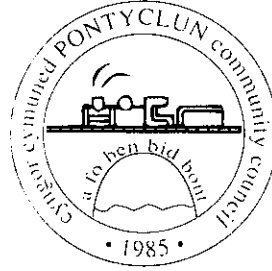


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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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, 4 May, 2005.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs V A Cale, D Clayton Jones, M P Griffiths, D G Henderson, Ms S R Jenkins, R G Norman, M Rea and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Kettle and one member of the public for part of the meeting

1. **Apology for absence**

Apologies absence was received on behalf of Councillors C Davies and A R Lane.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

RESOLVED: That any disclosures be included in the Register of Disclosures.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 March, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 6 April, 2005, be approved as an accurate record subject to the following addition:

that in the second paragraph of minute 7 (f) the following words be added after the word "Council", ".....which was organised by Councillor Rea and also attended by Councillors Davies and Norman"

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Green Pontyclun**

The Clerk informed the Council that since its last meeting a site meeting had taken place to decide the location of hanging baskets and planters, letters had been written to shopkeepers fronting the sites for planters, and a request for permission to site the planters and hanging baskets had been submitted to the Highway Authority.

The consent of the Highway Authority had been received for four double and one single hanging baskets and a reply was awaited on the siting of planters. An order for hanging basket brackets had been placed.

A knapsack type watering tank had been purchased for the Council's Handyman to facilitate watering of the plants. Enquiries were continuing for the supply of plants and shrubs for sites beneath village name plates.

The Clerk reported that the Council was covered for public liability insurance for hanging baskets and planters although there was no cover for any damage to planters. If required, the additional premium would be £30. The Council reviewed its budget for its Green Pontyclun initiative.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the budget for the Green Pontyclun initiative be increased by £1,000.
 - (ii) That arrangements be made for insurance cover for planters.

(b) **Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

Following the decision of the Borough Council not to progress improved access to the Ely Valley Industrial Estate from Station Terrace, Pontyclun, a letter which had been sent out by the Borough Council on 7 June, 2004, was produced for Members' information.

The Council also received a letter from Mr David Summers, a resident of Station Terrace, and the reply of the Clerk in which it was clarified that the Community Council did not have any powers to place weight restrictions or parking restrictions in Station Terrace.

The Clerk also advised the Council that the Cabinet member at the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council with

responsibilities for highways, Councillor Eudine Hanagan, had agreed to a meeting in Station Terrace to discuss the problems being faced by residents. Councillor Hanagan would be accompanied by the Divisional Director for Transportation and Development Control, Mr David Sherrard.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the letter of 7 June, 2004, be noted.
 - (ii) That the letter from Mr Summers and the reply from the Clerk be noted.
 - (iii) That the Clerk try to arrange the site meeting with Councillor Hanagan and David Sherrard for a Friday after 4.00 p.m.

(c) **Vision Day**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had made provisional arrangements for the Community Centre to be available for the Vision Day on Saturday, 11 June, 2005.

Large scale maps of the Community would be available to enable visitors to the Vision Day to identify areas where they would like to see additional facilities in the area. It was unclear whether the Borough Council would be able to supply the maps but there was a possibility that they would have to be purchased from the Ordnance Survey.

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, advised that she design a poster to advertise the event and produce an A5 leaflet for distribution to houses in the Community. Invitations to attend the event would be sent to The Observer, The Gem and The Diary.

- RESOLVED:** That, given the amount work needed to be organised, the event be re-scheduled for 25 June, 2005.

(d) **Project Planner**

The Clerk advised the Council that he considered the proposed Project Planner an excellent way of keeping track of the progress on various projects. He would update the planner at the first opportunity and distribute copies to Members.

The Clerk was unable to provide a date when the Planner would be circulated and advised the Council that late

Spring/early Summer was the Council's busiest time of the year in that the accounts for the previous financial year needed to be closed, balanced, converted into Income and Expenditure Accounts and audited. In addition, there were statutory requirements to complete returns to the Inland Revenue and pension returns to the Borough Council. In early June arrangements would need to begin for the award of annual grants.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the completion and distribution of the Project Planner as soon as practical.

(e) **Reports from site meetings of 17 April, 2005**

(i) **Brynamlwg Children's Play Area**

The Clerk reported that Members viewed the former play area where most of the equipment had been removed for safety reasons some years ago.

The latest information from the Borough Council was that a much extended and refurbished play area would be created with funds which had been provided from the Section 106 agreement following residential development at Cefn yr Hendy. It was likely that the work would be completed during the current financial year.

The report was noted.

(ii) **New Community Playing Field**

Members viewed the proposed site for the playing field adjacent to the new school which had originally been allocated for community use in addition to school use.

While it had been claimed that the new playing field was of a much lower specification than the original specification, it proved difficult for Members to form a view since construction work was still in progress on the perimeter of the new school.

RESOLVED: (i) That clarification be sought from the Borough Council on the specification of the playing field and an assurance that the field would be available for community use.

(ii) That enquiries be made of the Borough Council on whether the new school was provided with turning bays for vehicles.

(iii) That enquiries be made of the Welsh Development Agency over its plans for the sterile strip of land on the ridge of Cefn yr Hendy. Further, that residents be invited to give their views for the use of the land at the Community Council's Vision Day.

(iii) **Lack of parking facilities in Heol y Coed, Pontyclun**

Members viewed the congestion caused by parked cars in Heol y Coed, Pontyclun.

It was believed that there may be plans to ease the congestion by providing more parking spaces.

Councillor Rea read out a letter he had subsequently received in which an assurance was given that the Borough Council was agreeable, in principle, for grasscrete to be used to provide more parking spaces in Heol y Coed.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Maesyfelin Playing Fields**

The Clerk reported on a site meeting which had taken place at the Maesyfelin Playing Fields with a fencing contractor to obtain ideas of the type of replacement fence which may be suited to the area.

The contractor had suggested three possible varieties of steel fence and agreed to provide estimates to the Council for the three varieties for three separate perimeter sections. He also suggested that the existing dilapidated fence might be removed at no cost by negotiation with a local scrap dealer.

The Clerk also informed the Council that he had made enquiries about replacing the existing fence with a hedge. He had been told that it would be necessary to clear away the existing fence and plant "whips" which would need trimming

after five years and which could be kept trimmed once a year by flaying. Alternatively, the young hedge could be laid.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Borough Council to establish whether the Authority had regularised use of the Maesyfelin Playing Fields by negotiating a lease with the Pontyclun Rugby Club.

(g) **Parking of JCB on land adjacent to Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler**

The Council was told that a JCB, which parked on land adjacent to Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler, prevented a minibus, used to convey residents of nearby sheltered accommodation, from parking safely.

Ownership of the land was unclear. Enquiries had revealed that the land was not adopted by the Borough Council and that the public right of way over the land was not obstructed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries with the Community Services Group of the Borough Council to establish the amount of inconvenience caused to users of the minibus and to discuss possible ways forward.

(h) **Loss of vision**

The Council was told of complaints by residents of Danybryn, Brynsadler, at their loss of vision following the construction of the residential development at Clos Brenin. The development had resulted in the placement of unsightly gabions along the Nant Felin Fach.

RESOLVED: That contact be made with the planning authority and the developers of the site to establish what action can be taken to mitigate the unsightliness of the gabions.

(i) **Replacement bus shelter**

Councillor Rea advised the Council that he was pursuing the non-replacement by the developers of Clos Brenin, Brynsadler, of the bus shelter in Cowbridge Road.

He had raised the matter with a solicitor at the Borough Council and, if necessary, would insist on legal action being

taken against the developers to fulfil their commitment to the residents of the Community.

The report was noted.

(j) **Proposed development at Mwyndy, Pontyclun**

Several Members commented on the misleading impression given in an article in a recent edition of the Llantrisant and Pontypridd Observer about the Community Council's comments on the proposed development at Mwyndy, Pontyclun. There was an overwhelming view that the article had reported the Community Council's views out of context.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the editor of the Observer pointing out that the Council's views were mis-reported and asking that the Council's views be reported correctly.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Mini Rugby Competition**

P C Keddle reported that Pontyclun had suffered from considerable traffic congestion on Sunday, 1 May, 2005, when a mini rugby competition had been staged by the Pontyclun Rugby Club.

Pc Keddle said that many calls had been received by the police from motorists and residents. The police were unaware that the competition was taking place.

Councillor Norman wished to record that the event had been an overwhelming success but he had cause to express his concerns to the organising committee at the amount of bad language coming from the playing field which could be heard by residents in adjacent houses and by allotment plot holders.

RESOLVED: That the Council contact the rugby club to offer its congratulations on the success of the event and asking that if another event is to be organised the club arrange for clear signposting to direct motorists to local parking facilities.

(b) **Abandoned caravan**

P C Keddle drew the Council's attention to what appeared to be an abandoned caravan which had been parked on the A4119.

The police had now served a notice requiring the caravan to be removed.

The report was noted.

(c) **Vandalism**

A member of the public, Mr Mike Saunders, addressed the Council over the amount of vandalism in Pontyclun and the apparent lack of police cover.

Mr Saunders pointed out that his Council Tax bill had recently increased by £100.00 for police services, yet he rarely saw a police officer in Pontyclun. He drew attention to the recent vandalism at the Pontyclun library where a canopy had been damaged and subsequently required complete removal by Borough Council. Mr Saunders saw this as an example of how the vandals in the Community had won the day at the expense of users of the library. The public of Pontyclun were the losers.

P C Keddle responded that he was unable to be present in Pontyclun as often as he would wish, especially as he was now expected to visit Llanharry regularly. However, he felt that Pontyclun had something to learn from Llanharry in that there were activities for the youth of the village on three or four nights a week. It was not the function of the police to provide youth activities and, while he often moved on gangs of youths, they congregated elsewhere because there was little for them to do.

RESOLVED: That further discussion about youth provision in Pontyclun take place under agenda item 7 (a).

(d) **Monthly crime figures**

P C Keddle tabled the latest crime figures for the Community. P C Keddle was reminded that at the previous Council meeting Inspector Mence had agreed to forward the Clerk details of the crime figures for the division which had shown a significant reductions in incidents. The figures were awaited by the Clerk to display in Council noticeboards.

RESOLVED: That the latest crime figures be noted.

(d) **Access to the M4 from the A4119**

A Member reported on the ever increasing morning congestion in accessing the M4 from the A4119.

Regular tail backs of traffic were occurring from the M4 to the A4119 and recent improvements to the M4 from Junction 34 eastwards to Junction 33 appeared to have had little effect. At their worse, the tail backs of traffic reached Talbot Green to the north, Cross Inn to the east and the traffic lights near the former Purolite plant in the west.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries of the Highway Authority and the Welsh Assembly Government about the possibility of a highways engineer addressing the Council on plans to address the problem.

(e) **CCTV**

A Member reported that despite several complaints, the CCTV cameras in Pontyclun appeared to move very little. While the cameras may be effective, their lack of movement created the impression that they were not being monitored.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seek an assurance from the Borough Council that despite the cameras' lack of movement that constant recording was taking place.

(f) **Burglary**

P C Keddle reported that during the previous month a burglary had taken place in Groesfaen. Police enquiries were continuing.

The report was noted.

6. **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Richard Wistow, a professional ecologist living in the Community, about the land adjacent to Brynsadler Mill, Pontyclun.

Mr Wistow had earlier carried out an inspection of the land which formed part of the flood plain of the river Ely and close to the site of a former haematite mine. He was very encouraged to find a wide variety of flora even at an early time of the year. He had also seen dippers, kingfishers and found evidence of otters.

Mr Wistow believed that the land was well worth managing by local people in way in which the public at large could enjoy. He drew attention to the nearby Brynsadler Mill and pointed out that it was the oldest building in Pontyclun and was present long before the railway arrived. Mr Wistow also drew attention to the disused leat which once brought water to the Mill from the Ely and stated that he had heard that there were stones nearby which had been written upon by German prisoners of war. He believed that the entire area should be the subject of a report by an organisation such as the Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Mr Wistow acknowledged that the land was presently in the ownership of the Welsh Development Agency. He advised that the WDA had a duty to operate with public considerations in mind. Confirmation of this could be found in published WDA documents.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dan Clayton Jones would make contact with the Gwent Archaeological Trust with a view to getting a report on the land and the surrounding area. When the report is available copies be made available to Welsh Assembly Members Andrew Davies and Jane Davidson.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Youth facilities in the Community**

Members discussed what steps could be taken to provide more facilities for the youth of the Community given that several local initiatives had not been able to provide long term sustainable facilities.

RESOLVED: (i) That members of the public be offered the opportunity to express their views on the subject at the Council's Vision Day in June.

(ii) That enquiries be made about the youth facilities in Llanharry to help the Council decide whether there were any lessons to be learned from the Llanharry experience of providing more youth facilities.

(b) **Council's River Care Project**

RESOLVED: That the officer from River Care be invited to a meeting of the Community Council to talk about his report for improvements to the river Ely in Pontyclun.

(c) **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

Under Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act each local Highway Authority is required to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Council received and discussed the Borough Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council welcome the Plan and note its contents.

(Councillor Ms P Thomas left the meeting at 9.05p.m.)

(d) **Campaign to re-open the Machynlleth Parliament**

The Council received a letter on behalf of Senedd 04 asking whether it wished to support a campaign to re-open the Machynlleth Parliament as a permanent democratic forum.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(e) **Shape-it. Org**

Members recalled that at an earlier meeting of the Community Council it had been agreed to publicise details of the Shape-it.Org scheme on Community Council noticeboards.

The publicity given to the Scheme had produced three responses to the Community Council, namely applications from the Pontyclun with Talygarn Parochial Church Council, River Care and the Community Council.

Separately from the action taken by the Community Council, Community Councillors Norman and Rea, who sit on the Borough Council's local Regeneration Committee, had been bringing the provisions of the Scheme to the attention of local organisations and sounding out interest.

RESOLVED: (i) That the nine expressions of interest shown to Councillor Norman be combined with the three applications received by the Community Council and a composite list be submitted to the Borough Council.

(ii) That at the wish of Councillor Rea, any expressions of interest received by him be progressed independently of the Community Council.

(Councillor Rea left the meeting at 9.20 p.m. before discussion commenced on planning matters)

(f) **Planning applications**

The Council discussed applications contained in the latest Weekly Notifications received from the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be offered to the Planning Authority:

Application No. 05/0587/10

While the Community Council is not opposed to the application, the Council would wish to draw the Planning Authority's attention that the development would be likely to exacerbate the parking problems in the area. As evidence of this, the Council would point to the fact that existing staff employed at the premises already place a parking burden on the limited number of parking spaces in Station Terrace.

The Community Council further believes that the application for development should be considered alongside the request by residents of Station Terrace for a "residents only" parking facility in the Terrace.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 5 to the Council's agenda.

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

Councillor Griffiths tabled plans for the publication of leaflets for three scenic walks in the Community.

It was planned to print the information on A5 paper and to distribute the leaflets as widely as possible in the Community.

RESOLVED: That a sum of £300 be earmarked in the Council's budget to cover the costs.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Proposed Resident' Parking Places Order, 2005**

The Council received information about the creation of an individual parking bay outside the common boundary of No.s



11 and 13 Clun Avenue, Pontyclun, for a distance of 6 metres in a westerly direction.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) **Licensing application – Miskin Manor Hotel**

The Council received details of an application for a Public Entertainment Licence at the Miskin Manor Hotel.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) **Upgrade of Internet Access**

The Council was advised that plans were in hand to upgrade its Internet access from a dial up facility to Broadband. The Council was also told of the plans to obtain the Council's own domain registration to facilitate better communication between the Council, its Members and the public. Details of costs were provided.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the plans to upgrade its Internet access and obtain its own domain registration.

10. The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.