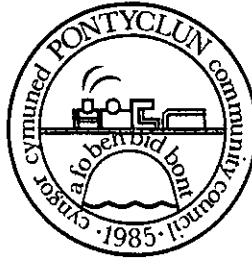


## CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council  
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 Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 December, 1996

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Mr T J Burton,  
 Mr J G Davies, Mr R O Edwards, Mrs M M Griffiths, Mr J V Huish,  
 Mr M Rea, Mr R G Norman (Chairperson)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Commander R Vaughan, Detective Chief Inspector John  
 Davies, P C Steve Kettle (for part of the meeting) and  
 two members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs A V Cale  
 and Mr T Flood

2. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **The Samaritans**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, reported that he had attended the open evening of the Bridgend branch of the Samaritans. He had been very impressed with the amount of work undertaken by the organisation and the way in which it was structured. The organisation was under severe financial pressure since the level of grant which had it had received from the Bridgend County Borough Council had been considerably reduced from the level which had been paid by the former Ogwr Borough Council. It was hoped that some of the shortfall in grant would be recovered as the Mayor of Bridgend had designated The Samaritans as one of his charities during his term of office.

The report was noted.

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(b) **Y Pant Comprehensive School**

The Chairperson reported that he, together with his wife, had attended a production of "Annie" at Y Pant Comprehensive School. The production had involved many pupils at the School and it was clear from the quality of the performance that no effort had been spared in producing a first class performance.

The report was noted.

(c) **Pontyclun Primary School**

(i) **Infant Department Pantomime**

The Chairperson reported that he had attended the annual Christmas pantomime in the Infants' Department of the Pontyclun Primary School. The event had been very enjoyable.

The report was noted.

(ii) **Board of Governors**

The Chairman reported that there had been 60 applicants for a post which was recently advertised at the School. Short-listing would be carried out shortly.

The report was noted.

3. **Police matters**

(a) **Parking of heavy goods vehicles in Heol-y-Coed, Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle advised that heavy goods vehicles regularly parked in the vicinity of the shop in Heol-y-Coed, Pontyclun. Some of the vehicles' loads had proven to be dangerous in the past and the police had previously "booked" offending drivers. He asked that the police pay close attention to the vehicles.

(b) **Speeding vehicles in Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea drew attention to the high number of vehicles which daily sped through Groesfaen. He asked that the police

carry out regular monitoring in Groesfaen to ensure that motorists comply with the law. P C Kedde responded that he regularly submitted reports about speeding traffic in Groesfaen and he was aware that the police radar team had carried out a number of monitoring exercises in the village.

A general discussion took place about speeding vehicles in Groesfaen and the police representatives were asked whether they could lend any weight to getting the 30 m.p.h. speed restriction at the western end of the village moved to an agreed location in the direction nearer the Castell-y- Mynach Inn. The Highway Authority had agreed to extend the speed restriction westwards some two years earlier but nothing had happened to date.

The police representatives responded that they would give their observations on the subject only if contacted first by the Highway Authority.

The matter was noted.

(c). **Police office at the Pontyclun Community Centre**

The Chairperson drew attention to accommodation at the Pontyclun Community Centre which had been earmarked for use exclusive by the police. He was disappointed that the police had only used the office spasmodically and asked when it would be brought into regular use.

Commander Vaughan responded that he was pleased to be able to let the Council know that a woman police constable would shortly be allocated to use the office on a regular, part-time basis. Commander Vaughan anticipated that the woman police constable would be on duty from the office for about four hours per day.

(d) **Consumption of alcohol in public places**

Councillor Burton advised the police representatives of public concern about the consumption of alcohol on the streets of Pontyclun, especially by teenagers. Councillor Burton asked if the police would be prepared to support the Community Council's representations to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for the introduction of byelaws to control the problem.

Commander Vaughan outlined the trial scheme which had been introduced in Coventry and agreed that he would support the request of the Community Council for the introduction of byelaws in the Community of Pontyclun if he was approached by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(d) **Licensing**

Councillor Huish sought the advice of Commander Vaughan on an item which was due to be discussed later in the meeting. Councillor Huish pointed out that an application was to be made to the licensing magistrates for the termination of an off licence to sell alcohol. Councillor Huish asked whether a proposed transfer of the off licence to another premises could be effected simultaneously or whether the proposed transfer would need to be the subject of a separate transfer application.

Commander Vaughan responded that in the circumstances described a separate transfer application would need to be made.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 6 November, 1996**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 6 November, 1996 be approved as an accurate record subject to:

- (a) The deletion of both references to "rugby" in minute 2
- (b)
- (b) The inclusion of a minute 11 (iii) to read "That the Handyman contact Members on suitable sites for bulbs within their Wards"

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre**

The Clerk reported that there had been a very encouraging response to the invitations which had been sent out as a preliminary to forming a Steering Group for the retention of Talygarn House and grounds for public use. The first meeting of the Steering Group would be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre at 7.00p.m. on Friday, 20 December, 1996.

The Clerk pointed out that while the Community Council had acted as a catalyst in the formation of the Steering Group, the Group would need to appoint its own officers at its first meeting..

The report was noted.

(b) **Boundary dispute, Ivor Woods**

The Clerk reported that, at the request of the District Valuer and Valuation Officer, he had undertaken certain preliminary work to facilitate the report on the boundary dispute. The work had involved obtaining the title numbers for each of the 9 properties bordering the Woods and, once these had been established, to obtain office copies of title.

At each stage in the procedure application forms for every property had been completed and forwarded to the Land Registry in Swansea, together with a £5.00 fee. The District Valuer and Valuation Officer had advised that it would be more cost effective for the Clerk to obtain preliminary details rather than the work be carried out by District Valuation Office staff. All necessary details had been received and been forwarded to the District Valuer and Valuation Officer.

The report was noted.

(c) **Correspondence with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council**

The Council discussed the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the correct form of postal address for properties in the Community.

It was noted that while, generally, the name of an unitary authority would appear in a postal address it would not be so for properties within the Rhondda Cynon Taff area. The correct form of postal address within Rhondda Cynon Taff is the postal town followed by the post code.

The Chief Executive stated that he knew of no plans of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to change its name.

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

(d) **Land at the western end of School Street, Pontyclun**

The Council received further information from the Director of Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to the effect that the Rhondda Housing Association had recently submitted a planning application for consent to erect 12 dwelling houses on the site of the former Council Depot at Ely Street, Pontyclun. The applicant had indicated that it was the owner of the land.

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

(e) **Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the 1996 Annual Forum which had been organised by the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils on the morning of 9 November, 1996. The themes for the Forum were the 1996 reorganisation of local government and its effects and the Campaign for a Welsh Parliament.

A well attended Forum was addressed by representatives of all the major political parties and a representative from the Campaign for a Welsh Parliament.

The presentations were followed by a question and answer session where delegates from community and town councils throughout Wales had the opportunity to ask questions of the representatives who had earlier addressed the Forum.

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

(f) **Purolite Plant, Pontyclun**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reported on her attendance at the last meeting of the Purolite Standing Conference when the issue of the forced closure of the Plant by the Environment Agency as the result of the emission of fumes was discussed. The Council also discussed the response of the Environment Agency on the incident.

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reported that the Standing Conference was addressed by Mr A P Johnson, Pollution Inspector, who advised that the incident at the Plant over the 24 and 25 October, 1996, involved the release of odorous substances which were allowed to occur from the biological effluent treatment plant, contrary to the conditions of the company's authorisation. It appeared that a problem had arisen with the oxygen input plant and that this had caused the emission of odorous fumes.

Following an inspection by Mr Johnson and his area manager a Prohibition Notice was served on the company prohibiting further process operations until control of the biological effluent plant had been regained. The Notice effectively shutdown all site manufacturing processes over the following weekend with some minor exceptions. The Prohibition Notice was withdrawn on Monday, 28 October, 1996, following a further inspection by Environment Agency staff and after a satisfactory response by the company to the issue of regaining plant control.

An Enforcement Notice was served on the company on 28 October, 1996, requiring a number of reviews and improvements to the operation of the effluent treatment plant. The Enforcement Notice requires the company, by 1 January, 1997, through the provision of independent advice, to review the key operating parameters of the effluent plant, for example, pH levels, dissolved oxygen, temperature and to identify suitable operational ranges with odour minimisation as a priority. Reviews will also be undertaken of the adequacy of process monitoring requirements; the current standard of operator competence and training; and the appropriateness of current plant inspection frequency and logging systems. The company will also be required to provide written operating procedures which adequately demonstrate that the effluent treatment can be operated in a manner acceptable to the Environment Agency.

Councillor Griffiths stated that the Environment Agency took the incident very seriously and that the company were in no doubt as to what action needed to be taken to make their effluent disposal system acceptable.

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The Council discussed the incident in general. There was a feeling that a processes being undertaken at the Plant were unsuitable for a residential area and that the company should be compelled to re-locate to a less sensitive area. Apparently the former Taff Ely Borough Council had undertaken some costings of re-location and found the costs to be prohibitive.

It was pointed out that in the written reply of the Area General Manager South East Wales of the Environment Agency, no reply had been given to the Community Council's specific questions on whether there had been any threat to the safety of individuals or the environment as a result of the incident.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk ask for replies to the Community Council's specific questions.
- (ii) That Councillor Griffiths be requested to keep the Community Council informed of any further developments at the Standing Conference.

(g) **Countryside Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taff**

The Council discussed the letter from the Director of Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which he sought the views of the Community Council in the formulation of a Countryside Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taff.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk complete and return the questionnaire, after consulting local interested groups, emphasising that one of the biggest achievements which could be made locally in opening up the countryside is the reinstatement of the former route of the Public Right of Way from Pontyclun to Talygarn.

6. **Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff**

The Council discussed a copy of the letter of 18 November, 1996, from the Secretary of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales to the Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The copy letter had been forwarded directly by the Secretary of the Boundary Commission to the Pontyclun Community Council.



The letter sought views from interested parties on revisions to electoral arrangements within Rhondda Cynon Taff before the Commission formulated its Draft Proposals. In particular, the Commission wished to receive submissions for electoral divisions for electoral arrangements based on the existing communities and community wards. The Commission would welcome the submission of maps showing the boundaries of the suggested electoral divisions. Initial observations were required by 24 January 1997.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council defer detailed consideration of its proposals to its January monthly meeting when a map showing the Community Council's boundaries with neighbouring community councils would be available.

7. **Re-siting of a wayside seat**

The Council discussed the reply of the Environment Agency to the Community Council's earlier request for consent to re-site a wayside seat currently in position opposite the Pontyclun Post Office, to a site alongside the bank of the river Ely.

While the Environment Agency had no objections in principle to the re-siting of the wayside seat in the vicinity of the river Ely, it pointed out that it was responsible for the maintenance of the floodbank and berm in the immediate vicinity of the river and could not agree to the re-siting taking place alongside the public right of way since this would interfere with maintenance works. The Agency recommended that the re-siting take place at one of three sites identified in red on the map accompanying its letter.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk convene a site meeting for Members to view the three prospective sites.

8. **"Chasing the Dragon - creative community responses to the crisis in the South Wales Valleys"**

The Council received information on "Chasing the Dragon - creative community responses to the crisis in the South Wales Valleys".

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council not buy any copies of the book.  
(ii) That the complimentary copy sent to the Community Council be placed on deposit on the Pontyclun Library.

9. **Requests for financial assistance**

The Community Council considered three requests for financial assistance.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That a grant of £50.00 be made to Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Urdd Gobaith Cymru.
- (ii) That a grant of £20.00 be made to the South Wales branch of N.S.P.C.C. Cymru
- (iii) That the Council agree to virement from other budget heads to enable the grants to be made.
- (iv) That the application for financial assistance from the Pontyclun RFC - Mini Rugby Tournament be deferred pending receipt of a reply to the Community Council's letter of 15 November, 1996.

Note: Councillors Griffiths and Huish declared an interest in the application for financial assistance from the Pontyclun RFC and took no part in the Community Council's deliberations.

10. **Application For The Removal of a Justices' License**

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

11. **Planning applications for Weeks Ending 1, 8, 22 and 29 November, 1996**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 1, 8, 22 and 29 November, 1996

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

**Application No. 96/2448/13**

That the Council is opposed to the application on the grounds that:

- (a) The proposed development is outside the Local Plan
- (b) The proposed site forms part of the flood plain of the river Ely
- (c) There is a history of major ground instability at the adjacent Tir Afon Court development. Further ground disturbance in the vicinity of Tir Afon

Court might well lead to a recurrence of ground instability problems

- (d) There is inadequate access to the proposed site. In particular, there would be an unacceptably steep gradient to access the site
- (e) If, as seems likely, the proposed development involves raising, and therefore a narrowing of the existing flood plain, during periods of prolonged rain there is a strong likelihood of:
  - (i) flooding upstream at the nearby Maesyfelin Estate
  - (ii) additional pressures from floodwater on the footbridges across the river Ely

**Application No 96/2470/13**

That the Community Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (a) the application is outside the Local Plan
- (b) the site forms part of the flood plain of the river Ely
- (c) the site contains the Hendy Mine adit. The adit acts as a drainage channel for underground water emerging from Cefn-yr- Hendy
- (d) there is a main sewer running through the site
- (e) the proposed access to the site is inadequate
- (f) the proposed development would involve the felling of mature trees - some of which are protected by tree preservation orders.

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- (g) there is already an adequate supply of new residential property in the area.
- (h) the proposed development would interfere with a public right of way and affect allotment plottolders' rights of access.

Note: The Council also discussed planning application No 96/2446/96 but deferred making any comment on the application until full details of the proposals had been received from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

12. **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 19 to the Agenda.

13. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Route B4264, Miskin - Subsidence**

Councillor Bendle again referred to the subsidence problem on the B4264 in Miskin. He pointed out that the road, despite having been repaired on two occasions in recent months, continued to subside. Councillor Bendle was concerned that a sudden quickening of the subsidence could lead to serious injury being caused to members of the public.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk again take the matter up with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council enclosing copies of earlier correspondence from the Community Council on the subject.

(b) **Purolite Standing Conference**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths referred to the report she had given to the Council earlier about the last meeting of the Purolite Standing Conference and the concerns over the incident which had lead to an Enforcement Notice being served on the company by the Environment Agency.

The matter was noted.

(c) **Condition of pavements - Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reported that during the last month she

had become concerned about the condition of some of the pavements in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, She had requested the Clerk to write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to draw attention to the condition of the pavements. A reply to the letter was awaited.

The matter was noted.

(d) **Lack of youth facilities in the Pontyclun**

Councillor Edwards expressed his concern at the lack of youth facilities in Pontyclun. He pointed out that there would be a large increase in the population of Pontyclun in the next few years and that the existing problems would be considerably aggravated.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be placed on the Agenda for the Community Council's January meeting.

(e) **Overhanging shrubs**

Councillor Edwards drew the Community Council's attention to the rate of growth of some of the shrubs which had been planted between the boundaries of the newly constructed houses parallel with Heol Miskin and the adjacent pavement. It was important that the shrubs be pruned on a regular basis to ensure that pedestrians using the pavement were not impeded.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the developers of the site.

(f) **Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee**

Councillor Burton reported on his attendance at the last meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee where membership of the Committee was discussed.

The revised membership arrangements provided for the attendance of the two Community Councillors for the Miskin Ward, Councillors Burton and Huish, two Miskin residents, one County Borough Council, Councillor D Lewis, together with the Quarry Manager, Mr Davies and his Secretary Mrs A Nicholls.

The Committee would be chaired by Councillor J V Huish and

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the Vice Chairperson would be the Quarry Manager, Mr Davies.

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

(g) **Condition of highway and pavement - Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea drew the Council's attention to the condition of the A4119 and the adjacent pavement in Groesfaen in the vicinity of the junction to the Groesfaen landfill site. He complained that quantities of mud were regularly deposited on the highway by lorries accessing and leaving the landfill site. Despite the dangers of mud deposition on the highway being brought to the attention of the highway authority very little action appeared to be taken to resolve the problem.

There were dangers to pedestrians, too, since soil from adjacent ground had been allowed to migrate on to the pavement for some considerable time and the hedgerow had been allowed to overhang into the path of pavement users.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk again contact the highway authority pointing out the danger to both road users and pedestrians in the vicinity of the junction with the land fill site.

(h) **Unanswered correspondence from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council**

Councillor Huish referred to his earlier letter to the Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about Community Council correspondence which remained unanswered. Councillor Huish asked that the Clerk supply him with further photocopies of unanswered correspondence from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The Clerk agreed to provide Councillor Huish with further copies of unanswered Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council correspondence.

(i) **Blocked drain**

Councillor Graham Davies drew attention to a blocked drain in

the highway at the junction of Palalwyf Avenue and Derwen Road, Pontyclun. The drain had been blocked for some time and resulted in considerable pooling of water during periods of heavy rain.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk report the matter to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

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

(a) **Facsimile machine**

The Clerk reported that over the last two years there had been a growing need for the Community Council to have access to a facsimile machine. The facility would be of particular benefit to the Council in that the Clerk, during out of office hours, would be able to send messages to the various departments of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, and be confident that those messages would be received in the appropriate department on the next working day. The Clerk recommended that the Council give consideration to the purchase of a small business facsimile machine.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk arrange the purchase of a small business facsimile machine.

(b) **Public seats located outside the Pontyclun Community Centre**

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by a member of staff of the Leisure and Tourism Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to advise of the continued vandalism to the two public seats which were located outside the Pontyclun Community Centre. The Community Council's advice was sought on a suitable site for the re-location of the public seats.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk advise the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council of two suitable locations for the seats, one at each end of the Windsor Field, Pontyclun.

(c) **Suggested installation of footpath lighting**

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr K Russell of Palalwyf

Avenue, Pontyclun, asking the Community Council if it would consider providing footpath lighting in the backlanes identified in his earlier letter to the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline to provide footpath lighting in the backlanes identified and that Mr Russell be informed that his proposal would be again referred to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for consideration.

(d) **Community Questionnaires**

The Clerk advised the Council that completed Community Questionnaires had been received from schoolchildren at the Pontyclun Primary School.

**RESOLVED:** That the completed questionnaires be passed to Councillor Mrs Griffiths for the updating of the returned questionnaire database.

(e) **Information from "Sustrans"**

The Clerk reported the receipt of further information sought by the Council from "Sustrans" the organisation promoting the the creation of cycleways throughout the United Kingdom

**RESOLVED:** That the information be passed to Councillor Mrs Griffiths.

(f) **Appeal against the decision of the local planning authority**

The Clerk advised the Community Council of the decision of the local planning authority to refuse planning consent for a development in the Community. The applicant intended appealing to the Welsh Office against the decision. The earlier observations made by the Community Council on the application would be taken into account by the Inspector conducting the appeal hearing.

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

(g) **Changes made to contracted out pension schemes**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a 200 page document on



changes made by the Department of Social Security affecting employers whose employees were participating in contracted-out pension schemes. The Community Council is such an employer. While the number of cases affected within the Community Council would be very small there would, nevertheless, be an obligation to read the 200 page document and become familiar with the new regulations affecting contracted-out employees.

The Clerk commented that while the current changes only affected Community Council employees in contracted-out employment, similar central government promoted administrative changes often took place which affected the Council's administration of PAYE, Statutory Sick Pay and VAT.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk's report be noted.

15. The meeting ended at 10.20 p.m.

*R G Newman*