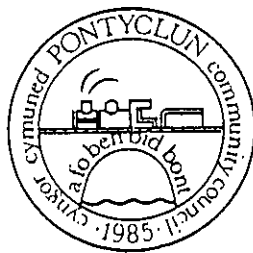


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPENDIX No 1

Clerk to the Council  
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"Mandalay"  
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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 March, 1997

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** P C Steve Keddle, for part of meeting, and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors T Flood and M Rea

2. **Chairperson's business**

**Pontyclun Primary School**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, reported that during the previous week he had attended a prizegiving ceremony at the Pontyclun Primary School. The event had been highly successful and it had been heartwarming to see the level of interest and participation from pupils.

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

3. **Police matters**

(a) **Behavioural problems associated with the consumption of alcohol**

P C Keddle referred to the letter of 20 February, 1997, from Divisional Commander Vaughan in Pontypridd and emphasised that the police would not become involved in making

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representations to the licensing authorities on the question of "need" for any licensing applications in the Community. The police would confine their role to making representations on the suitability of the proposed premises and the proposed applicant.

As far as the latest award of an off licence was concerned the police had not received any complaints about the licensee's compliance with statutory requirements.

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

(b) **Speeding lorries in Brynsadler**

The Chairperson, Councillor Norman, advised P C Keddle of a recent, potentially very serious incident, where two lorries, apparently engaged in the transportation of stone from the Forest Wood Quarry, were seen to be racing against each other in Brynsadler. A member of the public who witnessed the incident had narrowly missed being struck by one of the vehicles.

The report was noted by P C Keddle.

(c) **Vandalism to parked vehicle**

Councillor Burton advised P C Keddle of an incident on the evening of Thursday, 27 February, 1997, when the car of a visitor to his house in Merthyr Street, Pontyclun, had been vandalised. The incident of wanton vandalism had resulted in a repair bill of over £100.00 being incurred by his visitor.

The report was noted by P C Keddle.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 February, 1997**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 February, 1997, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Behavioural problems associated with the consumption of alcohol**

As a discussion on this topic had already taken place under item 3 (a) there was limited further discussion save for an expression of disappointment from the Council that the police were only

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be progressed through a local solicitor.

(e) **Community Questionnaires' Meeting**

The Clerk advised that since the last meeting of the Council he had arranged a meeting to discuss completed questionnaires. Unfortunately, it had been necessary to postpone the meeting due to a prior commitment of the Chairperson. The meeting had been re-arranged for 8.00 p.m. on Monday, 10 March, 1997, in the Pontyclun Community Centre.

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

(f) **Father Martin Reynolds**

The Community Council received a letter from Father Martin Reynolds acknowledging the Council's appreciation of his services to the area over the last 13 years. Father Martin foresaw many challenges facing the community in the years to come but was confident that the Community Council would successfully meet those challenges.

The Clerk advised the Council that he was aware that a community service to pay tribute to the ministry of Father Martin was due to be held in the Bethel Baptist Church on the evening of Saturday, 8 March, 1997, and that the service was open to all residents of the community.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That Father Martin's letter be noted
  - (ii) That the Clerk establish the time the service in the Bethel Baptist Church is due to commence and advise Council Members.

(g) **Stile on Footpath No. 334**

The Clerk informed the Council that he had arranged for the Council's Handyman to inspect the recently re-built stile on Footpath No. 334 in Talygarn. The Handyman had reported that the stile had been rebuilt at an unreasonably high level. He intended taking the matter up with the foreman on the NHS Trust.

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

(h) **Work of the Pontypridd  
and District Housing Association**

Following the presentation by Antonia Forte of the Pontypridd and District Housing Association at the Community Council's meeting on 5 February, 1997, the Council received copies of the Association's Annual Report for 1995/96 together with leaflets on their Care and Repair agency.

The Care and Repair agency is run in-house by the Association with financial support from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Welsh Office. The client group is predominantly older and/or disabled owner occupiers who require some repair or adaptation to their present property in order to retain independent living. The Council's cooperation was sought in bringing the services offered by Care and Repair to eligible residents in the Community.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the contents of the Annual Report be noted.

(ii) That Members familiarise themselves with the services offered by Care and Repair and the eligibility criteria.

6. **Facilities for the youth of the Community**

A wide ranging discussion took place on the limited facilities for the youth of the Community. The problem was acute in the age group 10 yrs to 18 yrs and the problem took on major significance in the light of the projected residential development and the absence of any plans to increase youth facilities.

Councillor Huish advised that in his capacity as a Member of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council he had been pursuing the possibility of the creation of a skateboarding facility. Councillor Huish believed that there might also be the possibility of creating a multi-function area and even the prospect of the installation of a multi-media facility allowing access to the Internet in the local library. However, it was unlikely that any of the schemes would come to fruition without joint funding.

Several Members felt that the developers of new housing in the Community carried a social responsibility to provide facilities for the youth of the Community. It was reported that no Section 106 Agreements, allowing for the

provision of community facilities by developers, were yet in place for the Cefn yr Hendy development but it was a matter which the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would be pursuing.

There was a consensus view that while Section 106 Agreements might provide a partial solution to the problem in the long term, there was an immediate need to address the current problem. Members proposed and discussed many possible solutions but agreed that the problem could not be resolved solely by the Community Council and that other agencies and bodies needed to be involved.

Reference was made to the Section 106 Agreement which had resulted in the construction by developers of a community building in Tylagarw. Despite the building having been completed and handed over to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council it had still not been brought into use. The Council discussed the feasibility of a joint venture between the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade and the Pontyclun Community Council to provide funding for the unused hall in Tylagarw to be brought into use.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk write to the Director of Leisure and Tourism of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to inquire whether the Borough Council would be prepared to explore the possibility of entering into a joint arrangement to open the newly built hall in Tylagarw for use by the youth of Pontyclun and surrounding areas.
- (ii) That the Clerk write to the Members of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for Llantrisant, Llanharry, Llanharan and Pontyclun to gain their support for the proposed joint venture

7. **Boundary Commission - Review of electoral arrangements**

The Community Council discussed the response of the Boundary Commission to its comments on the need for revised electoral arrangements in the Community of Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That a copy of the Community Council's letter to the Boundary Commission, together with a copy of the Boundary Commission's reply, be forwarded to the Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

8. **Request for lighting in back lanes**

The Council received the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to the request of the Community Council for lighting in various back lanes in Pontyclun.

While the policy of the former Mid Glamorgan County Council not to illuminate back lanes had not been carried forward into the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, in practice the position was unchanged since the Borough Council had a number of lighting units which were already disconnected in order to contain revenue expenditure within the guidelines set down by central government.

It was likely that further disconnections would take place during the 1997/98 financial year since there was a requirement on the Highways, Transportation and Engineering Department to reduce its street lighting expenditure by a further 4% to 6%. Given the background of further cuts in energy expenditure during 1997/98 the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council was unable to agree to the Community Council's request for the installation of lighting in back lanes.

**RESOLVED:** That the response of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be noted.

9. **Overhanging hedge - A4119 - Groesfaen**

The Council received the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to an earlier complaint the Community Council had made about overhanging hedgerows along the A4119 in Groesfaen.

The Director Highways, Transportation and Engineering stated that the section of hedge which was the subject of the complaint was not the responsibility of the Highway Authority. The respective owners of the hedgerows had been notified of the problem and maintenance work had been undertaken.

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

10. **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from Mrs Janis F Jones, Coordinator of the Pontyclun Playscheme. Mrs Jones sought financial assistance from the Community Council towards holding a summer playscheme for children in the 5 - 11 age group in the Pontyclun Community Centre during August, 1997.

**RESOLVED:** That the application be deferred to the Council's annual grants distribution meeting in July, 1997.

11. **Raised flower beds in Groesfaen**

The Clerk reported that construction of the raised flower beds in Groesfaen was completed shortly after the Council's February meeting. While the construction work had been completed to the tender price the contractor had pointed out that the existing kerb stones were in very poor condition and were in need of replacement. The contractor had renewed the kerb stones at a cost of £189.60.

95

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk's report be noted.
- (ii) That payment of the additional sum of £189.60 in respect of replacement kerb stones be approved.
- (iii) That the Clerk contact the Groesfaen Residents' Association to ascertain the species of plants residents would wish to be planted in the raised beds.

12. **Planning**

(a) **Format of Weekly Notifications**

The Council received a letter from the Director of Planning for the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council advising of a change in the format of weekly planning notifications to allow for a new category of entry under the heading of "Informal Enquiry"

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

(b) **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 31 January, 7, 14 and 21 February, 1997**

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

(i) **Application No. 97/2074/10**

That while the Community Council has no direct comments on the application, it believes that a meeting should be convened with the Footpaths Officer of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to

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discuss the implications of the diversion of a Public Right of Way, in Miskin, on the fringe of the Cefn yr Hendy residential development.

(ii) **Application No. 97/2079/13**

That the Community Council is opposed to the application for development on the grounds that:

- (a) Access proposals are unclear and potentially dangerous. If access to the proposed development is from the Llanharry Road it would result in traffic emerging on to a road where traffic could be travelling at up to 50 m.p.h. If access is proposed from the lane running adjacent to the site access point would be totally inadequate due to the narrowness of the lane. The lane is also well used by horse riders and ponytrekkers.
- (b) If consent for the development is given it would, in all probability, be the forerunner of many applications for residential development in the surrounding open fields.
- (c) There is already adequate provision for residential development in the area.

In the event that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council refuses the application and the applicant subsequently wins an appeal to the Welsh Office, the Community Council is of the view that the Planning Authority should make every effort to limit the density of any development.

(c) **Planning appeal**

The Council received details of the result of an appeal against the refusal of the Planning Authority to award planning consent for residential development at Belle Vista, Heol-y-Bryn, Pontyclun.



**RESOLVED:** That the decision of the inspector to allow the appeal, subject to condition, be noted.

(d) **Brofiskin Quarry, Groesfaen**

The Council received the letter of the Director of Planning about action which the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and its predecessor authority, the Taff Ely Borough Council, had taken about complaints of unauthorised development at the disused Brofiscin Quarry in Groesfaen.

It was understood that several complaints had been received from Groesfaen residents and that four successful prosecutions against the owner of the Quarry for breach of Enforcement Notices had been made in recent years.

It appeared that the level of activity at the Quarry was much reduced of late. Councillor Huish advised that there had been a recent meeting of officers and members of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to develop a strategy for dealing with further complaints of unauthorised development at the Quarry.

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

13. **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 14 to the Council's Agenda.

14. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Footpath at the front of the headquarters of the Pontyclun RFC and Sportsclub**

Councillor Bendle drew the Council's attention to the poor condition of the public footpath at the front of the Pontyclun RFC and Sportsclub's headquarters at the Windsor Park, Pontyclun. He believed that as building work in the vicinity had now ended there was an obligation on the RFC and Sportsclub to return the footpath to its original condition.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the secretary to the Pontyclun RFC and Sportsclub.

(b) **Parking problems in Heol Miskin, Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle advised the Council of the acute problems being experienced by both road users and residents of Heol Miskin as the result of parked vehicles in the vicinity of the Bethel Baptist Church in Heol Miskin.

Road users in Heol Miskin frequently encountered problems near the junction with Llantrisant Road due to severely restricted visibility caused by parked vehicles. Similarly, those residents of Heol Miskin near the Bethel Baptist Church, who had garages and accesses off Heol Miskin, often found that access on to Heol Miskin was hampered by the presence of parked vehicles.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, outlining the problems, and requesting the extension of the existing double yellow line parking restrictions, on both sides of the highway, at the junction of Heol Miskin with Llantrisant Road.

(c) **Purolite Standing Conference**

Councillor Griffiths advised the Council that the next meeting of the Purolite Standing Conference was scheduled for Thursday, 6 March, 1997.

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

(d) **Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre**

Councillor Griffiths referred to the recent press reports about the future of the Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre emanating from a statement made in Parliament by Mr Gwilym Jones, MP, under secretary at the Welsh Office.

Councillor Griffiths urged that the public treat Mr Jones's carefully worded statement with caution since a close examination of Hansard showed that the assurances given in Parliament about the future of the Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre were not as comprehensive as the impression created by some press reports.

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

(e) **Cefn-yr Hendy residential development**

Councillor Griffiths sought information on the facilities which were due to be provided at Cefn-yr-Hendy as a result of the new residential development.

**RESOLVED:** That the information sought by Councillor Griffiths be provided by Councillor Huish.

(f) **Appreciation of good wishes**

Councillor Edwards referred to his recent ill health and wished to thank Members and the Council for the many good wishes he had received during his period of indisposition.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Edwards' remarks be noted.

(g) **Pooling of water**

Councillor Edwards again expressed his concern about pooling of water at the junction of the approach road to the Pontyclun Community Council with Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. He asked for an update on the present position in getting the problem resolved.

The Clerk replied that he had passed the Community Council's concerns to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council who, approximately a month earlier, had advised that he would arrange for the pooling of water to be investigated. The results of the investigation were awaited.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be raised again with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in the event of no reply being received or no remedial work being carried out in the coming months.

(h) **Proposed installation of CCTV**

Councillor Edwards referred to the proposals of the former Taff Ely Borough Council to install CCTV in Pontyclun. Councillor Edwards reminded the Council that the proposals had foundered over the absence of the necessary fibre optic cable. He asked if any steps had been taken to install the cable.

The Clerk responded that he was unaware of any work which may have been undertaken to install the necessary cable but would formally raise the matter again with BT.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk clarify the current position on the installation of the necessary cable for CCTV with BT.

(i) **Joinery Lane, Pontyclun**

Councillor Cale drew the Council's attention to the deeply rutted and potholed condition of Joinery Lane, Pontyclun. Councillor Cale pointed out that a Public Right of Way followed the route of the Lane and was regularly used by members of the public. Following the heavy rains of the previous weeks there was considerable pooling of water in the Lane.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk bring the condition of the Footpath to the attention of the Footpaths Officer of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council with a request for his assistance in getting the Lane restored to an acceptable condition for use by pedestrians.

(ii) That a copy of the Community Council's letter be forwarded to the Llanharry Community Council for its information.

(j) **Dog fouling**

Councillor Cale pointed out that dog fouling was still a significant problem in the vicinity of the Pontyclun Primary School.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be brought to the attention of the Director of Environmental Services of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council with a request that action be taken by the Borough Council's dog warden to improve the situation.

(k) **Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council -  
Council Tax for 1997/98**

Councillor Huish reported that earlier that evening he had attended the meeting of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council which had declared the levels of Council Tax for 1997/98 for the County Borough.

**RESOLVED:** That a copy of the Council Tax levels for 1997/98 be circulated by the Clerk to every Member of the Council.

(l) **Van's Bingo Hall, Pontyclun**

Councillor Davies drew the Community Council's attention to the shabby state of the exterior of Van's Bingo Club in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. The premises occupied a prominent position in the locality and created a poor impression.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk take the matter up with the owners of the premises.

(m) **Dog fouling, Maesyfelin Estate**

Councillor Davies referred to a small triangular plot of land between Ffordd Talygarn and Brodawel on the Maesyfelin Estate. He stated that the plot suffered from considerable dog fouling and he had been asked what steps could be taken to prevent the area being fouled.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking whether it would be possible for the Borough Council to erect "No fouling" signs.

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

(a) **Pontyclun Fish Bar**

P C Kettle advised the Community Council that the proprietor of the Pontyclun Fish Bar, who currently held a late night refreshment licence allowing his premises to remain open until midnight, had applied for the renewal of that licence with a request that he be allowed to remain open until 4.00 a.m.

P C Keddle had earlier expressed the view that the late opening of fish and chip bars and restaurants contributed significantly to the amount of late night rowdyism in Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council opposing the request of the proprietor of the Pontyclun Fish Bar to remain open until 4.00 a.m. on the grounds that, in the experience of the police, the request would, if granted, lead to further late night rowdyism in Pontyclun.

(b) **Amenity land - The Hollies, Brynsadler**

The Clerk advised the Council that the grass verge at the entrance to The Hollies Estate, Brynsadler, had formally been transferred from the ownership of Ideal Homes into the ownership of the Pontyclun Community Council in the last few days. The transaction had been recorded with the Land Registry. Under the terms of the transfer the Pontyclun Community Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the verge.

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

(c) **Refusal of planning consent - Appeals to the Welsh Office**

The Clerk reported that after the Agendas for that evening's meeting had been delivered to Members he had received a reply from the Director of Planning to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council enclosing a schedule of planning applications within the Community, for the last two years, where planning consent had been refused, and where the applicant had subsequently appealed to the Welsh Office.

The Clerk distributed the schedule to Members.

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

(d) **County Borough Council owned land in Talbot Green**

The Clerk read out a letter from County Borough Councillor C R Thorngate of Talbot Green who sought the support of the Pontyclun Community Council in opposing the sale, by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, of a field to the

rear of Great Western Terrace, Talbot Green. It was strongly rumoured that the owners of an adjacent factory had already expressed interest in constructing a car park on the field.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Director of Property Services at Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council opposing the sale on the grounds that:

- (i) it would deprive the residents of Talbot Green and Pontyclun a recreational facility which they had enjoyed for many years.
- (ii) it would, if planning consent were later allowed for a car park, add to the urban sprawl in the vicinity and deprive the two communities of the last green field separating Talbot Green and Pontyclun.

The Community Council was also of the view that if the land in question was to be sold, any development should be of a rural nature whilst allowing the public recreational access.

The Council asked that copies of its letter opposing the sale be sent to Councillor Thorngate and to the Clerk to the Llantrisant Community Council.

(e) **Site of the former Pontyclun Fach**

Councillor Burton commented on the residential development presently taking place on the site of the former Pontyclun Fach. While the development was technically outside the boundary of the Community Council, he felt strongly that the developers, who had named the development "Prospect Park", should have adopted the name of the premises which formerly occupied the site.

**RESOLVED:** That a strong letter of protest be sent to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

16. The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.