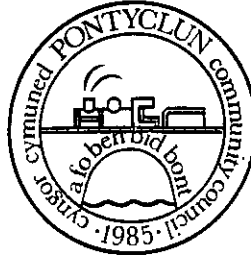


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPENDIX No. 1

Clerk to the Council  
J. H. G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.  
Telephone: Llantrisant (0443) 227094



“Mandalay”  
Cowbridge Road.  
Talgarn, Pontyclun.  
Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

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

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors C G Bendle, J G Davies, T Flood (for part of meeting), M M Griffiths, R G Norman and M Rea (Chairperson) and T J Burton

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** P C Steve Keddle (for part of meeting) and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

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

2. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **The Princess of Wales**

- (i) Members observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect at the sad news of the death of the Princess of Wales.
- (ii) The Council asked the Chairperson to sign the book of condolences on deposit at the Pontyclun Library on behalf of the Pontyclun Community Council.
- (iii) The Council requested the Clerk to convey the Council's deepest sympathy at the loss of the Princess of Wales to the Spencer family at Althorp House.

(b) **Highway problems - A4119 in Groesfaen**

The Chairperson advised the Council that he had attended a

1.

preliminary meeting in the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council offices in Clydach Vale about highway problems on the A4119 in Groesfaen. A further meeting had taken earlier that afternoon on site in Groesfaen when residents had met the consultants advising the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The recommendations of the consultants were likely to contain proposals for revised road signs, "gates" and a camera site. The Chairperson had asked that a copy of the consultants' draft proposals be forwarded to the Community Council for information.

The report was noted.

3. **Police matters**

A wide ranging discussion took place over Members' concerns about a shortfall in police cover in the Community. In particular, Members were worried about the failure of the police to use the office provided at the Pontyclun Community Centre, the criminal damage caused at the Centre, the traffic congestion caused in Pontyclun by roadworks undertaken by Transco, intimidation caused to members of the public by the clientele of public houses, the apparent lack of cover in the Community between the hours of 11.00p.m. and 3.00a.m. and the failure of the police to convene a follow up meeting with licensees to discuss the anti social behaviour of some of their patrons. Furthermore, it appeared to several Members of the Council that whenever there was a shortfall in police manpower, replacement officers were always taken from the sector responsible for the policing of Pontyclun.

P C Keddle emphasised the importance of reports being made to the police. A significant number of incidents were unreported. In the absence of reports it was impossible for the police to respond. In the cases of minor roadworks the police received no advance notification of their commencement and the police found traffic delays equally frustrating. P C Keddle stated that police cover was available 24 hours per day but resources were always going to be finite. At times when a number of reports were received it would always be necessary to prioritise the order of police responses. P C Keddle acknowledged that the follow up meeting with licensees in the Community had not taken place but stated that the police were committed to holding the meeting. He would ask that the meeting be expedited. On the question of replacement officers P C Keddle believed that it was necessary to balance the needs of the police authority as a whole and to transfer officers to alternative duties as the needs of the police authority dictated.



Members agreed that the key to the problems the Community lay in the police getting additional resources and that it was unfair to expect P C Keddle to answer for matters which were outside his control.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Chief Constable and the M P for the Pontypridd Constituency urging that greater resources be made available to the South Wales Constabulary.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 July, 1997**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 July, 1997 be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Police resources in the community**

The Council discussed the letter from Divisional Commander P Bevan in response to a letter from the Council about the police response following a complaint from Councillor Bevan.

**RESOLVED:** That as a full discussion had already taken place on police resources under Agenda item 3, the outcome of the Community Council's representations to the Chief Constable and the M P be awaited before pursuing the matter further.

(b) **Roaming dogs in Pontyclun**

The Council received the letter of 14 July, 1997, from the Director of Environmental Services of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough in response to information provided by the Council on roaming dogs.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the letter be noted.

(ii) That the Clerk ask the Director of Environmental Services when "No fouling" signs were likely to be erected in Maelog Close, Pontyclun.



(c) **Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom Competition**

The Council received the Director of Leisure and Tourism's letter of 6 August, 1997, in which he informed the Council that the War Memorial in Pontyclun had been awarded third prize in the Best Kept War Memorial section of the 1997 Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom Competition. Details of the presentation ceremony were to be forwarded to the Council in September.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk send a letter of thanks to the Community Council's Handyman for his efforts in keeping the War Memorial to a high standard and offer the Handyman the opportunity of attending the presentation ceremony on behalf of the Council.

(d) **Improved signage in Maesyfelin**

The Clerk gave a verbal report of the site meeting which had taken place on the evening of 27 August, 1997, with Mr Jon Griffiths of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to discuss proposals for improved signage on the Maesyfelin Estate. The Council was represented at the meeting by Councillors Edwards and Huish together with the Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council endorse the recommendations of the site meeting and that the Clerk formally convey the recommendations to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(e) **Traffic problems on the A4119 in Groesfaen**

The Chairperson outlined the information he had provided to the Council under item 2 on the Agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairperson's report be noted and that the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to request sight of the consultant's draft report, when available, as promised at the site meeting.

(f) **Erection of Noticeboard in Miskin Heights**

The Council received the letter from Persimmon Homes in



which it was stated that the company felt sure that there would be a suitable site at Miskin Heights for the erection of a Community Council noticeboard.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk meet Mr Gareth Jenkins of Persimmon Homes to identify a suitable location for the erection of a noticeboard.

(g) **Highway reinstatement work -  
Heol y Felin, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a reply from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, dated 1 August, 1997, about poor reinstatement of the highway in Heol y Felin, Pontyclun. It was pointed out that the reinstatement was at an interim state and that full reinstatement would be carried out by 8 August, 1997.

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

(h) **Publicity for revised refuse collection  
arrangements at Bank Holiday times**

The Community Council was pleased to learn from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council that the Community Council's representations about continuing the practice of the former Taff Ely Borough Council for the notification of revised refuse collection arrangements at Bank Holidays had been successful. For future Bank Holidays, notice of revised refuse collection arrangements would be given to all community councils.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted and that an assurance be sought from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council that in the event of a refuse collection vehicle breakdown after a Bank Holiday a substitute vehicle would be made available to fulfill its commitment to the public.

(i) **Weedspraying in the Maesyfelin Estate**

The Clerk reported that he had drawn to the attention of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council that several streets on the Maesyfelin Estate were suffering from an



infestation of weeds. He had requested a visit by the Borough Council's weedspraying gang. The Clerk had received a call from Mr Dan Bond of the weedspraying gang to say that streets in the estate would be sprayed within the following weeks.

The report was noted.

(j) **Grass verge, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

(Councillor Flood declared an interest in this item and took no part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council received a letter from Mrs J Pranker, 79 Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, who had suffered broken bones in her foot as a result of slipping on the grass verge outside her home. Mrs Pranker had previously written to the Community Council asking that the grass verge in front of her home be removed and replaced with paving stones or tarmac. The request had been forwarded to the Highway Authority who had refused the request.

The Clerk advised that he had forwarded Mrs Pranker's letter to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and asked the authority to reconsider its decision in view of Mrs Pranker's accident.

The matter was noted.

(k) **Improved signage for industrial estates**

The Council discussed a letter from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which the Community Council was informed that the Consultancy Section of the Highways, Transportation and Engineering Section was preparing an improved signage scheme to cover all the industrial estates within Pontyclun and the surrounding areas. However the scheme was not amongst those included in the authority's capital programme for 1997/98.

**RESOLVED:** That the letter be noted and that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be asked for an assurance that although the signage scheme was not included in the capital programme it would be included in the programme for the following financial year.



6. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 10 July, 1997**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 10 July, 1997, be approved as an accurate record.

7. **Matters arising**

**Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**

The Clerk referred to the request of the Council to draft a motion for debate at the Annual Conference of the Association based on the desire for improved communication between community councils and their principal authorities. A draft motion had been produced but was considered by the Association to be too similar in content to a resolution which had been passed at the previous Annual Conference. In the circumstances the Clerk had not proceeded with the motion.

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

8. **Minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 17 July, 1997**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 17 July, 1997, be approved as an accurate record.

9. **Matters arising**

**Article from the August edition of "The Clerk" on skateboarding provisions by local councils**

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

10. **Adoption of the Finance Committee's recommendations**

- (a) **Council's Financial Statement for 1996/97, Council's Summary of Expenditure for 1996/97 and Council's Statement of Balances at 31 March, 1997**

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendation be adopted.

- (b) **Proposal to provide a skateboarding area**

Following a request for a recorded vote Members voted in the following way:



**For adoption of the recommendation**

Councillors Burton, Davies, Flood and Rea

**Against adoption of the recommendation**

Councillors Bendle, Griffiths and Norman

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendation be adopted.

(c) **Proposal to provide an Internet connection for the Pontyclun Library**

A detailed discussion took place on the recommendation. Some Members expressed concern that the full implications of installing an Internet connection may not have been considered. (During the discussion Councillor Flood left the meeting in protest at the way the Council was handling the item. Councillor Flood asked that his departure be recorded in the minutes.)

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendation not be approved.

11. **Audit of Accounts for 1996/97**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the audit of accounts for 1996/97. The amount of preparatory work for the 1996/97 audit had significantly increased as a result of additional requirements under the 1996 Audit and Accounts Regulations. Considerably more information had been provided to the District Auditor than in previous years and, while the invoice for the audit had not yet been received, it could reasonably be expected that there would be a commensurate increase in audit fees.

The District Auditor had verbally stated that he was satisfied that the Community Council's accounts for 1996/97 fairly reflected the financial transactions, and financial position of the Council for 1996/97. The Council's accounts would be certified to that effect and, under the new Accounts and Audit Regulations, should be publicly displayed for a given length of time.

While the auditor was satisfied that the income and expenditure figures reflected in the Council's accounts were correct, he had requested that additional information for expenditure be provided under certain budget heads. In practice this required costing out individual jobs performed by the Council's Handyman and re-allocating expenditure across budget heads. The





Clerk had complied with the auditor's wishes and submitted detailed amendments to expenditure as required. The overall expenditure had not changed and the certified accounts were awaited from the District Auditor.

The District Auditor had pointed out that under the new Regulations it was also necessary to designate a "Responsible Financial Officer"

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) That the Clerk's report be noted
  - (b) That the Clerk be designated as the "Responsible Financial Officer" of the Pontyclun Community Council

12. **Correspondence on consultations with community councils**

The Council discussed three items of correspondence from the Welsh Office, the Chief Executive, and the Director of Legal and Administrative Services of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about consultations between community councils and principal authorities. The Community Council was pleased to learn that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council intended setting up a Community Councils' Joint Consultative Committee. The terms of reference of the Joint Committee were provided for information.

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

13. **Request for footway lighting**

The Community Council discussed a letter from Mr K Russell of 6 Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, asking the Council to make provision in its estimates for 1998/99 for the provision of footway lighting along the lane to the rear of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the request be referred to the next meeting of the Community Council's Finance Committee.

14. **Governing Body of Pontyclun Primary School**

The Council received a letter from the Clerk to the Governing Body of Pontyclun Primary School advising of the resignation from the Governing Body of Councillor Tony Flood. The Council was invited to make a nomination to the vacancy on the Governing Body.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Bendle be nominated to fill the vacancy.



15. **Welsh Language Scheme of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council**

A copy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Welsh Language Scheme made under the provisions of the Welsh Language Act, 1993, was distributed to each Member of the Community Council. The Draft Scheme produced earlier by the Borough Council had been amended in the light of a public consultation exercise and the amended Scheme had subsequently been approved by the Welsh Language Board and become the authority's definitive document.

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

16. **Correspondence with the Director of Leisure and Tourism**

The Council noted that acknowledgements had been received from the Borough Council's Director of Leisure and Tourism over the Community Council's representations for:

- (a) improved parking facilities in the vicinity of the children's playground off Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun
- (b) clarification of the plans for disused Borough Council land off Lewis Street, Pontyclun
- (c) upgrading of playground equipment

17. **Proposals of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for the introduction of The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act, 1996**

The Council considered the proposals of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for the introduction of The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act, 1996, throughout its area. An opportunity was given for making comments on the Borough Council's proposals.

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

18. **Reinstatement work to the rear of Heol Dafydd, Pontyclun**

The Council received a letter from the Operations Division of SWALEC stating that the poor reinstatement work to the rear of Heol Dafydd, Pontyclun, which the Community Council had complained about in June had been rectified. An apology was offered for any inconvenience the matter may have caused.



**RESOLVED:** That the letter be noted and that a copy be sent to the resident on the Maesyfelin Estate who had brought the matter to the attention of the Community Council.

19. **Wales Youth Agency**

The Council received details of two seminars which were being organised in the autumn by the Wales Youth Agency. The purpose of the seminars is to inform community councillors of the range of provisions and services which they could initiate in their council areas.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillors Davies and Flood be nominated to attend the seminar being held in Carmarthen on 24 October, 1997, and that their attendance be designated an approved duty. In the event that either Member is unable to attend the seminar Councillor Huish was nominated to attend as a substitute.

20. **Exclusion of press and public**

**RESOLVED:** That 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.

21. **Late applications for grant**

**RESOLVED:** That the following grants be made:

	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>	<b><u>Grant</u></b>	
		£	p
(i)	Taff Ely F.U.N.	50	00
(ii)	Dial Llantrisant	150	00
(iii)	Llantrisant Folk Club	50	00
(iv)	Pontyclun Football Club	50	00

\* The Council awarded this grant in addition to the grant which had been made at the Annual Grants Meeting in recognition of exceptional circumstances



22. **Planning**

(a) **Appeals against the refusal to award planning consent**

**RESOLVED:** That the appeal decisions against the refusal of the planning authority to award planning consent for land in Talygarn be noted.

(b) **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 4, 11, 18, and 25 July and 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 August, 1997**

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:

**Application No. 97/2419/10**

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (i) The proposed development falls within the safeguarding zone of the Hendy Quarry
- (ii) There is inadequate parking for a commercial development of the magnitude proposal and parking on the highway would lead to congestion on the narrow highway.
- (iii) The proposed development is out of character in a residential area

**Application No. 97/2554/10**

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (i) The access to the proposed development is inadequate for the scale of the development
- (ii) That the proposed development is out of character with property in the neighbourhood

**Application No. 97/2570/13**

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (i) That access to the proposed development is totally inadequate

- (ii) That the proposed development is outside the Local Plan
- (iii) That the proposed development represents an unwelcome form of back street development
- (iv) That if the application was approved it would set a precedent for similar unwelcomed back street residential development

**Application No. 97/2602/16**

That the Council ask the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to request the developer to include a roller blading area as part of the proposed children's play area.

(c) **Ownership of land adjacent to 16 Maelog Close, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a response from the Director of Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which he stated that when an application for planning consent was submitted, a Mr Jones signed a certificate saying that he was the owner of the land to which the application related.

Despite the letter from the Director of Planning the Council remained unconvinced about the ownership of the land in question.

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

23. **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 30 to the Agenda.

24. **Reports from Members**

(a) **The Brunel Arms**

Councillor Bendle reported that a petition had been drawn up by residents in opposition to the extension to licensing hours sought for the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun. He stated that residents living in the vicinity of the public house had suffered from



late night nuisance and anti social behaviour from the clientele of the Brunel Arms for a considerable time. An increase in the number hours where the premises were open for the sale of alcohol would inevitably lead to further disruption for local residents and lead to further nuisance. The petition had been forwarded to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be requested to write to the licensing committee of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council supporting the petition of local residents and urging the committee not to grant an extension to licensing hours at the Brunel Arms.

(Note: Councillors Burton and Davies declared an interest in the matter and took no part in the Council's deliberations)

(b) **Talgarn Forum**

Councillor Norman reported that members of the Forum had recently met with representatives of the East Glamorgan Health Trust over the future of the Talgarn Rehabilitation Centre. Members of the Forum felt that they had made little progress in their discussions with the Trust.

A more successful meeting had taken place with representatives of miners at Tower Colliery where support had been pledged for the campaign to retain facilities at Talgarn.

Currently, solicitors were examining the legal situation to establish whether the proposed vendor had legal authority to effect a sale when medical treatment ended at Talgarn in 1999.

The report was noted.

(c) **Community Council Allotments' Competition**

Councillor Norman reported that the Community Council sponsored Community Council Allotments Competition had taken place and prizemoney had been allocated to winning b ploholders.

The report was noted.



(e) **Pontyclun Horticultural Show**

Councillor Norman reported that the annual Pontyclun Horticultural Show had taken place in August at the Community Centre. The event had been very successful both financially and in the numbers of entrants. Councillor Norman was confident that the success of the event considerably helped in assuring the future of the Show.

The report was noted.

(f) **Talygarn Forum**

Councillor Griffiths wished to add to what Councillor Norman had reported earlier to say that Mr Ron Davies, M P, Secretary of State for Wales, had been inundated with letters from members of the public asking him to take positive action to save Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre for the public. Councillor Griffiths urged that as many letters as possible be sent to Mr Ron Davies to convince him of the depth of opinion over the future of the Rehabilitation Centre.

The report was noted.

(g) **Bute Lane, Pontyclun**

Councillor Griffiths drew attention to quantities of rubbish which regularly accumulated in Bute Lane, Pontyclun.

While representations had been made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for an upgrading in status for the Lane under the Environmental Protection Act, there was an urgent and immediate requirement for the Lane to be kept free from accumulations of rubbish. The current road sweeping arrangements were ineffective since the refuse collection and road sweeping services were scheduled for the same day. The driver of the road sweeper was not prepared to move wheelie bins before and after taking his sweeper through the Lane.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking that, as part of the strategy for keeping the Lane free from rubbish, different days be allocated for the refuse collection and road sweeping services.



(h) **Proposed Footpaths' leaflet**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reminded the Council that a meeting had not taken place to discuss local footpaths for inclusion in the proposed Community Council leaflet.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make arrangements for a meeting.

(i) **Community Questionnaire**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reminded the Council that a further meeting needed to be held to complete the Community Council's analysis of completed Community Questionnaires.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make arrangements to hold a further meeting to discuss completed Community Questionnaires.

(j) **Proposed Welsh Assembly**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths proposed that the Council issue a press release to the effect that the Pontyclun Community Council is supportive of the establishment of a Welsh Assembly. The proposal was seconded and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make arrangements to issue a press release.

(k) **Licensing Committee of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council**

Councillor Bendle referred to the continuing anti social, late night problems being caused by the clientele of certain licensed premises in Pontyclun. Despite the problems highlighted by the Community Council over many years, and sporadic involvement of the police, there had been little, if any, improvement. The lives of residents living in the vicinity of the premises concerned had been made intolerable by regular and offensive behaviour.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Director of Environmental Services of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council requesting that a joint meeting of members of the Community Council, members of the Borough Council's





Licensing Committee and representatives of the police be held to discuss what steps can be taken to improve the position.

(l) **Installation of footpath lighting**

Councillor Davies reported that residents wished to record their appreciation of the steps being taken by the Community Council to install footpath lighting at certain locations in the Community.

**RESOLVED:** That residents' comments be noted.

(m) **Age Concern**

Councillor Burton advised that he would not be in a position to attend the next meeting of Age Concern and that he would pass the documentation he had received to Councillor Mrs Cale in the event that she would be able to attend the meeting.

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

(n) **Railway embankment, Pontyclun**

Councillor Burton asked whether any response had been received from Railtrack on the Community Council's request for the removal of undergrowth from the railway embankment adjacent to the approach road to the public car park to the rear of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The Clerk responded that no reply had been received by the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That a reminder letter be sent to Railtrack.

(o) **Construction of electricity sub station, Groesfaen**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, advised the Council of Groesfaen residents' concerns about the construction of an electricity sub station in a very prominent position in Groesfaen. It had been described as an "eyesore". Councillor Rea believed that, bearing in mind the prominence of the structure and its unsightliness, some soundings of local opinion should have been carried out prior to the any work commencing.



**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Clerk take the matter up with Swalec.
- (ii) That the Chairperson raise the matter with Julie Williams.

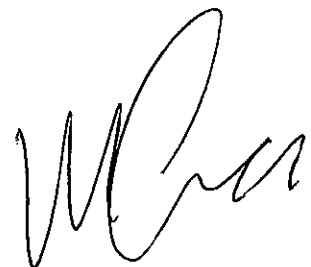
25. **Any other business of an urgent nature**

**National Wage Award**

The Clerk advised the Council of the recent National Joint Council agreement on salaries and wages in local government. In broad terms the agreement provided for increases of 2.5% to salaries and wages in and affected each of the Council's employees.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk implement the provisions of the agreement.

26. The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Chen', located at the bottom right of the page.