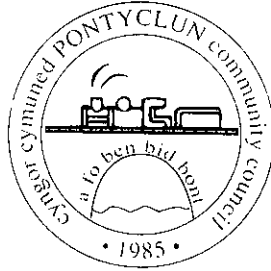


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Clerc i'r Cyngor
 J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
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**Pontyclun Community Council**

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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 5 March, 2003.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J V Huish, M Rea (Chairperson) and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Keddle for part of the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors C G Bendle, J R Dilworth, R G Norman and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members. There were no declarations

3. **Chairperson's/Leader's business**

(i) **Council Tax**

The Leader, Councillor Huish reported that a meeting to finalise the Borough Council's Council Tax was due to be held on the following evening. It is likely that the increase in Council Tax would be contained to 5%. The increase is likely to be the lowest increase in South/Wales. An increase in the precept of the South Wales Constabulary of 16.1% is likely to increase the overall Council Tax to 6%.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Borough Council offering the Community Council's congratulations on Borough's excellent housekeeping.

(ii) **Pontyclun Youth Partnership**

The Leader, Councillor Huish, reported that at a recent meeting of the Governing Body of Y Pant Comprehensive School, the representations of the Pontyclun Youth Partnership were discussed.

The Governing Body approved in principle the objectives of the Youth Partnership but sought further details of the Partnership's proposals.

The report was noted.

(iii) **Area Regeneration Partnerships**

The Leader, Councillor Huish, reported that as part of the Borough Council's proposals for regeneration within the Borough, twelve Area Partnerships would soon be formed. The Area Partnership covering the Community of Pontyclun would also include the areas covered by the Communities of Llanharry, Llanharan and Llantrisant.

The intention is that the Area Partnerships will produce area ideas for regeneration rather than concentrate on community or ward issues. A Steering Committee would be formed in the coming weeks and a representative of the Community Council would be invited to nominate a representative to sit on the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council be represented on the Steering Committee by the Chairperson, Councillor Rea.

(iv) **Local Health Board**

The Leader, Councillor Huish, informed the Council that he had been invited to sit on the Local Health Board from 1 April, 2003, when the current Board is dissolved.

RESOLVED: That the Council's congratulations be offered to Councillor Huish.

4. **Police matters**

(i) **Parking restrictions, Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle stated that he was pleased to be able to report that the long-awaited parking restrictions for Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun, had been recently been implemented.



The report was noted.

(ii) **Thefts from cars**

P C Keddle reported that since the Council's last meeting there had been a number of instances of thefts from cars in School Street, Miskin. P C Keddle urged Members to ensure that valuables were not on show when their cars were parked.

The report was noted.

(iii) **Theft of vehicles**

P C Keddle reported two recent car thefts in the locality. In the first instance a car was stolen from Autopoint (Pontyclun) and in the second instance a vehicle was stolen from a hirer in Coedcae Lane, Pontyclun.

The report was noted.

(iv) **Heavy vehicle movements**

P C Keddle advised of his concern at the number of heavy vehicle movements through Talbot Green. He understood that Talbot Green was outside the Community Council's boundary but asked that if the Council had any influence in the matter that the drivers of heavy vehicles be encouraged to use the Talbot Green By Pass rather than cause congestion in the village.

The request was noted.

(v) **Proposed weight restriction for Heol Miskin, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle stated that he understood that at an earlier date it had been proposed to impose a 7.5 ton restriction on the vehicles able to use Heol Miskin, Pontyclun. P C Keddle asked if the Council had any information on when the restriction may be introduced.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the matter with the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

(vi) **Junction of Clun Avenue with Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

Councillor Peggy Thomas drew attention to the difficulties experienced by drivers in turning right from Clun Avenue into Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.



Councillor Thomas pointed out that parked vehicles in Llantrisant Road often obscured the vision of drivers negotiating the junction. Additionally, the amount of room available for manoeuvre was often severely restricted due to the presence of parked cars.

Councillor Thomas asked whether there was any possibility of prohibiting a right turn into Llantrisant Road or, alternatively, prohibiting the parking of vehicles from the junction to the bus stops.

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

(vii) **Various highway issues in the Community**

Councillor Huish said that there were a number of highways matters of concern in the Community. He suggested that a delegation of Members meet with Highways Authority officials to explore possible ways forward.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Divisional Director for Highways and Planning at the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council requesting that he, at one of his regular meetings with Councillor John Daniel, receive a delegation of Members from the Community Council to discuss highway problems in the Community of Pontyclun.

(viii) **Policing in the Community**

Councillor Huish referred to the high standard of policing enjoyed by residents of the Community. On behalf of the Community Council Councillor Huish wished to extend his thanks to the police, and in particular to PC Keddle, for the first class work.

Councillor Huish's remarks were noted.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 February, 2003**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 5 February, 2003 be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

Police response



Councillor Mrs Peggy Thomas referred to the query she raised at the Council's meeting on 5 February, 2003 about the police response time to a reported incident by a member of her family in Ynysddu, Pontyclun.

Councillor Mrs Thomas wished to make it clear that the caller had provided a name and address to the police. As evidence of this, Councillor Thomas pointed to the fact that the police had later called at her address.

The matter was noted.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **The Countryside Access (Draft Maps)(Wales) Regulations, 2001**

The Council received correspondence from the Countryside Council for Wales enclosing draft maps for the areas of the Western South Wales Valleys. An opportunity was afforded to the Council to make representations about the showing of, or the failure to show, any area of land on the draft map as open country or as registered common land.

An examination of the map covering the Community showed that no areas of open country or common land had been identified. The Council believed that the map, so far as it related to the Community of Pontyclun, is correct.

Members pointed out that as part of the Cefn yr Hendy development it was anticipated that a plot of land near to the proposed new school would be dedicated as open land. It was unclear whether this land should be identified in the response to the Countryside Council for Wales.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk respond to the Countryside Council to the effect that the Community Council believed the map to be correct for the Community of Pontyclun at this time. However, at some point in the near future, a plot of land near the new school on the Cefn yr Hendy residential development is likely to be dedicated as a public open space.

(b) **Gifts and hospitality**

The Council discussed a letter from the County Borough Legal and Democratic Services Officer in which it was pointed out that under the Members Code of Conduct, and guidance, each community council should adopt a policy in respect of gifts and hospitality. A



copy of the Borough Council's policy on gifts and hospitality was enclosed for information.

The Borough's policy is under review and any changes would be notified to community councils.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That as an interim measure the Community Council adopt the principles in policy of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council with regard to gifts and hospitality.
 - (ii) That the Community Council's policy be reviewed in the light of any amendments made to the policy of the Borough Council.

(c) **Welsh Assembly Government's Consultation Document "Funding for Children's Play"**

The Council discussed the document "Funding for Children's Play" circulated by the Welsh Assembly Government.

All responses received will be fed into a UK wide consultation on the funding of children's play being undertaken by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Responses from Wales will influence the way the programme is delivered in Wales.

An invitation was also extended to the Council to attend a participative consultation event in Llandrindod Wells.

- RESOLVED:** That the Council decline to offer any comments on the document. Also, that the Council decline the invitation to attend the participative consultation event.

(d) **Advice Box**

The Council received details of the first meeting of "Advice Box" and the launch of Independent Council Advice Newsletter (ICAN). An invitation was extended to representatives of the Council to attend a meeting of "Advice Box" due to be held in the Caerlan Hall, Newbridge Road, Llantrisant.

- RESOLVED:** That the Council decline to attend meetings of "Advice Box" at this time.

(e) **Wales Air Ambulance**



The Council discussed a request for financial assistance from the Wales Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a contribution of £100.00 specifically for the Swansea base.

In making this grant the Council was mindful of the advice given by the District Auditor about changes made to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, by Sections 36 to 38 of the Housing Act, 1989, where it was necessary for councils to document factors taken into account prior to a decision being taken. In particular, the Community Council took into account:

- (a) whether payment was of direct benefit
- (b) whether benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (c) whether the organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils'
- (d) whether the money was being used to circumvent any limitation on specific powers
- (e) whether the award of grants would result in a precedent leading to applications from other groups.

(f) **Caring for the Carers**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the organisation Caring for the Carers.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred pending production of a balance sheet.

(g) **Planning applications**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for weeks ended 31 January, 7 & 14 February, 2003.

RESOLVED: That the Council offer no comments to the Borough Council on these applications.

(h) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 10 the Council's agenda.

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

There were no matters reported for decision under this heading.



9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Planning – details of appeal**

The Council received details of an appeal against the refusal of planning consent for development at 73 Dol y Llan, Miskin.

The matter was noted.

(b) **Planning – details of appeal**

The Council received details of an appeal against the refusal of planning consent for development at 28 Maes y Wennol, Miskin

The matter was noted.

(c) **Occasional Public Entertainment Licence**

The Council received details of an application for the grant of an Occasional Public Entertainment Licence at the Miskin Mill Scout Village, Miskin.

The matter was noted.

(d) **Public Entertainment Licence**

The Council received information on the application for the renewal of a Public Entertainment Licence at Wooster's Restaurant, Miskin Manor.

The matter was noted.

(e) **"The Van Hoogstraten Footpath"**

The Council received details from the Ramblers' Association of a victory in the courts in the case of the long standing blockage of the notorious "Van Hoogstraten Footpath" in East Sussex.

The breakthrough followed years of work by the Ramblers' Association against East Sussex County Council. Lord Justice Schiemann held that the County Council had a responsibility to ensure that footpaths are protected rather than to accede to pressure from a landowner for a diversion.

The decision would have far reaching implications for all landowners and highway authorities throughout the UK.

The matter was noted.

10. The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.



8