council that he would contact Inspector Phillips, the new police inspector at Talbot Green police station, and remind him of the invitation to attend a future meeting of the Community Council.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 6 October, 2004**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 6 October, 2004, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Ely Valley Business Park, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the letter from Ms Sheila Davies, Director of Development and Regeneration at the Borough Council in response to the Community Council's request for clarification of the Borough Council's plans for an access road to the Ely Valley Business Park.

The Council was disappointed with the reply since it made no mention of a timetable for the consideration of the consultants' report by either officers or members of the Borough Council. Neither was there any reference to the Community Council being involved in the consultation process. It was also unclear whether the Borough Council was committed to progressing access road improvements despite originally having earmarked £30,000 for a feasibility study.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the Clerk take up the Community Council's concerns with Ms Sheila Davies.

(b) That the Councillor Rea, in his role as Borough Councillor, also be asked to pursue that matter with the Borough Council.

(b) **Clean Rivers Campaign**

The Clerk reported that despite having made provisional arrangements with officers in the Keep Wales Tidy Campaign to make a presentation to the Council at this meeting, he had heard nothing further.

The Clerk advised that he would contact the Campaign again with a view to getting the presentation made at the Community Council's meeting of 1 December, 2004.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the report be noted.
  - (ii) That an approach be made to the Royal Mint to request a contribution towards any expenditure required under the Clean Rivers initiative.
  - (iii) That in response to a newspaper cutting produced by Councillor Lane, the Clerk obtain further information on the plans of BAE Systems Properties Limited for the removal of soil and groundwater contaminants at the site of the former Purolite International plant in Cowbridge Road, Talbot Green.

(c) **Award of grants**

The Council discussed letters from Mr C D Ferris, organiser of the campaign to light up Miskin Church at Christmas, and Mrs M Latham of the Flower Guild Ladies of Pontyclun saying that they were unable to obtain to cash the grant cheques sent to them by the Community Council since they did not have bank accounts specifically for the purpose for which they had been awarded assistance.

The Council was reluctant to issue cheques made payable to individuals but accepted that if the Council was to make a



grant towards the initiatives there was no other alternative available.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That in the exceptional circumstances, a cheque be made payable to C D Ferris, in respect of the fund to light up Miskin Church at Christmas, and to M Latham in respect of the Flower Guild Ladies of Pontyclun.
  - (ii) That Messrs Ferris and Latham be asked to produce receipts to the Community Council as confirmation that the Community Council grants had been expended on the purpose stated in the applications for assistance.

(d) **Maesyfelin Playing Fields**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the meeting which had taken place earlier that afternoon with representatives of the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club, the Pontyclun AFC, the Corporate Estates Division of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Pontyclun Community Council.

The meeting had been convened by the Community Council to discuss the poor state of repair of the boundary railings and to establish what plans, if any, existed to carry out maintenance work. The Community Council was anxious to ensure that local sports organisations should not be forced into carrying out maintenance work if these works lead to the organisations being bankrupted.

A wide ranging discussion took place. It was established that while the Pontyclun AFC had held a lease on the football ground for many years it emerged that the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club had never held a lease. As a result, their representatives queried the ownership of the Maesyfelin Rugby Ground. The representatives of the Borough Council were strongly of the view that the whole of the Maesyfelin Playing Fields was in the ownership of the Borough Council and that the absence of a lease for the rugby field was likely to be an oversight by the Borough Council's predecessor body, the Mid Glamorgan County Council. A further factor appeared to have arisen in the last few days since it had been discovered that the Environment Agency had plans to construct a bund on the perimeter of the rugby field to prevent houses in Tegfan becoming flooded during periods of heavy rain.

The meeting adjourned to enable the Borough Council representatives to refer to the land's deeds and to obtain further information on the plans for the construction of a bund.

(e) **The Aberystwyth Report**

The Council discussed a draft outline of an Action Plan for the Pontyclun Community Council for the period 2004-2008 based on proposals contained in the Aberystwyth Report.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That four sub groups be established be established with the following remit and membership:

**Pontyclun Pride**

To improve the quality of the village high street : Councillors David Henderson and Dan Clayton Jones

**Pontyclun's footpaths**

To make Pontyclun's footpaths a distinguishing feature of the village: Councillors Paul Griffiths and Dan Clayton Jones

**Planning for improvement around the railway bridge**

To develop an integrated plan for traffic, parking, improved pedestrian access and improved and improved civic appearance and amenity around the railway bridge, Station Terrace and the surrounding pubs and clubs : Councillors Paul Griffiths and Tony Lane

**Supporting Pontyclun's voluntary groups**

To organise an information service allowing groups to attract new participants and provides the people of Pontyclun with information on the activities available: Councillors Sarah Jenkins and Pegi Thomas.

- (ii) That an over-arching sub group comprising, Councillors Sarah Jenkins and David Henderson, be established to write a newsletter to consult upon the four priority areas, organise a public meeting and also look more closely at the subject of communication and consultation.
- (iii) That the Clerk contact the Borough Council's Funding Officer to give a presentation on what external sources of funding might be available to the Community Council.

(f) **Casual vacancy in the Miskin Ward**

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Dan Clayton Jones had been returned unopposed as a Member of the Community Council in the Miskin Ward.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **The Local Channel**

The Council received details of The Local Channel, a national network of free community websites for community parish and town councils in England and Wales.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline the service offered given the organisation's very heavy reliance on advertising.

(b) **Chairman's Annual Charity Appeal**

The Council received a letter from the Chairman of the Borough Council, Councillor Alby Davies, giving details of the charities he had chosen to support during his term of office.

An invitation was extended to the Council to make a contribution to the Chairman's charity appeal.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council's Chairperson, Councillor Ms Sarah Jenkins make a donation of £25 to the appeal from the Chairperson's Allowance.

(c) **Request for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club towards staging its annual fireworks display.

Several Members expressed their support for the application pointing out that communal fireworks events were encouraged nationally and the event on the Windsor Field was a focal point for the Community, and was well organised and well run. Members also took into account another well organised and long established fireworks display in the Community which was run by the Miskin Scouts Group. No application for assistance had been made by the Miskin Scouts Group.

A request was received for a recorded vote.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That no grant be made to the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club on this occasion.

(ii) That the Rugby and Sports Club, and the Miskin Scouts Group be advised that the Community Council awards grants in June/July of each year and that both organisations might consider making an application for assistance towards their annual fireworks displays in early June, 2005.

The decision of the Council was unanimous.

(d) **Funding and Managing Community Projects**

The Council discussed an invitation to send a representative to the second One Day Regional Conference in Wales of the Society of Local Council Clerks where the theme of the would be Funding an Managing Community Projects.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Lane be nominated to attend the Conference.

(e) **The Licensing Act, 2003**

The Clerk reported that a copy of the Draft Licensing Policy Statement had not yet been received from the Borough Council. He would follow the matter up with the Borough Council.



The report was noted.

(f) **Application for the Transfer of a Justices' Licence**

The Council received details of an Application for the Transfer of a Justices' Licence for The Bute Arms, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the application be noted.

(g) **Christmas celebrations**

The Council discussed its plans for celebrating Christmas, 2004.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council:

- (i) provide a Christmas tree for each commercial premises in the main thoroughfare in Pontyclun.
- (ii) award a prize for the best illuminated house in each of the Council's four wards
- (iii) award a prize for the best illuminated street
- (iv) appoint Councillors Thomas, Henderson and Cale as judges for the competitions
- (v) ask the Borough Council for close monitoring by CCTV of the illuminations during the Christmas period
- (vi) provide press releases of its plans to the Llantrisant Observer, the South Wales Echo and The Diary
- (vii) erect posters advertising the competitions in its noticeboards

(h) **Planning Notifications**

The Council discussed details of planning applications received since the Council's last meeting.

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

**Application No. 04/1848/10**

The Community Council would urge the Planning Authority to ensure that:



- (i) there is no interference with a public right of way
- (ii) there is a corresponding increase in the parking facility at the premises
- (iii) there is adequate vision for vehicles emerging from the premises
- (iv) given the history of ground instability in the area, sufficient ground stability checks are carried out before any consent is awarded.

**Application No. 04/1778/10**

The Community Council would urge the Planning Authority to ensure that the proposed development does not lead to an increase in on-street parking.

**Application No. 04/1827/10**

The Community Council would urge the Planning Authority to ensure that the proposed development makes provision for access by disabled people.

**Application No. 04/1885/13**

The Community Council would draw the Planning Authority's attention to the fact that development of this land has previously been refused.

The Community Council is of the view that the plot of land is unsuited to the scale of development proposed and the application should again be refused.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 11 to the Council's agenda.

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

(a) **Refusal of planning consent**

The Council received details of an appeal by Westbury Homes against the decision of the Planning Authority not to

award planning consent for the development of 7 units and associated works on land adjacent to the B4264 in Miskin.

The Council was invited to express any views it had on the development by either attending the informal hearing or by writing to the Planning Inspectorate.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council note the position.

(b) **All Hallows Church Hall, Miskin**

The Clerk reported receipt of an application for the Renewal and Variation of a Community Premises Entertainment Licence at All Hallows Church Hall, Miskin.

**RESOLVED:** That the application be noted.

(c) **Pontyclun Pride**

Councillor David Henderson spoke to the discussion paper on improvements to the environment which had been circulated to Members the previous evening.

The Council thanked Councillor Henderson for his considerable efforts in producing the paper and endorsed his suggestions for improvements.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Henderson be requested to cost his proposals and bring them back to the next meeting of the Community Council.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Former Park Hall cinema, Pontyclun**

The Council received a letter from Drive, the organisation which had been attempting to purchase the former Park Hall cinema for redevelopment for many months.

The Council was disappointed to learn that no response had been received from the vendor or from his solicitor to Drive's latest correspondence. There was now a strong probability that the proposed purchase would fail.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk contact the Borough Council requesting the Authority to condemn the premises and make them safe. Further, that the Borough Council should be requested to issue a Compulsory

Purchase Order and then sell the premises to Drive.

(ii) That Drive be advised of the Community Council's plans to progress the matter.

(b) **Footpath No. 334**

The Council was pleased to learn that following its representations to the Borough Council about the proposed diversion of Footpath No. 334, the Diversion Order had now been withdrawn.

**RESOLVED:** That the letter from the Borough Council advising of the withdrawal of the Diversion Order be noted.

10. The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

