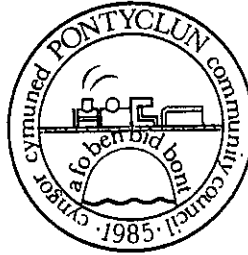


## CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council  
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"Mandalay"  
 Cowbridge Road,  
 Talygarn, Pontyclun,  
 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, 5 June, 1996

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Mrs V A Cale,  
 Mr J G Davies, Mr R O Edwards, Mrs M M Griffiths,  
 and Mr R G Norman (Chairperson)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Two members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors Mr T J Burton, Mr T R J Flood and Mr G M Moir

2. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **Beating the Bounds Ceremony**

The Chairperson reported that on Saturday, 8 June, 1996, he would be representing the Community Council at the 1996 Beating the Bounds Ceremony being staged by the Freemen of Llantrisant. It was intended to link the 1996 ceremony with the 650th anniversary of the granting of the Town's charter and the Battle of Crecy.

The matter was noted.

(b) **Pontyclun Primary School**

The Chairperson reported that as a governor on the Board of Governors of the Pontyclun Primary School he had recently participated in the appointment of two new teachers. Both teachers were due to take up their new appointments in September, 1996.

The matter was noted.

3. **Police matters**

In the absence of the police representative, P C Keddle, no matters affecting the police were discussed.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 1 May, 1996**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's Annual Meeting of 1 May, 1996, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Calendar of meetings for 1996/97**

The Clerk reported that the Council meetings which had been provisionally arranged for 10 July, 1996, and 1 January, 1997, had been rearranged for 9 July, 1996, and 2 January, 1997, respectively.

The revised dates were noted.

(b) **Request for the installation of footway lighting**

The Council discussed the letter of 22 May, 1996, from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which it was stated that the areas proposed for footway lighting in Pontyclun had been inspected but, due to the financial restrictions the facing the Authority, it would not be in a position to contribute to either the installation or the subsequent running costs of the proposed lighting scheme.

It was also pointed out that a great deal of public lighting within the County Borough was already switched off in order to reduce revenue expenditure to keep within spending guidelines set down by the central government. Furthermore, that substantial reductions had been made in the road lighting budget for the current financial year.

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

(c) **Siting of highway grit bins**

Councillor Dick Edwards advised that he wished a grit bin to be sited on the grass verge near the junction of Heol y Felin and Brodawel, Pontyclun. Other Members stated that they would advise the Clerk of suitable locations within their wards in due course.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to request the siting of additional grit bins once all the Council's requirements were known.

(d) **Display Hoarding - No 47 Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Council received the letter of 24 May, 1996, from the Director Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which it was confirmed that the advertisement hoarding had been erected without an application for planning consent. It was noted that an enforcement officer from the County Borough had been requested to take appropriate action.

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

(e) **Erection of greenhouse in the Ivor Woods**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted a resident of Ivor Park, Brynsadler, to point out that the erection of a greenhouse to the rear of his house had been carried out on land in the Ivor Woods - land in the ownership of the Community Council. The resident alleged that the land was within the boundary of his house, despite being outside his rear fence.

The Council discussed the likely consequences of allowing the resident, and others, to encroach into the Ivor Woods.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk instruct a professional surveyor to produce a report for the Council establishing beyond doubt the boundary between the Ivor Woods and the house of the resident involved in the dispute.

(f) **Governing Body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant**

Councillor Mrs Margaret Griffiths referred to the system of alternate academic year's representation by the Pontyclun and Llantrisant Community Councils on the Governing Body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant, within a period of four years. Councillor Griffiths advised that the system could be improved by providing better continuity for representatives if each community council agreed on a period of representation for two continuous years.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Llantrisant Community Council.

6. **Minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 16 May, 1996**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Finance Committee's meeting of 16 May, 1996, be approved as an accurate record.

7. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

8. **Adoption of Finance Committee's recommendation**

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance Committee's recommendation be adopted.

9. **Consultations with Community Councils**

The Council discussed the reply from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on its earlier request for comments on the Borough Council's proposals for consultations with community councils. It was noted that the Borough Council intended consulting community councils on the subjects designated by the Secretary of State for Wales and that there would be a four week consultation period.

The Community Council was disappointed to note that a decision had been taken by the Borough Council "that meetings with community councils be arranged as and when required" and was uncertain what was meant by the decision that "an appropriate officer from each of the community councils be responsible for coordinating consultation with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council"

**RESOLVED:** (I) That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to arrange a meeting on traffic matters in Pontyclun.

(ii) That the Clerk obtain clarification on what the Borough Council intended by its decision that "an appropriate officer from each community council be responsible for coordinating consultation with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council"

10. **Proposed pedestrian access across the M4 motorway**

The Council received the reply of the Welsh Office to its earlier request for consideration to be given for pedestrian access across the M4 motorway to reinstate access from public rights of way from Pontyclun to public rights of way in the vicinity of Talygarn.

In its reply, the Welsh Office stated that the existing culvert could not be used as its construction did not lend itself to any amendment. It appeared that a footbridge across the motorway would not be practical as the span necessary would be too wide. As a final comment the Welsh Office was of the view that the arrangements for the diversion of the public rights of way appeared to be reasonable.

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

11. **Old School Surgery, Pontyclun - level of funding**

The Council discussed a letter from the Chief Officer of the Taff Ely and Rhondda Community Health Council about the level of funding for the Old School Surgery, Pontyclun. The letter from the Community Health Council was in response to the Pontyclun Community Council's earlier concerns on the level of funding at the Surgery. The Community Health Council had unanimously agreed that the matter be pursued with the new Bro-Taf Health Authority.

**RESOLVED:** That the reply of the Community Health Council be noted.

12. **Letter from Mr L H Bailey**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr L H Bailey, 4 Station Terrace, Pontyclun, about developments at the westbound platform of Pontyclun railway station. Mr Bailey wished to point out that the recently constructed disabled access was unsatisfactory since so much other work associated with the complete development of the westbound platform remained outstanding. Mr Bailey sought clarification on when the outstanding work would be completed.

Mr Bailey wished to congratulate the police on the support they had given residents in the vicinity of Station Terrace in removing congregating youths from backlanes, and to draw attention to a growing, and potentially dangerous practice, of a "banger car" driving through the backlanes where the driver caused nuisance by playing loud music on his radio.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk:

- (i) refer the matters connected with the development of the westbound platform at Pontyclun Station to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.
- (ii) refer the matters connected with youths in the backlanes adjacent to Station Terrace to the police.

13. **Acquisition of a Chain of Office**

Members again discussed the subject of a chain of office for the Chairperson of the Community Council. The Council was deeply disappointed that the efforts to persuade the former Taff Ely Borough Council to donate the redundant chain of office of the former Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre Rural District 8 Council to the Pontyclun Community Council had come to nothing. Members were extremely pessimistic about the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council viewing the matter differently from the Taff Ely Borough Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, be authorised to proceed with the purchase of a modest chain of office on behalf of the Community Council.

14. **Public Right of Way - Footpath No. 333**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr G Long, Caergwanaf Cottage, Miskin, drawing attention to the very tortuous route of Public Right of Way - Footpath No.333. Mr Long suggested that the Council apply for a formal diversion of the footpath in recognition of the fact that the definitive route was, and had been for very many years, completely impassable. A diversion would also enable the accepted, although unofficial, route of the footpath to be formally recognised.

The Clerk reported that since the receipt of Mr Long's letter a further letter had been received from Dr Wynne Davies, one of the landowners who would have an interest in any diversion, highlighting the same problem. It was clear from Dr Davies' letter that he, too, would support a diversion of Footpath No. 333 to follow a more logical route.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk convene a site meeting of the interested parties to include the Footpaths Officer of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

15. **Disused garages in Brynsadler**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr T J Charlton of 2 Derwen Road, Pontyclun, in which Mr Charlton sought the Community Council's support in his attempts to purchase the disused garages between the Ivor Park football field and the river Ely. The Council noted the reply of the Clerk in which he stated that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would need to obtain the best price on the open market in its disposal of the premises. It was unlikely that the support of the Pontyclun Community Council would carry any weight. Furthermore, the Clerk had, on a number of occasions in recent years established the position on the disposal with the Mid Glamorgan County Council on behalf of the Pontyclun Football Club who also had an interest in acquiring the premises.

Since the reorganisation of local government ownership of the garages had passed to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The Clerk's most recent information was that a specification was in the course of preparation and that it would be circulated to all parties who had expressed an interest in acquiring the premises. In addition, the intended disposal would be advertised by a sign erected at the site and an advertisement placed in the South Wales Echo.

When pressed for an estimate for a likely timescale for the disposal, it was forecasted that the necessary procedures would not be completed for at least six months.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk's latest information on the disposal be conveyed to Mr Charlton.

16. **Purolite Joint Liaison Committee**

The Council received a letter from Councillor John Dilworth, a Councillor on the Llanharan Community Council, together with a letter of apology which he had received from Ms Moira Pearson, former Clerk to the Llanharan Community Council.

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

17. **Welsh Drug and Alcohol Strategy**

The Council received information on a recently launched package of measures by the Welsh Office to help combat drug and alcohol abuse. The cornerstone of the package was a new Welsh Drug and Alcohol Strategy, a copy of which was tabled for the Council's information.

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

18. **Planning**

(a) **Weekly Planning Applications for  
Weeks Ending 26 April, 3, 10, 17, and 24 May, 1996**

**Application No. 96/2036/10**

**RESOLVED:** That, in the light of the severe parking problems already occurring in Merthyr Street, the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be advised that the Community Council is opposed to the proposed development if the developer fails to incorporate any parking facilities within the development.

**Application No. 96/2017/96**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council has no objection to the proposed development provided no encroachment takes place on to public rights of way in the vicinity.

(b) **Appeal to the Welsh Office**

The Council received details of an appeal to the Welsh Office against the refusal of the former Taff Ely Borough Council to site a store for farming plant equipment and feed on land at Talygarn, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council write to the Inspector holding the Inquiry reiterating its original objections against the proposals.

(Note: The Clerk declared an interest in the above matter)

19. **Request for financial assistance**

The Council considered a request for financial assistance from Mrs Janis F Jones, Playscheme Coordinator, of 25 Tegfan, Pontyclun, towards the cost of staging a local summer playscheme for 5 - 11 year old children in the Pontyclun Community Centre during August.

In her letter of application Mrs Jones stated that a grant of £700.00 had already been secured from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to stage the first week of the playscheme and she sought financial assistance towards the cost of staging the second week.

**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £350.00 be made towards the cost of staging the second week of the playscheme.

20. **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix No. 20 to the Council's agenda.

21. **Reports from Members**

(a) **No. 9 Heol Hendy, Pontyclun**

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that the tenant of No 9 Heol Hendy, Pontyclun, had sited a portacabin in the garden of



the premises, possibly with the intention of running a business. It was unclear whether the siting had been carried out with the consents necessary.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to:

- (a) the County Borough Director of Housing to establish whether the tenant had obtained consent for the siting of the portacabin and, in the event of a business being conducted from the premises, whether a further consent was necessary
- (b) the County Borough Director of Planning to establish whether the tenant had obtained planning consent for the development.
- (c) the County Borough Director of Environmental Services to establish whether, in the event of business being conducted from the premises, the proprietor would need to comply with environmental health regulations.
- (d) the Chief Fire Officer to establish whether, in the event of a business being undertaken from the premises, the proprietor would need to comply with fire regulations.

(b) **Application for off licence**

Councillor Cyril Bendle reported on his attendance at Merthyr Crown Court that day as a witness opposing the application of the prospective purchaser of the Royal Stores in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, for the grant of an off licence for the sale of alcohol. Councillor Bendle emphasised that he attended the hearing in his capacity as a private citizen and not as a result of his connection with the Pontyclun Community Council. However, Councillor Bendle believed it was important to keep the Community Council abreast of developments because of the concern which had been expressed at Community Council meetings on the availability of alcohol within the Community.

The hearing at Court was adjourned at 5.45 p.m. and it was expected that a decision on the application would be announced on the following day.

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

(c) **Council's Standing Orders**

Councillor Cyril Bendle referred to an incident which had taken place at an earlier meeting of the Council, when he had been in the Chair, and when it had been necessary to remind Members of the provisions of the Council's Standing Order No.66 on interruptions to proceedings at Council meetings.

Councillor Bendle's actions in reminding Members of the provisions of Standing Order No.66 had been interpreted in some quarters as a verbal attack on certain individuals. Councillor Bendle assured Members that his actions were intended to maintain order at the meeting by reminding the Council of its own rules.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Bendle's comments be noted.

(d) **Decisions of the Council**

Councillor Bendle referred to recent discussions at the Council and reminded Members that decisions taken by the Council were corporate decisions and not the decision of any individual Member.

In the event that a Member disagreed with a proposed course of action, and wished to disassociate himself from the Council's decision, it was always open to that Member to request a recorded vote before the debate was concluded. It was insufficient to say nothing and later criticise the decision.

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

(e) **Distribution of grant forms**

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Margaret Griffiths the Clerk stated that grant application forms would be distributed to all Members of the Council within the following few days.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Juggernauts in Talygarn**

Councillor Mrs Margaret Griffiths advised the Council that she has spoken to Mr Barrie Jones, the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering for the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, about the nuisance caused by juggernauts performing reversing manouvres, in Talygarn. Mr Jones had agreed to refer the matter to his Traffic Manager to see what could be done to prevent juggernauts entering Pontyclun and Talygarn, unnecessarily.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk follow up the matter by writing to Mr Jones suggesting the erection of a directory for the drivers of goods vehicles accessing the industrial estates around Talbot Green, in the layby on the A4119 immediately to the south of the Talbot Green by pass.

(g) **Community Health Council**

Councillor Mrs Margaret Griffiths drew attention to the relatively poor representation of Community interests on the Community Health Council. It was understood that the representative for Community interests lived in Tonyrefail. Councillor Mrs Griffiths believed that the Council should develop better liaison with the C H C and this could be achieved by gaining representation on the CHC.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the CHC raising the possibility of co-opting a Member of the Pontyclun Community Council on to the CHC.

(h) **Dilapidated fence - Otters Brook Trout Farm**

Councillor Dick Edwards reported that a section of fence in the vicinity of the Otters Brook Trout Farm had fallen across the public right of way near the bank of the river Ely.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handyman to remove the section of fence which had fallen on to the footpath.

(i) **Cefn y Parc Cemetery, Mwyndy**

Councillor Dick Edwards reported that problems were being experienced in the administration of the cemetery at Mwyndy. It

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appeared that the sexton had a dual responsibility for the Mwyndy cemetery and a cemetery in Pontypridd. It further appeared that the sexton's duties were rostered in such a way that the cemetery in Pontypridd always seemed to have first call on the sexton's services. The result was that funerals at Mwyndy cemetery were arranged after the needs of the Pontypridd cemetery had been catered for.

**RESOLVED:** That the issue be clarified with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(j) **Grass verge, Heol y Felin, Pontyclun**

Councillor Dick Edwards reported that the grass verges on the Maeyfelin estate had recently been cut by the Borough Council. However, a small triangle had not been cut. When the matter was drawn to the attention of the grasscutters they replied that the triangle did not appear on their schedule of work.

**RESOLVED:** That until such time as the triangle appeared on the grasscutters schedule of work, the Clerk arrange for the Community Council's Handyman to cut the grass.

(k) **Wales Association of Community and Town Councils - East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee**

Councillor Graham Davies gave a report on his attendance with the Clerk at the previous evening's meeting of the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils in Cwmbran.

The meeting combined the Annual Meeting with the normal quarterly meeting and was very well attended. Delegates advised the secretary of the subjects they wished to be covered in presentations during the following year and discussed in depth the reorganisation which had taken place in police liaison committee meetings.

The secretary advised that it was unlikely that any further meetings of the committee would be held in the Municipal Buildings in Pontypridd due to the policy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. Meetings would continue to be held in Ystrad Mynach and an alternative venue would also be sought.

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

(a) **Visit of the Queen to Aberystwyth**

Councillor Cyril Bendle stated that he was extremely disappointed by the loutish behaviour of a number of students during the Queen's recent visit to Aberystwyth.

Several Members agreed with Councillor Bendle's sentiments.

(b) **Dog fouling**

Councillor Mrs Margaret Griffiths asked if the subject of dog fouling could be placed on the agenda for the Community Council's next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

(c) **Litter bin located in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Councillor Mrs Ann Cale drew the Council's attention to the unhygienic state of the litter bin located near Walker's butcher in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk arrange for the Community Council's Handyman to disinfect the litter bin.

(d) **Community Council's photocopier**

The Clerk advised the Council that its photocopier was 11 years old and, during that time, it had produced a prodigious number of photocopies. Repair costs were becoming increasingly expensive and the copier was in need of replacement.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a replacement copier for the Community Council.

(e) **Assistant for the Handyman**

The Clerk advised the Council that it had become customary in recent years to engage a student to assist the Council's Handyman during the summer months. The Clerk asked whether the Council wished to recruit a student for 1996.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be authorised to engage a student to assist the Council's Handyman during the summer months.

(f) **Annual Grants Meeting**

The Clerk advised the Council that the Annual Grants meeting had been provisionally arranged for the evening of Wednesday, 10 July, 1996. The Clerk had subsequently been informed that the Pontyclun Community Centre would not be available on 10 July. Consequently, the Annual Grants meeting had been re-arranged for 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 July, 1996.

The matter was noted.

(g) **Irregular litter bin emptying, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised the Council that during the preceding month he had written to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to draw attention to the irregular emptying of litter from the litter bin located outside the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

In reply, the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council acknowledged that there had been a problem and that it had been rectified. The Director sought the assistance of the Council in bringing any similar occurrences to his attention.

**RESOLVED:** That any Member who became aware that a litter bin was not being emptied regularly notify the Clerk.

(h) **Dunblane Snowdrop petition**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the letter of sympathy which he had written to Mr Ron Taylor, Headteacher of Dunblane Primary School, shortly after the tragedies at the School.

A reply had been received thanking the Community of Pontyclun for its expression of condolences and inviting residents of the Community to sign the Snowdrop petition for a considerable tightening of the legislation relating to the possession of guns. Copies of the petition were distributed.

**RESOLVED:** That Members obtain signatures to the petition and, in view of the shortage of time, return them direct to the organizer's address.

(I) **“Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom”**

The Clerk circulated details of the inaugural “Rhondda Cynon Taff in Bloom” Competition.

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

(j) **1996 Annual Audit**

The Clerk reported that the Community Council’s Annual Audit of Accounts had recently been completed by the District Auditor. The District Auditor had issued a certificate to the effect that the Audit had been carried out in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Finance Act, 1982, and the Code of Audit Practice. In the Auditor’s opinion the accounts record fairly the financial transactions of the authority.

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

23. The meeting ended at 10.20 p.m.