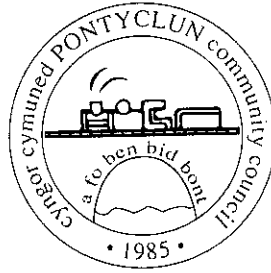


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Clerc i'r Cyngor
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APPENDIX No. 1
Pontyclun Community Council

Clerk to the Council
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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 April, 2001

PRESENT: Community Councillors C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth (except for the first three items on the agenda), J V Huish, M Rea, and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors C G Bendle, Mrs A Cale and S Rogers. An apology was also received from P C Kettle who had been called away at short notice.

2. **Chairperson**

In the absence of the Chairperson for the first three items on the agenda, and the absence of the Vice Chairperson, the Councillor Rea was elected to the Chair. The Chair was occupied by Councillor Dilworth for the remainder of the meeting.

3. **Chairperson's Business**

With the approval of the Chairperson, Councillor Huish announced that with the improving financial position of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council it had been possible to plan for three substantial capital investments in the education service in the Borough.

One of the investments was for the local comprehensive school at Y Pant where it was planned to provide a new building containing 10 new classrooms. The two other capital projects were at Ysgol Y Cymmer, Porth, where it was planned to build an extension to provide an additional

10 classrooms, and at Treorchy Comprehensive where it was planned to build a new 6th form block.

RESOLVED That the Borough Council be congratulated on its excellent management of public funds leading to the additional investments in the education service.

4. **Police matters**

In the absence of the Community Policeman discussion under this item of business was deferred to the Council's next meeting.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 7 March, 2001**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 7 March, 2001 be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

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

The Clerk reported that he had finally received the approval of the Highway Authority for the erection of a bus shelter in Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen.

After many representations from residents, the Highway Authority had agreed to the erection of a 3 metre "Q.B." timber cantilever shelter, in cedar hardwood with polycarbonate infiles. The quoted price for supply and erect was £3,136.63 and delivery was anticipated at 5 to 6 weeks from the receipt of order.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to place an order for the bus shelter to be erected at the site on the footway in Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen, identified by the Highway Authority.

(b) **"Standards Committees: Appointments and Procedures"**

The Council noted the comments of the Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils about the lack of time given by the National Assembly for comment on important new regulations affecting community councils in Wales. There was deep concern that the regulations were being rushed through without an opportunity for meaningful consultation from those who would be affected by the regulations.

A general discussion took place on the raft of other regulations recently published affecting local government in Wales where totally inadequate timescales for consultation had been given by the National Assembly. Reference was made to the protestations made by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Wales Local Government Association.

The Council also expressed its deep disquiet at the controls and limitations proposed by the Consultation Papers for the new ethical framework in local government. There was agreement that the new regulations would have the effect of inhibiting members of the public in standing for election to councils. At a time when the government was actively pursuing ways of making local government more accessible, the new regulations were perceived as having a contrary effect and would discourage members of the public from becoming involved in local government.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk convey the Council's feelings to the National Assembly.

(c) **Bus passes – equal treatment**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the unequal practice of that Authority in issuing bus passes to females at 60 years of age and to males at 65 years of age.

The reply from the Borough Council was that it was aware that its policy discriminated against males. It was also aware that legislation providing for equal treatment was being passed through Parliament. When that legislation was in place the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would amend its policy.

There was agreement that equal treatment would eventually apply. However, members were aware that in advance of new legislation Cardiff City Council had chosen to pre-empt the new legislation and introduce immediate equality in the issue of bus passes. The Council failed to see why the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council could not follow the example of the Cardiff City Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the matter again with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Audit of Accounts for 1999/2000**

Handwritten signature and date "11/11/15".

The Council discussed each point in the District Auditor's letter of 7 March, 2001.

RESOLVED: That the Council implement the District Auditor's recommendations subject to clarification on items 1, 2, 4, 8, 17, 18 and 21

(b) **Ivor Woods**

The Council discussed the letter of 22 March, 2001, from the Acting Divisional Director of Environment at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about trees in the Ivor Woods which were alleged to be interfering with the television reception of the owner of No. 11 The Hollies, Brynsadler.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements for a site meeting in the Ivor Woods.

(c) **Recycling Initiative with the Borough Council**

The Council discussed the Borough Council's letter of 6 March, 2001, in which details of the joint initiative were provided.

Members were impressed with progress made to date with the joint re-cycling scheme and pledged their continuing support for the initiative.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to release the Council's contribution of £5,000.00 towards the joint initiative.

(d) **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance towards the cost of staging the 2001 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline making any financial assistance.

(e) **Planning Notifications for Weeks Ended 9, 16, 23 and 30 March, 2001**

(Councillor Huish declared an interest in this item of business and took no part in the Council's discussions)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 9, 16, 23 and 30 March, 2001.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made in relation to Application No. T/01/2223/23:

That the Council express its concern at another application for the erection of a radio antennae when worries about possible adverse health risks from radio antennae have yet to be allayed.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 8 to the Council's agenda.

(g) **Consultation Papers from the National Assembly**

The Council received 5 sets of draft regulations from the Welsh Assembly related to the modernisation of local government for which responses were required within a very short timescale.

RESOLVED: That as a full discussion on the unrealistic timescales imposed by the National Assembly had taken place under item 5(b), no further discussion take place.

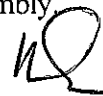
8. **Matters reported for decision since the despatch of agendas**

(a) **The functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Officers**

The Clerk reported receipt of a further Consultation Document from the National Assembly on The Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees. A response from the Community Council was expected by 12 April, 2001.

RESOLVED: (i) That as a result of insufficient time being allowed for consideration of the implications of the Consultation Document, the Council decline to offer any comments.

(ii) That, again, the Council's deep concern at the lack of time allowed for meaningful comment on the Consultation Document be conveyed to the National Assembly



(b) **Action for Nature: the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff: Gardening for Wildlife**

The Council received and discussed the letter of 28 March, 2001 from the Acting Divisional Director Environment.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the letter be noted.

(c) **Urdd National Eisteddfod**

The Council received a letter from the Urdd National Eisteddfod in which it was stated that the planned Eisteddfod in Cardiff and the Vale had been postponed due to the foot and mouth disease epidemic. The Urdd asked whether the Council was willing to transfer its donation made to this year's Eisteddfod to the Urdd's Eisteddfod for 2002.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to the request.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Boundary Commission**

The Council received the Final Proposals of the Boundary Commission following the review of the boundary between the County Boroughs of Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

RESOLVED: That the Final Proposals be noted.

(b) **Rural Post Offices**

The Council received the letter of 19 March, 2001, from the Department of Trade & Industry in which the government's support for the network of rural post offices affirmed.


The government had recently announced a number of measures to encourage prospective new postmasters in rural areas.

It was also proposed that in the longer term the government would also develop proposals for transitional support for rural post offices adversely affected by changes to benefit arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the proposals be noted and supported.

(c) **Obstructions in the river Ely**

The Council received the reply of the Environment Agency to concerns expressed about obstructions in the river Ely in


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Pontyclun and the increased likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rain.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the reply of the Environment Agency be noted.
- (ii) That copies of the correspondence be provided to Mr Ranson and Councillor Rea.

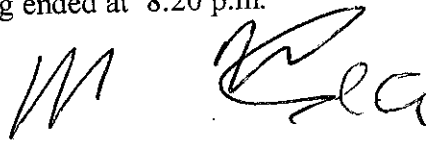
(d) **Renewal of Public Entertainment Licence**

The Clerk advised the Council that since the last meeting of the Council he had received notification of an application for the renewal of a Public Entertainment Licence at Millards Restaurant, Miskin Manor Health and Fitness Centre. A reply was required from the Council by 29 March, 2001.

The Clerk had replied to the effect that the Council had no objection to the application.

RESOLVED: That the actions of the Clerk be confirmed.

10. The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is a stylized 'M' and the second is 'Rea'.