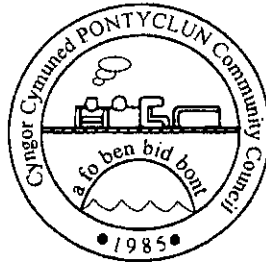


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

APPENDIX No. 1
Pontyclun Community Council

Clerc i'r Cyngor:
JHG Lewis ACIS DMA
Mandalay
Heol Bontfaen
Talygarn
Pontyclun CF72 9BZ



Clerk to the Council:
JHG Lewis ACIS DMA
Mandalay
Cowbridge Road
Talygarn
Pontyclun CF72 9BZ

Ffôn: 01443 227094
Ffacs: 01443 238500
E-bost: greglewis@pontycluncc.org.uk
Wefan: <http://pontycluncc.org.uk>

Tel: 01443 227094
Fax: 01443 238500
Email: greglewis@pontycluncc.org.uk
Web: <http://pontycluncc.org.uk>

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 July, 2006.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, C Davies, P Griffiths, Ms S Jenkins, A R Lane, R G Norman and M Rea

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public and PCSO Chris Martin for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors D Clayton-Jones and Ms P Thomas

2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations were received.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 12 June, 2006**

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Rea's name as a Member who had offered apologies for his absence.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Green Pontyclun**

(i) **Planters**

The Clerk reported that new sites had been found in Pontyclun for the planters which had been temporarily stored at two sites in Cowbridge Road.

While it had originally been thought that a lorry with a hiab would be needed to move the planters a local haulage company had agreed to assist on a Sunday morning in mid June for a nominal charge. The consent of landowners of the new sites had been obtained prior to the planters being re-sited.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council thank its Handyman for his work in identifying the new sites.
 - (ii) That a plan be drawn up for the planting of winter flowering plants.

(ii) **Hanging baskets**

The Clerk advised the Council that the hanging basket brackets, which had been ordered to the same dimensions as the previous year, had not fitted the lamp posts which had been selected by Members for hanging baskets. As the hanging baskets with plants had been delivered and required erection, enquiries had been made with a local fabrication company about the possibility of carrying out urgent modifications to the brackets.

It was confirmed that modifications were possible. After consultation with the Chairperson, an order for the modifications was placed. All brackets were subsequently attached to the appropriate lampposts and the hanging baskets erected. Arrangements had been made to water the baskets when traffic is relatively light.

The Clerk advised that he was in contact with the bracket manufacturers and had sought compensation for the Council.

After the modified hanging baskets had been erected it was discovered that the newly purchased water bowser had developed a fault. The fault prevented use of the bowser for a week until a replacement part was received. In the meantime, it had been necessary for the Handyman to carry water to the 61 hanging baskets and planters.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council confirm the prompt action taken by the Clerk,

Chairperson and Handyman to redress the situation.

(ii) That the Council express its pleasure at the colourful display provided by the hanging baskets in each of the Council's wards.

(iii) That enquiries be made about suitable winter flowering plants for the hanging baskets.

(iv) That the possibility of lowering hanging baskets be considered for the Council's 2007 programme.

(iii) Photography Competition

The Chairperson and Clerk presented a joint report on the highly successful presentation evening at the Pontyclun Library on the evening of 27 June, 2006.

Presentations were made by the Chairperson to the winners of three categories.. The winning entries had earlier been chosen by Mr Richard Williams, photographer to the Western Mail and Echo and the Llantrisant Observer. The wining entrants were:

- (a) Best Junior entry - Miss Georgia John
- (b) Best Adult entry - Mr Ray Anderson
- (c) Best Overall entry - Mr Ray Anderson

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Council express its pleasure at the success of the event.

(ii) That the Council convey its thanks to the Librarian for the Taff Ely area, and the librarians at Pontyclun, Mrs Saunders and Mrs Edwards for all their assistance in organising the competition.

(iii) That the Council confirm its intention to hold a similar competition in 2007 with the theme for the competition being "Pontyclun through the seasons"

(iv) New Riverside Walk

The Council discussed the concerns of Councillor Lane as expressed in Appendix 2 to the agenda.

The Council also discussed the proposal of Councillor Dan Clayton-Jones who had earlier asked that the Community Council give consideration to the installation of a wicket gate at the entrance to the footpath to ensure access to the Walk for people with a disability.

The Clerk reported that he had made a request for the Borough Council's Countryside Officer to visit the land to advise on the best way to make the land accessible and useable by the public. The Countryside Officer's assistance would also be sought in designing the access. In a preliminary discussion with the Countryside staff it had been brought to the Clerk's attention that the proposed access was likely to require Highway Authority consent. Additionally, there was a possibility that formal planning consent would be required for the access.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a site meeting with the Countryside Officer of the Borough Council be convened as soon as possible.
- (ii) That details of the proposed site meeting be provided to all Members of the Council.
- (iii) That for the avoidance of any doubt, the Community Council re-iterate its earlier verbal commitment to residents of Millfield, that the Council has no plans to erect a stile in Millfield to access the new walk.

(v) **Pontyclun Digilab**

Following the recent presentation to the Council by Mr Kevin Reeves, it was reported that the Digilab facilities were being very well used by the public and that the target of 120 "signed up" users was likely to be comfortably achieved. Already 90 signatories had been secured.

Kevin Reeves had agreed to assist in the construction of the Community Council's website and had also agreed to place all entries to the Community Council's photography competition on the site. The Chairperson

intended meeting Mr Reeves shortly to progress matters.

Councillor Lane raised the matter of a Community Council funded toilet at The Bridge, the Digilab premises. Councillor Norman reminded the Council that toilet facilities were available elsewhere in Pontyclun. Also, that there had been no discussion or decision to provide toilet facilities at The Bridge.

RESOLVED: That the Council contact Mr Kevin Reeves to find out what was planned for the premises.

(vi) **Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk advised that he had notified the Borough Council of the Casual Vacancy.

The Borough Council has subsequently prepared the statutory notice for display. Copies of the statutory notice had been displayed in each of the Council's eight noticeboards. The believed that the deadline for a request for a poll to fill the casual vacancy expired on 5 July, 2006.

The report was noted.

(vii) **Section 106 Agreement, Cefn yr Hendy**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Mr Martin Sullivan of the Borough Council about the lack of progress in providing play facilities for children on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate. The Clerk had reminded Mr Sullivan that the existing play facilities had been removed several years earlier and, despite several promises, had still to be replaced. The Clerk had asked when the facilities were likely to be restored for the benefit of residents.

An assurance was given by Mr Sullivan that the work at Cefn yr Hendy was very high on the Borough Council's list of priorities . He stated that the Cefn yr Hendy scheme was the next project to be attended to by the Borough Council's playground designer.

Councillor Rea referred to the proposed community playing field. He said that a mistake had been made in the sighting of the field and that work would commence shortly on the new site.

The Council expressed its deep disappointment at the apparent total lack of progress in providing community facilities on the Cefn yr Hendy site and asked that Mr Garry Kiss of the Education and Lifelong Learning Group of the Borough Council, who had previously addressed the Council on the Borough Council's plans, be asked to address the Council again to update the Council on progress in providing community facilities on Cefn yr Hendy.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson contact Mr Kiss to make arrangements for his attendance at a meeting with the Council.

(viii) **Community Boundary Review**

The Clerk advised that he had made arrangements for the Borough Council's Principal Electoral Registration Officer to make a presentation to Members on the approach being adopted by the Borough Council in meeting the requirements to review community council boundaries. The presentation would take place in the Maritime Offices, Pontypridd, at 3.00 p.m. on 14 July, 2006.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Cale, Norman, Rea and Thomas attend the presentation together with the Clerk.

5. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Electoral Arrangements in Wales**

The Council briefly discussed the Discussion Document which was first reported to the Council's meeting of 12 June, 2006.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the Discussion Document be deferred to the Council's meeting on 19 July, 2006.

(b) **Pontyclun Railway Station**

The Council discussed the written report of Councillor Lane who had met representatives of the police and the British Transport Police on site. The issues discussed were the possibility of creating additional parking spaces in the vicinity of the station and the possibility of extending CCTV to cover the railway station.

(i) **Additional parking spaces**

It was understood from representatives of the British Transport Police that there was a possibility that the railway track from Pontyclun to Talbot Green would be lifted. If this were to happen, it would release a significant plot of land adjacent to the east-bound platform which could be used for the additional parking spaces.

(ii) **CCTV**

Two possibilities were feasible. The first would be a dedicated camera, the result of joint funding. This additional camera would link to the existing CCTV system in Pontyclun and the images would be monitored at the Borough Council's monitoring station in Pontypridd. The other possibility would involve the lopping of tops of trees at the premises at the junction of Station Approach and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, to allow partial vision by the existing camera situated outside the Windsor Hotel, Pontyclun.

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) That the Clerk write to all appropriate parties confirming the Community Council's support for increasing car parking facilities at the railway station and lopping the tops of trees to improve vision by the existing CCTV camera.
 - (b) That the Clerk contact Railtrack to clarify whether plans still exist to use the railway track from Pontyclun to Beddau for a railway sprinter route.
 - (c) That in the event that Railtrack intend lifting the existing railway track, the Clerk raise the possibility of using the surplus land for the creation of additional parking spaces.

(c) **Stakeholders' Consultation -
Meeting with South East Wales Transport Alliance**

The Council discussed the invitation to send a representative to the next meeting of SEWTA scheduled for 6 July, 2006.

RESOLVED: That as no Members of the Council were available to attend the meeting, the Clerk write to SEWTA the three points made under minute 5 (c) above.

(d) **Welsh Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks**

The Council received details of the Welsh Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks to be held at Newport on 14 September, 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to attend the Conference.

(e) **Surplus Office Equipment**

The Clerk gave details to the Council of a number of items of office equipment which were surplus to requirements. The items were between 10 and 20 years old and relied on old technology. No guarantee could be given that the items still functioned properly. The Clerk sought the Council's instructions for disposing of the items.

RESOLVED: (i) That a paragraph giving details of the surplus items be included in the letter sent to all successful grant applicants.

(ii) That any organisation interested in receiving an item be given that item free of charge.

(iii) That all organisations interested in receiving surplus equipment be told that that all items would be given by the Council without any guarantee as to their working condition.

(f) **Planning applications**

(Councillor Rea declared an interest in this item of business and left the Council meeting)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest weekly notifications.

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

Application No. 06/1043/10

That while the Council is not opposed to the application, all appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that the proposed development does not lead to increased on-street parking.

Application No. 06/1156/10

That while the Council is not opposed to the application, it has concerns that:

- (i) the weight restriction on the bailey bridge might be exceeded.
- (ii) yet more traffic across the bailey bridge might compromise the safety of pedestrians, in particular, those residents of Tylagarw who regularly walk to Pontyclun.
- (iii) the industrial area is being developed without a plan to improve access and egress for heavy vehicles and the alleviation of nuisance to residents of Station Terrace, Pontyclun.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 6 to the agenda.

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

Local Council Administration (7th Edition)

The Clerk reported that an unsolicited copy of Local Council Administration (7th Edition) had recently been sent to the Community Council. This was followed up with an invoice for £60.00.

When the Clerk asked why the manual had been sent, he had immediately been offered a discount of £12.00 off the cover price. The Clerk sought the Council's guidance on how it wished to progress the matter.

RESOLVED: That as the 7th Edition contained the latest guidance for local councils in meeting their obligations the manual be purchased at £48.00.

7. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Annual Report of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, 2005/06**

All Members received a copy of the Annual Report.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the Report be noted.

(b) **Monitoring of CCTV in Pontyclun**

As the result of queries from the Community Council about monitoring of CCTV cameras in Pontyclun, the CCTV Manager for the Borough Council provided details of two recent incidents in Pontyclun. In both cases both cases the Pontyclun cameras had provided the police with evidence which had been used to apprehend people for breaking the law.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk thank the CCTV Manager for the diligence of his staff in picking up the incidents.
- (ii) That details of the incidents be passed to the local press.

(c) **Annual Grants Meeting**

The Clerk reminded Members that the annual grants awarding meeting of the Council would be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 July, 2006.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the information be noted.
- (ii) That it be noted that Councillor Jenkins would not be able to attend the meeting due to a business commitment.

(d) **Planning Appeal**

The Council received a copy of the determination of an appeal against the refusal of the Planning Authority to award consent for development at Talygarn Close, Talygarn, Pontyclun. The inspector conducting the appeal had found in favour of the appellant.

- RESOLVED:** That the determination be noted.

(e) **Church Village By-Pass**

The Clerk reported that the formal application for planning consent to construct the Church Village By-Pass was due to be determined by the Planning Authority that evening. A copy of the application had been provided to the Community Council. If, as anticipated, consent was awarded, work was likely to start early in 2007, after the completion of the Porth By-Pass.

- RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

(f) **Draft Improvement Plan, 2006**

The Clerk reported the receipt of the Borough Council's Draft Improvement Plan for 2006. The Plan had been submitted to a Borough Council meeting on 28 June, 2006.

- RESOLVED:** That receipt of the Draft Plan be noted.

(g) **Traffic Restrictions, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Council received further representations from residents of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, about the introduction of traffic restrictions.

Residents sought the support of the Council to get the restrictions rescinded. It was pointed out that the restrictions had been introduced on a stretch of highway which was probably the widest in Pontyclun. Comparison was made with Cowbridge Road in Brynsadler, which had one of the narrowest stretches of highway, yet provided un-regulated on-street parking for residents. There appeared to be a major inconsistency in the approach of the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Highway Authority and, if necessary, to convene a site meeting.

(h) **Community Council's Allotments Competition**

Councillor Norman reported that a date for judging entries to the Community Council's Allotments Competition had not yet been agreed. The date would be finalised after the availability of judges was known.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(i) **Bell Tower, Pontyclun Primary School**

Councillor Norman reported that the Board of Governors of the Pontyclun Primary School had recently received a report on the condition of the bell tower at the school.

The report indicated that the roof of the bell tower was significantly affected by wood worm and the structure needed attention. The estimated repair cost was £50,000. As the school would have to find this money from its budget, effectively this would mean the redundancy of two teachers. The Governing Body had decided to remove the bell tower but keep the steeple and make a feature of the weather vane.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(j) **Highway direction sign**

Councillor Cale drew the Council's attention to a misleading highway direction sign at the junction of Heol Miskin with Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

Councillor Cale pointed out that the sign indicated that both Ystradowen and Cowbridge were three miles distant. While the distance to Ystradowen was likely to be three miles, Cowbridge was likely to be a further two to three miles further along the A4222.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Highway Authority.

(k) **Lack of dropped kerbs**

The Council received an address from Mr John Kempster , a wheel chair user, about the lack of dropped kerbs in Pontyclun.

Mr Kempster said that he had suffered injury while crossing Cowbridge Road. The injury would not have occurred if a dropped kerb had been in place at the point where he crossed the road. Mr Kempster gave the Council a list of locations in Pontyclun where dropped kerbs would be of considerable help to wheel chair users.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk ask for a site meeting with a representative of the Borough Council to discuss the incorporation of additional dropped kerbs into the footways of Pontyclun.

(ii) That a copy of the Clerk's letter to the Borough Council be forwarded to Councillor Rea in his capacity as a member of the Borough Council.

8. The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.